

The Extension Express

Newsletter of The Department of Extension
The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Greetings from the Department Head

While it has proved to be a very cold and snowy winter, surprisingly the recently held College Faculty and Program Staff Workshop was held on a day without sleet or snow. Historically, one could predict foul weather based on the date of the workshop. The focus of the workshop was changing demographics both nationally and in Connecticut. The numbers of high school students is projected to be lower in the next few years and recruiting will become more competitive for universities. The UConn 4-H program assists by preparing students with workforce development and other life skills, while encouraging youths to pursue higher education. Many youths experience campus life through various 4-H programs, weekend events, and other functions held at UConn's Storrs and regional campuses. 4-Hers also have an opportunity to meet and work with many UConn faculty and program staff members through the campus-based events as well as many 4-H opportunities.

Changing demographics will also continue to impact Extension outreach and engagement programs locally and statewide. The ethnic and racial diversity of clientele will continue to change over time. Programs, educational materials, learning and teaching methods, access, language, partnerships, etc will all have to be considered to best meet needs.

The Department of Extension Strategic Plan continues to move forward. A series of questions was developed by the Department's Strategic Plan Working Group that was posted via Survey Monkey to gain input for the plan. All members of the Department of Extension and the Extension Partners Group received via email the link to access and complete the survey to provide input for further developing the plan. Due to the timeline for developing the strategic plan, the questions were posted for 10 days and 54 people responded. The committee is now integrating information received into a draft plan to be shared with the department members and Extension partners group for additional input before submitting to Greg Weidemann, Dean CANR.

Roger G. Adams
Interim Associate Dean for Extension and
Head, Department of Extension

Fairfield County Extension Center

Master Gardener Program:

The 2009 Master Gardener classes are being held at the Fairfield County Extension Center in Bethel and began January 8th. The popularity of the program continues to grow and numerous applicants applied for admittance to the program. Space requirements limit the number of students that can be accepted so many applicants had to be placed on a waiting list.

This year's class consists of 50 students with various talents and educational backgrounds which will lend itself to another interesting and valuable group of volunteers. Signs of the troubled economy were evident by the numerous scholarship requests received this year from both New Haven County and Fairfield County applicants. Partial scholarships were awarded in order to assist as many students as possible.

The new students will complete 16 weeks of classroom training between January and April. They will begin their internship in the extension office and their community outreach this spring. So far it appears that this winter's weather will be an interesting challenge to the program. We look forward to this new group of Master Gardener interns and to the promise of spring.

4-H:



Fairfield County Extension Center (cont.)

In Partnership with the National 4-H Council, the JCPenney Afterschool Fund contributed over \$77,000 to Fairfield County 4-H in support of 4-H Afterschool, which is part of the Danbury Afterschool Extended Learning Program. This grant benefited 172 children in three limited resource elementary schools. One- hundred and forty (140) students in the 4-H Afterschool program also received a \$50.00 JCPenney gift card to help with school supplies and clothes.

Fiscal and Administrative Institute for Training (FAIT) Training:

Would you like more knowledge and the latest information regarding accounting, budgeting, diversity and equity, purchasing, accounts payable, travel, payroll, central stores and UITS? Our lead secretary (Kimberly Moffett) had the opportunity to attend eight sessions on just that. Each area presented a very beneficial 8 hour interactive presentation regarding their individual department responsibilities, their responsibilities to individual departments and what is expected in return from the departments served. This was a great opportunity to get answers to those “everything you wanted to know but was afraid to ask” questions, network with peers, understand correct operating procedures and how your day-to-day activities unite with the objectives of the University.

Hartford County Extension Center

Sherry Gray, Cooperative Extension Educator, conducted a family day for children with Phenylketonuria (PKU) and their families in late October 2008 at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, CT. 78 people attended the event which included a low protein luncheon, demonstrations, and passes to the zoo. This event was co-funded by Nutricia North America and Biomarin.

Sherry Gray, Linda Horn, and LaShawn Christie received acceptance for a poster session on teen recruitment activities to be presented at the CYFAR Annual conference to be held in May 2009 in Baltimore, MD.

Pesticide use around schools revisited.

In recent years the legislature has passed several laws related to the use of pesticides in and around schools K-8, day care centers and home day care settings. Currently, the law reads that no pesticides will be used around school after July 1, 2009. An Ad Hoc group has been convened by the Watershed Partnership and CT DEP to revisit the law and attempt to develop a sound method of evaluating pesticide toxicity and potential exposure to children and determine if there is a way to ameliorate the impact of the law on the maintenance of playing fields and school grounds. The current law would not allow the use of biological and natural types of pesticides because they are registered with the EPA. This severely restricts grounds maintainers as they attempt to manage safe playing fields.

