MCCD, Farmers’ Markets Give Back to Veterans

After the incredible success at the Rochester Farmers’ Market, the farmers’ markets in Merrimack County are now recognizing veterans with the New Veterans Value Bucks Program. This program will offer veterans who come to the Concord, Penacook, Contoocook, Franklin or Wilmot farmers’ markets a coupon booklet worth $20. Each month Veterans Value Bucks will become available and the coupons will expire on the last day of each month.

After Merrimack County farmers heard of the success this program had in Rochester, they appealed to the conservation district to get a similar program started in their county. With the farmers behind them, Merrimack County Conservation District was able to find two grants to fund their own similar program for Merrimack County.

At the above listed farmers markets, the veteran, spouse, or caregiver can present a DD214, a VA Healthcare card, Active Duty ID or other related

Stanley Grimes Conservation Scholarship Winner

Each year the Merrimack County Conservation District is honored to give out a $1,000 scholarship to a Merrimack County resident who is enrolled in a two or four-year program of study in fields of Natural Resources such as Agriculture, Forestry, Environmental Science, Horticulture, Wetland Science, Environmental Engineering and Soil Science.

Derek Ladd – Epsom, NH

Derek from Epsom, NH, intends to study Sustainable Agriculture at NHTI this upcoming fall. His main career goal is to work in the agricultural field, something that he has been involved in throughout his entire life. An interesting area that Derek is looking into pursuing involves agricultural education. He has always had an interest in teaching and combining that with agriculture seems like a great fit for him. Derek has enrolled in NHTI’s sustainable agricultural program where he’s going to continue working towards his degree.
SKIDDER BRIDGE RENTAL PROGRAM

The Merrimack County Conservation District now offers skidder bridges for rent for around the county. Skidder bridges are designed and intended for use as temporary structures for crossing streams during logging. With New Hampshire having roughly 89 percent tree coverage, logging is a very prevalent business throughout the entire state.

These bridges are widely accepted as a best management practice for controlling non-point source pollution associated with timber harvesting operations. They minimize stream bank and stream bed disturbance as compared with alternative devices, such as culverts or poled fords, and they reduce the occurrence of sedimentation, channeling, and any degradation of aquatic habitat, while allowing loggers to harvest timber.

In addition to these environmental benefits, portable skidder bridges also offer economic benefits as they are reusable, easy to install, and can be transported from job to job.

The use of these bridges is increasingly popular with loggers, forest landowners, and consulting foresters who realize their environmental and economic benefits.

These bridges are constructed of green hemlock and reinforced with 1” threaded steel rod and 10” screws and/or cabin spikes. Each bridge is made up of three panels.

Application forms and more information are available online at merrimackccd.org/forms-publications/.

Rental Rate

$100 per month of use

Equipment options: 16-foot skidder bridge OR 20-foot skidder bridge.

This project was funded by the Conservation Moose Plate grant funds. This is funded through the purchase of Conservation License Plates, known as “Moose Plates.”

Applications Available

Have a project that supports and promotes programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state’s valuable natural resources? The 2019 Conservation “Moose Plate” Grant, by the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC), is now accepting applications. These applications are due on September 14, 2018. Awards will be announced in December 2018 and funding will be available to successful applicants in May 2019. Forms and information can be found at www.SCC.nh.gov.
**INTERN SPOTLIGHT**

Each year, MCCD hosts interns for the school year and/or summer. MCCD thanks their 2018 intern, Carrie Cree, for her hard work this year. She will surely be missed.

**Carrie Cree**

Carrie recently received her associates degree at NHTI in environmental science. This September she will be attending Colby Sawyer college to receive her bachelor’s degree in environmental science with a minor in biology. Though originally from Rhode Island, Carrie grew up in Weare, NH. When she’s not helping out the district with gleaning and other projects, Carrie hangs out with her dog, Wilson, and goes hiking. Currently she is trying to finish hiking all of the 4,000 footers in New Hampshire. 31 down and 17 to go!

**Thank you, Carrie, for all your hard work!**

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**Veterans continued from page 1**

Identification card at the MCCD tent to receive $20 in Veterans Value Bucks.

Veteran Value Bucks are accepted by farmers’ market vendors and are used just like cash so can be used to purchase fresh produce, baked goods, locally raised meat, maple syrup products, and more.

The MCCD is committed to closing the gap of food insecurity among the New Hampshire veteran community and want to help increase the access to fresh locally grown food to our community of veterans and their families.

Additionally, families and individuals using SNAP benefits are eligible for Granite State Market Match tokens, which matches SNAP dollars up to $20/market. More information about this can be found online at merrimackccd.org or at a Merrimack County Farmers’ Market.

The initial funding for this program came from the Merrimack County Savings Bank and the Champions of NH Agriculture grant program.

Together we can make a difference in closing the gap of food insecurity, particularly among our brave veterans.

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We are collaborating with Hillsborough County Conservation District and Agriculture in the Classroom to create a workshop on Food, Land & People. FLP is a nonprofit organization concerned about students, educators, and citizens understanding the crucial relationships between agriculture, natural resources, and people of the world.

Check our website soon for more information about this upcoming collaboration and workshop!

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**Thank You, Mike Lynch…**

**For 37 Years Working with NRCS and the Merrimack County Conservation District!**

Mike Lynch, NRCS Resource Conservationist and former Merrimack County District Conservationist, is retiring at the end of September. Here’s what co-worker Karen Dudley has to say about it:

“Mike is truly a fountain of knowledge when it comes to any aspect of soil conservation. What I admire the most about him is his ability to keep complex situations uncomplicated. NRCS can never fill the void that he will leave behind and the farmers of NH are losing one of their best technical resources.”
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Priority Bulb Sale orders due Sept. 10

August 25 & 26—Muster Field Farm Days in Sutton. The museum’s largest event of the year, a two-day celebration of all things agricultural, historical and farm-related.

September 11—Erosion Control Field Day at NH Audubon Massabesic Center. Use this workshop to help you stay current on useful practices. This full day training will incorporate both classroom sessions and outdoor, hands on demonstrations in small group settings.

September 13—Erosion Control Field Day at Beech Hill Farm. See Above.

September 23—Harvest Moon & Naturefest in Warner at the Indian Museum. Join us for a day of fun and excitement, exhibitions, demonstrations, talks, stories, games, and food!

September 30—Muster Field Farm Harvest Day in Sutton. Come celebrate the summer’s harvest!

October 11 and 12—Soil Field Day in Concord at Riverhill Grange and Carter Hill Orchard. Come to this basic soil properties workshop to learn about different types of soils and their properties. Morning presentation followed by afternoon field work. Both days offer the same workshop, choose your day!

October 26—Speaking for Wildlife Volunteer Training in Boscawen at the UNH Cooperative Extension Merrimack County Office. This training will provide you with the basics of planning and delivering a wildlife presentation.