Support for Cooperative Extension
Makes Positive Impacts in Grafton County

Selected Highlights

County Investment
- For the $261,733 investment Grafton County makes in UNH Cooperative Extension programs, an additional $391,242 of state and federal funds are invested directly toward county staff, programming, administrative costs and computer support for Grafton County.

Community & Economic Development
- Grafton County Extension continues to work with the Grafton County Farm to conduct research projects on vegetable production and season extension. Any produce not destroyed during data collection is donated to area food banks and senior centers. Donations to date total almost 3,700 pounds.

- In 2012, Grafton Extension provided technical assistance to commercial farms through 62 farm visits, 10 workshops and twilight meetings. More than 540 farmers and residents received direct help through phone and e-mail consultations. An additional 14 workshops and presentations were held for backyard food and livestock audiences, community groups and youth audiences. More than 120 people attended blueberry production workshops, a collaborative effort between UNH Extension and the Grafton County Conservation District.

Agricultural Productivity
- Agriculture is an important component of the Grafton County economy. Since 2002 the number of county farms increased 31 percent to 552. Further, the land in production increased by 17% to 99,964 acres, and the market value of products sold annually increased to $34.4 million.

- A local group of growers, community leaders, businesses and others attended a series of educational sessions using the USDA curriculum Stronger Economies Together. The goal is to strengthen the local economy by promoting local agriculture.

County government in partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension

County Commissioners:
Michael Cryans, Chair
Martha Richards, Vice Chair
Ray Burton, Clerk

State Rep. Andy White, Chair,
County Legislative Delegation

John Pike
Dean and Director, UNHCE
GRAFTON COUNTY

Natural Resources
- In Grafton County, 83 percent of the land is forested and 66 percent of that is privately owned. More than 50 site visits encompassing 10,510 acres of private land were conducted in 2012. As a result, 44 percent of this acreage has come under management of a professional forester or logger. Eleven professional loggers received approximately $32,000 in contracts, $16,000 was paid directly to landowners and approximately $1,600 was paid back to towns through tax revenue. Consulting foresters hired as a result of referrals received over $47,000.

- Close to 700 adults attended workshops on topics as varied as selling timber, tree identification, deer management and logging laws. Eighty-five loggers received professional logger certifications.

Youth & Family
- Five schools and 700 Grafton County students are using the Courage to Care anti-bullying curriculum developed by UNH Cooperative Extension.

- Research shows that youth who learn the skills of self-control, persistence, and academic self-efficacy become successful adults. All these skills are taught through 4-H project work and recordkeeping. As one 4-Her said in her application for a national award: "As the second oldest of seven homeschooled children, I have to overcome some uncommon challenges with my 4-H projects. I must coordinate computer time with my siblings. I have to manage my time with a high volume of 4-H projects and a high-school-level course load. I regard my participation in 4-H as worth the extra effort."

- In 2012, Grafton County 4-H had 97 project leaders who completed projects with 187 4-H members. 4-H afterschool programs reached 150 youth.

- As part of the Youth Voices, Youth Choices grant, nutrition education classes were conducted in grades 3-6 at Lakeway School in Littleton. Thirty-three youth received the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award as a result.

- Nutrition Connections staff are part of a collaborative effort to garden at Whole Village in Plymouth, where youth and parents engage in planting, weeding and harvesting the garden, then using the yield to prepare healthy meals.

Food & Agriculture
- Food safety education efforts reach schools, county government, nursing homes, hospitals, senior centers and food establishments. This past year, eight ServSafe and nine SAFE classes reached more than 280 participants. Ninety-three percent taking the national ServSafe exam and 97 percent taking an end-of-session evaluation at a SAFE class were successful.

Volunteers
- Thirty-one volunteers monitor water quality in area lakes and select stream inlets to Squam Lake.

- Grafton County currently has 40 active Coverts Cooperators presenting programs in their communities and serving on boards and conservation commissions.

- Volunteer master gardeners at the Info Center in Goffstown fielded approximately 150 questions from Grafton County residents. More than 35 local master gardeners provided education and support locally.

- Since July 1, 2012, 132 4-H adult volunteers gave more than 11,700 hours of volunteer time; that is worth $251,700 in today's labor market.

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