



Cheshire County Conservation District



Annual Report 2013

Promoting the conservation and responsible use of our natural resources for the people of Cheshire County by providing technical, financial, and educational resources.

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www.cheshireconservation.org

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CCCD Staff

Sharlene Beaudry, Administrative & Monadnock Menus Coordinator
Amanda Littleton, District Manager

NRCS Staff, Walpole Field Office

The District works in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff who supply technical conservation assistance.

Mary Ellen Cannon - Soil Conservationist
Heidi Konesko - Soil Conservationist
Steven Pytlik - District Conservationist
Wendy Ward - Soil Conservationist

The CCCD Board of Supervisors meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 9am at the CCCD Office. These meetings are open to the public, please call the District office if you would like to attend a meeting.

2013 Cooperator of the Year

Windyhurst Farm of Westmoreland 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 Windyhurst Farm Partnership LLC is the 2013 Cooperator of the Year.



Windyhurst members consist of Roger & Ellie Adams and their son Stuart. Stuart’s wife Robyn is actively involved in managing the restaurant, Stuart & John’s which also houses the sugaring operation owned by Stuart and a longtime friend John Matthews. Windyhurst is a working dairy farm with 180 milk cows and as many young stock for a total of around 360 Registered Holsteins. Their land base which started with 18 acres in 1951 has grown to 225 tillable acres near the main dairy, 70 located in Swanzey and an additional 120 rented acres within the county. The home dairy is just east of the Connecticut River and is some of the richest agricultural land in the country. Although living along the river affords you quality soil it also comes with a great cost as seen in the recent years of excessive flooding. In 1988 Windyhurst Farm and its surrounding acres was put into a Conser-



Cooperator of the Year continued

vation Easement, protecting the land from ever being developed.

The intensity of managing a high producing milking herd is a constant challenge. Some of the areas being addressed with help from our partner, NRCS include: Forage & Biomass Planting, Fencing, Watering Facility, Prescribed Grazing and Nutrient Management Planning. Windyhurst has worked with NRCS to develop a grazing plan for their dry cows which they plan to further develop next season. The farm is developing a Nutrient

well-known Stuart & John's Restaurant has become an icon for local pancakes and waffles featuring their own maple syrup. The restaurant built in 1975 by Ellie and Roger, has grown to include lunch & dinner. Cruise night has become a popular weekly celebration of good food and old cars. It is a choice location for workshops and trainings put on by the Cooperative Extension, the Cheshire County Conservation District and other agricultural organizations. The Adams' have been gracious in allowing their space to be used for crop trainings, soils workshops, implement training and field meetings.



Management Plan with funding help from NRCS to better understand their fields, crops and manage their manure with the hopes of a two-fold betterment- increased crop yields and decreased nutrient losses.

Roger and Ellie raised two daughters and their son Stuart on Windyhurst and have been active members of their community participating on boards of organizations like Farm Bureau and the Cheshire Fair. As the tidy, manicured grounds surrounding Windyhurst tell you the Adams care about their land and their community. The

Stuart's adult son Chad works in the restaurant and his adult daughter, Alicia, although married and living in Henniker has a special kinship to Windyhurst where she grew up. Stuart and Robyn's children Breezey, Chesey, Nathan and Garret often help out on the farm or in the restaurant. The boys are often seen on four wheelers helping put up fencing.

Windyhurst's land base is 180 acres of corn silage with the remainder in alfalfa and mixed grasses. As with any high producing milk herd the energy demands of the milk cow warrant a lot of corn. It is a constant balance between what the land can produce and what the cow demands for its milk production. When Ellie and Roger began farming grain prices were \$67/ ton now it is \$500/ton, increasing the need to manage the cropland to reach its fullest potential without depleting the soil. Stuart

Cooperator of the Year continued

has been working to understand the full spectrum of his soils by participating in a special Cornell Soil Health Testing trial where a Soil Health Management Plan has been developed and is starting to be implemented. As a result more land at Windyhurst is being cover cropped to decrease soil erosion and increase organic matter, with the help of NRCS funding, and there is a focus on decreasing soil compaction. The farms' forward thinking and partnership in this grant funded project will help lead the way for other farms in NH to get assistance on soil health management planning.

