Weekly Market Bulletin

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USDA Announces $9 Million to Support Community Food Projects Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently announced nearly $9 million in funding to support low-income individuals and communities in developing local and independent food systems. NIFA is funding the grants through the Community Food Projects program (CFP), authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

Community Food Projects involve the entire food system. Projects assess strengths and establish connections among existing food systems, resulting in improved food systems that support self-reliance. Grants are intended to help eligible, private, nonprofit entities in need of a one-time installment of federal assistance to establish and carry out multipurpose community food projects. Projects are funded from $10,000 to $300,000 and up to 36 months. All grants require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources.

The primary goals of the Community Food Projects program are to (1) meet the food needs of low-income individuals; (2) increase the food self-reliance of low-income communities; (3) promote comprehensive responses to food systems; (4) meet specific state, local or neighborhood food and agricultural programs, including needs relating to infrastructure improvement and development, planning for long-term solutions and the creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

USDA - NIFA

Maple Grades Have Changed

In the US, maple syrup is usually sold by grade and color classification. For example, Grade A Medium Amber. Color is used because it has some general relation to the intensity of maple. However, inconsistencies between the grading system and the maple producing states, as well as Canada, caused some confusion.

About 12 years ago, the International Maple Syrup Institute, which is a volunteer organization whose members include maple syrup stakeholders both in the US and Canada, established a committee to review existing regulations for pure maple syrup. The committee recommended establishing a more simplified and uniform description of grade names and nomenclature for pure maple syrup in the US and Canada. The two key objectives were to eliminate inconsistent grade names, and to emphasize the taste of the syrup by including flavor descriptors.

In 2013, the NH Maple Producers Association voted to adopt the proposed grading system. The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food went through the rulemaking process and adopted the new grading system this past December.

The NH Maple Products Law and Rules provide NH maple syrup producers a one year transition period to apply the new grading system. Meaning, in 2015 when purchasing maple syrup consumers may see the old grading system, or the new grading system on containers. By January 1, 2016, all maple syrup produced in NH must be labeled with the new grading system.

To assist the maple producers with informing the consumers of the new grading system, the Department is conducting a online survey to determine: 1) how much existing knowledge growers have on effective pest management practices, and 2) determine grower practices. Chen is asking vegetable growers to complete the short survey at: https://survey.uvm.edu/index.php/224619/lang-en.

Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner
Emerald Ash Borer for Birders Workshop
Help track the Emerald Ash Borer

Thursday 3/5/2015 - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM at Harris Center for Conservation Education, Hancock NH

Forest Health officials need the help of outdoor enthusiasts, including birders, in detecting emerald ash borer (EAB). This insect poses a destruction threat to ash trees in North America. Its larval tunnel just under the bark of ash trees, killing them quickly. You can help us locate this pest by spotting the characteristic bark damage caused by woodpeckers feeding on EAB larvae. In this workshop, Molly Heuss, NH Division of Forest & Lands, and Steve Roberge, UNH Cooperative Extension, will teach you what to look for and how to report potentially infested trees. They will also discuss the history and biology of emerald ash borer, the status of infestations in NH, the impacts this insect is expected to have on NH's forests and landscapes, and the steps NH Forest Health officials are taking to manage this insect. Phil Brown of NH Audubon will discuss the birds that feed on the Emerald Ash Borer and how to identify them, and why their feeding behavior leaves the characteristic "blonding" on the ash trees, as well as provide a landowner's perspective on EAB infestations.

For more information: Eric Masterson, email: masterson@harriscenter.org, phone: 603-526-3304 ext. 115

Permaculture “Through the Seasons” Design Course
Food for Thought: How do We Meet Human Needs While Preserving Ecosystem health?

The March 15 early bird deadline is fast approaching for the sixth Annual Permaculture “Through the Seasons Design Course, and continually recognized international course based on a 72 hour curriculum, scheduled to start May 15th. Over six weekends from May through November, D Acres Permaculture Farm and Educational Center will provide the space to learn, understand and take part in developing a holistic, integrated design for a sustainable future. The Permaculture Design Course (PDC) provides students with the ability to follow the seasonal New England rhythm and receive practical learning from eight instructors while designing an effective permaculture system for their own property. This course is especially useful for homeowners, planners, design professionals, community organizers, farmers, and gardeners. It is adapted to a wide variety of learning styles and is presented via lecture, images, video, discussion, hands on experiences, exercises, and design projects.

