# A Year in Review 2021

## Merrimack County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Contributions</th>
<th>County Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$696,074*</td>
<td>$398,679</td>
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### Food and Agriculture

- **125** farm businesses received technical assistance, leading to greater profitability and environmental sustainability

### Natural Resources

- **$521K**
- Consulted with 277 landowners who manage 10,852 acres
- 2,162 additional acres managed with forest stewardship plans
- **$203,000** generated in forest product and tax revenue

### Community and Economic Development

- **5** downtown building facades renovated in Pittsfield with grant funds secured in partnership with Extension specialists

### Youth and Families

- **75** people were brought together to build community resiliency during and after the pandemic; they represent local partners and agencies in the Kearsarge Region

- Provided training in social and emotional mindfulness to teachers and staff at East Side Learning Center and the Pace Charter School
- 4-H families helped elderly residents of Merrimack County Nursing Home carve pumpkins for Halloween
- Nutrition lessons were offered in English, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Farsi, and Spanish

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*In 2021, for every $1.00 that Merrimack contributed, UNH provided $1.75 of statewide resources.*

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

MAKING LIFE BETTER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

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

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

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