We are thankful for the beautiful vista Windyhurst provides when travelling north on Rt. 12 and the hard work and dedication this partnership, their family and employees have given to it. Celebrate Windyhurst Farm's award as 2013 Cooperator of the Year and pay tribute to not only good land stewardship but community involvement and local agriculture.

" One of the great things about Windyhurst Farm is that they take land stewardship seriously, because they understand that keeping their land healthy is one of the best ways to keep it productive. And in the years I've worked with them, they've shown a willingness to try new things - everything from using cover crops to using computer models to monitor fertilizer needs - that enable them to maintain high crop yields without compromising soil conservation or water quality. On top of all that, they're always willing to collaborate on field research or host events, so they help me carry out my work too."

**- Carl Majewski,
UNH Cooperative Extension**



Teacher of the Year

Marshall Davenson of Keene High School

This year the Conservation District is very happy to honor Marshall Davenson as the 2013 Teacher of the Year. Marshall's teaching philosophy is to take the big units he teaches his high school students, like water pollution and ecology, and try and get a local focus to each of them to bring them to life and give the subject matter more meaning. He currently teaches a spectrum of topics at different levels including Integrated Science, a freshman level class that focuses on earth and space science, as well as AP Environmental Science, a survey class that focuses on ecology, soils, energy, air and water pollution, to top level students at Keene High School.

Davenson encourages place based learning with a diversity of partnerships with consulting ecologists, municipalities, non-profits, and institutes of higher education. Each topic of study seems to have a community partner to enhance and deepen the learning experience for his students. Marshall takes pride in the partnerships he has cultivated and respects the professionals that volunteer their time to work with his classes. Often he will have guest speakers, from organizations like UNH Cooperative Extension, and believes the students learn a lot from getting professionals to come into the classroom and share their work and their passion.

Before starting as a science teacher at

Keene High School in 2000 Marshall Davenson had a diverse background in science and education that prepared him for the position. Originally from Connecticut, he received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Keene State College and went on to earn a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies and



Teacher Certification from Antioch University New England. He taught at a high school in Bellows Falls Vermont for one year and also taught geology as an Adjunct Professor at Keene State College for eight semesters. Before that, he worked for the State of New Hampshire a ranger at Mo-nadnock State Park.

Water is a big piece of the curriculum for his students and Davenson ensures they have a lot of ways to connect to this vital resource. For the past several years every September Jeff Littleton, of Moosewood Ecological, takes students to Beaver Brook, a local stream to sample macro-invertebrates (large water bugs).

Teacher of the Year continued

“Davenson is a community asset, he introduces his students to real world science and exposes them to different careers in the field. It’s obvious he really cares about providing them opportunities to follow their passion,” shares Littleton. The goal is to develop a long term monitoring program for water quality in Beaver Brook and to demonstrate to students the applicability of what they are learning.

Another hands on experience he provides for his students is to work with Plymouth State University on monitoring water quality. Davenson wrote a proposal to host two conductivity, temperature and water level sensors. These sensors gather data every 3 minutes and every month the students go out and check the sensors. They are in the second year of a five year study of data collection. “this is a great jumping off point for asking questions about water quality,” says Davenson. The students gather data and can see how the City of Keene is impacting water quality in the region. Marshall also has his students clean up Keene’s surface waters each year by working with Eric Swope with the City of Keene to pull trash out of the river during the annual Source To Sea River Clean Up.

Davenson shares “What makes this job fun and rewarding is the community we live in. The resources are right there and it is great to tie into.” An additional resource Davenson has his students focus on is air quality. He has

developed a partnership with Keene State College professor Nora Traviss. Traviss comes into the class to discuss air pollution and the challenges the City of Keene has with particulate matter. Students then rallied around public education on air quality. The class created public service announcements on air pollution that will aired on the Keene Air Quality Task Force website.

One other way he offers his students to better understand air pollution, and the effect on our local environment, is through collaboration with the Forest Watch Program at UNH. They are looking at white pine needles and ozone damage throughout the year. Pine trees are tagged on campus, samples are taken, and needles are analyzed and reports



Teacher of the Year continued

are sent to UNH. “This teaches kids a lot about remote detection in environmental science,” this is the second year they are doing this program.

