

North Country

RC&D



North Country Resource Conservation & Development

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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INSIDE:

Renewable Energy
Page 2

Colebrook Farmers
Unite
Page 2

Financial Report
Page 3

Project Activity
Pie Chart
Page 3

Farm Business Plans
Page 3

Rural Fire Initiative
Page 3

Thank You
Back Page

North Country Scores a Hat Trick in

New England Association of RC&D Areas Awards Program



Last October, the North Country RC&D Council was honored with 3 awards at the 2008 Fall Conference of the New England Association of RC&D Areas. Awards were received by: Russ Dowd as the 2008 Outstanding RC&D Council Member. Russ is the current North Country RC&D chairman. Rick DeMark was presented with the 2008 McCarthy Award for Outstanding RC&D Coordinator, and North Country RC&D was recognized as the 2008 Outstanding RC&D Council in New England for the second year in a row!

Message from the Chair:

I have been honored to serve this Council as its Chair over the past year. As a result of my association with RC&D, I am struck by the commitment, dedication and visceral connection with the working landscape and understanding of the issues associated with our communities that our members and staff display. When asked if I would consider continuing to serving as your Chair, I regarded it a privilege. The past year, as with all past years, had challenges requiring hard work and attending lots of meetings, but produced much success and satisfaction. The most gratifying and important thing for me was getting to meet, know and work with some outstanding people. 2008 was a crucial year for North Country Resource Conservation and Development. As we all know, the funding and budget process at the national level for FY 2009, had most RC&D Councils across the country scrambling and at the same time uniting to drive home the message that RC&D Councils play an important role in leveraging resources and talent in the communities they serve. This effort proved to be prudent and successful as Mem-

bers of Congress strongly supported RC&D and opposed the reduction in funding.

We enjoyed a great deal of notoriety this year having received a number of awards. This past October, at the New England Regional RC&D annual meeting held in Mystic, Connecticut, our council was awarded Outstanding RC&D council in New England, as well as Outstanding Performance of a Council Member and Outstanding Coordinator (see above) We are grateful for this recognition as it is further testimony to the dedication, commitment and work our members display and contribute. We continued to facilitate and coordinate a number of existing projects; such as the NH Agricultural Innovation Program, the Town of Groveton District Heating Study, The Coos County Energy Technical Review Committee, and the Community Scale Biomass Heating Project, which provided funding and resources for feasibility studies to a number of public schools and County complexes. Examples of completed studies are available on our website. We collaborated with our colleagues from Southern NH RC&D on a number of

projects and in particular the Rural Fire Protection Program. Our councils are quite proud of this program and the staff that makes this program work represent some of NH's outstanding technical assets. NC RC&D invested a significant amount of time helping and serving our friends in Coos County this year as most of us are aware that Coos County has been particularly affected by a number of mill closures and overall contraction of the economy.

I would suggest that one of our challenges for the coming year is to attract dedicated volunteers and expand our ranks. The continued success and leadership of RC&D at the county, state and national level is directly related to the wisdom, vigor and depth of our volunteers. It's hard to deny the truth of this old adage that "Many Hands Make Light Work".