



# Extension

Coös County Updates

April 2020

## ***North Country Updates - Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry***

This newsletter comes to you from  
UNH Cooperative Extension,  
Coös County Conservation District &  
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Services,  
Lancaster, NH



Contact:  
[Carolyn.McQuiston@nh.nacdnet.net](mailto:Carolyn.McQuiston@nh.nacdnet.net)



## **PLEASE Check websites regularly for updates,**

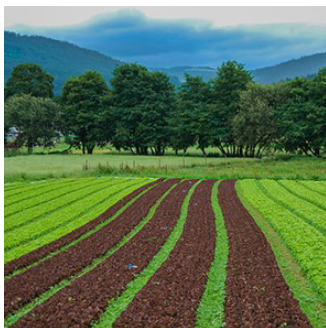
In person events are being cancelled and online events are being added.

[NHTOA](#)

[UNH Extension](#)

[NH Department of Ag](#)

## **Events**



### **Future of the Farm - WEBINAR**

**Thursday, April 9 - Installment Sales**  
12:00pm-1:00pm

**CONTACT:** [Kelly.McAdam@unh.edu](mailto:Kelly.McAdam@unh.edu)

[More Information & How to Register](#)



New Hampshire  
**AGRICULTURE**  
Daily COVID-19 Update

## Open Forum for NH Farms

Growers and producers can join the reoccurring meetings through video chat or by phone. This collaborative space will allow farmers to share information and concerns about how the public health pandemic is affecting their operations while strategizing for success in the months ahead.

No registration is required.  
The online sessions will be held  
**Wednesdays - 7:00-8:00 PM**  
**Mondays - 10:00-11:00 AM**

Sessions will continue on following Mondays and Wednesdays at corresponding times as long as there is interest.

[More Information](#)



## Webinar - Sprayer Calibration

**April 13 - 1:00-2:30 PM**

Unfortunately, a lot of Extension programming has been disrupted. However, we are working hard to convert our programs to a format that keeps all of us safe. UNH/UVM Sprayer Calibration Workshops originally scheduled at locations throughout the Connecticut river valley have been reorganized into a webinar.

Pesticide Credits Pending.

[More Information & How to Register](#)



## Conservation District's Plant Sale

If you placed an order, we are still planning to have bulbs and plants available for pickup May 1.

We will be arranging 'curbside' pickup in the parking lot of our office building. If this changes, we will certainly let you know. Stay Well!

[More Information](#)

## In The News

**Nicholas Rowley, Field Specialist,**

# Food & Agriculture, UNH Cooperative Extension, Coös County

Nicholas comes to Extension with a passion for horticulture, agriculture and natural resources, and direct experience working with farmers, agricultural experimentation, research-based outreach and commercial production. “My enthusiasm for agriculture stems from its depth and diversity, as well as its connection with the environment and people,” says Nicholas. “I love how close to nature you are when you work with plants or livestock and I’m constantly amazed by the ingenuity and determination of farmers.”



Agriculture has been a staple of Nicholas’s working career. In high school, he worked at a farm producing and delivering horse hay in the summers and after school, and later worked on vegetable farms, in greenhouses, and at a florist as he earned his associate’s degree and then Bachelor of Science in Environmental Horticulture at the University of Maine. Nicholas earned his master’s degree in Plant, Soil and Environmental Science from the University of Maine. This experience provided him with strong connections to extension and outreach. Through his degree program and his position as a research associate, he managed research projects and conducted outreach focused on vegetable variety trials, tillage reduction, compost utilization, and product development within vegetable production systems. Most recently, Nicholas was a Research Associate in Vegetable Production with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at Highmoor Farm.

As the Coös County agriculture field specialist, Nicholas will work with farms and agricultural businesses of all kinds throughout the county and region to provide technical assistance and research-based education to help producers adopt new practices, overcome challenges, and improve their lives and businesses. Local farmer, Kris Von Dohrmann participated in the search committee, and says, “I feel Nick is an excellent fit for the position and will work hard to cultivate the relationships necessary to work for all of us in the county.”

Welcome, Nick to Coös County and UNH Cooperative Extension!



**Hello, my name is Nick Rowley**

I’m the new UNH Cooperative Extension Food & Ag Field Specialist in Coös County

It is an uncertain time for everybody, especially us working in agriculture. As farmers you have faced tough times before and most likely will again. As you know, farmers are resilient and are used to weathering hard times. While the impacts of COVID-19 are ever changing, one thing that is not is your determination and ability to persevere in trying times. You, your farm, and your family can make it through this and **UNH Extension is still here to help you.**

Our physical locations are closed, but we have switched to working remotely. While on farm face-to-face visits are a cornerstone of Extension work, for now we must connect in other ways. I understand that many of you do not know me yet. I look forward to changing that soon, one way or another.

Please reach out to me for any reason, 603-788-4961, or [nicholas.rowley@unh.edu](mailto:nicholas.rowley@unh.edu)

Take care,  
-Nick

### **Covid-19 and Your Farm**

I'm sure that many of you have questions regarding COVID-19 and your farm. Some of these questions we know the answers to and some we do not. The health of you, your family and your farm are of the upmost importance to us. UNH Extension is working to create up-to-date resources for you as the events of COVID-19 unfold. The best way for you to get this information is through our Extension website.