The committee has examined several methods of assessing toxicity and exposure and will be developing recommendations for new language and processes for regulating pesticides used around schools. Candace Bartholomew is part of the Ad Hoc committee.

Hartford County 4-H Program News

Forty 4-H members from Hartford County gathered at the Connecticut Culinary Institute in Hartford on Saturday, January 31st to display food items they had created for the annual 4-H Food Show. Individual and group displays centered on the food show theme of "My Favorite Recipe." Participants were challenged to create a healthier version of their favorite food by substituting appropriate healthier ingredients in the recipe without harming the integrity of the food. Many researched internet sites for substitutions as well as for healthy versions of their favorite food.

Professional chefs from both the Connecticut Culinary Institute in Hartford and the Center for Culinary Arts in Cromwell judged the 4-H members' entries. Becca Hayes and Krista Karlson were judged to have the Best in Show entry for their meal of White Chicken Chili with Whole Wheat Pita Chips, Fresh and Fruity Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette, and Made-over Milk Chocolate Pound Cake. Workshops held throughout the day were designed and taught by professional chefs; participants also learned about potential careers

Hartford County Extension Center (cont.)

in food science, culinary arts and nutrition



4-H Education Center Receives ESRI Grant

The 4-H Education Center at Auer Farm has been awarded a Getting Started in GIS Grant from ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute). This grant provides GIS mapping software to the recipient. Educators at the farm will work with Beth Salsedo and the Hartford County/Connecticut 4-H Tech Team to obtain training in using GPS/GIS hardware and software technologies and to develop lessons to use with the visiting school groups. Congratulations to them!

Hartford County 4-H Leader Named to National 4-H Hall of Fame

Myron Baldwin, a longtime 4-H volunteer, has been inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Throughout 45 plus years of volunteering with 4-H, Myron has been involved in the Winding Brook 4-H Club in Wethersfield, the Hartford County 4-H Camp in Marlborough, Connecticut 4-H development fund, Hartford County Advisory Committee and the Hartford County 4-H Fair Association. To read more about Myron, visit <http://www.nae4ha.org/hof/mbaldwin.html#>



Middlesex County Extension Center

CLEAR Published Articles

NEMO has recently published an article in the Planning Commissioners Journal entitled “Taking Low Impact Development from Research to Regulations.” Low impact development, sometimes called LID, is a set of storm water management techniques that help new development mimic the way water naturally interacts with the land. This protects local water resources and regional water bodies like Long Island Sound. The NEMO team has been working with Connecticut communities for over a decade to help them implement LID and other planning strategies to help preserve our natural resources. The article, to be published in January 2009, describes how some of these communities have implemented these new techniques.

A paper by Marty Gilmore (Wesleyan University), Emily Wilson (UConn Extension), Nels Barrett (NRCS), Daniel Civco (UConn NRE), Sandy Prisloe (UConn Extension), James Hurd (UConn NRE) and Cary Chadwick (UConn Extension) was published in the journal Remote Sensing of Environment. The paper is titled “Integrating multi-temporal spectral and structural information to map wetland vegetation in a lower Connecticut River tidal marsh.”

As part of the Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council, Emily Wilson and Sandy Prisloe drafted a business plan for a land cover and land use dataset for Connecticut. The document is one part of a larger working document to plan for map and data creation in the future.

Updates to NEMO/CLEAR’s Community Resource Inventory Online

The Community Resource Inventory Online (<http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/cri>) continues to be used extensively and has received some updates. The habitats map now includes coastal habitats such as Eel grass beds, tidal wetlands and shellfish areas. Thanks to the Connecticut agreement with TeleAtlas Inc., all maps now include roads with road names!

The National NEMO Network Hosted its 6th NEMO University in Monterey, CA

The National NEMO Network held its sixth conference (NEMO U6) on California’s Monterey Peninsula in October 2008. U6 was the first NEMO University held west of Charleston, SC. Ironically given the Route 66 theme to the conference, 66 NEMO educators and partners attended the conference representing 22 states.

Middlesex County Extension Center (cont)

The [conference agenda](#) once again featured a mix of presentations, training sessions, and networking events. For the first time, [presentation abstracts](#) were solicited from the Network and provided an opportunity for NEMO programs to show off their latest tools and resources. Trainings included a session on using a variety of techniques and programs (most of which are free) to put maps and data on the web. A hands-on learning lab followed the session where folks had an opportunity to use some of the tools and create their very own Mashups (combining two or more programs/tools to make a third). There was also a condensed version of the Network's Forest Resource Education for Municipal Officials (FREMO) training and a plenary session on NEMOconomics or integrating economics into NEMO education.



