



Extension

Coös County Ag Update

October 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



Getting Started with Sheep

Friday & Saturday, October 6 & 7. Classroom exercises and hands-on instructions. Participants will learn sheep production and husbandry practices, including breed selection, housing requirements, grazing, parasite control and reproduction.

To Learn More & How To Register
[Click Here](#)



ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Annie's Project Weekend Retreat

Friday-Sunday
October 27-29

AMC Highland Center, Bretton Woods, NH

Join us at the AMC Highland Center in Bretton Woods, NH for our first Annie's overnight event!



This weekend retreat is a discussion-based workshop with the goal to bring women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing and the legal field. There is plenty of time for questions, sharing, reacting and connecting with your presenters and fellow participants.

Contact:

Kelly.McAdam@unh.edu

603-527-5475

Elaina.Enxien@unh.edu

603-679-5616

To Learn More & How to Register
Click Here



North Country Fruit & Vegetable Seminar & Tradeshow

Monday

October 30, 2017

9:00AM - 3:00PM

Mountain View Grand Resort,
Whitefield, NH

Key topics this year include:

- Updates from Vegetable Specialist Becky Sideman.
- Ideas to Increase Efficiency in Your Operation, Whatever Size It May Be.
- High Tunnel Fertility Management.
- Featured Farm.

Contact: email Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu
or call 603-447-3834

To Learn More & How to Register
Click Here

In The News

Along with Field/Dent corn for cattle, many different varieties are grown in NH. Ornamental Flint, Flour and Popcorn are some of them. Added to pumpkins, mums and Fall aster among others, they make up an important niche “decorator market” for farmers.”



Flint Corn

By Heather Bryant, Regional Field Specialist, Food and Agriculture

Fall decorations are popping up all over, including multi-colored leaves, scarecrows, pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks, and flint (or Indian) corn. While summer is by far my favorite season, fall does have a certain visual appeal. All the decorations got me to thinking about where flint corn came from. It turns out it has a fascinating history.

7,000 to 10,000 years ago corn or maize was domesticated from a wild plant in Mexico with multiple stalks and ears called teosinte. Due to teosinte's high level of genetic diversity, early farmers were able to use it to breed a many races of corn adapted to grow in a variety of climates. By the time Europeans arrived in the Americas, approximately 300 races of corn were being produced from Chili to Southern Canada. Interestingly despite millennia of breeding, a modern corn plant can still be crossed with a teosinte today to create a viable hybrid that can itself then go on to reproduce.

Corn was a staple food for native people in the Eastern US by 800-900 AD, and was often grown with squash and beans. In terms of diet, beans and corn when eaten together provide a complete protein. Agriculturally, when grown together the squash provides ground cover for weed control. The corn provides a structure pole for the beans to climb, and the beans provide some nitrogen for the other two crops. The system is called the "three sisters".

Flint corn and popcorn are types of corn whose kernel is hard and round, unlike dent corn (field or flour corn) whose kernels are softer and will develop a dent in the middle as it dries. Any variety of corn can be used to make corn meal after it is properly dried or soaked in water prior to becoming an ingredient in soups and stews, but today in our area flint corn is primarily grown as a decoration. It has kernels that can be white, red, blue, black, purple, or yellow, and while some varieties produce ears with only one color kernels, most are multi-colored.

The color in the kernels can be a result of "jumping genes" or transposons. Transposons are genes that can move from one location to another. In flint corn, when the transposon moves into the gene responsible for creating pigment it disrupts pigment production leaving a white kernel. If the transposon is not there a colored kernel is produced, and if it moves in and then back out again before the kernel production is completed, the kernel will be striped or speckled.

If you are like me you would assume that most current day corn breeding happens in the Midwest, but when researching this article, I discovered that back in the 1980's, Professor Gerald Dunn of UNH and fellow researchers bred two varieties of flint corn, Sunapee and Fiesta, to be better adapted to our short growing season than other varieties on the market at the time. Fiesta is still commercially available.

If you've never grown ornamental corn and want to try it next year, it requires much the same kind of care as any other corn. The main difference is that you need to wait to harvest it until after the husks have dried. It should then be cured in a warm dry location for a week in order to ensure it stays looking good for the length of the fall decorating season.

Eastern Black Swallowtail Butterfly,

in caterpillar stage, The Monarch Butterflies, which like milkweed, seems to get all of the press nowadays. Don't overlook the also impressive Swallowtails! tiger-zebra striped caterpillars. To be found in your backyard patch of dill and parsley.



Corn Harvest Coming In!

Essential to many North Country dairy farms is the annual harvest of Field Corn for silage.

It's a very intense, active enterprise which involves heavy farm equipment movement and trucks running from field to farm.

The whole corn plant is chopped into small particle size where it is then rapidly transported to usually large concrete "bunk silos". Once there it is progressively packed by tractors in an effort to exclude oxygen. When filled they are then covered with plastic, held down by tires (you may have left at the re-cycling center). This "pickled" corn silage will then provide an important energy feed supply for cows over our long winters.

It's a busy process despite the sometimes slow moving chopping equipment and faster trucks encountered on the roads, please be patient.



Hay Judging

Most County Fairs are come and gone by now but most of the hay bales are still in the barn, waiting use.

How good is that hay? You should of course have a few -representative bale samples- from different fields, harvests, analyzed if quality is important to you. We do keep a stock of mailers for [Dairy One](#) readily on hand in the office.

Here are the “standards” I used when judging (would have liked to see more entries). Good as far as it goes, best to use all your senses when doing so. [More Hay type info can be found on our Extension web-site.](#)



[Dairy One Website](#)

[UNH Extension Website
Ag Resources](#)

HAY and SILAGE JUDGING STANDARDS

Based on physical aspects that indicate their economic value or animal performance potential.

HAY and HAYLAGE:

Leafiness – Immature plants provide more nutritive value, less fiber, than mature (seed heads, stemmy) ones.

Condition – Nice aroma, green color indicating cured properly. Free of dust, mold, and objectionable odors.

Foreign Material – Free of unpalatable or harmful weeds, dirt.

CORN SILAGE:

Grain Content - Indicates available energy for feed. (Allowance made for early harvest for Fair entry purpose).

Color - Olive-Green vs brown to black which indicates excessive heating, etc.

Aroma – A preferred yeasty, fermented odor.

Coös Conservation District

Coös Conservation District Nursery Efforts continue at our native and pollinator plant nursery in Columbia. A major accomplishment is the planting of a turf-type grass in August. This will function as the permanent 'Orchard Floor' which will not be too competitive with the establishing plants, while mowable and soil protecting.

It's a lot of work, lime, fertilizer, weed control, and planning to get it to this point, but pays off in easier long-term management. The difference between it and the tall hay type and weed grasses is evident in the pictures along with a recent row of willows for "coppicing"





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

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.

3. Two Farmer – Veteran Workshops held in NH this Summer 2017. Strategic planning continues.

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

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

News & Alerts, NH IPM
Sign up for newsletters and more

Questions, The Education Center Can Help



Homeowner Questions,
for answers, please check with our
Education Center

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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Newsletter Archives

Coös County Agriculture Webpage

UNHCE Agriculture Webpage

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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