The study of plant ecology is no ordinary task for Davenson’s students. Currently they have a collaboration with Antioch New England University’s Monadnock Ecological Research and Education

(MERE) Program. Keene High School has a plot of a sub-alpine plant community Mount Monadnock. Each year students get field experience with ecology in a local application with inventory of plants on their plot. Davenson’s students partner with Peter Palmiotto and his graduate students to set up transects, inventory plant species, and track change over time. Davenson and Palmiotto have worked for six years to set up the project protocol and they hope the partnership continues many years into the future.

Beyond his stellar work with students during the traditional school day Marshall serves as the advisor for the Envirothon Club at KHS. Envirothon is an environmental education program and competition for high school students throughout North America. Learning is centered around four universal testing categories including soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife. The Keene team meets weekly after school year round.



Davenson started working with the Envirothon team as a co-advisor with Cliff Lerner six years ago. After two years as co-advisor he became their principal advisor and is now going into his fifth year in that capacity. All the hard work and training really pays off because a Keene team has won the state competition for the past 9 years and in 2012 he took his team to Montana for the North American competition where they placed an impressive fourth place. He has taken his team to nationals four times since he has been the advisor and this is the best they have placed in those years.

“Envirothon builds up an academic culture that some kids really want to be a part of” shares Davenson of the program he believes so strongly in. He has many guest speakers and a great deal of reading material for the students but his

personal goal for the future is to incorporate more fun with this learning club. He is always working hard to recruit new students to Envirothon, particularly freshman and sophomores.

Marshall Davenson is a brilliant teacher and a great guy. It is an honor of the Cheshire County Conservation District to award him as the 2013 Cheshire County and New Hampshire Association of Conservation District’s Teacher of the Year.

2013 Highlights

The CCCD reached out to over 1,800 individuals in 2013 with programs regarding resource conservation & farm viability. Some of these programs are highlighted below. If you are interested in learning more or have suggestions for future programming 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 administration of the technical and financial assistance that enables good stewardship 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— **Soil Health Management, Skidder Bridge Installation, No Till Seeding, and Cover Crop Roller Crimper Demonstration.** Educators from Cheshire County UNH Cooperative Extension are key partners in these workshops.

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 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.



All programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or political beliefs.

2013 Highlights Continued

Cheshire County No Till Farming Initiative & Cover Crop Roller Crimper Initiative



In 2013 the conservation district is proud to have completed our second full year of rentals of the No Till Seeder, with over 600 acres seeded to landowners and managers interested in reducing soil erosion and improving soil health. We also obtained a trailer to transport a cover crop roller crimper. This was made possible through funding from the NH State Conservation Committee and their Conservation License Plate Grant program, commonly referred to as the “moose plate grant.”

<p>REDUCES LABOR, FUEL & EQUIPMENT COSTS!</p> <p>INCREASE PROFITS!</p>		<p>REDUCE SOIL EROSION!</p> <p>GREAT FOR COVER CROPS!</p>
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Soil Health - Equipment Rentals & Management Plans

The Conservation District continues to rent implements and offer demonstrations to farms interested in improving their soil health, they are a subsoiler, a penetrometer, and a roller crimper. We also worked with GreenStart, Cornell Soil Health Lab, NRCS, other NH Conservation Districts and the NH Dept. of Agriculture on developing Soil Health Management Plans for farms. This project will help build a replicable management planning template that will increase carbon retention, increase energy efficiency and improve crop productivity and resilience on farms. Partnering Farms included Windyhurst Farm, the French Farm, and Peep Willow Farm in Cheshire County. These farms have offered guidance on equipment rental expansion for 2014.



Cheshire County Skidder Bridge Initiative



In 2013 the conservation district continues to rent skidder bridges to land owners and managers that are interested in making stream crossings to preserve water quality during a timber harvest. This is made possible through funding from the NH State Conservation Committee. This service would not be possible without strong and committed partners

including UNH Cooperative Extension, Andorra Forest, the NH Timberland Owners Association and Granite Gorge Ski Area.

Fundraising

The CCCD Board of Supervisors conducted an annual appeal and offered 3 fundraisers during 2013 to provide additional funds for CCCD programs.