Of course, it wouldn't be a NEMO U without great opportunities for networking among peers. We took full advantage of our location on Monterey Bay with an early morning kayaking trip, a whale watching trip (including a sighting of an Orca pod), and a beach side bonfire & barbeque. The crown jewel of the Networking events was a dessert reception at the world-renowned Monterey bay Aquarium



In all, the conference fulfilled its goal of strengthening the bonds that hold our network together.

The NEMO Team Recognized for their efforts

- The National NEMO Network, which now comprises 32 programs in 30 states, won the 2008 national award from USDA as the Outstanding Integrated Water Resources Program
- The CT NEMO Program won the 2008 Communications Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Plan Association for its set of three interrelated websites focused on Low Impact Development (LID), affectionately known as the "LID Trifecta." Visitors can get information from the CT DEP Stormwater Quality Manual, use Google Maps to visit and get information about LID emplacements around the state, or search for LID-friendly land use regulations currently in use in Connecticut towns.
- Emily Wilson won the Environmental Professional Award from the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc., in recognition of her exemplary efforts to help local land use decision makers by bringing geospatial technology to town hall through *CRI Online* and *Connecticut's Changing Landscape* websites.

Middlesex County Extension Center (cont)

The Connecticut Land Use Academy

In 2008 the Connecticut Land Use Academy completed the first full calendar year of its new format, providing training for 300 land use commissioners drawn from 120 towns across the state. The Academy, which is largely funded by the Office of Responsible Growth of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, focuses on knowledge and skills that they need in their role as land use decision makers.



Land Use Academy

Center for Land Use Education and Research



Each workshop is comprised of three sessions: Roles and Responsibilities, Legal Requirements, and Map Reading for Site Plan Review. About 91% of post-training survey respondents were “satisfied” or “very satisfied.” And who are these folks? Based also on the surveys, it appears that slightly over half of Academy attendees are Planning and/or Zoning commissioners; Inland Wetlands and Watercourse and/or Conservation commissioners were also well-represented.

The Academy also held its first “Hot Topics in Land Use” conference in November of 2008. The conference, produced in partnership with the CT Bar Association Planning and Zoning section and the CT Chapter of the American Planning Association, included nine workshops on a wide variety of topics, including farmland preservation, affordable housing, village and historic districts, economic development, downtown revitalization and form-based zoning.

The Land Use Academy also has an improved website. Visit <http://clear.uconn.edu/lua>

GIS Day, November 19th 2009

Members of the CLEAR Geospatial Technology Program were well represented at Connecticut’s 2009 GIS Day event held November 19th at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. GIS Day occurs annually on the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week around the middle of November. This year GIS Day drew hundreds of attendees from across the state and featured a series of presentations and posters. Cary Chadwick and Kate Woodruff from the Middlesex Extension Center started the day with a presentation on mash-ups that discussed what they are and how GIS professionals can use them. Mash-ups are Internet applications that combine GIS data with commercial online mapping programs. A good example is Google Earth (the online mapping program) that lets you view imagery anywhere on Earth along with data such as picture locations, roads, places of interest, etc. (the GIS data). If you have Google Earth installed on your computer, you can view an interesting mash-up created by the Geospatial Technology Program that shows where agricultural lands were in Middlesex County in 1970 and what’s there today.

Middlesex County Extension Center (cont)

Go to http://clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/ag_overview.html and click the link at the bottom of the page. The Geospatial Technology Program also had a number of posters on display covering such topics as Connecticut's changing landscape, wetland mapping based on satellite imagery and outreach educational programs.

Hands-on Geospatial Technology Training

The Geospatial Technology Program held two hands-on training classes in November. These included the 5-day "Geospatial Technologies at Work: An Introduction to GIS" class and the 2-day "Pictures Points and Places: An Introduction to GPS" class. These classes make extensive use of cutting-edge geospatial technologies and are designed to get students using GIS and GPS software and equipment. One student from the Connecticut Department of Health Services Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program already has used what she learned to conduct a GIS-based analysis of almost 70,000 WIC clients to determine if they have adequate access to service providers located throughout the state.



Such an analysis would be almost impossible to do without the use of a geographic information system.

Program staff also participated in UConn's Connecticut Environmental Action Day, October 3, and introduced a group of high school students to the use of hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers. The group is pictured on the front steps of the W. B. Young building with GPSs in hand.

