

## 2012 Cooperator of the Year

### *Earth Haven Farm of Marlborough NH*

Each year the Cheshire County Conservation District honors an individual, business, or organization with the “Cooperator of the Year” award. This is done to celebrate the efforts the recipient has undertaken to steward the natural resources on their land in cooperation with the Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This year we are happy to announce that Earth Haven Farm is the 2012 Cooperator of the Year.

Earth Haven Farm is located in Marlborough NH on 250 beautiful acres. The land has been in the Iselin family since 1963 and George and Mary Iselin have been farming the land since the 1970s. Ninety acres of their land is in a conservation easement and they are utilizing solar energy. They are currently raising grass fed beef, registered Romney sheep, chickens, and horses. George & Mary also have a sugar grove with 650 taps which they work with their niece to market the maple syrup. Their three boys have always been involved helping on the farm and George has mentored many aspiring farmers and young people through informal internships. George credits Matt Patnode for being instrumental in building the farm to what it is today.



**“ When it comes to farming, George and Mary Iselin have done it all! Lamb, Wool, Beef, Pork, Poultry, Vegetable CSA, Maple, Hay, Forestry. Breeding horses, training horses, and boarding horses. And what many people know them best for are Mary’s heartwarming paintings of farm life, and George’s work as a foot doctor for horses. Their sense of community and activism in the food movement, and involvement in local food production from one end to the other, combined with their conservation ethic and care for the land has made their farm out at the end of Laurel Rd. a productive and permanent feature in the town of Marlborough .”**

**- Heidi Konesko,  
NRCS Soil Conservationist**



## Cooperator of the Year continued

### *Earth Haven Farm of Marlborough NH*

The following are conservation practices that Earth Haven Farm has applied through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program or on their own with guidance from Heidi Konesko of NRCS:

- Fencing to exclude a stream and wetlands
- Fencing to enable prescribed grazing
- Spring Development to provide drinking water for livestock
- Energy free waterers in the pastures
- New waterlines to pastures to enable prescribed grazing;
- Roofwater Diversion (concrete ground gutter and underground outlet) to keep

clean rainwater out of livestock and horse loafing areas

- Heavy Use Area improvements to enable removal of manure in loafing areas
- Access Road improvement to stop erosion
- Land clearing, stumping, boulder removal and liming, fertilizing and seeding to reclaim pasture from woodland
- Manure storage facility

Beyond their work with the NRCS, Earth Haven Farm is deserving of this honor because of their strong commitment to community involvement, renewable energy and their admirable land stewardship ethic.

The conservation district is so pleased to honor Earth Haven Farm and George and Mary Iselin as the 2012 Cooperator of the Year and would like to offer George and Mary many thanks for all they offer to the community and contribute to our strong and growing local food system. Please join us in congratulating them for all their hard work and wishing them great happiness and success into the future!



---

## 2012 Highlights

---

The CCCD reached over 1,100 individuals in 2012 with 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.



### *NRCS Farm Bill Program Workshops & Demonstration Projects*

Each year the conservation district works along side their partner the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist landowners on the voluntary conservation of natural resources on their land. This is accomplished by providing services that enable people to be good stewards of the soil, water, air, wildlife, and related natural resources. This year workshops were offered on how landowners can apply for financial and technical assistance from NRCS through the 2008 Farm Bill — workshops included—**Sugar Grove Management, Rotational Grazing, Invasive Species, Skidder Bridge Building, Agroforestry, Nitrogen Management, Early Successional Habitat, No Till Seeding, and Invasive Woodland Plants.** The Conservation District also made a grant to the Chesterfield Conservation Commission on an **invasive species removal demonstration** in Friedsam Town Forest that worked with Moosewood Ecological to engage volunteers and students from Antioch University New England on removing upland invasives.

### *Services of CCCD*

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.