- Bulk Seed Sale
- Conservation Plant Sale
- Flowering Bulb Sale

We would like to offer many thanks to the community members who participated!



Organizational Membership

- **Antioch Community Garden Connections - Advisory Committee**
- **Conservation District Employees Association of New Hampshire**
- **Food Solutions New England - NH Food System Strategy Team**
- **Monadnock Conservancy - Stewardship Committee**
- **Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition**
- **Monadnock Sustainability Network**
- **National Association of Conservation Districts**
- **New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts**
- **Southwest Region Planning Commission - Natural Resources Advisory Committee**

2013 Highlights Continued

Source to Sea River Clean Up

On October 11th a large group of enthusiastic volunteers pitched in to help clean up the Ashuelot River in Keene and Swanzey and Beaver Brook and the Branch River in Keene as part of the Connecticut River Watershed Council's "Source to Sea Cleanup". 120 volunteers pulled over 3,300 lbs of trash from the three water bodies!

There were many Keene State college students, faculty, and staff as well as a contingent of students and staff from the Keene High School. They were joined by a number of other individuals from throughout the region. This event is made possible with the partnership of The City of Keene, The Ashuelot River Local Advisory Council, Moosewood Ecological, and Keene State College.



Boggy Meadow Farm Milkhouse Waste & Barnyard Runoff Project

The CCCD entered a partnership with Boggy Meadow Farm, a dairy farm adjacent to the Connecticut River in Walpole, NH to install a milk house waste and barnyard runoff solids separation system large enough to accommodate their needs while preventing milk house waste from entering the Connecticut River. The goal of this project is to protect water quality and demonstrate best management practices for agriculture.

This project is funded by the State Conservation Committee.





The Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition (MFCC) is a regional coalition whose mission is to support a sustainable local food system by cultivating community action and building collaboration to implement effective programs, projects and policies. The NH Charitable Foundation and the generosity of private donors has supported the transition of MFCC from a conservation district program to a regional coalition with 30 organizational members and an active Board of Directors and volunteers participating in policy and education working groups.



Quarterly Community Forums

Each quarter the coalition hosts a community forum to bring people together to tackle an objective of the region's food system strategic plan. This year we have focused on policy, community education and food security & hunger.

Farm Appreciation Night

A night of merriment and tribute to farmers to show our community's immense appreciation for their work.. Over 40 businesses contributed to the event.



The Cheshire County Conservation District was created in 1945. It is a political subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, [RSA 432:12](#), with a 170 C 1 non-profit status under the IRS tax code. As a subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, conservation districts are a partnership of federal, state and local agencies interested in the wise use of natural resources.

2013 Highlights Continued

Walpole Middle School

High Tunnel Demonstration

In 2013 the CCCD partnered with the Walpole Middle School and Frederick H. Hooper Institute to build a High Tunnel outside the Middle School cafeteria. Educators at the school will be incorporating the use of the high tunnel into the curriculum and produce harvested from the tunnel goes directly into the cafeteria for school lunch. Students and their families were involved with every step from site planning to the completion of construction. Funding was provided through the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts and USDA NRCS.



Pollinator Habitat Initiative

In 2013 the CCCD was selected to receive funding to create up to ten acres of pollinator habitat in Cheshire County during 2014-15. We will be partnering with farming and non-farming landowners on this initiative. There will also be educational opportunities for the community including a day long training on pollinator Conservation with the Xerces Society.



Funding will be provided through the NH Association of Conservation Districts by the NH Department of Agriculture Market and Food USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, as well as from the State Conservation Committee's Conservation License Plate Grant, and the Xerces Society.

Cheshire Grows - The Use of Marketing Promotion to grow sales for Cheshire County Farms

In 2013 the CCCD kicked off a two year project with a goal of increasing the dollar value of direct marketing sales for farms in Cheshire County NH. This will be done through launching a Buy Local Campaign: purchasing \$40,000 of print and radio advertisements, creating a farm guide and interactive online map, offering a series of 8 workshops of professional development to farmers to increase their marketing abilities, and offering educational workshops and cooking demonstration of seasonal food to low/moderate income families. The CCCD is working with the County of Cheshire NH, The Hannah Grimes Center, Antioch University New England, and Nebesek Marketing and Communications to achieve the goals of this project.