New Geospatial Technology Hands-on Training Courses

2009 will see major changes in the hands-on courses that are offered through the Geospatial Technology Program. We have improved existing courses and have added a number of new courses. The new courses are designed to cover more advanced topics – something that past students have asked for. Included in the mix are new courses that focus on creating mash-ups, GIS programming, using imagery and remote sensing, creating data and making better maps. A listing of all courses can be found on the GTP website at <http://clear.uconn.edu/geospatial/training.htm>.

Middlesex County Extension Center (cont)

People Empowering People (PEP) Program:

Events:

March 56 9:00-4:00 PM at the Middlesex County Extension Center—PEP Facilitator Training.

The training is designed for educators, social service providers and others who wish to facilitate the PEP program, a personal and family development program with a strong community focus. The community PEP curriculum has been updated and will be distributed at the training. Also, the curriculum is available in Spanish and there is a youth curriculum. Trainer and PEP Program Coordinator is Robin DragoProvencher, a Parent Educator at the Charter Oak Academy Family Resource Center, West Hartford. See the web site or contact Cherry Czuba for Further details.

March 27, 8:30-3:00 PM at the Middlesex County Extension Center“Finding Your Voice, Sharing Your Dream,” a workshop for PEP facilitators.

The workshop will include presentations by Dr. Bari Dworken, Extension Educator, 4H Youth and Organizational Development and Kathleen Kiley, a member of the Epiphany Design team and an experienced yoga teacher and group facilitator

Community and Prison PEP programs:

Currently the community PEP program is being conducted in about 20 communities and 23 states. The following communities receive Parent Trust Funds to conduct PEP: Bloomfield, Bristol, Danbury, Greenwich, Hartford, New Haven, Norwich, Torrington, and Willimantic. The prison PEP program is being conducted by volunteer facilitators at Connectional Correctional Center, Cheshire; Enfield Correctional Center; Radgowski Correctional Center, Uncasville and York Correctional Center, Niantic. It is supported financially by the Connecticut Department of Correction.

Website:

Rachel Bobst, webmaster of the PEP website, has done a terrific job updating and redesigning site. It is located at www.pep.uconn.edu.

Middlesex County Extension Center (cont)

Epiphany: Mentoring for Ex-offenders:

April 18, 8:30-2:00PM at the Middlesex County Extension Center— Epiphany: Mentoring for Ex-offenders Training is offered to representatives of faith based and community based organizations wishing to develop a secular mentoring program for ex-offenders. The training will include refreshments, lunch, guest presenters and a copy of the 150 page theoretical hands-on manual. There will be support following the training. For further information contact Cherry Czuba.

Middlesex County Extension Center News

Building Improvements

2008 included many significant building improvements to the Middlesex County Extension Center, which was built in 1887. These improvements funded through UConn Facilities included new windows in the annex, removal of mold, repairing of the roofs over the entrance and back of the building, stairs replaced, ramp railings repaired, drainage in the men's room repaired, etc. In addition, "scraping together" some rental and maintenance funds we were able to get some drainage work done to prevent water from coming into the basement.

Cook-offs or Cook-outs

Several years ago Mike Dietz, who now works for University of Utah Cooperative Extension and Sandy Prisloe created the now famous Middlesex County Extension Center Cook-Offs. We have had chowder, crock-pot, chili, egg, etc. The food is prepared at home served buffet style and then survey monkey is used to determine the winning entrants. Tom Worthley is the coordinator of this winter's cook-off, which will have a breakfast theme. In the past 4-H staff Tom Trahan, Master Gardeners and others have been fortunate to be at our office on a cook-off day!

Website

Our website is up and running thanks to Rachel Bobst! See it at www.extension.uconn.edu/pages/department/middlesex/locations_middlesex.html

Holiday Donations

Once again the Middlesex county Extension Center and ERT staff members have shown their generosity by donating nonperishable items to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown and nonperishable food items and cleaning products for Mary Ellen Welch's House Smart families.

New Haven County Extension Center

The New Haven County Extension celebrated the graduation of 43 new and enthusiastic Master Gardeners in the fall of 2008. They join many active Master Gardeners including Marie Dube who graduated with the first MG class 30 years ago. Master Gardeners are already planning the 2009 activities for many continuing projects.

Among the on-going projects are those at Farnam Neighborhood House in the Fair Haven section of New Haven. This vibrant institution, modeled on the settlement house movement which began over a century ago, now includes children's gardening and environmental activities led by MGs Pat Bender, Mae Chon, Lucy LaCava, Doris Murphy and Joan Murphy. They also work with the Urban Resource Initiative to create a greener, healthier neighborhood.