### **All COVID-19 Agriculture Related Information (Food Safety, Labor, Ect.)**

We have created a place on this website where you can easily find the answers to questions we have collected. You can also ask new questions through the "ask a question" button. Ultimately this website will be a platform where Extension and other members of the Ag Service industry can come together to provide answers to you. The website address is [extension.unh.edu/AgCOVID-19](https://extension.unh.edu/AgCOVID-19)

### **Dairy, Livestock and Forage**

For access to the Dairy, Livestock and Forage team's blog: Protecting Yourself-and Your Farm- from COVID-19. Please visit: [extension.unh.edu/blog/protecting-yourself-and-your-farm-covid-19](https://extension.unh.edu/blog/protecting-yourself-and-your-farm-covid-19) This site includes links to facts and resources specific to Dairy, Livestock and Forage and is being updated regularly.

### **Fruit and Vegetable Production**

For access to information focused on fruit and vegetable production please visit the fruit and vegetable teams blog. Here you will find continually updated resources and links to help guide you and your farm.

The website address is <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/covid-19-resources-and-information-growers-and-producers>

### **Pesticide Exam Update**

Is the Division of Pesticide Control still scheduling exams for pesticide applicators?

At this time, scheduling of exams will be delayed until further notice.

Following April 6 the Division will contact those people that have sent in correctly completed applications with appropriate payments with regard to scheduling exams. People will be contacted based on receipt of correctly completed paperwork and fees. For example, items received March 16 will be the first group of people to be called to schedule exams and so on.

### **UNH Diagnostic Lab (Soil Test, Plant Tissue & Arthropod Samples) update**

Due to the public health concern caused by the COVID-19 virus, UNH administration made the decision to close all University offices and adjust diagnostic services until further notice. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this uncertain time. Walk-in and mail-in samples will no longer be accepted for any diagnostic service until further notice. (Samples received after March 17 will be processed when services resume). While the lab is closed, there are still ways that they can help.

**Soil samples:** In the absence of a soil test, commercial growers should refer to previous soil tests, home gardeners follow guidelines recommended in our factsheets for [fertilizing vegetable gardens](#) or [fruit trees](#). If you have misplaced your old soil test, contact [Shyloh.Favreau@unh.edu](mailto:Shyloh.Favreau@unh.edu)

**Plant samples:** The Plant Diagnostic Lab is accepting digital samples sent by email to [pdل.digitalsample@unh.edu](mailto:pdل.digitalsample@unh.edu) Submissions must include your name, phone number, business name, county, host plant, problem, date when symptoms were noted and good, in-focus images

**Arthropod samples:** Our staff are accepting digital samples sent by email to [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu) Submission must include your name, phone number, business name, county, where you found the specimen and good, in-focus images



## USDA Service Centers Open for telephone appointments

We are committed to delivering USDA services to America's farmers and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to the COVID-19, or new coronavirus, outbreak. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

Visit [usda.gov/coronavirus](https://usda.gov/coronavirus) for answers to frequently asked questions focusing on food safety, access to food, pet safety, and trade and foreign agricultural affairs.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our agricultural producers by phone and using email and online tools whenever possible.

Producers can find their Service Center's phone number at [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-center-locator)

[Learn More](#)



## Extension

### Growing Hemp in New Hampshire Update

There is now a legal pathway to grow industrial hemp in New Hampshire. On February 4, 2020, it was confirmed that New Hampshire would not have a State hemp program and that the USDA would accept applications from NH. New Hampshire is the first state from which the USDA has accepted applications for the Hemp Program. The authority to allow for this is written in the interim final rule published on October 31, 2019. The rule establishes a USDA plan to regulate industrial hemp production by producers in areas where industrial hemp production is legal to grow but is not covered by an approved state plan. To produce industrial hemp under the USDA plan, NH producers must apply for and be issued a license from the USDA before they begin production. As part of the application process, an FBI criminal history report must be included.

In addition, approved growers are required to submit an acreage report with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Further information about the USDA Domestic Hemp Production Program can be found at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/hemp>. Click on the side link, "Information for Producers" for grower specific information, including the application to obtain a USDA hemp production license. It is best to send specific questions regarding the hemp program and licensing directly to the USDA Hemp Program at [farbill.hemp@usda.gov](mailto:farbill.hemp@usda.gov). As more information is available, we will share it through the Market Bulletin and UNH Extension.

Cheryl A. Smith  
UNH Extension Professor and Plant Health Specialist;  
Director, UNH Plant Diagnostic Lab

Jennifer Z. Gornert  
Director, Division of Regulatory Services  
NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food



## Seed Starting Considerations

Many vegetables do well as transplants. Starting your own seeds for your garden or farm is a way to save money and get a jump start on our short growing season in the North Country. Of course, seasoned farmers and gardeners understand this concept! However, there are a couple of easy things you may not have considered which will help you avoid making some common mistakes.

---

---

**Seed Source:** Have you purchased your seeds from a reputable company? Trusted seed companies test their seeds for viability and store their seed in a manner that maintains quality (correct temperature, humidity, light and time).

