



Cheshire County Conservation District



Annual Report 2009

Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources for the people of Cheshire County by bringing individuals and groups with common environmental interests together to share ideas, resources, and information.

11 Industrial Park Dr - Walpole NH 03608 - 603.756.2988 ext.116

Board of Supervisors and Staff

Supervisors

Bruce Bickford, Chair - Walpole
Kathy Thatcher, Vice-Chair - Chesterfield
Emily Hague, Treasurer - Keene
Paul Crosby - Stoddard

Associate Supervisors

Michele Chalice Throop - Keene
Eloise Clark - Keene
Marcus Lovell Smith - Walpole
Tara Sad - Walpole
Tracie Smith - Fitzwilliam

CCCD Staff

Amanda Costello, District Manager
Meg Fairchild, MFCC Coordinator / AmeriCorp Member
Bonnie Hudspeth, MFCC Coordinator / AmeriCorp Member
*Support for AmeriCorps members is a partnership between Antioch
University New England and the Cheshire County Conservation District.*



NRCS Staff, Walpole Field Office

*The District works in partnership with the USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff who
supply technical conservation assistance.*

Philip Durgin - Engineer
Heidi Konesko - Soil Conservationist
Wendy Ward - Soil Conservation Technician
Deb Weymouth - District Conservationist

The CCCD Board of Supervisors meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the CCCD Office. These meetings are open to the public, please call the District office if you would like to attend a meeting.

2009 Cooperator of the Year

Brian Rohde of Dublin NH

Each year the Cheshire County Conservation District honors an individual, business, or organization with a “Cooperator of the Year” award at the Annual Meeting. This is done to reward the recipient for cooperating with the Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conserve the natural resources on their land. This year we are happy to announce that Brian Rohde is the 2009 Cooperator of the Year. Brian owns and manages a few small woodlots for wildlife habitat and timber. He has stewarded the natural resources on his property in Jaffrey New Hampshire for many years and has participated in the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Rohde has completed many conservation practices including early successional habitat development and management, tree and shrub establishment, brush management, and invasive plant control.

Brian came to NH in 1970 to attend graduate school at the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College (MBA 1972). He was Founder and President of Monadnock Forest Products, Inc. of Jaffrey, NH (1973-1991). The company produced hardwood lumber for sale worldwide and was an integrated operation with foresters, logging crews, a sawmill, dry kilns and milling operations. His extensive conservation resume includes the following: He was a Trustee for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (1986-91), Harris Center for Conservation Education trip leader and volunteer, Piscataqua Watershed Association member of a Keeping Track team since 1997, UNH Cooperative Extension Coverts Cooperator since 1997, member of the NH Timber Owners Association, and in the summer while living in Canada on Georgian Bay he volunteers with the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources on rattlesnake surveys and helps with water testing for the Georgian Bay Association. Brian Rohde is very deserving of this award and we are thankful for his stewardship. Congratulations Brian!

“ Brian is committed and passionate about stewarding his property and contributing his talent and time to conservation”

- Wendy Ward , NRCS



2009 Highlights

The CCCD reached over 1,300 individuals in 2009 with educational programs regarding resource conservation. Some of these programs are highlighted below. If you are interested in learning more please don't hesitate to contact the CCCD office.



WHIP Workshop Series

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Workshop Series included 10 informative sessions on how landowners can improve the wildlife habitat on their properties and how they can receive NRCS funding to help them accomplish their goals. To accomplish these workshops we partnered with NH Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, UNH Cooperative Extension, Moosewood Ecological, NH Audubon, NH Forests and Lands, and others. Topics covered included Grassland Birds, Riparian Buffers, Early Successional Habitat, Wildlife Openings, Habitat Restoration, Invasive Species, Woodcock, and Forest Management.

Services

Offered historical **aerial photography** of Cheshire County and provided soil information to Cheshire County landowners, particularly the **Soil Potential Index (SPI)** assessment for landowners in the Current Use program. Provided **talks as well as educational and informational displays** at community events through out the year. Worked with landowners on an individual basis to assist them in better understanding the resources on their property and how to conserve them. The CCCD also offers **outreach on behalf of NRCS** to make landowners aware of the conservation programs available to them.



All programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or political beliefs.

Keene Rain Garden Project



We were awarded a Conservation Plate Grant by the NH State Conservation Committee to design and install rain gardens in downtown Keene. Partners on this grant include the City of Keene, UNH Cooperative Extension, and Antioch University New England.