In Waterbury, MG Susan Pronovost puts her skills to work at Brass City Harvest, where she is also the Executive Director. There are community gardens, soup kitchens and farmers' markets. At beautiful Fulton Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, there will soon be a one acre urban garden, a rehabilitated greenhouse and another farmers' market location. Close to downtown a children's garden is growing. This site already has vegetable beds and will soon have perennial borders, a butterfly garden, a shrub border to shelter birds, and a reading nook.

The relationship between the Master Gardeners and the Edgerton Park Conservancy continues to grow. This New Haven Park includes the stone Carriage House which is the home of the MG classes. MGs Lisa Bennett, Judi Fruedenberg, Liz Helwig are members of the Conservancy Board of Directors. Plans for 2009 include rehabilitation of a neglected butterfly garden and participation in September's Sunday in the Park event.

Our Master Gardeners anticipate mentoring interns from the 2009 Fairfield and Middlesex County Extension Centers classes in our New Haven Extension Center this year. We all look forward to getting our hands back in the soil this spring.

New London County Extension Center

Farm Risk Management

Mailings to 3,000 agricultural producers, 250 advisors, and farm associations and public agencies have provided information about crop insurance and risk management educational events in Connecticut. The One-On-One Consultation Sessions with Agricultural Professionals are scheduled for: Wamogo Regional High School, Litchfield, Feb. 18; Suffield High School, West Suffield, Feb. 19; Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, Mar. 4; and New London County Extension Center, Norwich, Mar. 5.

Agricultural producers can register for consultation sessions with professionals addressing farm family issues relating to: 1) Crop Insurance; 2) Estate Planning and Farm Transfer; 3) Farm Business and Marketing; 4) Transitioning to Organic Production; 5) Dealing With Local Officials; and 6) Alternative Energy Opportunities.

Farmers can obtain more information and register by contacting the New London County Extension Center at (860) 887-1608.

Extension Center Improvements

Even during the heart of Winter the Extension Center is moving forward with plans to improve the lower parking lot. The lot will be graded and timber guardrails will be installed when the snow melts. Landscaping plans are also being developed for implementation during the Spring.

New London County 4-H

Public Presentation Program

4-H'ers are preparing speeches, demonstrations and illustrated talks for New London County's upcoming five 4-H public presentation programs – in Ledyard, East Lyme, Franklin, North Stonington and Lebanon. Those events are being coordinated by 4-H/adult partners. The junior and senior winners in each category will present at the County Finals on February 27th and those winners will go on the State Finals in March.

4-H teaches “life skills”; public presentation is certainly one of those skills. Many 4-H alumni says they are glad their 4-H leaders “strongly encouraged” them to enter this program.

New London County 4-H Camp

The brochure for the 2009 season will soon be available. Kevin Barbero returns as Camp Director. The season includes 7 one-week sessions of resident camping for 8-14 year olds and selected teen leaders and one two-night “clover camp” for 6-8 year olds. Check the 4-H Camp web site for further information: www.my4hcamponline.com

New London County Extension Center (cont.)

CT 4-H Sheep Project Clinic – February 21

Diane Lis, Randy Knight (UConn Dept. of Animal Science) and a small committee of 4-H leaders and two UConn students are planning the CT 4-H Sheep Project Clinic which will be held at UConn – Storrs on Saturday, February 21st. The day, which attracts 100-150 youth and leaders from CT, RI, MA and sometimes NH and ME includes junior and senior workshops, veterinary speakers, sheep blocking contest and junior and senior quiz bowls. The 4-H families also get to see a bit of UConn. The CT Sheep Breeders Association holds adult seminars and workshops on the same day (Blue Ribbon Forum) and helps to sponsor the 4-H quiz bowl prizes.

New London County 4-H Textile Arts – March 7

This event is growing. 4-H'ers will exhibit all sorts of textile arts for evaluation, participate in related hands-on workshops, model sewn projects and learn from the educational exhibits about natural fibers – sheep wool, flax, alpaca (including “walking fleece”), llama, cotton. We understand that it's the “year of the natural fiber”.

New London County 4-H Auction

The place to be on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 24 and 25 is the New London County 4-H Camp, Kahn Road, Franklin for the annual 4-H Auction. Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge will coordinate the bidding and buying. At this old-fashioned auction, one can find plants, theme baskets, collectibles, gift certificates for restaurants, bowling, dry cleaning, pizza, ferry tickets to Block Island or Long Island, lodging and more; handicrafts, “attic treasures”, sometimes livestock feed, landscape materials and so much more. Some attend the auction just for the delicious food booth menu! All proceeds benefit the New London County 4-H Camp.

