ST. JOHN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

...Working for you to help sustain Maine's abundant natural resources since 1942

2015 FALL NEWSLETTER

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USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
SETH JONES, District Conservationist
GREG CIRONI, Soil Conservationist

Meetings of the SJVSWCD are Generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in Madawaska. The public is welcome to attend. Please contact the District if special Accommodations are needed.

Contact the District
If you have any questions about how the SJVSWCD can help you with conservation concerns, please contact the District office in Fort Kent. Phone: (207) 834-3311, x-3
E-Mail: sjvswcd@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP – SPRING 2016
FOREST OPERATIONS EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP
FISH PASSAGE WORKSHOP

REQUEST FOR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP OF CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP 2016

The District is currently seeking local business sponsorship to help implement Conservation Summer Camp 2016 for the youth of the Saint John Valley. Conservation Summer Camp helps promote conservation, through teaching programs that take place in multiple locations throughout the Saint John Valley. If your business would like to sponsor this valuable program, please contact the District today!

WHAT IS THE ST. JOHN VALLEY SWCD?

The St. John Valley SWCD is one of thousands of SWCD's around the country, each governed by a volunteer Board of Supervisors. Our purpose is to use and coordinate all available technical, financial, and educational resources to address the needs of local land owners and users for the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources. In addition, we work with and assist governmental agencies and non-profit organizations.

Our Mission: *"To provide local landowners, land users, and other individuals and organizations with the information, education, and technical assistance they need to help protect and enhance Maine's natural resources and to use them wisely. The St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District seeks to foster and encourage the development of an enduring land stewardship ethic among residents of the St. John River Valley."*

We strive to accomplish this by hosting conservation field days, workshops and related demonstrations throughout the Valley. In addition, we provide a link to the invaluable technical services provided not only by the Districts themselves, but also by such federal agencies as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Maine DACF (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry).

As part of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), we also enjoy working with the next generation by hosting the Envirothon, and making classroom presentations to students of all ages in an effort to engage them in the wise use of the nation's natural resources. We can do even more with your help! As a volunteer, a supporting member, or a sponsor of a soil and water conservation project, every step you take toward conservation is one step forward to a more sustainable future!

The St. John Valley SWCD is working for you and your community! Let us know how we can better serve you.

PROVIDING LOCAL ASSISTANCE

- Field days, workshops, demonstrations
- Educational Programming for adults and children on natural resources
- Grant development
- Watershed surveys
- Resource assessments
- Information Sharing
- Link to other governmental agencies and programs
- Topographic maps, aerial photographs, marking flags, tree and shrub sale
- Rental items including: skidder bridge, grass seeder, no-till seeder, tree marking gun (with paint) and other forest measurement tools.

News from NRCS

I wrote to you all in the last newsletter that I would be leaving Fort Kent as the District Conservationist. That move is going to be a transitional one starting in December. I will be the District Conservationist in Presque Isle, and will be the acting District Conservationist in Fort Kent at the same time. It will be a challenging time, but it also comes with some good news.

The Fort Kent field office has a new full time NRCS Soil Conservationist, Greg Cironi. Greg is coming back to Maine from NRCS in Pendleton, Oregon. He worked with the Soil Conservation Service back before our name change, and has been with NRCS for five years. We're excited to have an experienced employee with an extremely positive personality and a motivated attitude with us. Next time you're in Fort Kent, stop in the office and welcome Greg to the area.

On December 15, 2015, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. NRCS and the SJVSWCD will be holding our local working group meeting in the NRCS conference room at 139 Market Street in Fort Kent and we welcome you to attend. This meeting is a chance for the members of the Local Working Group and local landowners and parties with interest in our natural resources to give input on setting up the 2017 priorities for NRCS programs by giving recommendations on what you see as the natural resource priorities in the Saint John Valley. I use those recommendations to set allocation priorities for future funding from NRCS.

The next few months will hold its challenges, but as always we are here to assist landowners committed to improving the natural resources you manage. If you've got areas where you would like to find out if there is assistance to help you accomplish it, or if you would just like some technical assistance to get some ideas, stop in or call to set up a time for us to visit.

Thank you for your support as we work through the changes that keep taking place. We're still here to assist you so please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Seth Jones.

LOCAL RESOURCE ISSUES & CONCERNS

Residents of the Saint John Valley with any resource issues or concerns may contact the district to be placed on our contact list. Once on this list, the District will contact, and alert you to public meetings that pertain to resource issue assessments. The District will use these concerns in support of our Long Range Plan.

