



UNIVERSITY
of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cooperative Extension

Coös County UNHCE

Coös County UNH Cooperative Extension is part of a statewide network of county offices bringing the University of New Hampshire resources directly to the people who live and work in Coös County. Coös County Extension is backed by more than 30 campus-based Extension specialists.

UNH Cooperative Extension provides research-based education and information to New Hampshire citizens, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources and improve the economy.

County government in partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension

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Support for Cooperative Extension Makes Positive Impacts in Coös County *Selected Highlights 2012-2013*

County Investment

■ The \$182,750 investment Coös County makes in UNH Cooperative Extension programs leverages an additional \$336,930 invested directly toward county staff, programming, administrative costs and computer support for Coos County.

Agricultural Economy

According to the Census of Agriculture, agriculture is an increasingly important component of the Coös County economy. Since 2002, the number of farms in the county increased 26 percent to 262. Further, the land in production increased by 15 percent, to 50,895 acres, and the market value of products sold annually increased to \$13 million (a 44% increase since 2002).

■ The Extension agricultural field specialist supports this farming economy by providing both research-based educational opportunities and practical problem-solving assistance.

- Numerous training meetings are held throughout the year, including large educational conferences with extensive local trade shows.
- During the crop year, hundreds of individual contacts with residents help them to analyze soil tests, identify weeds, insects and disease specimens, and provide other trouble-shooting advice.

■ A few special efforts included dealing with a Yellow Rattle Weed infestation



in grasslands and introducing the new Cornell University soil health assessment testing and a specialty crop grant for tools in high tunnels.

■ Recognizing the importance of biological security to both local farms and the region's economy, the field specialist initiated cooperative training contact with the N.H. National Guard's 12th Civil Support Team. They are a unit trained to respond to chemical, biological, radiological

and similar threats. To date, the field specialist has coordinated two joint training exercises with them and federal agricultural agencies. The most recent one was held on a dairy farm to acquaint these National Guard troops with how a farm operates.

Conservation

■ More than 161,000 acres in Coös County are now in conservation easements or trusts as a result of working with Cooperative Extension since 2013.



COÖS COUNTY

Nutrition Education

Nutrition Connections, through the national Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, saves state and family money. Multiple cost benefit analyses highlight the value of the program and document that for every dollar invested, benefits can reach as high as \$10.64 from reduced health care costs. In 2011, over 100 adults and 894 youth in Coös County learned skills to eat healthy and be more active.

Youth Development

Over 1,100 youth participated in 4-H youth development activities and learning experiences through Coös County 4-H community clubs, afterschool programs, residential camp, school enrichment programs, and special interest workshops last year. Supported by over 500 volunteers, these youth gain critical life skills and improve their confidence levels. An additional 800 youth took part in nutrition education events that teach them to eat healthier.

- 4-H provides many training events for Coös County youth. Sessions focus on a variety of topics and always include the principles of positive youth development. Some sessions are offered on a statewide basis. Last year, these training sessions impacted 1,372 youth.

- Coös County 4-H clubs reported completing 131 community service-learning projects involving an average of just over nine hours of service by each individual youth last year.

- 4-H volunteers indicate a significant level of impact from working with 4-H youth. For example, 95 percent gained knowledge, 89 percent applied a new skill, 90 percent raised aspirations, 48 percent made an impact on others, 52 percent influenced the community, and 54 percent made an impact on the community.

- There is a significant economic impact fostered by 4-H in Coös County. In the past year, more than 2,850 youth and families attended 4-H events. Additionally, Barry Conservation 4-H Camp in Berlin provided nine full time and two part-time summer jobs.

Forest Resources

Coös County enjoys a rich diversity of timber resources, wildlife habitats, and a vast potential to enhance production from timberlands and agroforestry products. These qualities bring strong support to our traditional timber-based industries, tourism and a fledging agroforestry

industry while maintaining the splendor and diverse habitats within Coös.

- Extension brings solid experience and specialized knowledge to address all these qualities. Practically three quarters of Coös' nearly million acres is privately owned. These landowners rely on Extension to bring science and practical information so they can make informed decisions regarding management of their natural resources.

- Coös County landowners enjoy a combined annual income of nearly \$14 million from selling timber. These timber harvests also provide about \$1.4 million dollars directly to towns' tax revenues, keeping this revenue in the local economy. Jobs for loggers, truckers and other natural resource professionals are also sustained through this timber production.

- In 2011, Coös County Extension's forester and other Extension specialists began

working directly with four of the 20 Coös County incorporated towns. This program provided tools to develop conservation strategies for towns, concentrating on lands where the highest conservation values exist. Some tools include the N.H. Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan, GIS mapping, remote sensing, financing sources for projects and planned assistance in marketing to landowners. Extension will continue these efforts multiplying the potential to promote excellent stewardship and sustainable forest products on all Coös properties.

Food Safety

In 2011, 110 food service workers and managers from Coös County participated in food safety programs. Twenty-seven participants in the ServSafe® food manager certification program passed the national exam. Seventy-four food service workers participated in the Safety Awareness in Food Environment program.

Understanding Bullying

Bullying is an important priority for our state and communities. In 2011, Extension held forums providing evidence-based information for youth volunteers, parent educators, schools, social service, mental health, and juvenile court professionals. This train-the-trainer program reached 216 participants.

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