Master Gardener

The UConn Extension Master Gardener classes for 2009 are underway. Students acquire much useful information for themselves and to impart to the public. They learn what constitutes healthy soil, when amending is appropriate, and what to use. They also learn about integrated pest management, invasive species, vegetable and fruit growing, low maintenance lawns, and ornamentals. Although the winter months are a slow time, calls do come in from the public. Just as a sample, people have asked about artillery fungus on siding, insects in the house, mulches, pesticide free vegetable gardening, and more. Master gardeners will be ready when the warm weather comes to share with the gardening public how to garden sustainably. The indications are strong that home owners are interested in producing some of their own food and reducing chemical inputs on their properties.

Tolland County Extension Center

4-H News

4-H educator, Rosemarie Syme has been working on the plans for the 4-H Expressive Arts Day on March 14th with specific emphasis on the Clothing and The Smart Shopper consumer education projects. In a pilot program this year, all 4-H members that are participating in these two projects will be involved in the State Expressive Arts Day. There will not be county clothing revues. A committee of volunteers has accepted key leadership roles in the planning and management of the event.

Rosemarie is also in the planning stages of the state wide 4-H Dairy Clinic which will be held on March 21st. 4-H members in the dairy project will be able to get together and learn skills concerning their project. Workshops are planned in feeding, management and in dairy products. Follow up events will be held in April on the subjects of Dairy Judging and Dairy Quiz Bowl.

A series of 4-H Public Speaking workshops is underway to prepare 4-Hers for the Tri County (Tolland, Hartford, and Litchfield) Public speaking Competition in February. 4-Hers will prepare speeches or visual presentations. A junior and a senior 4-Her from each county will be selected to deliver their speech or visual presentation during the State 4-H Expressive Arts Day in March.

A teen board of twenty 4-Hers are already working on the planning of the 2009 4-H Fair which will be held on August 8th, 9th, and 10th. January 31st will be the start of the fund raising campaign for the 4-H fair book. 4-Her Kaylyn Morrill, a Rockville High School senior, is President of the 2009 4-H Fair Association.

Recent conference for vegetable farmers – Jude Boucher

Deep Zone-Tillage & Soil Health Conference

Public House, Route 131, Sturbridge, MA

9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Monday, December 1st, 2008 (75 people attended)

Sponsored by Northeast SARE, the University of Connecticut, University of Rhode Island and Cornell University, Cooperative Extension Systems.

Welcome (Goals of the conference) – Jude Boucher, University of CT

Improving Soil Health – John Idowu, Cornell University

Zone-tillage for Large Seeded Crops – Anu Rangarajan, Cornell University

Zone-tillage on the Cecarelli Farm – Nelson Cecarelli, Northford, CT

Tolland County Extension Center (cont)

Zone-tillage on Fresh Ayr Farm – George Ayres, Farmington, NY

Zone-tillage for Small Seeded Crops/Root Crops/Organic Crops – Anu Rangarajan

Equipment Adjustment & Planters – Jim Capron, Cornell University (Emeritus)

Results of CT Soil Compaction Survey & Zone-till Observations – Jude Boucher

Zone-till Grower Panel (Nelson, George, Tom Scott – E. Lyme, CT)

What is Deep Zone-Tillage?

Deep zone tillage is a form of reduced-tillage that combines the benefits of strip-tilling and sub-soiling. It protects the soil but allows for warmer soil temperatures and early plantings. Deep zone-tillage can reverse the ill effects of years of conventional tillage and provide many unexpected benefits.

Why switch to Deep Zone-Tillage?

The extensive tillage practices used on vegetable farms in the Northeast are time-consuming and expensive, and over time, result in problems with soil degradation, soil compaction, and soil erosion. As top soil and organic matter is lost due to constant tillage, soils organisms such as earthworms and beneficial microbes decline, which leads to a loss of soil structure, air pores, and oxygen for plant roots. Organic matter is also important for holding soil moisture during dry periods and preventing the leaching of nutrients. Loss of soil structure leads to crusting of the soil surface, and multiple trips across the field with heavy equipment, such as disk- or plow-pans, leads to compaction problems. Surface crusting and plow pans often cause the water to pool, leaving crops vulnerable to wilts (Phytophthora) and seed rots. Deep zone-tillage can alleviate these problems and lead to healthier, deeper plant roots, higher yields and improved fruit quality. And it can do all this, and more, with fewer trips across the field, less fuel, less labor and fewer machine hours.