Wholesale Success Workshop



The CCCD worked with Family Farmed to offer a Wholesale Success day long training to farmers in NH. The Conservation District partnered with UNH Cooperative Extension and other conservation and agricultural entities to make this offering to NH farms. Resources were provided to strengthen the farms in our region looking to sell wholesale through Monadnock Menus or other channels.

NH Farm to School

The CCCD worked with the NH Farm to School Program to build on our Monadnock Menus pilot program in 2013. Thanks to Farm to Institution New England (FINE) and the [John Merck Fund](#), the NH Farm to School Program had some funding to create a NH Farm to School/Institution network. The funding supported work in three areas of the state: the North Country, Cheshire County and the Lakes Region.



2013 Highlights Continued

Double Up Veggie bucks



In 2013 we launched a partnership with the Farmers' Market of Keene to double supplemental nutrition assistance program or SNAP benefits (food stamps) for up to \$10 every market day. In 2014 we look to continue this program in Keene and expand it to the Walpole Farmers' Market as well. Thus far \$3,357 double up dollars has been distributed and 74 customers went to the Farmers' Market for the very first time to utilize this program.

Funding is made available through the NH Dept. of Agriculture Markets and Food through a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant and the Wholesome Wave Foundation.

Monadnock Menus - Farm to Institution Initiative

Monadnock Menus offers weekly aggregation and distribution of local farm fresh food to wholesale food buyers such as schools, institutions, and businesses. 2013 was a pilot year for this program and we now have 20 farms and food producers participating as well as 15 registered buyers. There is an easy to use web-based ordering platform that takes the barriers out of buying local for big buyers. In 2014 we will continue with a development year for Monadnock Menus - strengthening relationships with existing participants and bringing on new buyers. Funding is provided by the NH Dept of Agriculture Markets and Food through their Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and Private donors.



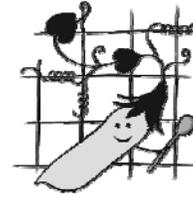
Cheshire County Complex—Maplewood Garden



In 2013 the County of Cheshire entered into a partnership with Antioch University New England's Community Garden Connections (CGC) program. The CGC brought the Maplewood Garden back into production and donated all of the food raised (over 1,000 lbs) to the Community Kitchen, Department of Corrections and other service organizations. This partnership will continue into 2014 along with educational opportunities at the site.

Monadnock Localvores

In 2013 this group offered 10 workshops on everything from Raising Chickens to Bee Keeping. The Localvores also offered scholarships to summer farm camp to 28 children through the Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Scholarship. This is a partnership with Hannah Grimes, the CCCD, and committed volunteers.



Educational Events

High Bio-nutrient Crop Production

NOFA NH and Dan Kittredge offered this training for farms with the CCCD.

Grant Writing for Farms

Cyndi Desrosiers, Grant Support Specialist for the County of Cheshire, offered a grant writing workshop for farms and food system organizations.



Planting and Pest Management Workshop and Backyard Mushroom Demonstration

With UNH Cooperative Extension and Wichland Woods the CCCD offered educational workshops at our annual plant sale pick up at Alyson's Orchard.

Annual Local Work Group Meeting

The CCCD hosts an annual opportunity for stakeholders in the field of farm and forestland conservation to come together and share feedback on NRCS Farm Bill programs with the NRCS local and state leadership.

The Cheshire County Conservation District welcomes your input on future educational programming and services that we can make available to landowners.



Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Fiscal Year 2013 Report for Cheshire County

Throughout the past year the Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) has continued to strengthen their partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on identifying and addressing natural resource concerns in local communities, and coordinating public and private resources to meet local needs on a grass-roots level. The District has worked with NRCS during 2013 to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and producers benefiting from 2008 Farm Bill Funding. Over the past year NRCS and the District implemented 101 financially assisted conservation projects totaling \$303,887 in Farm Bill funding for Cheshire County. The following is a summary of the natural resource benefits that resulted from the implementation of these conservation projects.

