



Key Issue Form:

Instructions: Each county, program area and specialists as a whole are to identify key issues that their programming activities currently address, or should address. For each issue, craft a 2-3 sentence issue statement that outlines, in brief, what the issue at hand is and why it is important or relevant. The issue statements should be crafted based on objective data, as well as input from Specialists, County Educators, Advisory Councils, and input from other key stakeholders.

1. In a few words, please come up with a title that succinctly defines the issue:

Agricultural and Forestry pressures on land due to development

2. Please describe the issue in 2-3 sentences (i.e. craft an issue statement that describes what the issue at hand is and why it is a significant issue):

Hillsborough County is undergoing a change in community from mostly rural to Urban/Suburban communities. This change brings about the need to address land preservation, not just for open space, but for the public value that agricultural/forestry pursuits bring to local communities. How this change is managed will greatly impact the structure of communities in the future and the future of these important economic pursuits.

3. In 2-3 sentences, please describe what the public value for Extension to address this issue is/would be. (The term public value refers to not only the value of our outreach activities to community *participants*, but, more importantly, the value of these activities to those who do not *directly* benefit from these activities. The purpose of the Public Value approach is to secure support for activities with strong public value and identify those activities that do not have strong public value. The following is an example of a public value statement that addresses the issue of loss of rural landscape to development and other growth-related pressures

4. Identify and summarize key data that help make the case that this is a key issue (key data might include demographic trend data, University priorities, issues identified in plans/policies of other agencies and organizations, stakeholder input, etc.).

The 31 towns and cities of Hillsborough County have 400,000 people (one third of the states population), yet is surprisingly rural, with 75% of the area still being forest. The average woodlot size is 37 acres. The timber sector is the third largest industry in the state, after high tech and tourism.

Agriculture in Hillsborough County is 33rd in the nation in sales direct to the consumer with sales in the area of \$15 million per year and contains some of the best soil in the state.

5. How does/would addressing this issue tie into UNH Cooperative Extension's Mission?

It helps people make informed decisions that help sustain natural resources and improve the economy.

6. What Extension programs/activities, if any, currently address this issue? For each, please succinctly describe how the program/activity addresses the issue.

UNHCE already provides community profiles through the community development program area. This information is provided to help communities make their decisions

7. What other organizations/agencies are currently addressing this issue?

Unsure

8. If Extension does not currently address this issue, how might we address this issue in the future? (consider staff capacity, financial resources, volunteer capacity, and what other agencies/organizations might address this issue, etc.).

Train foresters and farmers to advocate for themselves in town meetings by training them with facts to present to the towns.

The 31 towns and cities of Hillsborough County have 400,000 people (one third of the states population), yet is surprisingly rural, with 75% of the area still being forest. NH is the second most forested state (after Maine) in the US, with 83% forest. The average woodlot size is 37 acres. The timber sector is the third largest industry in the state, after high tech and tourism.

Since colonists first came to NH in 1623, white pine has been the dominant tree harvested for lumber. Hillsborough County even today still leads the other counties in white pine saw log production.