



Extension

Coös County Ag Update

July 2017

The North Country Ag Update from Coös County 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 or
carolyn.mcquiston@unh.edu



Events & Opportunities



Mid Season Corn Checkup

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

10:45AM-1:00PM

Tullando Farm, Orford, NH

Mid Season Corn Evaluation
Use of Cover Crops & Living Mulches
2 Pesticide Applicator Credits

Contact:

Carl.Majewski@unh.edu

603-352-4550

[More Information Click Here](#)



Tree Fruit Twilight Meetings

North Country Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Windy Ridge Orchard, N Haverhill

Contact:

George.Hamilton@unh.edu

603-641-6060



Veterans in Agriculture Farm Equipment Workshop

Spread the word, and plan to join us to
Connect with fellow Vets & Farmers.

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

We will meet at the Grafton County UNH
Cooperative Extension Office in the morning
and move on to Blackmount Equipment in
the afternoon. If time allows a tour of the
Grafton County Farm and discussion for
future workshops.

Contact:

Steven.Turaj@unh.edu

603-788-4961

[More Information Click Here](#)

Soil Test, Plant Disease, Insect ID

**Reminder - this is the time of year you will want to have
this information handy.**



[Link to Soil Test Webpage](#)



[Link to Plant Diseases
How & Where to Submit Samples](#)



[NH IPM News and Alerts
Sign up for newsletters and more](#)



[Link to Insect Identification](#)

In The News

Bird Droppings and Beetles

Beetles and Bird Droppings

by Steve Turaj

Beetles are surely the most successful members of the Animal Kingdom. Highly mobile, they burrow, crawl, swim, and fly. Some are also masters of disguise.

[Link to Insect Identification](#)



Lily Leaf Beetles are a great example. The adult is a brilliant scarlet red. Like the Japanese Beetle, every entomologist would want one in their collection, if they weren't so abundant. Their immature, larval form is decidedly less appealing. Slug-like and of various colors they have adopted a rather unique camouflage technique; carrying their excrement upon their backs. Appearing to be slimy bird droppings, few are noticed by either predators or attentive gardeners. Well-chewed lilies are usually the first signs of their presence. Introduced into southern New England in the 1940s, they have slowly worked their way northward. We have a fact-sheet on these, and other problem beetles.

Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALHB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are pests of hardwood trees that have caused considerable damage further south. Control measures used to contain them can be very drastic. Once an infestation is identified the complete removal of all trees in the surrounding area is often necessary.

The adult ALHB is a large glossy black beetle with pronounced white markings, spots. Even its very long antennae, up to 2.5 times the body length depending on sex, are banded white and black. Observant people are on the look-out for this pest... A nervous NH Tree Farmer once brought by a suspect he found in a maple sugar stand for identification. It turned out to be a white-spotted Pine Sawyer, also a long-horned beetle, but with duller colors, much fewer markings. It is a native, sort of look-a-like that is not a concern.

Damage by the ALHB is caused by the tunneling/feeding of its larval form in branches and trunks, eventually leading to the tree's demise. Many hardwood species are attacked by this beetle, sugar maples are a particular favorite.

Similar damage is caused by another exotic beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer. It is believed to have been introduced to the USA inside wood packing crates originating in Asia. The adult is an attractive metallic green. The larvae bore into all Ash tree species. Like the Asian Long-horned beetle entomologists are concerned about its ability to spread. One tells me that if it does so successfully, we'll have to find something else to use for Louisville Slugger baseball bats.

Quarantine/exclusion is an effective way to stop the spread of insect and disease pests. Many of you have seen old pictures of New England before the Chestnut Blight and Dutch Elm Diseases which essentially eliminated these magnificent trees. I wish they knew more than about disease and insect interactions. Bringing firewood, raw wood materials, from other parts of the country is not a good practice. Buy it local instead!

Less alarming but certainly eye-catching are the Tortoise beetles, so called because of their turtle-like appearance. Often called "Gold Bugs" some of these small vari-colored beetles will change from a dull orange to bright gold when mating. Although they will feed on some garden plants (particularly morning-glories) they also like weeds as well, including thistle, burdock and of course bindweed in their diet.

The Scarab Beetles are always with us nowadays. June Beetles, Rose Chafers (right now), and Japanese Beetles, emerging in that order. Besides the latter two's adult feeding damage, described best as "skeletonized leaves" the larvae are also a problem. You've seen them, plump, white C-shaped grubs in garden soil. When numerous they can cause substantial damage to grass roots, or other crops in newly turned under sod. A good time to treat for them is in mid-summer when the newly hatched larvae are small and close to the lawn's surface.

