Merrimack County Summer Farmers Markets

Canterbury Community Farmers’ Market
June-October, Wednesdays, 4-6:30pm
Ellins Library, 9 Center Rd., Canterbury

Concord Farmers’ Market
May-October, Saturdays, 9-noon
Capitol Street, Downtown Concord

Contoocook Farmers’ Markets
June-October, Saturdays, 9-noon
Train Depot, Contoocook

Franklin Farmers’ Market
June-September, Wednesdays, 4-7pm
New Dorp Exchange, Franklin

Pembroke Community Farmers’ Market
June-October, Wednesdays, 4-6pm
Pembroke Park, Pembroke

Penacook Farmers’ Market
May-August, Wednesdays, 4-6:30pm
95-97 Village St., Penacook

Salisbury Farmers’ Market
June-September, Fridays, 3-6pm
The Barn, 96 Old Turnpike, Salisbury

Warner Area Farmers’ Market
May-October, Saturdays, 9am-1pm
5 East Main St., Warner

Wilmar Farmers’ Market
June-September, Saturdays, 9-noon
Wilmar Flat Town Green, next to Town Offices on Keurange Valley Rd., Wilmar

The mission of the Merrimack County Conservation District is to conserve the natural resources and cultural heritage of Merrimack County.

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Director of the NRCS Soil Science Division, Dr. David Lindbo Visits New Hampshire

NRCS Soil Science Division Director David Lindbo spoke with members of the NRCS staff and toured two local farms: Highway View Farm and Apple View Farm. The goal of his visit was to see how the Soil Science Division can better interact with the conservation team to provide future assistance to their customers. The soil scientists discussed cover crops, soil compaction, soil map interpretation, soil surveys, and their uses in conservation planning.

At Highway View Farm in Boscawen, Adam Crete met with the NRCS team to talk about his farming operation, dairy herd, and his progressive conservation practices.

At Apple View Farm in Concord, Chuck and Diane Souther met with the NRCS team to discuss their apples and commodity crop production. For their crop production, irrigation management is critical. Apple View Farm currently has two man made ponds (NRCS designed) and is looking to build a third.

For more information about NRCS conservation practices, please contact your local NRCS office or visit their website at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/nh/home/
Natural Resources Stewards Program Making an Impact for NH

Enrolling Now

UNH Cooperative Extension announces enrollment is now open for the Natural Resources Stewards Program that begins September 8th at NH Fish and Game in Concord. This 12-week program emphasizes experiential learning that includes tree and plant identification, forest communities, wetlands, wildlife habitat, invasive species, ecological landscaping, tree and shrub planting, pruning and care, and conservation and sustainable living, permaculture, and more. This program provides college-level education to participants, and in exchange participants will complete 40 hours of volunteer service in their own communities or through a partnering agency’s program. Participants who graduate from the program will become Natural Resources Stewards and will join with the 400 other stewards throughout the state.

“This program is great!” says MCCD District Manager Stacy Luke. “Natural Resource’s Stewards have been involved in projects such as the renovation planning at Manchester’s Gateway Park and gardening at the Frank Lloyd Wright Zimmerman House, The Big Tree Team, and more. Additionally, the Natural Resources Stewards help with conservation and natural resource workshops and educational programs around the state.

Mary Tebo Davis, Natural Resources Field Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension states “The program is open to all, including those who aren’t sure yet how they can help, but want to make a difference.” Davis encourages those who are interested to sign up quickly as space is limited.

To apply and/or learn more about the Natural Resources Stewards Program, please visit www.nhstewards.org or call UNH Cooperative Extension at 603-641-6060.

2017 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR CONTINUED:

The method of cover cropping is a way to mitigate risk on fields through building up organic matter to retain moisture, holding nutrients, and reducing large amounts of erosion.

Crete further expressed how Crete “used the no-till planter with rollers available from NHACD,” and that Crete’s usage of the planter helped NHACD setup and troubleshoot the planter that others would utilize across the state. Additionally, Crete participated in several energy efficient projects with the district. He received a comprehensive energy audit and incorporated that audit to conserve both water and energy.

The farm has been in the Crete family for nearly 60 years. In addition to crops, they family operates a dairy herd of about 120 cows.

Crete’s advice for any new farmers would be to take advantage of your resources—talk to NRCS about some of the programs they’ve set up, SFA for low finance loans, and UNHCE. “There’s a lot of people who want to help you out. Take advantage of it!”

Congratulations Adam!

MCCD’S FALL BULB FUNDRAISER IS HERE!

Included in this newsletter is our order form, due by September 11th. (We will continue to take orders until supplies run out.)

MCCD offers a color sheet of the bulbs to order. Visit our website or contact us to have one sent to you.

In efforts to conserve trees, we will be emailing order forms to our mailing list—However, if you would like one mailed please let us know!

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Meet our 2017 Summer Interns!

Jessica Newnan

Jessica is a new intern with our Local Foods Program. She recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems and Economics/Gastronomy. Her studies have led her to a passion for local food, both growing it and getting it into the hands of local people. She is looking forward to working on glencoring projects and attending farmers’ markets this summer as a part of her work with our Local Foods Program. Jessica is from the small New Hampshire town of Chester where she spent a lot of her time working in her garden, cooking with friends, and listening to music. Jessica’s future endeavors include working in sustainable agriculture in Costa Rica and owning her own farm.

Lea Taylor

Lea is a 2017 graduate from Colby Sawyer College who majored in Environmental Studies. Lea attended Newbury High School before Colby Sawyer, where she was the president of the school’s National Art Honors Society. She utilized her passions for art and nature to lead the Eco-Rep team at Colby Sawyer, which showcased the college’s first annual Arts for Earth festival that featured student films celebrating earth. Lea is working to revamp the community garden projects in Franklin, NH and to contribute to creating a resilient and self-reliant city. She is dedicated to innovating a more sustainable food system that focuses on collaboration and bringing everyone to the table. Through her internship with MCCD, Lea seeks to learn from experiences and strengthen her personal and professional connections and knowledge of local community networks.

Gretchen Dancewicz Helmers

As her class Valedictorian, a Scholar Athlete, and member of the National Honor Society, and more, Gretchen recently graduated from Newfound Regional High School. Last year she worked at Camp Wiyaka as a camp counselor. This coming summer she will be returning to the camp as the Nature Director. Her senior high school project was on the role of mushrooms as decomposers in the environment and their potential to remove environmental pollutants. Gretchen is looking to pursue a major in Environmental Science from Allegheny College. In the future, Gretchen wants to work in natural resources and help to guide the next generation towards a healthier environment. She also wants to create a compromise between stewardship and wasteful exploitation.

Have extra food from your garden? Check out NH Gleans!

Are your neighbors tired of accepting your extra zucchini? Do you have more berries, apples, peaches, or kale and looking to re-home it? Then the NH Gleans is for you!

The Merrimack County Conservation District is the regional lead for the NH Glean program again this year. Last year, MCCD gleaned over 10,000 pounds of food that was distributed to local food pantries, senior centers, and schools. We would like to top that amount this year as the need never ceases. Please call the District at 223-6620 if you have large quantities of produce that you would like harvested by or picked up by volunteers and distributed to the food pantries in need.

Looking to help? MCCD is looking for volunteers who would like to harvest crops or pick up food to bring to your local pantry. If this is something you may be interested in, please contact the District at 223-6620 or signup at www.NHGLEANs.org.

Congratulations to the Recipient of the 2017 Stanley Grimes Conservation Scholarship:

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