

## Visit On-Farm Climate Resilience Projects

Climate resilience, climate-smart, climate adaptation are terms applied to conservation practices that can reduce emissions, improve soil health and nutrient management, for example. But what does that look like on a farm? Join Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and partner planners American Farmland Trust, NH Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD), National Wild Turkey Federation) Farm Service Agency (FSA), UNH Extension and Ammonoosuc Conservation Land Trust to look at conservation practices, including climate resilient practices, on area farms. The farm visits will start at Green Bough Farm, 1863 Benton Road, North Haverhill at 9:00AM on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. After visiting Green Bough Farm, we will visit the Peters Farm at 303 Goose Lane, Bath. We plan to start at the Peters Farm at 10:30 and end at 11:45AM. Each farm visit will discuss different resource concerns addressed by conservation practices with natural resource professionals, and include information about technical and funding assistance available.

Justin Smith and family own Green Bough Farm, and Justin is the Farm Manager at the Farm at Woods Hill in Bath. Justin raises grass-based livestock (beef, laying hens, lambs and poultry) following an intensive rotational grazing plan and stockpiling forage. With NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant funding, Justin purchased automatic cattle pasture mover system (batt latches) to increase soil water holding capacity through mob grazing practices. With a second NH CD Climate Resilience Grant, Justin purchased a keyline plow, a no till soil plow that has been shown to help create healthy, drought tolerant pasture systems by lifting and aerating the soils with minimal disturbance of the topsoil. Justin has also worked closely with NRCS and implemented several conservation practices. NRCS will discuss conservation planning. UNH Extension offers assistance working one on one with NH-Based farmers to help identify ways in which farms can become more resilient to climate change and extreme weather events. The NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant funds projects on farms throughout the state that address climate adaptation and mitigation. Learn more about the program and apply by contacting your local County Conservation District. The grant program is made possible through grants from the You Have Our Trust Fund, The NH Charitable Foundation, and the generosity of community members.

Gary and Sandy Peters moved to their Bath dairy farm in 1976. Gary worked with Soil Conservation Service and NRCS to install several conservation practices, including cover cropping, waste storage, energy conservation and wildlife practices. After retiring from dairy production, Gary began raising beef cows, and continues to grow corn and hay. Through an Agreement with NHACD and NRCS, and with technical assistance from UNH Extension, Gary planted several rows of corn at a wider row spacing. and heavier seed density

Often there is no loss in yield with wide row planting .at higher density. After planting corn, Gary planted a cover crop mix including winter wheat and clover between the rows during the growing season. The remainder of the field corn was grown with regular row spacing. UNH Extension provided the clover seed, and monitored the corn field throughout the field season. The corn was harvested, and the regular width corn was cover cropped as usual. We will look at the cover crop growth differences in the two corn treatments, and discuss the benefits of cover crops, and planting the cover crop earlier in the growing season. NRCS conservation planners will discuss additional conservation practices at the Peters Farm.

Gary and Sandy Peters have farmed for over 45 years and felt strongly about land conservation. Working with Ammonoosuc Land Trust, Gary and Sandy conserved their farm. Gary stated, “Hopefully my lifetime of labor will never grow houses!” Rick Walling, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust Conservation Projects Manager and GCCD Chair, will discuss land conservation easement development. NRCS easement staff will discuss the Agriculture Land Easement (ALE) Program.

We ask that you register in advance by calling Grafton County Conservation District at (603) 787-6973, or emailing: [pamela.gilbert@nh.nacdnet.net](mailto:pamela.gilbert@nh.nacdnet.net). These farm visits are free open to the public. The event will be held rain or shine and there will be some moderate walking, please bring appropriate clothing and footwear.