Windham County Extension Center

Irene Dionne, Administrative Assistant, Windham County Extension Center retiring February 27th

Irene looks forward to spending less time rescuing the Center from trees in the roof to bugs in the air conditioner, and more time chasing that elusive golf ball (and her already retired but very active husband, Roger). The Windham County Extension Center staff is not happy, as Irene is their guiding light. But must say farewell, as the other University of Connecticut departments have done during the past 23 years: UConn Health Services, Foundation Development Office, Food Marketing Policy Center, and finally our Center.

Recent Extension Grant Submissions

Candace L Bartholomew	Christmas Tree Crop Profile for New England	\$8078.00
Candace L Bartholomew	2009 PRO New England Pest Management Network Project	\$5000.00
Thomas J Boucher	Epidemiology and Population Genetics of Phytophthora Capsici	\$16,506.00
Mary-Margaret Gaudio	Promoting Training and Outreach on Lead Poisoning Prevention in Underserved Rural Communities	\$8000.00
Pamela M Gray	4-H LIFT Afterschool Program	\$62,948.00
Sharon S Gray	Provision of Nutrition Services for Families of Children with Phenylketonuria and other Metabolic Disorders	\$3700.00
Umekia R Taylor	Connecticut Sustainable Community Projects	\$420,000.00
Thomas E Wrothley	Reducing Lyme Disease Risk by Consulting Japanese Barberry in Publicly Used Forests	\$174,961.00
Total		\$699,193.00

Recent Extension Grant Awards

Chester Arnold	Regional Water Quality Project: Connecticut Portion	\$83,473.00
Candace Bartholomew	2008 PRO New England Pest Management Network State Network Project	\$5000.00
Mary-Margaret Gaudio	Proposal to Develop a Curriculum for the Education of Educators Regarding Lead Poisoning in Children	\$137,218.00
Sharon S Gray	Provisions of Nutrition Services to Families of Children with Phenylketonuria and Other Metabolic Conditions	\$3700.00
Pamela M Gray	4-H LIFT Afterschool Program	\$62,948.00
Harry E Mangle	CYFAR Conference Coordination Program	\$8800.00
John Roszum	NEMO: Catalyzing Community Action Toward Addressing Impaired Waters Through Education and Outreach	\$0.00
Thomas E Worthley	Enhancing Technology Transfer Activities Through Collaboration	\$0.00
Total		\$301,139.00

Husky Buyer News

Savings Tips for Office Supply Purchases

When you think of office supplies, you might think “small potatoes” as far as saving money goes. After all, you can purchase a felt tip pen for \$.06 – yes, six cents! Or a dozen ball point pens for about a half dollar. But how much do pens and folders and sticky-notes really cost? The answer is: more than you might think! Processing, packaging and delivery are all hidden costs. Even with such low prices, there are ways to further reduce the costs of running your office.

Do you order via Eway.com, our web site for online ordering? It’s the fastest, least expensive way to go. The prices are the same as when you use an order form, but there are fewer hidden costs because your order doesn’t have to go through multiple layers of processing before it’s entered. You can sit down and enter your items in a few minutes and if you place the order before 5:00 p.m., all in stock items will be at your office the next business day – thanks to efficient delivery work by Corporate Express and Central Stores working in tandem.

Another way to reduce costs is to use the “contract shopping list” of core items. This list is available for viewing and selection right next to the shopping cart on the site. The hundred or so items on the list are the preselected best buys for items that are most frequently ordered.

When an item you need isn’t shown on the core list there might be a Corporate Express brand that will work as well or better than a name-brand. You won’t be paying the costs for large scale national advertising campaigns. Try comparing prices of several brands before selecting one; those dimes and quarters add up over time.

One last consideration is to consolidate your orders whenever possible and send fewer, larger orders. This cuts down on time and energy compared to sending several small orders. Not only will you spend less time sending the orders and unpacking them when they arrive, but there will be less packaging material needed, fewer cartons and bags, and lower fuel costs to deliver them.

Buying from the contracted vendor, Corporate Express brings you the best combination of price and service available.