Thus far we have installed 2 rain gardens on City of Keene property and offered a workshop with the city to teach citizens about the value of rain gardens in protecting surface water quality, and how to design and install them on their property. The installations of more gardens will continue through 2010.

Source to Sea Clean Up



We had approximately 130 volunteers pull 3,000 lbs of trash out of the Ashuelot River and Beaver Brook in both Keene and Swanzey. Each year this event is made possible through a partnership with the City of Keene, Keene State College, Ashuelot River Local Advisory Council and Moosewood Ecological. This is a program that is organized across 5 states by the Connecticut River Watershed



Fundraisers

Offered 3 fundraisers during 2009 to provide additional funds for CCCD educational programs.

- Conservation Plant Sale
- Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale
- Flowering Bulb Sale



Organizational Membership

Continued membership to the
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts
Conservation District Employees Association of New Hampshire
Keene Cities for Climate Protection Committee
Monadnock Sustainability Network
Monadnock Localvore Project

2009 Highlights Continued

Monadnock Farm and Community Connection



The Monadnock Farm and Community Connection is a volunteer network driven by community defined needs. It is a program of the Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) designed to support the farmers of the region while increasing public knowledge about the value of local agriculture. It has been a very active year for the MFCC volunteers and below are some of the programs we have offered:

Feast on This Film Festival

A Film Festival celebrating farms and local food throughout the Monadnock Region over 7 days.

Grow Food Everywhere

A night to explore the many ways schools can strengthen their connection to local food and farms, sponsored with Antioch University New England & Seeds of Solidarity.

Monadnock Matchmaker

An opportunity for farmers and food buyers to meet and form mutually beneficial business relationships, sponsored with Hannah Grimes & UNHCE.

Agricultural Commissions Community Forum

A forum focused on creating Agricultural Commissions in the communities of Cheshire County, fourth in a 2-year series of forums.

Farm Appreciation Night

A night of merriment and tribute to farmers to show our community's immense appreciation.



Eat Local Month Activities at the Farmer's Market of Keene

In celebration of NH Eat Local Month we hosted weekly activities and crafts for kids and families to learn more about local agriculture.



Educational Events

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Workshop

Partnered with the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association and other NH Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance and promote recycling.

Current Use Workshop

Partnered with UNH Cooperative Extension to offer this workshop for landowners to better understand and utilize the Current Use Regulations.



Farm Bill Workshop

Focused on how landowners can apply for financial and technical assistance from NRCS through the 2008 Farm Bill to promote conservation on farm and forest land

Farm to Table Twilight Meeting

An evening tour to see the growing and harvesting techniques of Monadnock Berries and learn more about ways for local restaurants to connect with local growers. A partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Dept. of Agriculture.

Innovative Land Use Planning Workshop

A workshop with Southwest Regional Planning Commission on how communities can use planning and zoning to promote the viability of agriculture.

Planting and Pruning Workshops and Backyard Mushroom Demonstration

With UNH Cooperative Extension and Wichland Woods.

Conservation Planning Forums

- Working with the Marlow Conservation Commission and Moosewood Ecological, LLC to offer two Conservation and Community Planning Forums as part of a NH Office of Energy and Planning Housing and Conservation Planning Program Grant.
- Working with Moosewood Ecological and the Chesterfield Conservation Commission and Troy Conservation Commission in an effort gain community input for the Natural Resource Inventory and town-wide conservation plan.



Troy
Conservation Commission





Natural Resources Conservation Service Cheshire County Fiscal Year 2009 Report

Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the people of Cheshire County have continued to show an interest in conservation programs offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Over \$321,000 was awarded in 2009 and invested in conservation. Funded practices involve pest management for invasive plant control, nutrient management and forest management plans, timber stand improvement, erosion and sediment control in forests and on crop fields, stream crossings, fencing, vegetative buffers, and early successional habitat creation for wildlife habitat improvement. In addition, we were able to put land in permanent conservation with the help of two of our easement programs; the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and Wetland Reserve Program. The NRCS Field office also assisted the Cheshire County Conservation District with identifying current natural resource issues for the purpose of developing ways to meet the present and future needs of the county.

