Belknap County

**A YEAR IN REVIEW 2021**

**State Contributions**
$427,898*

**County Contributions**
$164,611

**Food and Agriculture**

- 80 farms businesses received technical assistance, leading to greater profitability and environmental sustainability

**Natural Resources**

- 644 acres managed with forest stewardship plans
- 62,525 feet of improved or constructed forestland roads and trails on private lands
- Provided technical assistance with funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Helped Laconia work on its natural resources inventory with wildlife as an initial focus

**Community and Economic Development**

- Co-founded the Foothills Foundation in the Northfield-Tilton Region
- The organization focuses on promoting outdoor recreation and expanding the local and regional economy; they completed a trail plan to connect trail users to natural, cultural and recreational assets of the region

**Youth and Families**

- 300 community members attended a fall festival co-hosted by 4-H and the Belknap County Fair Board
- Offered courses in chronic pain management and the Walk with Ease program to curb opioid misuse and improve health
- 195 people reached through healthy living and nutrition programs to prevent chronic disease
- 4-H partnered with Gilmanton Library on “Science at the Library,” a program intended to increase STEM literacy among youth
- “Growing Pizza” garden program taught youth about growing food and nutrition

**172 volunteers**
**5,985 hours**
**$170K**

*In 2021, for every $1.00 that Belknap contributed, UNH provided $2.60 of statewide resources.

**State Values of Volunteer Time (NH): $28.54; independentsector.org/**
Statewide Highlights 2021

MAKING LIFE BETTER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Economic Expertise

- Dairy specialists worked with ten farms to identify and initiate changes to improve milking parlor efficiencies, increasing production and quality while supporting animal comfort

- Extension’s crop weather monitoring stations and plant disease forecasting tools were utilized by 76 apple growers to make informed decisions and avoid unnecessary pesticide applications

- Extension forestry specialists trained 201 forest industry professionals

Lifelong Learning

- Food safety specialists provided certification opportunities to food service workers from schools, hospitals, food pantries and other public establishments

- Natural resources specialists brought together 85 communities for a land conservation conference called Saving Special Places

- The 4-H Virtual Club reached 220 youth and summer programming reached over 400 children

Community Development

- Community and economic development specialists helped expand a makerspace and business incubator in Concord and helped generate facade improvements to five downtown buildings in Pittsfield

- Efforts to increase tourism and nature economy have included a regional branding and marketing campaign to promote the Sugar River Region in Sullivan, a plan to expand biking trails in Northfield and neighboring towns, and installation of signage to guide trail users to downtown businesses and services in Bristol

COVID-19 Response

- With N.H. Department of Agriculture, secured $500,000 USDA-NIFA State Department of Agriculture Farmer, Rancher Stress Assistance Network grant to raise awareness, provide education and offset costs related to farmers’ mental health

- With $225,000 in funding from the Extension Foundation, provided research-based information to North Country and Strafford County communities to support informed vaccination choices

- Provided hands-on training to teach community members how to build a greenhouse at Winnisquam Middle School; this led to a gardening curriculum for students during hybrid learning

- With $680,000 from a USDA grant, provided agriscience-based remote learning experiences to 800 rural elementary school children

Extension specialists worked with 2,483 NH businesses

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