

## Food and Agriculture

**39**

farm businesses received technical assistance, leading to greater profitability and environmental sustainability

## Youth and Families

4-H partnered with the Conservation District of Stoddard and Nature Groupie to lead guided winter hikes for kids during the pandemic

## Natural Resources

**\$379K**

in future value of improved acreage

Consulted with **134** landowners who manage **7,890** acres  
**1,243** additional acres managed by forest stewardship plans  
**\$147,000** generated in forest product and tax revenue

Held listening sessions with county residents as part of the Monadnock Children's Food Access Alliance efforts to analyze regional characteristics and better understand barriers to food access for limited resource families

During the Cheshire County Fair, the Cheshire County 4-H team initiated the "Mental Health Round-up" project, an activity designed to improve youth mental health and well-being through makers activities; the 4-H experience reached over 70 youth, many of whom learned of 4-H for the first time

## Community and Economic Development

Launched Keene Downtowns and Trails program through which municipal staff, business leaders and community residents are working together to connect trail users with downtown businesses

**162** volunteers

**6,323** hours

**\$180K\*\*** value of volunteer time

\*In 2021, for every \$1.00 that Cheshire contributed, UNH provided \$2.32 of statewide resources.

\*\*State Values of Volunteer Time (NH): \$28.54; [independentsector.org/](http://independentsector.org/)



# Statewide Highlights 2021

MAKING LIFE **BETTER** IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Extension

## Economic Expertise

- Dairy specialists worked with ten farms to identify and initiate changes to improve milking parlor efficiencies, increasing production and quality while supporting animal comfort
- Extension's crop weather monitoring stations and plant disease forecasting tools were utilized by 76 apple growers to make informed decisions and avoid unnecessary pesticide applications
- Extension forestry specialists trained 201 forest industry professionals

## Community Development

- Community and economic development specialists helped expand a makerspace and business incubator in Concord and helped generate facade improvements to five downtown buildings in Pittsfield
- Efforts to increase tourism and nature economy have included a regional branding and marketing campaign to promote the Sugar River Region in Sullivan, a plan to expand biking trails in Northfield and neighboring towns, and installation of signage to guide trail users to downtown businesses and services in Bristol

Extension specialists worked with **2,483** NH businesses

## Lifelong Learning

- Food safety specialists provided certification opportunities to food service workers from schools, hospitals, food pantries and other public establishments
- Natural resources specialists brought together 85 communities for a land conservation conference called Saving Special Places
- The 4-H Virtual Club reached 220 youth and summer programming reached over 400 children

## COVID-19 Response

- With N.H. Department of Agriculture, secured \$500,000 USDA-NIFA State Department of Agriculture Farmer, Rancher Stress Assistance Network grant to raise awareness, provide education and offset costs related to farmers' mental health
- With \$225,000 in funding from the Extension Foundation, provided research-based information to North Country and Strafford County communities to support informed vaccination choices
- Provided hands-on training to teach community members how to build a greenhouse at Winnisquam Middle School; this led to a gardening curriculum for students during hybrid learning
- With \$680,000 from a USDA grant, provided agriscience-based remote learning experiences to 800 rural elementary school children