District Phone Number 207-834-3311 x-3

District Email: sjvswcd@gmail.com

SPRUCE BUDWORM AND CHRISTMAS TREES

The prime concern of the Christmas tree plantation owner, wreath maker, and homeowner is attractive foliage; therefore to these people budworm feeding damage in any degree is less acceptable than in the case of forest trees.

To determine numbers of larvae on ornamental spruce and fir the homeowner should watch the trees carefully for the tiny caterpillars during the time the buds are swelling in May. A white card, piece of paper, or sheet can be placed beneath a branch and beat the branch lightly so that any caterpillars will fall onto the light surface where they are readily visible. If an infestation is indicated, apply insecticide after the buds have begun to open, and the needles are flaring (late May to early June).

Source: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Attention Conservationists

If you are interested in conserving the natural resources in your community, we invite you to participate in District activities. Whether as an observer, volunteer, or Associate Supervisor, we'd love to have you join us!

Please contact the District today at 834-3311, ext. 3 or send an email to:

sjvswcd@gmail.com

Available at the District Office

Aerial Photographs 1947-1996, 7.5" Topographical Maps, Conservation Mix Grass Seed, Fluorescent Marking Flags, No-Till Seeder Rental, Paint Gun Rental (for marking trees), Skidder Bridge Panel Rental, Also available: Water Test Kits and Soil Test Boxes.

For Rent

- No-Till Seeder (0-10 acres = $13.00/acre, 10+ acres = $10.00/acre)
- Portable Skidder Bridge ($100.00/month)
- Paint Gun Rental for Marking Trees

USDA LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETING TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Local Working Group, serving the St. John Valley area will meet on December 15, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. till noon. The meeting will be held at the USDA Service Center at 139 Market Street, Suite 106 in Fort Kent.

The Local Working Group is being convened by the St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. The Local Working Group will assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist in determining the resource priorities on how best to manage the and meet the local resource needs.

The meeting is open to the public. If you have any questions or require special needs please call (207) 834-3311 Extention-3.

Update.....White-Nose Syndrome (WNS)

North American bat death toll exceeds 5.5 million from WNS

On the verge of another season of winter hibernating bat surveys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists and partners estimate that at least 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats have now died from white-nose syndrome (WNS).

Biologists expect the disease to continue to spread. WNS is decimating bat populations across eastern North America, with mortality rates reaching up to 100 percent at many sites. First documented in New York in 2006, the disease has spread quickly into 16 states and four Canadian provinces.

In response, the Service has been leading an extensive network of partners in implementing the national WNS plan. The plan provides a framework of coordination and management to develop science-based protocols and guidance, as well as fund numerous research projects and improve our basic understanding of the dynamics of the disease.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

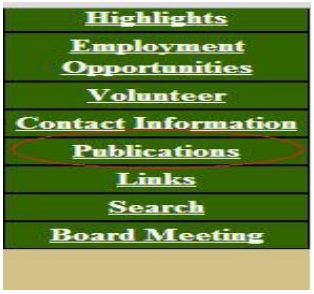
HATS OFF TO THE MAINE D.O.T.

The Maine D.O.T. completed many great projects this summer that benefit conservation along some of the Saint John Valley's major transportation routes. The pictures below show one culvert project in Frenchville on U.S. Route 1 that improved the flow of water with a new and improved culvert. The Maine D.O.T. has also done a bang-up job fixing eroded shoulders, and reseeding them to cut down on soil erosion.

Lost an issue of our newsletter…..

Just head over to our website at www.sjv.me.nacdnet.org and click on our "Publications" Tab to retrieve a current or past issue.

Enjoy!!



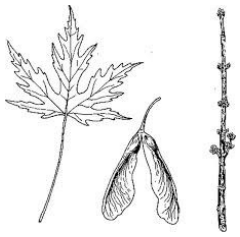
Prepare Your Garden For Winter

While it seems all activity has stopped, there is a lot going on in the soil until it freezes. Earthworms and microbes are still processing organic material. The organic mulch you spread to protect the soil during the summer months, is most likely partially decomposed. A new thicker winter layer can be spread to protect plants, and soil. Once the soil is frozen the mulch helps keep it frozen. If you have shade trees convert the fallen leaves into mulch, and use it throughout your property. Leaves are a valuable natural resource, and make a great soil conditioner. When mixed in with poor soil it improves the soils texture creating air spaces that allow roots to easily penetrate. Leaves also allow the soil to retain moisture which allows the roots of plants to have a longer supply.