In addition to serving Cheshire County residents through cost share programs, NRCS continues to make available technical assistance to its residents and units of government such as planning boards and conservation commissions in matters concerning our soil, water, air, plants and animals.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a core partner of the Cheshire County Conservation District.. The partnership between the NRCS and Conservation Districts is one that was carefully designed to foster a unique and productive relationship to get conservation on the ground and provide federal resources at a local level.

A Year in Review:

Conservation Highlights: Over 3,840 acres of conservation was applied in Cheshire County.

▲ **Farmstead and Water resources** were improved on over 1,130 acres with nutrient management, waste utilization and conservation buffers.

▲ **Cropland resources** were improved on over 500 acres through residue management, cover cropping, crop rotation and increased irrigation efficiency.

▲ **Grazing and Forest resources** were improved on over 1,200 acres with the development of forest management and grazing plans, the installation of erosion and sediment controls and fencing for rotational grazing, improved access for long term management of the forest, pasture and hay planting and forage harvest management.

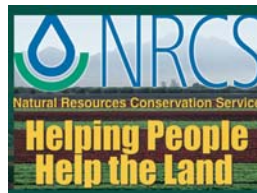
▲ **Wildlife habitat** on over 37 acres was created or improved in upland and wetland areas.

▲ **Conservation planning**, our cornerstone for success, was completed on over 953 acres assisting customers with identifying best management practices for forestland, cropland, grazing, wildlife, water and farmstead resource issues.

The new Farm Bill offers further opportunities for us to work with our partners; the Cheshire County Conservation District, the Farm Service Agency, and the UNH

Cooperative Extension Service in rolling out the new programs and helping us put quality conservation on the land. Together we are making a difference.

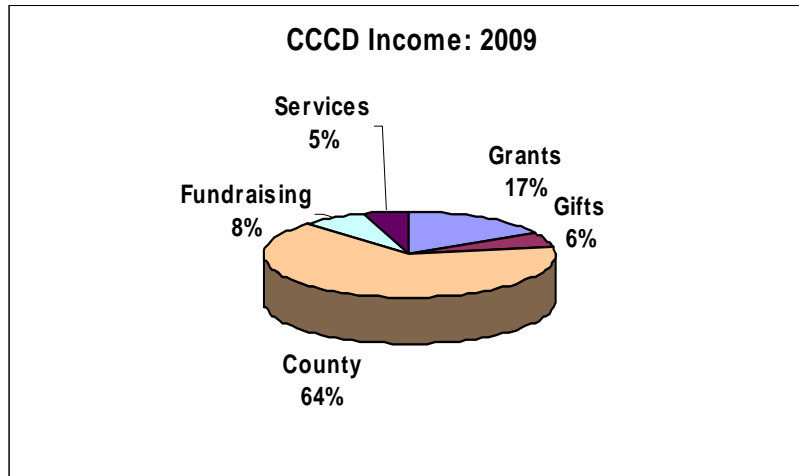
Deborah S. Weymouth
District Conservationist



Financials - 2009 Treasurer's Report

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the continued support of the District's conservation programs by the Cheshire County Commissioners and the Cheshire County Delegation.

Also appreciated are the technical services offered by our "Partners in Conservation" the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UNH Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency and other cooperating agencies.



Grants	\$10,532.00
Gifts	\$3,705.60
County	\$41,197.00
Fundraising	\$4,812.34
Services	\$3,155.79
TOTAL	\$63,402.73

Contributed Support

A very special thank you is offered to the many people that contribute to the success of the CCCD through their volunteer hours and energy! Without you none of this would be possible!

Special thanks to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses who have made donations or grants during 2009

Alyson's Orchard	New Hampshire Humanities Council
Antioch University New England	New Hampshire State Conservation Committee
Ben and Jerry's Foundation	Pitcher Mountain Farm
C&S Wholesale Grocers	Pricechopper
Cheshire Medical Center	Prime Roast
Phillip I. Crawford	Starbucks
Hannaford	University of Vermont
Historic Window & Door Corp.	Marion Ward
Jen Risley	Sheila Williams
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	The Works Bakery and Café

Contribute Today!

Please make a tax deductible gift to the CCCD to ensure the continued success of our educational programs.



YES! I want to help the Cheshire County Conservation District promote the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources .

I have enclosed a donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to the **Cheshire County Conservation District**,
11 Industrial Park Dr, Walpole NH 03608

Cheshire County Conservation District

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Dedicated to Conservation Education and the
Responsible Use of Our Natural Resources.