About the Course
Topics covered will include:
- Permaculture ethics and principles
- The design process
- Food and energy security
- Natural systems and biodiversity
- Site analysis and assessment
- Sustainable forestry and creating food forests
- Animals in the permaculture system
- Solar greenhouse design
- Village design and local economies
- Sustainable social systems and conflict resolution
- Preserving the harvest
- Mushroom cultivation
- Instructors
  - Steve Whitman, Planner
  - Chris Skoglund, Energy and Climate Analyst
  - Molly Messenger and Josh Arnold, GALA
  - David Wichland, Mycologist
  - Bryan Felice, Natural Builder
  - Marylena Sevigney, Designer and Maker
  - Josh Trought, Author and farmer

Dates include May 16–17; June 13–15; July New England Permaculture Convergence (optional); August 15–16; September 26–27; October 24–25 and November 14–15. The early bird registration cost is $1425 (35% off 3/15/15) for six weekends of instruction, field trips, and overnight accommodations. Lunch and dinner is provided featuring nutritious organic meals. Pre-registration includes all six weekends, pre-registration is required and may be done online at www.dacres.org

NH Audubon, UNH Cooperative Extension, and NH Division of Forest and Lands

Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 (12-4:30pm)

Location: Sullivan County Cooperative Ext. Office
24 Main St., Newport, NH

Date: Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 (12-4:30pm)

Location: Strafford County- Wentworth Greenhouses
141 Rollins Rd., Rollinsford, NH

Tools for Identifying EAB

Date: Tuesday, April 28th, 2015 (12-4pm)

Location: Cheshire County- Keene Recreation Center
312 Washington St., Keene, NH

Date: Thursday, April 30th, 2015 (10 am-2:30pm)

Location: Hillsborough County- Chappell Professional Ctr.
468 Route 13 South, Milford, NH

Date: Wednesday, May 13th, 2015 (12-3pm)

Location: Coos County- UNH Ext/ NH Fish & Game Building
629 A Main St., Lancaster, NH

For more information go to: www.agriculture.nh.gov
or click on the Division of Weights and Measures

The Monadnock Farm & Community Coalition Invites you to our Early Spring Forum

MFCC Spring Summit: 2nd Year Review
Thursday, March 5th, 2015
4pm - 5:30pm
Stonewall Farm
468 Route 13 South
Keene, NH

Share your accomplishments & happenings! Engage in efforts working towards local food sustainability!

PLEASE RSVP!

One of MFCC’s primary purposes is to provide the time and space for our constituency to network, engage in each other’s work, promote and cross-polinate information, share resources and tools, and form collaborations so that, collectively, we can continue to implement the programs needed to build a Monadnock Region’s sustainable local food system.

We have much to share with you and we are certain you have much to share with all of us. Please join us for a coalition-wide review while we celebrate how far we’ve come!

Agenda:
- MFCC - update members on current and future collaborations, efforts and programs
- Member reporting - time to share with one another about efforts, events, successes
- Introduce and assimilate new members into coalition

A light, networking dinner will be served.

For more information:
email coordinator@mfccoalition.org
Website: www.mfccoalition.org
Facebook: /SupportMonadnockFarms
Twitter: @MFCCCoalition

The Monadnock Farm & Community Coalition

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Agricultural Nutrient Management Grant Program

The Agricultural Nutrient Management Grant Program provides financial assistance for livestock and agricultural land operations with implementing Best Management Practices that address water pollution. Applicants for ANM grants may apply for cost assistance of up to $2,500. The majority of the funding will be used for on-farm projects that address the program objectives. Funding may also be utilized by non-profit or other organizations for educational or research projects related to the grant program’s goals. Grants will be awarded in two rounds, March and September, for which applications must be submitted to the department by March 1st and by September 1st respectively. For more information please visit the department’s website, www.agriculture.nh.gov, or contact Jennifer Gornert at 603-271-3685.

2015 New Hampshire Fruit Growers’ Association Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at New Hampshire Audubon – McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord.

NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food - Division of Pesticide Control has approved four and one-half (4.5) pesticide recertification credits for this meeting!

This Year’s Topic: Growers’ Perspective of Which Stone Fruits they Grow (Peaches, Nectarines, Plums, etc.)

Orchard Insect Pest Update

Fire Blight - Beware in 2015

Summer Pruning, Apples and Peaches - A Practice Forgotten?

Sprayer Calibration versus Spray Pattern

Apple Scab, Potatoes and Tree Training Systems

News from NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

New Hampshire Fruit Growers’ Association and UNH Cooperative Extension are co-sponsoring this meeting.

Registration fees are $25 per member and $30 per non-member to cover the cost of refreshments and lunch. Please contact Katie Surowiec at (603)288-4069 or email at info@surowiejfarm.com by March 13, 2015 to pre-register.

No person shall be denied the opportunity to participate because of an inability to pay. Those requiring special accommodations or scholarships should contact George Hamilton at (603)-641-6060 or george.hamilton@unh.edu by March 13.

New Hampshire Fruit Growers’ Association UNH Cooperative Extension

In 2014 the 91 producer policyholders in New Hampshire received over $6.4 million of protection on over 9,650 acres of crops and $251,000 of indemnity payments to date. The total premium for these producer policy holders was $608,293, of which $408,520 was subsidized by 67%, and declines to 38% at the 85% coverage level. The coverage levels starts with 50% (Catastrophic provision, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation may make a separate determination for irrigated and non-irrigated acreage.

Some important dates for 2015: last date to purchase or change coverage - 3/15/15; production report due - 4/29/15; early planting - 4/16/15; final planting - 6/15/15; acreage report date - 7/15/15; premium billing date - 8/15/15.