All beetles are not destructive, so indiscriminate extermination of them is not a recommended practice. That large (up to two inch) dark colored beetle that scurried away when you turned over a fork of soil was probably one of the Ground Beetles hunting grubs and other pests. The miniature orangey-red and black "gila monster-like I call it" thing is probably the larva of a soon to be Ladybird Beetle. Feasting on aphids is something they do well in either form. Another predator I'm seeing a lot lately is the - iridescent green- Tiger beetle, they move fast!

Our Arthropod ID Lab identifies many insects (and relatives like Ticks) throughout the year for a nominal cost, proceeds go towards maintain their insectarium. Forms are available at Extension Offices and on our [web-site](#).

Wet Season Meadow Weeds

A cold, wet start has given some advantage to various ones this year. Some I'm seeing too much of include:

Buttercups! Which I also interpret to be a soil drainage issue, something too neglected nowadays because of costs, other factors. I think we're losing good farmland soils to this. These plants have animal toxicity issues as well.

Buttercup - Poisonous Plants in Pastures



Sweet Vernal Grass... ditto on the above...and often growing together.



Yellow Rattle.. now forming seed pods which could spell more problems if not mowed soon, for next year.

Yellow Rattle - More Info



A Classic Indicator

Field observations are always important. Here the purple-red coloration is an indicator of a plant's inability to take up sufficient Phosphorus from the soil. It could be that there isn't enough available (a soil test could confirm) but in this case we determined it to be a result of compacted and cold wet soils. The stressed root system just couldn't do the job. Plants on higher up ground in the same field looked okay.

[Link to Soil Test Webpage](#)



Coös Conservation District

LARGE EQUIPMENT RENTALS

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



NH Farm Bureau



Farmer–Veteran Workshops

July 18, Farm Equipment Workshop, N Haverhill - be sure to read details above.

As we develop our workshops for this year, we are asking for help for both Veterans and Farmers who want to be involved. We will be sending out this survey through various methods. Here is first look, please complete and send back to us here in Coös Extension:

For Veterans:

- 1) List two(2) skills you gained when on active service that can be helpful in farming.
- 2) What type of farming are you interested in pursuing? Your own farm or to work on a farm?
- 3) List three(3) Farming/Agricultural skills in which you would like to become proficient.

For Farmers:

- 1) When employing a military veteran, what are the most important skills you would like them to have?
- 2) Would you be willing to host an on-farm workshop for aspiring farmer veteran? If yes, please call Diane Cleary at the NH Farm Bureau (224-1934).
- 3) Do you have an on-farm/job training program that would be helpful to aspiring farmers veterans? If yes, please describe the training program.

NH Farm Bureau's new **Veterans in Agriculture Committee** is looking for feedback from our members.

Are YOU a veteran? Would you like to learn more about opportunities for veterans in agriculture? Would you like to be a part of this new committee? Do you know a veteran in agriculture or who is interested in agriculture?

Contact the NHFB Office at (603) 224-1934 or e-mail Josh editor@nhfarmbureau.org with your name, county, contact info, and how you would like to be involved.

Veteran / Farmer Update

Two items of interest on this effort to help guide Veterans who are considering a career in agriculture:

1. First organizational meeting of NH Farm Bureau's new Veterans in Agriculture Committee in March. Very well attended by motivated Vets, Farmers, and other Ag Folks, of all ages and abilities. Mission is to recruit, educate, support, and promote Veterans and Veteran families in Agriculture. Right now we are compiling a list of resources and individuals who can help. Know someone? Email Diane at dianec@nhfarmbureau.org.
2. We, on UNH's Ag-Extension Dairy/Forage Crop/Livestock Team have signed on to receive a grant through the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) Armed to Farm. All agricultural commodities will be considered, we are just taking the lead on this.

Its intent is to build farmer training programs, provide net-working opportunities for Military Veterans in the Northeast. This will give us funds for training materials, specialty speakers, facility use that would be needed. We are still planning a series of pilot workshops this summer. A lot is possible.



[NH Farm Bureau](#)

Questions, The Education Center Can Help



For answers to Homeowner questions, please check our Education Center website

Coös Ag Newsletter Archives



If you missed a newsletter, they can be reviewed in our archive section.

You can also subscribe here to other UNHCE news letters that may be of interest to you.

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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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