





# URI Small Acreage Livestock Education Program

## 4-H Program Volunteer Opportunity

### Seeking 4-H volunteers, parents and teens

- Are you passionate about raising livestock and horses?
- Are you looking for new club activities?
- Are you interested in environmental education and sharing information with others?
-  Learn how to manage manure, livestock yards and pastures for protecting water resources and human and animal health.
-  Volunteer to educate others about what you have learned in a variety of ways.

The URI Small Acreage Livestock (SAL) Education Program plans to team 4-H youth and adults together to educate fellow livestock owners about environmentally sound management.

### Program Background

The URI Cooperative Extension Home\*A\*Syst and 4-H Programs, and URI Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science along with assistance from the URI Department of Communication Studies, are developing a train-the-trainer education program for small acreage livestock and horse owners.

According to a 2007 needs assessment conducted by this program, Rhode Island livestock owners rate protecting their drinking water wells, animal health and well-being, and the surrounding environment as the top reasons why proper livestock management is important to them. Raising healthy, productive animals goes hand-in-hand with protecting the environment and our family's health - it is all interconnected.

### Volunteer Training Program

**Training Session: Saturday, Nov 1, 2008, 10 am – 3:30 pm, held at URI, Kingston.**

Morning, indoor session (2 hours): Introduction to the Small Acreage Livestock Education Program, the water cycle, land use impacts, pollutants of concern, their effects on water resources and health, and best management practices for managing manure, livestock yards and pastures. 10 am – 12 noon, Weaver Auditorium, Coastal Institute Building in Kingston. **(Depending on volunteer interest, we could hold the indoor training session one evening during the week of October 27, 2008 followed by the afternoon outdoor session on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at URI Peckham Farm).**

Lunch provided: 12 – 1 PM, Coastal Institute in Kingston

Afternoon, outdoor session (2 hours): Conduct a site assessment of URI Peckham Farm using existing fact sheet and worksheet series – available on-line at [www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes](http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes). 1:15 – 3:15 pm, URI Peckham Farm. Held rain or shine, please dress for the weather.



Wrap up and homework assignment (15 minutes): Conduct an independent site assessment at a property of your choosing and plan a 1 hour evening follow-up meeting, week of December 1, 2008.

Follow-up Meeting (1 hour evening meeting): Indoor follow-up session to discuss independent site assessments. We want to hear from you. How did it go? What are your questions? Specific site results will not be revealed or discussed. 7 – 8 pm, week of December 1, 2007, URI Coastal Institute Building in Kingston.

## **Volunteer Education Program Delivery**

### **Phase I: January - March 2009**

Following completion of the training program, volunteer teams will deliver 2 presentations (indoors or outdoors) to the target audience. Project staff will monitor one of these presentations to provide support and suggestions for future refinement.

### **Phase II: April - September 2009**

The volunteer team will commit to a minimum of 3 additional educational activities for a minimum total of 20 hours per person by the end of September 2009 (includes time spent on the first 2 presentations conducted during phase I).

Program Evaluation – project staff will provide volunteers with program evaluation forms to be completed by participants following a presentation or educational activity. Volunteers will administer and collect these forms and return to project staff. Program evaluations allow project staff to track program effectiveness and objectives.

**We suggest education options 1 and 2 for the Phase I presentations to be completed January – March 2009.**

## **Public Speaking Training (optional)**

The program will provide volunteers with a PowerPoint slideshow for indoor speaking opportunities. For those volunteers who are interested in presenting indoor slideshows, we will offer public presentation training in cooperation with the URI Department of Communications Studies, winter 2009.

**For more information and to sign up for this volunteer training and education opportunity, contact Heidi Wright at [heidiw@etal.uri.edu](mailto:heidiw@etal.uri.edu) or (401) 392-3469.**

Visit our website: [www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes](http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes)

## **Volunteer Education Options**

Project staff will meet with volunteers in January 2009 to review a volunteer education delivery plan. It could include the following:

- 1) Indoor talk (may or may not include a PowerPoint slideshow) – introducing 4-H club members and parents to the topics of manure, livestock yard and pasture management for water resource protection.
- 2) Outdoor site assessment - training 4-H club members and parents to use site assessment worksheets for conducting their own outdoor site assessments. Assign site assessments to club member families and track outcomes.
- 3) Present a talk to another organization such as a livestock club or Future Farmers of America or at a special event containing target audience members.
- 4) Staff a display and educational materials (provided by the program) that is exhibited at a fair, or horse show, or other event.
- 5) Other: feel free to suggest other educational opportunities that you may have!

