



## Coös County Ag Update

September 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](mailto:steven.turaj@unh.edu) or  
[carolyn.mcquiston@unh.edu](mailto:carolyn.mcquiston@unh.edu)



## Events & Opportunities



### Agriculture & Natural Resource Business Institute

Nine-week workshop on Monday Evenings  
**September 11-November 13, 2017**

6:00pm-9:00pm

Lakes Region Community College, Laconia

This program is for those new to farming who want to learn what it takes to develop their idea and create a business plan.

Participants will have the ability to join the class remotely for some sessions.

Contact:

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

603-527-5475

[Nada.Haddad@unh.edu](mailto:Nada.Haddad@unh.edu)

603-679-5616

[More Information & 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](mailto:Kelly.McAdam@unh.edu)

603-527-5475

[Elaina.Enxien@unh.edu](mailto: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:

[Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu](mailto:Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu)

or call

603-447-3834

More Information & How to Register  
Click Here



## In The News

### Spotted Wing Drosophila

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) have been found in blueberries and summer raspberries in Grafton County. We typically don't see them this far north early enough to damage these crops. If you grow berries and are unfamiliar with this pest, please visit our SWD information page and feel free to contact Heather at [heather.bryant@unh.edu](mailto:heather.bryant@unh.edu) with any questions.



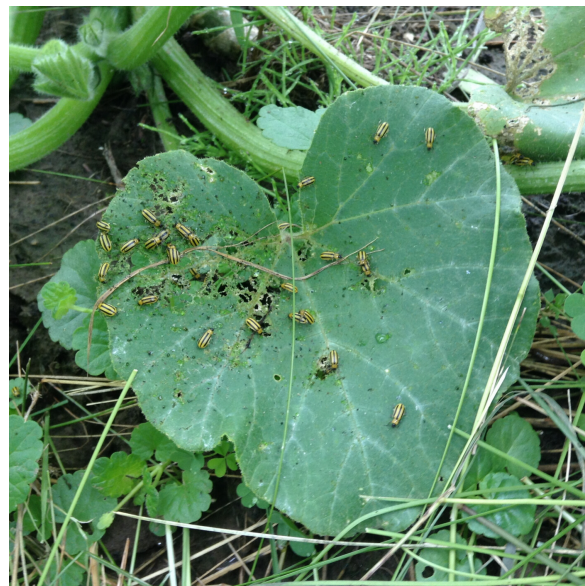
[More Information Click Here](#)

### These are?

1. Squash Bugs.
2. Striped Asparagus Beetles.
3. Striped Cucumber Beetles.

Answer below:

Answer: 3. Common most years: Striped Cucumber Beetles. Besides chewing damage of leaves, young plants (can be severe) and fruit, they can transmit plant disease. Check out [Insect Pests of Cucurbits in NH, Jan 11, 2017 Cucurbit School](#) by Alan Eaton and George Hamilton.



[Insect Pests of Cucurbits in NH](#)

### Ergot of Grains and other Grasses

A fungal disease which has a rather infamous history because of its impact on both human and livestock health. Visible most years on the mature seed-heads of these plants, I seem to be observing this a bit more in 2017. I am attributing this to the weather conditions -being more favorable to infection- when these grasses were flowering. The plant's Ovaries are taken over by the fungus and transformed into these enlarged, blackish, hard "Sclerotia" which are toxic. these overwinter to begin the cycle again next year. These pictures are of Cereal Rye that has gone to seed. I have also seen these on uncut forage



grasses like Timothy and weed grasses like Quackgrass.

Merck's Veterinary Manual is a good reference on this and I have others I can recommend.

Our Plant Pathology can confirm its presence if necessary.

I do think this disease limits our cereal grain production in this region, it is also one of many reasons agronomists encourage clipping pastures after grazing. "If they didn't eat it the first time, why do you think they'll do so next time?"

You may also find this in the mix as well...



## Late-appearing Weeds

Virginia Creeper and Galinsoga  
Although very different, botanically speaking, Virginia Creeper is a perennial woody vine, Galinsoga an annual forb, both seem to be becoming more common in row/vegetable crops. They are pictured here under corn canopy. Limiting crops to just early weed-control actions is probably a factor.

Virginia Creeper is a vine frequently seen growing up trees and old barns on field edges. It does turn a colorful red in Fall. By tilling too close to these "edges" their extensive underground stems can be easily pulled into crop fields. They become noticeable later in the summer as the root pieces begin to grow. Wintering over, if uncontrolled, they'll be there next year, further spread by tillage and probably tangling up some equipment.

Galinsoga, has no readily recognized "common name". Galinsoga is the Latin, "scientific" one named after the head of the Madrid Botanical Garden in 1880. A dubious honor, this seemingly innocuous plant is known as the bane of vegetable growers. Able to set numerous seed at a very low height, which are able to germinate shortly after dropping, many generations are possible.

I'm seeing it more often in field corn. An annual, control is "simply" preventing it from going to seed...tough to do! Once you introduce it into your plantings it will quickly attain unwanted guest status.





## Long Term Planning

I'm including this as something -for all of us concerned about the future of agriculture- in both NH and the US. Lots of tie ins whether looking at the USDA's 5-Year Census of Agriculture for 2017 (in which prior ones have documented farm number increases), increasing nation-wide Veteran to Farmer transition interests, an aging farm population, (like-wise documented), precision-Ag business growth, and a need for more vocational education.

Published by permission of author - You are well aware of the looming need in front of us regarding the need to feed more than 9.5 billion people on this planet by 2050. It has become a cornerstone of the argument we use to educate the public that is now so far removed from agriculture on the importance of farming. We use the 2050 Challenge to promote new plant varieties and modern farming practices in general. ..read on.. [Skilled labor needed to keep agriculture growing.](#)



[Continue Reading - Skilled Labor Needed to Keep Agriculture Growing](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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](mailto:da.cccd@gmail.com)



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## 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.

#### Some pictures of recent event at Abdali Farm, Briggs Family.

Photos by; Loves Photography (603) 313-1776

Many subjects covered throughout the workshop including livestock management, land improvement, high-tunnel production among others.

Contact us about hosting similar net-working activities.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

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## Questions, The Education Center Can Help



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

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## 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

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### 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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