

NH Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
The Future of Forestry & Agriculture
 November 1, 2018 Conference schedule

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM Registration **Assembly Room**

	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Forestry Track: Webster Room	Invasive Upland Plant Species of New Hampshire Presented by: Ethan Belair (UNH Cooperative Extension) (1.0 CFE credits approved)	Working With Your Neighbors to Conserve Your Natural Resource Neighborhood Presented by: Jim Oehler (NH Fish & Game), Carl Wallman (Harmony Hill Farm), Nick Bassett (Northwood Fire Chief) (1.0 CFE credits approved)	LUNCH	Wildlife Species of Concern Presented by: John Magee (NH Fish & Game), Joshua Megyesy (NH Fish & Game), Kelly Boland (USDA NRCS) (1.0 CFE credits approved)	Maple Business Program & Cost Share Opportunities Presented by: Mark Isselhardt (UVM Extension), Mark Cannella (UVM Extension), Steve Roberge (UNH Cooperative Extension) (1.0 CFE credits approved)
Agriculture Track: Pierce Hall	How to Secure Access to Farmland - How to Transfer Farmland to Future Presented by: Cara Cargill (Land for Good), Stacy Cibula (Monadnock Conservancy), Tom Jones (Piscataquog Land Conservancy), Sue Knight (USDA NRCS)	Tillage or Not: What is the Equipment?: A look at District Inventory of Equipment Presented by: Chad Cochrane (USDA NRCS)	LUNCH	How to Prepare for Drought in a Changing Climate & Incorporating Irrigation Water Management Presented by: George Hamilton (UNH Cooperative Extension), Trevor Hardy (Brookdale Fruit Farm)	Growing in an Urban Setting: How to Maximize Your Yield - Hydroponics & Aquaponics Presented by: Jonathan Ebba (UNH Cooperative Extension)
Stark Room	Farm Labor Panel Discussion Presented by: various panelists	The Importance of Biomass & Biomass Plants in New Hampshire Presented by: Shelagh Connolly (RMI), Dennis McKenney (New England Forestry Consultants), Jasen Stock (NH Timberland Owners Association) (1.0 CFE credits approved)	LUNCH	Silvopasture Panel Discussion Presented by: various panelists (1.5 CFE)	Veteran Farmer Networking Session Presented by: Andy Pressman (NCAT)

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM **Conservation District Highlight Presentations**
 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM **Cocktail and Social Hour** *appetizers and cash bar*
 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM **Banquet Dinner & Awards Reception** *New Hampshire Flavor Dinner Buffet (featuring NH grown products)*
Keynote speakers: Commissioner of Agriculture Shawn Jasper and Brad Simpkins (NH Div. of Forests & Lands)

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Hillsborough County
Conservation District

NH Association of Conservation Districts 2018 Annual Meeting

hosted by: Hillsborough County Conservation District

"The Future of Forestry & Agriculture"

November 1, 2018

Manchester Downtown Hotel

Conference Program

We are planning two different conference tracks that will align with our theme "The Future of Forestry & Agriculture". Each session will last for 1 hour with a 30-minute break/networking time between each talk.

Forestry Track:

Wildlife Species of Concern

Presenters: Kelly Boland (USDA NRCS), John Magee (NH Fish & Game), Josh Megyesy (NH Fish & Game)

(1.0 CFE credits approved)

Join us for a dynamic and diverse discussion on all things wildlife. John will focus on stream ecology, research on fish habitat in NH and how this information is being used to plan and implement stream restoration projects. Kelly will cover open field/old field habitats and pollinators/birds/rabbits. She will focus on what landowners can do to help these critters. Josh will share what NH Fish & Game learned from a 3-year wood turtle Competitive State Wildlife grant in NH and regionally. He'll cover seasonal activity, habitat use, threats and potential conservation actions. Josh will touch on how actions to benefit wood turtles can also help protect other species such as northern leopard frogs, American Woodcock and ribbon snakes. You won't want to miss this lively discussion!

Invasive Upland Plant Species of New Hampshire

Presenter: Ethan Belair (UNH Cooperative Extension) (1.0 CFE credits approved) (pesticide CEU's pending approval)

This session will provide an in-depth look at upland invasive plant species of New Hampshire. Attendees will learn about the various issues, New Hampshire rules and regulations, characteristics and identifying features and control measures of some of the most aggressive non-native plants here in the Granite State.

Working with Your Neighbors to Conserve Your Natural Resource Neighborhood

Presenters: Jim Oehler (NH Fish & Game), Carl Wallman (Harmony Hill Farm), Nick Bassett (Northwood Fire Chief – invited) (1.0 CFE credits approved)

Jim and Carl formed the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC) in 2006. Encompassing the headwaters of the Lamprey River (mostly southern part of the town of Northwood) NALMC is an ~4,000 acre "natural resource neighborhood" where neighbors work together to enhance and maintain the natural, social, and cultural resources within that neighborhood. NALMC's work also spawned the development of the Big North Woods in the northern part of town. Nick Bassett is the Fire Chief who lives in that neck of the woods and wanted to start a NALMC like group there. Jim, Carl and Nick will talk about these respective efforts, how and why they formed these groups, what worked, what didn't, successes, lessons learned, and what keeps them together. Groups like these have implications for wildlife conservation, but also much more (water and watersheds, creating and maintaining the social fabric of the neighborhood, historic resources, etc.).