**Seed Saving:** Seed saving is something that is of interest to a lot of people, but without the right selection you may be disappointed. Saving seed from a hybrid will not result in the same plant you removed the seed from because the seed will not breed true. If you are interested in saving seed, it is recommended that you stick with open pollinated varieties.

**Old Seed:** I'm guilty! I've saved and planted old seed with varying degrees of success. It's just so hard to throw all that "good" seed away. Truth is not all old seed is good seed. This is dependent on the species and how long it has been stored. Different species tend to hold on to their viability longer than others. As a home gardener having limited success with seed germination may be acceptable, but as you magnify that up to a farm scale the consequences are more serious and can hurt the bottom line. For commercial farms the use of old seeds has great potential to waste time and materials, take up valuable early season space and alter your planting scheduling and product availability later in the season. Check out resources from your seed company, they usually have a chart giving you an idea of how long to keep seeds. Here is one I've used in the past <https://www.highmowingseeds.com/blog/seed-viability-chart/>

**Timing:** A common mistake that I've seen frequently is starting seedlings early. Some seeds germinate quickly and grow at a fast rate under the right conditions. The issue is, as these plants get bigger, they need a place to go. Putting plants out too early, can lead to death or stunting. Leaving them inside too long can reduce the quality due to limited resources and increased competition. Plants will potentially get set back if not provided with the right environment and needs. This defeats the main purpose of starting transplants! Lost seedlings are a waste of money and time and poor seedlings have their own drawbacks. Poor or overgrown seedlings are hard to handle, hard to transplant (specifically in some mechanical transplanters) and generally more susceptible to environmental pressures such as weather and pests. To help you better plan when to start specific species, grab your seeds, a calendar and refer to this chart. [https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource007043\\_Rep10191.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource007043_Rep10191.pdf)

**Hardening Off:** Hardening off slowly introduces some stress into the plant's life. This helps them be more robust when planting out in the field. This is an easy step which can help prevent set back upon transplant. If seedlings are in a hightunnel or indoors and the weather is conducive to survival set them outside for a week or two before planting. It is best to first place them out of direct sun and wind and over time increase the level of exposure. If nighttime temperatures are still cold, consider covering the seedlings with row covers or moving them back indoors. You can also decrease watering and fertilization to some extent, but don't let them become so dry they wilt or die.

For more information on starting seeds check out UNH Extension's Starting Plants from Seed Fact Sheet. <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/starting-plants-seed-fact-sheet>

---

**Coös County Conservation District (CCCD)**



## Coös County Conservation District

4 Mayberry Lane  
Lancaster NH 03584  
603-788-4651 ext 102

Visit our website - [cooscountyconservation.org](http://cooscountyconservation.org)  
email - [da.cccd@gmail.com](mailto:da.cccd@gmail.com)

Our office is located in the USDA Service Center,  
Route 3, Lancaster, NH

## Soil Health Rental Equipment

Click on the equipment for more information.



Wood Ash Spreader  
& Rental Terms

Coös County



Hi-Tunnel Tool  
Loan Program,  
List of Tools &  
Loan Process

Coös County



No-Till Seeder  
& Rental Terms

Grafton County

The KED-72 is 6' wide and capable of planting 9 rows, with 8" spacing. KASCO recommends a 23hp+ tractor, with sufficient lift capacity to handle approximately 1000 lbs. on back.



Aerway  
& Rental Terms

Grafton County

AWMP-075-AG-4 Salford AerWay: 45-75HP tractor with hydraulics recommended. Cultivation width 7.5'. Weight 2150 lbs.

## Home or Garden Question?



Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. highly trained master gardeners are available to answer your questions about gardening, lawns, pests, fruits and vegetables, food safety and more. For research-based information you can trust, pick up the phone, send an email or stop by today!

Education Center & Info Line

The Education Center at UNH Cooperative Extension offers a number of services including:

- Answers to gardening questions from Cooperative Extension Master Gardener residents via email and the Hotline 877-398-4769 or walk-in assistance.
- Master Gardener Volunteer Training Educational Programs for the general public.



- Public presentations by Master Gardener Volunteers on topics such as seed starting, composting, container gardening, and seed saving.

For more information on a variety of horticulture topics visit the UNH Cooperative Extension [website](#).



## When in doubt.. UNH Cooperative Extension ID services can help.

Soil Testing Services

Insect Identification Services

Plant Diagnostic Lab

NH Bugs

## Additional Links

Subscribe to this and other  
UNH Extension newsletters

Archives  
of this newsletter

UNH Extension Agriculture

UNH Extension Natural Resources

Coös County Conservation District

USDA / NRCS in NH

Coös County UNH Cooperative Extension  
629 Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information  
[visit our website](#), [email us](#), or call 603-788-4961



### About UNH Cooperative Extension

Extension is at work in every New Hampshire county, making the state's key industries stronger, developing vibrant communities and municipal leaders, fostering healthy families and an informed and engaged citizenry, and keeping the state's natural resources healthy and productive.

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.  
UNH, USDA, and NH Counties cooperating.