Council Newsflash

Fall 2020

Contact: NLCExtensionCouncil@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The New London County Agricultural Extension Council works with University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension to provide support, resources, and developmental input to Extension programs. The Council is composed of community members, industry leaders, UConn Extension staff, and student leaders that share a common goal of serving their community.

Upcoming Meetings:

Dec. 7th, 2020 at 5 PM via Zoom

March 1st, 2021 at 5 PM via Zoom

If you would like to join a meeting, email mary.welch@uconn.edu for Zoom login information.

Welcome New Members!

The Council would like to welcome Harlan Hyde, Alivia Okeydiadi, Rachael Trowbridge, and Genevieve Rondeau as newly elected members of our Board of Directors.

In the News:

Congratulations to the New London County 4-H Camp in Franklin, Connecticut for being selected as the Best of the Best Summer Camp in The Day’s Best of 2020 Contest! Keep up the great work.
Council Partnership Highlight:

This past year, the New London Agricultural Extension Council partnered with the Joyce Ann Hyde Food for Families Fund (JAHFFFF) to offer support for this new fund as a fiduciary. Recently elected Council member Harlan Hyde serves as the Chairperson of this project, though the Fund is a Hyde Family affair. The Fund is a great fit for NLCAEC as it brings together many aspects of our Council; the JAHFFFF supports local agriculture and is based in community service and impact, New London County 4-Hers volunteer with the Fund, and the food is stored at the New London County 4-H Camp.

The Joyce Ann Hyde Food for Families Fund was started this year by the Hyde family in honor of Joyce Ann Hyde. The objective of the Fund is to support local farmers facing surpluses in agricultural food products as well as families in need of food in New London County. The idea first came to the Hyde Family earlier this year. “Bonnie Burr called me about [excess] milk, sour cream, and yogurt. At the same time, I was hearing these stories about milk being dumped. Nothing in the supply chain was making sense, and the farmers were paying for it. I got reinvigorated and inspired that I could make a positive impact for people that needed it,” says Harlan Hyde.

Money raised through the fund purchases food surpluses at market value and donates that food to a series of food pantries in Southeastern Connecticut. The work of the Fund has enabled the food pantries to “increase the capacity of people that they are able to feed and the amount of food they are able to give out,” Hyde explains. The Fund hopes to create a greater demand for milk and other products to further help farmers and families in need of food.

The JAHFFFF also works closely with New London County 4-H to encourage youth to develop a passion for service and to provide an opportunity to give back to their community. “Helping kids was important to my mom,” Hyde mentioned. The Hyde Family wanted to “create an opportunity for 4-H kids to put volunteerism and citizenship in record books year after year and teach them how to volunteer because it is important to give back,” Hyde adds.

The Fund relies exclusively on volunteers to distribute the food throughout the county and has been making food deliveries throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The JAHFFFF is continuing to reach out to more farmers to find other products to purchase and donate. They are looking for farmers that are would like to donate products but need the logistics and details of how to do so. The Council continue to support the JAHFFFF by “finding such opportunities, keeping the fund within the Council, and by continuing to give these opportunities to 4-H kids,” says Hyde. He added that the JAHFFFF was “blessed to have the Council take them on.”

Thank you, Hyde Family and volunteers, for making such a positive impact in our community.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Joyce Ann Hyde Food for Families Fund, please contact Harlan Hyde at harlanhyde20@gmail.com. If you are interested in donating, please send a check or money order to the New London County Extension Center, 562 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360 and be sure to include ‘JAHFFFF’ in the memo.
Tables in Use:

The tables purchased by the Council last year are being put to use in the Extension Center! They fulfill the need for lighter, more manageable tables.

Although the public is not currently permitted to enter the building due to UConn COVID-19 policies, the tables are being used by New London County Extension staff for program preparation and other Center happenings.

This past August, the tables were used to organize, package, and distribute t-shirts and Memory Books for the New London County 4-H Virtual Exhibition.

We look forward to using the tables more in the coming years. They are much appreciated by all that visit and work in our Extension Center.

New London County Agricultural Extension Council, Inc.
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