Stems of perennials can be cut to soil level after frost, to neaten the garden and remove any pest eggs, and disease spores that may linger. Clearing out of annuals can also prevent the harboring of disease, and insect eggs.

At least two months before you expect the first frost, stop fertilizing, and refrain from any major pruning since that will stimulate new tender growth which will only be killed off by the first frost.

THE SILVER MAPLE TREE AND CONSERVATION



The Silver Maple Tree gets its name from its silver sparkle from under its leaves when they blow in the wind. The Silver Maple is a medium sized tree growing up to 80 feet tall, and has a stout trunk that can be over three feet wide, and has a grayish bark. The leaves can be up to six inches long, and have five jagged looking lobes. The Silver Maple likes to grow in moist places, and is a great shade tree. It is native to the eastern and mid-western United States from north to south. The Silver Maple can live up to 130 – 150 years old, and is great to grow in difficult areas, due to its tolerance of differing soils.

The Silver Maple flowers very early in the spring, even before the leaves open, and the flowers start out as red buds, but then turn to a greenish-yellow color. The sap from this tree can be used to make light syrup, but is not as sweet as sugar maple syrup.

The Silver Maple is great for conservation since it makes for a great river bank stabilizer due to its fast growth, and is great for areas that experience seasonal flooding. The tree draws water from the lower soil layers and emits the water to the drier upper layers. It is also the home of many bird, and mammal species, and the seeds are also a food source for its inhabitants. Certain species of deer also feed on the leaves, and stems of the tree, and even beavers eat the bark. If you own land by a river, or stream bank, you may want to consider planting Silver Maple trees to firm up the river banks of the water way, and aid in conservation.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION IN THE SAINT JOHN VALLEY

The District would like to recognize the "Upper Saint John River Organization" for its contribution to conservation in the Valley! The USJRO is responsible for promoting, and planting many Silver Maple Trees along the Saint John River. Steven Young, Wildlife Biologist and President of the USJRO, employs local professionals, and university students in many tree planting projects. The USJRO is focused on encouraging landowners along the Saint John River to take part in planting Silver Maple Trees to stabilize the river banks, and create shade conditions where needed. For more information on how to participate in any of the conservation, and restoration projects of the USJRO, or to provide a conservation easement, please contact Steve at mail@habitatplanning.com, or contact our district office.

2015-2016 TREE AND SHRUB SALE ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SJVSWCD. ALL ORDERS ARE DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY. MAIL ORDER FORM TO

ST. JOHN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
139 MARKET STREET, SUITE 106
FORT KENT, ME 04743

YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN EARLY MAY 2016 WHEN ORDERS ARRIVE

	PLANT NAME	QUANTITY	PRICE PER PLANT	TOTAL PRICE
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
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18				

(S&H FREE FOR MEMBERS)

SUBTOTAL: _____
10% S&H: _____
5.5% TAX: _____
TOTAL SALES _____

ORDER DEADLINE: December 11, 2015

QUESTIONS?
CALL: 207-834-3311 EXT 3
E-MAIL: SJVSWCD@GMAIL.COM

LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS FOR SALE

Following is a list of trees and shrubs being offered for sale by the St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. Please complete the order form and mail to the address listed on the form by **December 11, 2015.**

FRUITS – BARE ROOT

APPLE TREES - $19.00

1. **Honey Crisp:** A sweet, crisp, juicy apple with a mottled red over yellow back ground. This excellent apple is a cross of Macoun and Honey-gold, released and patented by the University of Minnesota. The large apple is considered better than McIntoch and Red Delicious. Hardy to Zone 3 to 4.

2. **Golden Delicious:** Golden Delicious apple is one of the most widely planted varieties in the world, which speaks for its high quality. It is a large all purpose apple that has beautiful golden skin with crisp, delicious flesh. Golden Delicious is a good pollinator for most other apple varieties and it ripens from September to October. Grows in zones: 4–8

3. **Granny Smith:** The Granny Smith apple is considered the best pie apple in the world. The skin is an attractive bright green color, which is retained long after harvest. This is a firm, sweet/tart apple that is good for eating, cooking, and sauce. Granny Smith is a good choice for hot or cold climates. It ripens August to September. Self-fertile, Grows in zones: 4–8