Maple Business Program & Cost Share Opportunities

Presenters: Mark Cannella (UVM Extension), Mark Isselhardt (UVM Extension), Steve Roberge (UNH Cooperative Extension) (1.0 CFE credits approved)

The US maple syrup production has nearly quadrupled in size over the past 20+ years. A good amount of the growth has come from new operations, but it has also come from increased use of collection and processing technology. University of Vermont Extension Maple Specialist, Mark Isselhardt will discuss the recent expansion of maple in the US, how research and innovation have contributed to this growth, where the industry is headed and what it means for the sustainability of this unique agricultural product. Mark Cannella will discuss financial performance and business characteristics of maple enterprises today along with the broader industry trends that impact business planning. Steve will discuss the maple industry in NH and share future trends.

The Importance of Biomass & Biomass Plants in New Hampshire

Presenters: Shelagh Connolly (RMI), Dennis McKenney (New England Forestry Consultants), Jasen Stock (NH Timberland Owners Association) (1.0 CFE credits approved)

Agriculture Track:

How to Prepare for Drought in a Changing Climate & Incorporating Irrigation Water Management

Presenters: George Hamilton (UNH Cooperative Extension), Trevor Hardy (Brookdale Fruit Farm, Hollis) (pesticide CEU's pending approval)

Learn various ways to conserve irrigation water during the growing season. Irrigation types and techniques will be reviewed as well as tips for proper irrigation timing and coverage. Further technical analysis will be discussed using soil moisture sensors and how to implement that data into an irrigation system. FSMA regulations will briefly be discussed pertaining to irrigated crops.

How to Secure Access to Farmland - How to Transfer Farmland to Future

Presenters: Cara Cargill (Land for Good), Stacy Cibula (Monadnock Conservancy), Sue Knight (USDA NRCS), Tom Jones (Piscataquog Land Conservancy)

Join us for an ever-popular talk on land preservation. The speakers will focus on the different ways they work with farmers – helping them find land to lease or buy, conservation options for farms, how selling development rights can help facilitate transfer from one farmer to the next. Additionally, types of land leases available, and the protections afforded to both owner and operator in a leasing scenario will be discussed. Many times, a farmer puts time and money into a leased parcel, only to lose the lease when the land is finally ready to plant, harvest, etc. Conversely, an owner can enter into a lease with an operator and experience the development of resource concerns resulting from poor management.

Growing in an Urban Setting: How to Maximize Your Yield using Hydroponics & Aquaponics

Presenter: Jonathan Ebba (UNH Cooperative Extension) (pesticide CEU's pending approval)

Join Jonathan as he will discuss methods, benefits and drawbacks to indoor agriculture. He will also speak briefly on some potential future trends and challenges in agriculture, as they pertain to the topic. He will also address the current “organic hydroponic” controversy.

Tillage or Not: What is the Equipment: A look at District Inventory of Equipment

Presenter: Chad Cochran (USDA NRCS) (pesticide CEU's pending approval)

Chad will take you through a discussion on the importance of paying close attention to your soil health. He will share information about the various farm equipment and tools available for rent through the Conservation Districts throughout the state for better soil quality and improved management.

Veteran Farmer Networking Session

Presenter: Andy Pressman (National Center for Appropriate Technology)

This session will provide an opportunity for military veterans to discuss unique challenges and resources available in relation to farming and working lands. This is an effort to connect more New England veterans interested in pursuing farming, or simply learning more information with the farming community. This session is open to all conference attendees.

“Hot Topic” Special Panel Discussions:

We are offering two 1.5-hour panel discussions that will be held simultaneous to the regular forestry and agriculture tracks. These topics were determined to be of high importance in the agriculture and forestry community.

Forestry Track:

All About Silvopasture: A Panel Discussion

Presenters: Bill Fosher (NHACD Agronomist), Jeff Jourdain (forester), Steve Normanton (producer, Litchfield – invited), Katherine MacFarland (USDA National Agroforestry Center), Daimon Meeh (USDA NRCS) (1.5 CFE credits approved)

Join this sure to be lively group of panelists as they discuss what silvopasture is, and what it isn't. There are several approaches to establishing silvopasture: managing an existing forest to create openings for growing forage, managing pasture by planting desired forest species, or clearing forestland and planting forages and trees. The panelists will help the attendees understand the steps involved and where to begin. A look at some of the potential benefits of a silvopasture system will be discussed including reduced livestock feed costs, reduced stress for livestock, improved wildlife habitat, improved water quality and water-holding capacity of soil, maintained or increased tree growth, better erosion control, improved pollinator habitat and better nutrient recycling. With benefits come challenges and risks: site preparation costs, grazing management planning and developing an intensive rotational grazing system, fencing, watering facilities, forage establishment and management, risk of damage to growing stock and possible soil compaction if livestock is not moved on a timely basis. Panelists will discuss what sites are suitable for silvopasture, forest management objectives, forage establishment, fencing and animal watering considerations. Can silvopasture work on your land? Join us to learn more about it.

Agriculture Track:

Farm Labor Panel Discussion: Successes and Challenges for Agricultural Producers

Presenters: Joe Young (New England Apple Council, Inc.), growers

Join this 1.5-hour panel discussion to hear about the successes and challenges of securing appropriate, reliable and affordable farm labor. Many NH agricultural producers are experiencing challenges in this area. Joe will speak about the H2A program geared towards fruit and vegetable producers. Additional panelists will consist of growers to share their first-hand experiences dealing with on-farm labor, both positive and negative.