



Extension

Coös County Ag Update

December 2017



North Country Ag Updates from Coös County.

Welcome! We've joined forces with Coös County Conservation District & NRCS. We hope to share more Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation information with you. Please let us know if you have suggestions for content.

This is a periodic email to let you know about upcoming events, interesting stories, disease and pest alerts, etc. that are relevant to agricultural producers in the area.

Do you have comments, questions, suggestions for future content?
Send us an email -
steven.turaj@unh.edu



Events

Winter Forage Crop Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Rialto Theatre, Lancaster

Save the date, more information soon.
The Grassland Management subject was so popular last year that we plan to focus on establishment techniques along with management.

We'll offer this in two locations:
Lancaster on Tuesday.
Concord on Wednesday.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - with USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Upcoming EQIP application batching dates. All "eligible" applications will be considered. The planning process and steps needed to make an application eligible for a given batching period are comprehensive and can take from several months to a year, depending on the practices included in the application. Dates to remember if you are interested -

January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, 2018.

Questions? Call your Lancaster Field Office: 603-788-4651
email: Kelly.Eggleston@nh.usda.gov

[Read More - NRCS EQIP Program](#)



In The News

[2017 Census of Agriculture](#)

Underway

The USDA has started mailings for this once every five year Census, which has been done since 1840. There is a lot to it. I know many farmers receive it with a little trepidation, since it should be completed (online-which includes automatic calculations or mail) by early February. Consider it your chance to have a voice in future agricultural policy based upon what you are actually engaged in. How often does that happen? This Census will also include new questions about military veterans, marketing and on-farm decision-making. Past years, in Coos County, we've seen an increase in both farm numbers and income. I think that's important for people to know and am in hopes we see that trend continue.



Agriculture Counts!

[More Info](#)

Alan Eaton, Retires

Wishing him well, but will miss both his humor and unquestioned technical expertise. Certainly, many of you have had some contact with Alan, our long-serving Extension Entomologist of many years. Besides his leadership and support for all manner of Integrated Pest Management programs he is well respected for research on human/medical entomology. Ticks and Lyme Disease prevention is just one that comes readily to mind.



Floods & Feeds

That deluge the end of October surprised a lot of us. Have since talked with a few farms who may have experienced feed damage to corn and hay bales. Pete Erickson, our Dairy Specialist in nutrition, (call: 862-1909), a good one to talk with on this subject; feeding cautions. Nice article attached by Dairy One on this topic with additional links. We do keep a store of sample packets on hand at the Coos office if you'd like to do quality or mycotoxin testing.



[Dairy One Article](#)

UNH Extension Website Updates & Fact Sheets getting sprucing up.

UNH Extension is finishing up a needed redo of their web-site to make it more usable,

visually appealing, amongst other things. Along the way we've been updating and/or revising most of our fact-sheets and related information. Give it a look in the New Year. Ps: Here's a 'sneak peek' at one on forage crop seeding rates, an amalgam of recommendations and experiences in our region. All the photos are ones I've taken in Coos County...try and guess where..

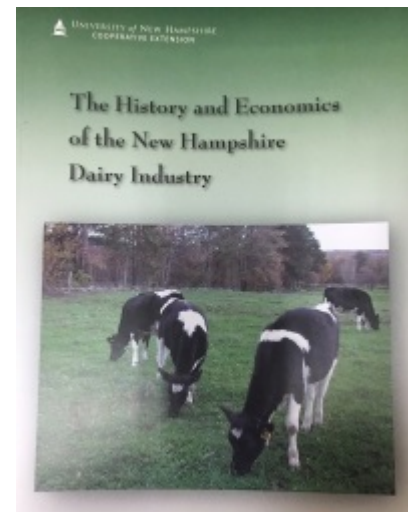


Sneak Peek

John Porter

If you are trying to find a gift for the agricultural person on your list, consider a book about New Hampshire agriculture.

The History and Economics of the New Hampshire Dairy Industry was edited by John Porter of UNH Cooperative Extension with the help of 10 other notable agricultural writers from New Hampshire.



Where to Order

Five Reasons to Call Your Forester

Owning forested land comes with a lot of responsibility and a lot of opportunity. Foresters with UNH Cooperative Extension work with woodlot owners in every New Hampshire county. They lead workshops and classes and are available to answer your questions. But why would you even consider reaching out to your county forester?

Here are some reasons:

You just bought new land

When you buy a new piece of land it's important to know the best practices for caring for that land. And if your land is forested, your county forester can walk with you around your land and tell you what benefits the land currently has and ways to keep your trees healthy. If you have an idea for your land, your county forester can help you understand what impact your actions will have on the trees, plants, wildlife and other natural resources.

You're thinking about harvesting trees.



More Resources for Woodlot Owners

Selling timber is a once in a lifetime activity for most landowners that can significantly improve or degrade your land. Knowing the best course of action to properly harvest your trees can provide income, improve wildlife habitat and provide other benefits. When a timber harvest is uncontrolled, land value can decrease, the environment can be degraded and there could be legal entanglements.

