Coös County

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

State Contributions: $446,342*
County Contributions: $233,163

Food and Agriculture

52
farm businesses received technical assistance, leading to greater profitability and environmental stability

Natural Resources

4,000
acres improved

Consulted with 100 landowners who manage almost 4,000 acres
400 additional acres protected by conservation easements

Community and Economic Development

Launched the Coös County Trail Stewardship Research Project

With support from the Tillotson Foundation, identified best stewardship model for human-powered trails in the North Country

Youth and Families

345
people reached through healthy living programs aimed at preventing chronic disease

Coordinated the Androscoggin Valley Farm to School network to increase healthy food access

Offered chronic disease and pain self-management courses and Walk with Ease program to older adults to curb opioid misuse and improve health

4-H gardening program taught youth about growing food and nutrition

154 volunteers
7,343 hours
$209K** value of volunteer time

*In 2021, for every $1.00 that Coös contributed, UNH provided $1.66 of statewide resources.

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