MaryAnne Brennan

Husky Buyer News (cont.)

bkm Offers Husky Savings Suggestions

One thing is certain as we move into the New Year: we all are going to have to work a little differently. bkm Total Office, your campus facilities partner, is dedicated to working with UConn to meet the needs of your workplace and learning environments, while bringing value and cost savings. Here are some suggestions for you to consider when looking for furniture, audio-visual, or floor covering cost savings:

1. Reupholster. bkm's Recovery Zone upholstery division can make that old chair look new again. Some new fabric can work wonders for a chair, a tack board and your budget.
2. Remanufactured/Recycled. bkm's ERI (Environmentally Responsible Interiors) division takes used Steelcase 9000 panels and desks and re-paints and re-fabrics. We can renew your existing workstations or metal office furniture or we can provide recycled products,
3. Value-engineer. Mixing existing product with value oriented new products such as those from Turnstone and OFS First Office can bring great savings while delivering a fresh new look.
4. Visit our warehouse showroom. bkm has a 23,000 square foot warehouse in East Hartford. We have gently used products, as well as new products, at greatly reduced prices. Check it out!
5. Re-think. Wood is good, but laminate is less expensive for desks and tables.
6. Bundle. Using more products and services from a single source may qualify for deeper discounts for the project; furniture, floor covering, labor, and audio-visual are good examples. Using a single manufacturer to provide more of the products as opposed to using multiple providers will also save time and labor costs.
7. Call. Your UConn bkm team is available to help you determine the alternatives and options available. Your team: Abbie Prevost (860) 338-3678, Elaine Stone (860) 338-3706 and Lynn Kucharski (860) 331-9273.

If you have any other questions you can always contact our help desk hot line (860) 291-5666 or email furniturehelpdesk@bkm.com. Your furniture website can be accessed by going to <https://shop.bkm.com/uconn> for additional ideas. Thank you for your continued business!

Abbie Prevost, bkm

Husky Buyer News (cont.)

Office Products Show to be Held March 31

The annual office products show, co-hosted by the Purchasing Department and our exclusive office supply provider, Corporate Express, a Staples Company will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Central Stores building at 3 North Hillside Road.

Corporate Express has invited manufacturers' representatives from some of the largest names in the office supply industry to attend with information, samples and demonstrations of their newest products.

The show will also highlight our contract partners for office furniture bkm Total Office and Solidus. A&A Office Systems, Inc. and IKON Office Solutions, Inc. will provide copier demonstrations.

Join us early for a light breakfast or at noon for the luncheon.

Kathy Joy

Renewals and Agreements

Purchase order renewals will be mailed to departments in the next few weeks. When reviewing your renewal requests, please pay special attention to those associated with agreements. If an agreement is to be extended or amended, the amendment must be executed prior to the expiration of the current agreement.

In order to ensure adequate time for review and approval, the renewal request should be returned to Purchasing a minimum of 90 - 120 days before the current agreement expires. Approval and execution by the campus Office of the Attorney General is required for any agreement whose value is more than \$3,000. Agreements with a value of more than \$100,000 must be approved and executed in Hartford.

When an agreement or amendment is executed by a vendor, all mandatory affidavits and certifications must also be completed. Additional information can be found at <http://www.purchasing.uconn.edu/forms/forms.htm> or by contacting the buyer responsible for the commodity.

Penny Guerin

Husky Buyer News (cont.)

New Catalogs Are Here!

The Central Stores 2009 Catalog is now available! A few hundred have already gone out; if you need one, please visit our website and complete the online form, "Catalog (Hard Copy)," www.stores.uconn.edu/forms/catreq.htm

Central Stores provides the University of Connecticut at Storrs and off-campus locations with nearly 9,000 frequently used office, maintenance, and laboratory supplies. (Prices in the catalog are subject to change without notice.)

New items are added throughout the year. To check on all products available to date, visit our website and click on the link "Catalog." This online catalog shows current pricing for items currently in stock. Pricing on stock items may change when new stock is brought in. Special order items show the pricing as of the last purchase date. Pricing may be valid, but could be out of date if the last purchase was a while ago. For current pricing on a Special Order item, please call Janice Nash at 486-3627.

Catalog Tip: Check Out the Index

Need help finding an item in the Central Stores 2009 Catalog? Please be sure to check out the Index, the blue pages at the end of the catalog. You will find nearly every Central stores item indexed, giving you the page number where your item is listed.

Still can't find what you're looking for? Give us a call at 486-3626. We'll be glad to help you find what you need.

Annemarie Ryan

2009 Newsletter Submission Dates				
Dates	Winter Edition	Spring Edition	Summer Edition	Fall Edition
Submission Deadline	January 9, 2009	March 20, 2009	June 26, 2009	September 25, 2009
Distribution Date	January 30, 2009	April 17, 2009	July 24, 2009	October 23, 2009

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