You're thinking about the future of your land.

Thinking about future generations and how your land will be used? Consider talking to your county forester to run through some options. A plan can be developed to help you figure out your long-term goals and how to reach them.

You want to do something for wildlife.

When you own a woodlot you are buying habitat for wildlife. If you're trying to figure out a plan that benefits wildlife, consider talking to your county forester. They can help you figure out what wildlife use your land for habitat and steps you can take to improve that habitat.

You have a question. They can connect you to the right people.

County foresters know a lot about forests, and they also know a lot of other experts, too. When you have a question, a county forester is going to help you and provide you with connections to other experts on your journey to proper stewardship.

In Coös County contact Brendan.Prusik@unh.edu

How Did Mistletoe Become a Decoration?

By [Heather Bryant](#), Regional Field Specialist, Food and Agriculture

Winter is not the easiest time for a vegetable and fruit specialist to find produce farming or gardening topics to write about. So instead, while forced indoors, I sometimes like to look into where traditional plant based foods and decorations come from. What about the mistletoe? How did we create a tradition where you hang a plant in a doorway and then share a kiss under it? It turns out the story is a little convoluted and unclear, as traditions often are, but it is fascinating.



First, mistletoe is actually a term for many different species of plants that grow all over the world. The species common to eastern North America has the scientific name *Phoradendron flavescens*. *Phoradendron* means “thief tree” in Greek, and is a reference to the fact that mistletoe is a hemiparasite. It grows in trees, and while its leaves can obtain chlorophyll from photosynthesis, its roots also take water and nutrients from the host tree, sometimes killing it.

Mistletoe is most commonly found in apples, oaks, elms and poplars and propagates by seed that are dispersed by birds. The birds eat the seeds then fly to another tree and clean their beaks or leave droppings on the branches, where the seeds later germinate in the bark. In fact the name mistletoe comes from the Anglo-Saxon words “mistel” or dung and “tan” or branch.

The leaves of the mistletoe stay green year round, so in winter when the host tree drops its leaves, the mistletoe stands out in the landscape. Perhaps this helps explain why it shows up in multiple cultures and religious traditions. Druids used the plant in their winter

solstice celebrations, believing it warded off evil. They would also have young people carry it with them to announce the arrival of a New Year. The Scandinavians had a tradition that said if warriors met under a tree with mistletoe, they would have to put down their weapons for a day. A Norse legend said it could help prevent warring spouses from becoming too angry with each other. Perhaps that's the origin of the kissing tradition? It sounds plausible, but I found no evidence. In the 18th century the plant first started becoming used as a Christmas decoration meant to signify good luck and peace.

In addition to the cultural and holiday traditions, the Druids, Greeks and Romans also believed mistletoe had healing properties for ailments such as spleen disorders, epilepsy, ulcers, and infertility in humans and livestock. While that is fascinating, we now know that the plant is toxic to humans and some animals so decorating with real mistletoe in a home with small children or pets is not recommended.

Coös Conservation District

LARGE EQUIPMENT RENTAL - Wood Ash Spreader

For descriptions of the tools go to the District's [website](#)

HIGH TUNNEL / GARDEN TOOL RENTALS

Coös County Conservation District applied for and received the 2012 Specialty Crop Block Grant to purchase tools specialized for high tunnels. With this grant various tools were purchased for the general public to use free of charge. This allows the client to try-out these specialized, often expensive, quality tools before purchasing.

A simple agreement with each client, along with a check for a deposit in the amount of each tool is all that is required for use of these great tools. The time frame on the use of these tools varies on supply and demand but is usually 4-7 days. A specific lending time frame will be determined and noted on the sign-out form before the equipment is used.

Contact Carolyn at the -
Coös County Conservation District
4 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster NH 03584
603-788-4651 Ext. 102
da.cccd@gmail.com



NH Farm Bureau



Veterans in Agriculture

Welcome them back to the land:

This new NH Farm Bureau committee is continuing their efforts to grow NH Agriculture by helping Veterans connect with the larger agricultural community. Further educational workshops are being planned for the coming year.

Interested in being part of [NH Farm Bureau's Veterans in Agriculture Committee?](#)

Contact Veterans in Agriculture Committee Chair, Glen Putnam, 603-667-0097 or email glen@winsomefarmorganics.com

For more information about NH Farm Bureau please call (603) 224-1934 or e-mail nhfarmbureau.org



NH Farm Bureau

Soil Test, Plant Disease, Insect ID, News



Soil Test
How & Where to Submit Samples



Plant Diseases
How & Where to Submit Samples



Insect Identification
How & Where to Submit Samples



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Coös County Agriculture Webpage

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The UNH Cooperative Extension office in Coös County is located in the North Country Resource Center 629A Main Street Lancaster, NH 03584



For more information on Coös County UNH Cooperative Extension 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. University of New Hampshire, US Department of Agriculture, and NH Counties cooperating.

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