A look at UNH Cooperative Extension activities and impacts

Annual Highlights
May 2014

Joe Drake
4-H Educational Program Coordinator

Joe Drake is a New Hampshire native, UNH alumnus, and Coast Guard veteran who has worked as a leader and youth programs for several years. Joe joined UNH Cooperative Extension in the fall of 2012 as a 4-H programs coordinator in Rockingham County, where there are 20 clubs and after-school programs, 550 members, and 17 volunteers. He says the period of volunteer work

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“Losses dropped from 25 percent to nearly 100 percent in 2013, saving nearly $1 million.”

Insiders from the East
Growers called the invasive ash borer devastating and costly.
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In 2011, New Hampshire’s growers of blueberries and other soft-skinned fruits noticed a new fly in their orchards that seemed to eat the fruit’s skin and lay eggs inside. Formerly known as 1.5 million of their fruit crop in 2012, state entomologist Alan Eaton, “This was unexpected—a record level for any one year,” continued the fly.

Said Eaton, “It’s not just SWD that growers have to deal with. The other pests are causing major damage as well.”

Said one grower, “Extension’s recommendations were key to preventing financial losses this year.”

Eaton praised the growers and specialists for their collaboration in learning about the fly and ways to combat it. "Collaboration is key to understanding and solving pest problems," Eaton said. "Our success in controlling SWD this year is a testament to the power of collaboration."