4. **Jonathan:** The Jonathan Apple Tree is a medium-large size sweet apple with a strong touch of acid making it a wonderful cooking and juicing apple. The flesh is crisp, white and juicy. A late-ripening red apple that is harvested in August. Fruit trees need a minimum of 6-8 hours of sunlight daily, and need plenty of water. They are not drought tolerant. Grows in zones: 3–7

5. **Red Delicious:** The Dietrich strain of Red Delicious is claimed to have the best taste of the Red Delicious strains. This large, crisp and juicy apple has waxy red skin with pure white flesh. Its distinctive, delicious flavor makes it a best seller at world-wide markets. The Red Delicious apple bears more heavily when pollinized with a Golden Delicious. They will ripen together from September to October, making an attractive red and gold fall garden display. Grows in zones: 4–8

6. **Red Gravenstein:** The Red Gravenstein Apple is considered by many to be one of the best all-around apples with a sweet, tart flavor and is especially good for baking and cooking. It is picked in July and August and is known as a good cooking apple, especially for apple sauce and apple cider. The flesh is crisp, juicy, finely grained, and light yellow. It grows best in moderate, damp, loamy soil with minimal sol drying during the Summer months. Needs pollination with any self-fertile variety such as Fuji, Gala, Red or Yellow Delicious. Grows in zones: 3–7

7. **Winesap:** Well known and widely grown for their crisp tangy fruit. The Winesap apple is round, medium in size and has bright to deep red speckled skin. These southern apple trees keep well and are great for fresh eating, dessert, canning or juice. Winesap Apple trees need pollinators such as Fuji, Gala, Red or Golden Delicious. Grows in zones: 4-7

8. **Cortland:** A large, good McIntoch type apple with superior dessert qualities. A good sauce apple. It ripens about 2 weeks after McIntoch. Cortland crops heavier than most varieties and is an annual bearer. Hardy to Zone 3.

9. **McIntoch:** A well-known, delicious eating and culinary apple. Drops before coloring completely in warmer climates. Zone 4-5

10. **Northern Spy:** A large, tart, red apple with very high quality for storage, processing, cooking and sauce. It blooms late which makes it good for northern areas. Zone 4-6.

PEACHES $15.00

Reliance Peach: Medium sized, freestone, yellow fleshed peach with red blush. Our most hardy peach, withstands temperatures of -25F if preceding weather is favorable. Good for canning, freezing, and eating fresh. Zone 4-5.

PLUMS $15.00

1. **American Plum:** The American Plum is a deciduous tree capable of reaching heights and spreads up to 25' forming a rounded crown. As a shrub, it suckers freely and can form large colonies. The American Plum's 2 to 5 inch white flower pods appear in early spring before the foliage appears. Flowers are followed by edible, round, red plums with bright yellow pulp which ripen in early-mid summer. The American Plum is very adaptable to a wide variety of environmental conditions, including soils that are rich, average, poor, or rocky, and of acidic, neutral, or alkaline pH. Zone 3-8

2. **Methley Plum:** A very early Japanese-type plum, ripening about July 15th. Medium sized, reddish purple, with red flesh of extreme juiciness. The tree is an upright, vigorous grower, a good pollinator, blooming very early, and an annual bearer. Zone 4-9

SWEET CHERRY TREES $30.00

1. **Bing Cherry:** The Bing Cherry is the #1 most popular sweet cherry in the world. This large, dark red skinned cherry is very productive and is excellent right off the tree or for cooking. Zone 4-8.

SOUR CHERRY TREES $30.00

Montmorency: This is an excellent tart pie cherry that needs no description. The trees grow about as tall as peach trees and are self-pollinators. Zone 3/4.

PEARS $15.00

1. **Bartlett:** The Bartlett Pear Tree is the #1 pear in the world with juicy white flesh. This delicious large pear has a round bell shape on the bottom and a short neck on the top half. Bartlett is a self-fertile variety however it produces much better when planted with a partner. Hardy in zone 4-8.

2. **Bosc:** The Bosc Pear Tree is a large pear tree with a long neck that tapers down to a fat round bottom. It has a golden-brown russeted skin and white, juicy flesh with rich, slightly acidic flavor that gives it a sweet-spicy taste. A favorite for eating fresh or cooking. The Bosc Pear Tree ripens September to October and needs a pollinator. Zone 4-8

RHUBARB $15.00

1. **Victoria:** Heirloom variety with thick bright red tender citrusy tart stalks. Named to honor the Queen. Some say it was this variety that popularized rhubarb in both the U.K. and the States.

2. **Glaskins Perpetual:** Long juicy vigorous stalks are green with blushes of red. Leaves are more pleated than ruffled. Acidity remains low for tasty late-season harvests, hence the name.