All multi-peril crop insurance, including CAT policies, are available from private insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA website at: www.rma.usda.gov/agents.
WHOLESALE EGGS
Boston Market averages for 2/18-2/24
Brown Shelled Eggs: Jumbo, 2.61; Extra Large, 2.14; Large, 2.10; Medium, 1.59; Small, 1.20; White Shelled Eggs: Jumbo, 1.74; Extra Large, 1.69; Large, 1.59; Medium, 1.41; Small, 1.29.

RETAIL GRAIN PRICES (PER 50 LBS.)
CASH & CARRY
Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices
RANGE AVG.
Dairy Pellets 16% 9.79-10.00 9.90
Dairy Pellets 20% 10.34-11.06 10.70
Coarse Dairy 9.66-11.51 10.59
Ration 20% 10.33-11.94 11.14
Ration 14% 11.11-14.46 12.79
Cornmeal 9.11- 9.90 9.51
Calf Starter 13.08-13.85 13.47
Poultry
Chick Starter Mash 14.97-17.99 16.48
Grower Mash 12.11-17.99 14.21
Layer Mash 11.64-15.49 13.17
Horse Feed 11.30-16.99 14.15
Hog Grower Mash 10.30-13.99 12.60
Whole Corn 8.16-10.99 9.80

BULK GRAIN PRICES (PER TON)
Prices listed for bulk grain are FOB mill in six-ton lots. Hauling charges, volume discounts and other considerations will affect the net price charged for products when delivered to the farm.
Dairy Pellets 16% 251.80
Dairy Pellets 20% 281.60
High Energy Dairy Pellets 16% 295.00
High Energy Dairy Pellets 20% 314.20
Complete Chick Starter 407.00
Complete Grower Mash 368.80
Complete Layer Mash 347.40
Complete Turkey Grounder 20% 412.60
Whole Corn 202.60

NORTHAMPTON COOPERATIVE AUCTION
Whately, MA, February 24, 2015
On the hoof, per hundredweight.
Prices not available at press time

FLAME LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Littleton, MA, February 24, 2015
On the hoof, per pound

Bulls .95 .50 .25 1.00
Steers .90 .60 .35 1.00
Heifers 1.10 1.00
Calves 2.00 1.50 1.00
Veal 1.00 1.50 1.00
Goats, by the $ 1.00 1.40 1.00
Bilbies 1.00 2.10 1.00
Kids .20 1.30

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NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
PO Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042

Periodicals
News Letter
Market Quotations

Question of the Week
Q: Can you tell me a little more about what it means to practice permaculture?
A: Many avid gardeners have heard of permaculture and have some idea about the principals involved in such a system. The term permaculture stems from a combination of two words: perma and culture, and has some idea about the principals involved in such a system. The system is designed to work with one another, thereby improving the overall functionality of the system as a whole, while reducing the need for labor and other inputs required in traditional gardening systems. Elements that such systems include plants, animals, buildings and infrastructure.

The core permaculture design principles include categories such as evaluating your site or location, energy usage and planning, incorporating small-scale highly productive cropping systems, designing for diversity, and understanding patterns in nature and on your land.

Each element in a permaculture system should have multiple functions. A classic example is that of a chicken, where we consider all of the products and behaviors, needs and characteristics that we might expect from a hen in our system. Products and behaviors include things like eggs, meat, manure, scratching, and foraging. Needs include shelter, food, water, grit and other chickens. Characteristics would consider things like her breed, cold tolerance and behavior specific to that breed.

This type of approach to considering how each element within the system contributes and interacts with other elements is at the core of permaculture design and practice. The same types of considerations could be applied towards every element in our system, including our plants, buildings, watering systems, bed layout and design, beneficial insect habitat, etc. Adding and taking away elements can have an effect on the entire system. Often, we have to pay very close attention to recognize these effects.

Pesticide Applicator Recertification Seminars
Meetings approved by the Division of Pesticide Control for recertification credits:

March 2: Raising Turkeys, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Boscawen Municipal Complex, BOSCAWEN. For more info call 753-9188, ext.

March 4: Learn the Basics of Backyard Chickens, 6:30 - 8 p.m., East Kingston Elementary School, E KINGSTON. For more info call 679-5616.

March 6: Northern New England Nursery Conference, 9:00 - 3:30 p.m., Seacoast Science Center, RYE. For more info call 862-3200.

March 7: Blueberry & Fruit Pruning Demonstration, 10:00 - Noon, Blue Moon Farm, 196 Waldron Rd, WARNER. For more info call 796-2151.

March 15: 3rd Annual Dairy Heifer Sale, 1 p.m., Skoglund Livestock Arena, UNH Campus, DURHAM. For more info call 860-803-7192.

March 21: Large Animal Rescue Training, 9:30 - 4 p.m., WINCHESTER. For more info call 239-6045.

March 6: Pick Your Poison (Pesticide Toxicology), Northeast Nursery -- Londonderry, NH Contact: Michael Reed, 973-459-1369 1 PC

*Private=Private Credits *C=Commercial Credits

March 16: Fly & Parasite Control, Margis Lobster House -- Concord, NH Contact: Steve Turaj, 603-788-4961 3 PC