NRCS Key Performance Measures 2013

- **Conservation Plans Written** - 4,571 acres
- **Cropland with Conservation Applied to Improve Soil Quality** - 730 acres
- **Land with Conservation Applied to Improve Water Quality** - 2,307 acres in 2013 up from 1,827 acres in 2012
- **Grazing Land with Conservation Applied to Protect and Improve the Resource Base** - 251 acres in 2013 up from 169 acres in 2012
- **Non-Federal Land with Conservation Applied to Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat Quality** - 1,056 acres
- **Forest Land with Conservation Applied to Protect and Improve Vegetative Condition** - 1,811 acres

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a core partner of the Cheshire County Conservation District. The partnership between the NRCS and Conservation Districts is one that was carefully designed to foster a unique and productive relationship to get conservation on the ground and provide federal resources at a local level.

2013 Farm Bill Program Participation: The Cheshire District developed 38 New Environmental Quality Incentives Program conservation plan agreements totaling \$581,636 in obligations.

The CCCD obligated more funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program than all the other New Hampshire Districts this year despite sequestration and less financial assistance under the Farm Bill for FY 2013. This is a result of our tremendous outreach efforts which have really been effective in connecting with producers in our County.

Cheshire County Conservation District Farm Bill Participation FY 2010 to 2013 Comparison

Fiscal Year	Conservation Funding Source	# of Contracts	Obligation \$
2010	Farm Bill Program Contracts	24	\$239,856.50
2011	Farm Bill Program Contracts	40	\$472,657.40
2012	Farm Bill Program Contracts	48	\$512,115.16
2013	Farm Bill Program Contracts	38	\$581,636

NRCS 2013 Report continued

Of the 101 conservation projects installed in Cheshire County over the past year the top ten financially assisted practices were:



1. **Access Road** – 4,970 feet of road, \$44,311
(3,501 feet repaired existing roads with water quality resource concerns)
2. **Seasonal High Tunnels** – 7 high tunnels, \$39,538
3. **Cover Crops** – 411 acres planted, \$25,922
4. **Forest Trails and Landings** – 4.8 acres, \$25,122
5. **Forest Stand Improvement** – 82 acres, \$23,064
6. **Grade Stabilization Structure** – 160 linear feet, \$21,341
7. **Forage and Biomass Planting** (pasture and hayland) – 35 acres, \$14,888
8. **Forest Management Plans** – 10 plans encompassing 1,182 acres, \$14,592
9. **Wetland Restoration** – 1.3 acres of wetlands restored, \$8,851
10. **Brush Management** (invasive plant control) - 18 acres treated, \$7,860

Permanent conservation efforts included the development of an easement under the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program on 60 acres in Winchester and Hinsdale at the Wingate Farm owned and operated by the Pettengills. NRCS will be contributing to the purchase price of \$80,000 at the time of closing.

The Cheshire County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service have broadened our focus of natural resource concerns this year participating in multiple Aquatic Organism Passage restoration projects in addition to continuing our efforts on Soil Quality and Local Food Systems. The District is the lead on a trout habitat restoration project in the Ashuelot Watershed, in which a critical passage barrier will be removed. The District was also awarded a \$22,500 Moose Plate Grant which will be used with other partner funding sources to remove Boyce Pond Dam and restore the surrounding wetlands and provide aquatic organism passage to the watershed.

This year the District continues to acquire field equipment that facilitates our focus on improving Soil Quality for our local producers. The No-Till seeding drill, Roller Crimper, and Sub Soiler have been a huge success with the District's rental program allowing producers to improve their soil quality through adopting soil conservation practices. Just a few examples include increased cover cropping acreage, pasture and hayland seeding, conservation crop rotations, and reduced tillage/residue management. The District and NRCS continue to promote soil health by conducting Cornell Soil Health Assessments for producers. This method looks at the Physical, Biological, and Chemical properties of the soil to provide recommendations that manage the soil more holistically. Together we conducted over a dozen soil health assessments on local farms throughout the year. This soil quality focus has complemented our local food effort by allowing producers to be more productive while conserving our District's Natural Resources.

Together we are "Helping People Help the Land".

**Sincerely,
Steven D. Pytlik
District Conservationist**



Financials - 2013 Treasurer's Report

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the continued support of the District's conservation programs by the Cheshire County Commissioners and the Cheshire County Delegation.