RED RASPBERRY $6.00

1. **Heritage Raspberry:** The Heritage Raspberry plant is an ever-bearing variety with good vigor and hardy canes which do not need staking. The berries of the Heritage Raspberry are very firm, with excellent quality, and will be produced in moderate quantity in early July, and heavy quantity in early September. Grows in zones: 3–8

2. **Indian Summer:** The Indian Summer Red Raspberry is ever-bearing variety that produces a small crop in late Spring and a larger crop in Fall. Canes grow to about 5 ft and are vigorous, erect and sturdy. The fruit is red, medium-large sized with great raspberry flavor and is good for canning, freezing, preserves, jams or eating fresh from the bush. Indian Summer Raspberry ripens May and September. Zone 4-8b.

3. **September Raspberry:** The September Red Raspberry is an ever-bearing producer with medium, rose red colored fruit that have a tart flavor. The plants are vigorous, hardy, and productive, up to zones 3. They are also resistant to Mosaic, and good choices for colder climates, bearing lightly in June and heavily in September. Grows in zones: 3–8

4. **Latham:** The Latham Red Raspberry produces large, medium red colored fruit, with a delicious flavor. It is a heavy producer that is good for colder climates, but should avoid being planted in areas with humid summers. The Latham Red Raspberry normally ripens in June to July. Grows in zones: 3–8.

STRAWBERRY $20.00/bundle (25/bundle)

1. **Sweet Charlie:** The Sweet Charlie Strawberry is, as the name implies, very sweet, even when eaten right off the plant. They are very vigorous, and produce large fruit, yielding high crops that are disease resistant. The strawberries of the Sweet Charlie Strawberry plant are medium in size, with a deep red color. Grows in zones: 4–9

2. **Chandler:** The Chandler Strawberry has a very large, medium red, glossy finish, with a large conical to long wedge shaped. The fruit quality is excellent, and the Chandler Strawberry produces a high yield, which are excellent for coastal areas. This particular strawberry has been adapted to planting for winter and summer areas. Grows in zones: 4–8

3. **Seascape:** The Seascape Strawberry, developed by UC Davis, is an excellent variety for low chill areas. Seascape Strawberry is a cross between the Selva and Douglas strawberry varieties, and is highly tolerant of viruses and diseases. Grows in zones: 4–8

GRAPES $10.00

Niagara: Niagara is a beautiful white grape with large bunches. It is a natural mutation of the famous concord grape. So, it is basically the white version of a concord grape. Therefore, the Niagara is excellent for jelly, jams, preserves, and fresh juice. Grows in zones: 4-8

BLUEBERRY $10.00 (12-18 inches) Need 2 varieties for pollination

1. **Blue Ray:** A large, very sweet, good flavored excellent quality berry with consistent high yields. Vigorous 4 ft to 6 ft bush. Good for hot and cold climates, being hardy to -25F. Zone 4-7.
2. **Blue Crop:** The standard of excellence and leading commercial cultivator. A very heavy yielder of large, firm, bright blue berries. Bears for almost a month, maintaining its large size. Vigorous and winter hardy. Zone 4-7.

TREES & SHRUBS
BARE ROOT

SHRUBS:

- Blue Leaf Arctic Willow $20.00 (1-3')
  Graceful thin stems sucker, layer and form a thick and highly attractive ornamental mass, Zone 3/4

- Chokeberry Autumn Magic $24.00 (1-3')
  Magical combination of red and purple fall foliage, Zone 3/4

- Chokeberry McKenzie $24.00 (1-3')
  For use in farm windbreaks and wildlife conservation plantings, Zone 3/4

TREES:

- Red Maple $12.00 (2-3' Whip)
- Sugar Maple $12.00 (2-3' Whip)
- Silver Maple $12.00 (2-3' Whip)
- Purple Lilac $12.00 (12")
- American Filbert Hazel Nut $12.00 (1-2')
- Beaked Hazel Nut $12.00 (1-2')

NOTE: If we do not have enough orders to reach the minimum requirement, we will refund your money.

SJVSWCD MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

NAME: _____ PLEDGE AMOUNT:
ADDRESS: _____ Valley Friend……$25.00
_____ Valley Steward……$50.00
Valley Patron……...$100.00
TOWN: _____ ZIP: _____ Valley Visionary…..$250.00 and higher
EMAIL: _____ Other ……..._____

Please return this form with your check payable to St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, 139 Market Street, Suite 106, Fort Kent, ME 04743

AGRICULTURAL RELATED LEGISLATIVE BILLS DURING 2015

LD202: Standards for Outdoor Application of Pesticides by Powered Equipment in Order To Minimize Off-target Deposition.

This resolve provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 22: Standards for Outdoor Application of Pesticides by Powered Equipment in Order To Minimize Off- target Deposition, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control.

LD568: An Act To Protect Maine Lakes.

This bill amends the laws governing the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program. It also creates a prohibition on the application of fertilizers within 25 feet of the normal high-water line of a great pond, ***with exceptions for persons involved in agriculture.***

LD598: An Act To Strengthen the Maine Agriculture Protection Act.

This bill ensures that agricultural composting operations are included in all sections of the Maine Agriculture Protection Act, also commonly known as the right-to-farm law, that protect farms and farm operations.

LD1099: An Act To Establish a Fund for the Operations and Outreach Activities of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Animal and Plant Disease and Insect Control Laboratory.

This bill creates the Animal, Plant Disease, and Insect Control Fund. Funds pay for pest management and pesticide safety outreach and education, and for related operating costs of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's animal, plant disease and insect control laboratory. The Animal, Plant Disease and Insect Control Fund is funded by a 20¢ fee on every container of consumer packaged pesticides, with some exceptions.

JOINT RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE MULTIFACETED AGRICULTURE OF MAINE (127th MAINE LEGISLATURE) (ABBREVIATED)

Recent statistics show that farming in Maine has grown. Maine continues to lead the New England states with 8,174 farms. The value of Maine's crops and livestock grew 24% over the past 5 years, and Maine's agricultural enterprises provide more than $764 million through the sale of farm products and contribute more than $2 billion annually to the State's economy. Maine agricultural products are increasingly available locally in farmers' markets, schools and institutions. Maine farmers are the stewards of 1.45 million acres of land, a vital resource in maintaining Maine's rural economy. Maine is a world leader in the production of wild blueberries and brown eggs, third in the Nation in the production of maple syrup, eighth in the Nation in the production of fall potatoes, and first in New England in the production of food. Maine is first in New England in the value of aquaculture sales, and second in New England in milk, and livestock production and is the fastest growing artisanal cheese-producing state in the country. Maine is the only state involved in the commercial production of fiddlehead. Agriculture has always been a part of Maine's prosperity, comprising much of Maine's scenic open space, providing recreational opportunities and contributing to the character of Maine's rural communities.

Source: http://legislature.maine.gov

St. John Valley SWCD
139 Market Street, Suite 106
Fort Kent ME 04743

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prepared by: St. John Valley SWCD

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry seeks public help in locating destructive insect

Contact: **Charlene Donahue, (207) 287-2431** **November 25, 2015**

When moths fly with snow, let the Maine Forest Service know

AUGUSTA – If you are seeing moth flights this time of year, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Forest Service would like to know in order to better understand the locations and size of winter moth (Operophthera brumata) populations in Maine. Assistance from the public is being sought to help combat the destructive moth through use of a simple on-line survey to report winter moth sightings.

"The total economic impact of Maine's forest industry is $8 billion with direct and indirect employment of 38,789 workers," said Governor Paul R. LePage. "Fighting invasive insects like the winter moth is important to help protect that sector of our economy; in this case, hardwood trees and agricultural crops such as apples and blueberries. Public involvement will help professionals combat and minimize the destructive potential of this and other invasive species."

Commissioner Walt Whitcomb stressed that filling out a simple online survey set by the Department to report winter moth sightings is very important. "These reports are critical to building the bigger picture of this insect's distribution," said Whitcomb. "A healthy forest is key to Maine's forest economy. Citizen involvement in monitoring invasive pests is important to the future of rural Maine."

The survey can be accessed online at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/wintermothsurvey. Reports of moth flights can also be made by phone at (207) 287-2431.

Why Look For Moths in December?

December may seem like an odd time to set up traps for a defoliating forest pest. However, during the first week of December, DACF staff will set up traps along the coast and inland in southern Maine. Towns in the study region are cooperating by allowing traps to be hung on municipal property. Two homeowners in the most heavily infested areas have volunteered their services for a third year to make nightly counts of the moths trapped in their yards.

Winter in Maine is quite suitable to getting winter moth observations from the public. The moth flies when it is dark—this time of year many people are still out after dark. Even if people are inside and glance out their windows, they may notice if there are small tan moths attracted to lights.