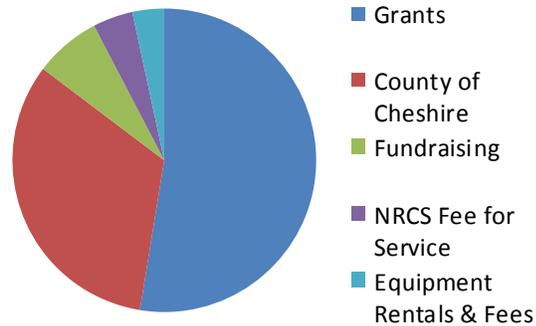
Also appreciated are the technical services offered by our "Partners in Conservation" the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UNH Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency and other cooperating agencies.



January –November 2013 Receipts - The revenues include prepayment of some grant awards for project work to be done in 2014.

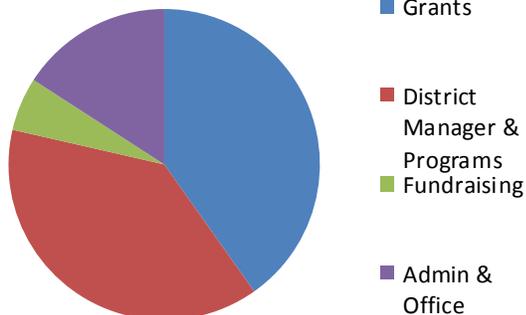
Income

Grants	81,869	53%
County of Cheshire	50,989	33%
Fundraising	10,970	7%
NRCS Fee for Service	6,647	4%
Equipment Rentals & Fees	5,282	3%
Total	155,808	100%



Expenses

Grants	55,508	40%
District Manager & Programs	53,040	38%
Fundraising	7,674	6%
Admin & Office	21,893	16%
Total	138,115	100%



Contributed Support

A very special thank you is offered to the many people that contribute to the success of the CCCD through their volunteer hours and energy! Without you none of this would be possible! Special thanks to the following individuals, organizations and businesses who have made donations or grants during 2013:

1780 Farm	Chris & Cindy Feiker	New Hampshire Farm to School
Achille Agway	Anne Francisco	New Hampshire State Conservation Committee
David & Sally Adams	Free Range Chic Catering	Old Ciderpress Farm
Albert's Organics	Full Measure Farm	Scott & Deirdre Oliver
Louise Anderson	Galloway Real Estate	Orchard Hill Breadworks
Alyson's Orchard	Ira Gavrin	Peep Willow Farm
Andorra Forest	Great Brook Farm	Picadilly Farm
Badger Balm	Green Energy Options	Prime Roast
Alice Bernet	Pat Haley	Jeanne Sable
Black Mountain Beefalo Farm	Helen Holmes	Bill Slanetz
Amy B. Bodwell & Carol D. Saunders	Horse & Buggy Feeds	Stuart and John's Sugarhouse
Boggy Meadow Farm	Tom Hancock	Roger & Ann Sweet
The Bread Shed	John E. Hoffman, Jr.	Eric & Roshan Swope
Jim Bride	David Howell	Tracie's Community Farm
C&S Wholesale Grocers	Geoffrey Jones	Toadstool Bookstore
Camp Glenbrook	Keene Industrial Paper Co.	Unbridled Chocolates
Eloise Clark & John Treat	Catherine Koning	United Natural Foods Inc.
Cheshire Garden	Life Is Sweet	USDA Agricultural Marketing Services
Cheshire County Farm Bureau	Keene Lions Club	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Cheshire Horse	Kulick's Market	USDA Rural Development
Connecticut River Ag Services	Mad Brook Farm LLC	USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
William Coughlin	Markem-Imaje	Westmoreland Lions Club
County of Cheshire	Pierre Martinet	Whole Foods Market
Deep Roots Massage	Mayfair Farm	Wichland Woods
Echo Farm Pudding	Betsi & Kevin McGuigan	Whole Foods Market
Edgefield Farm	Monadnock Berries	Yankee Farm Credit
Elegant Settings	The Mountain Corporation	
Family Farmed	Neighbor Made	
Farm Credit East	New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	
	New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Markets and Food	

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