

NEW HAMPSHIRE 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

30,110¹

ACRES OF CONSERVA-
 TION PLANS WRITTEN

6,184¹

ACRES OF CROPLAND
 WITH CONSERVATION
 APPLIED TO IMPROVE
 SOIL QUALITY

42,885¹

ACRES OF LAND WITH
 CONSERVATION APPLIED
 TO IMPROVE WATER
 QUALITY

21,969¹

ACRES OF NON-FEDERAL
 LAND WITH CONSER-
 VATION APPLIED TO
 IMPROVE FISH AND
 WILDLIFE HABITAT
 QUALITY

38,249¹

ACRES OF FOREST LAND
 WITH CONSERVATION
 APPLIED TO PROTECT
 AND IMPROVE VEGETA-
 TIVE CONDITION

2,101²

ACRES OF FARMLAND,
 FOREST LAND, AND
 WETLANDS PROTECTED
 BY CONSERVATION
 EASEMENTS



Eroded cornfield before NRCS financial program assistance.



Conversion of eroded cornfield to permanent hay.

Incentives for Private Land Conservation

*Fiscal Year 2011 Summary of
 Assistance to Landowners*

*The mission of the Natural
 Resources Conservation Ser-
 vice (NRCS) is "Helping People
 Help the Land".*

*This is accomplished by
 providing services that enable
 people to be good stewards of
 their soil, water, air, and
 related natural resources.*

*With our help, and the
 help of our partners, people
 are better able to conserve,
 maintain, or improve their
 natural resources. The NRCS
 provides technical and finan-
 cial assistance through numer-
 ous conservation contract and
 easement programs.*

*Fiscal year 2011 brought
 about 50% less financial assis-
 tance funding into New Hamp-
 shire for conservation projects
 across the state.³ The difficult
 economy presented a chal-
 lenge, particularly with regard
 to staffing. However, conser-
 vation did not suffer, in fact,
 most of the figures in the left
 hand column increased. Many
 significant projects were ac-
 complished due to the extra
 effort and diligent work pro-
 vided by New Hampshire NRCS
 employees and conservation
 partners.*

\$9,946,664³

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OBLIGATED IN
 CONTRACTS AND EASEMENTS THROUGH
 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

65%⁴

OF CONTRACTS AWARDED TO
 BEGINNER, LIMITED RESOURCE, OR
 SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

\$343,528⁴

FUNDING 75 HIGH TUNNELS INCREAS-
 ING NH LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

¹ USDA NRCS Performance Results System (PRS) 9/30/11

² USDA NRCS Easement Staging Tool (NEST) with current year updates from NRCS NH Programs Staff 9/30/11

³ USDA Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) 9/30/11

⁴ USDA NRCS Program Contracts System (ProTracts) 9/30/11

NEW HAMPSHIRE 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FUNDING
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN 2011:
\$9,946,664³**

**CTA:
\$3,495,329³**

**AMA:
\$20,851³
3 CONTRACTS³**

**CSP
\$2,172³
5 CONTRACTS³**

CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (CTA):

Provides technical assistance to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources including education, conservation planning design, and implementation assistance. CTA efforts in 2011 in NH included:

- Conservation plans written for 30,110 acres of land¹
- Conservation practices installed to improve water quality: over 42,885 acres¹
- Conservation Nutrient Management Plans: 17 written and 15 applied¹
- Conservation practices installed to benefit wildlife habitat: over 21,969 acres¹



Technical Assistance for Conservation Programs

AGRICULTURAL MANAGE- MENT ASSISTANCE (AMA):

Helps mitigate risk by providing financial assistance for implementing and maintaining approved conservation practices. Technical and financial assistance is provided through 1 to 10-year contracts.



Nutrient management practices

CONSERVATION STEWARD- SHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

Supports ongoing stewardship of private, working agricultural lands. CSP encourages private land stewards to maintain and enhance conservation performance through additional conservation activities. Technical and financial assistance is provided through 5-year contracts.



Riparian Forest Buffer

¹ USDA NRCS Performance Results System (PRS) 9/30/11

³ USDA Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) 9/30/11

NEW HAMPSHIRE 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):

Helps landowners and operators protect water resources and address natural resource concerns on farms by conserving crop, grazing, and forest land. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to help eligible participants install and maintain conservation practices on private land. All EQIP assistance is provided with conservation plans and contracts that are usually 13 months to 5 years in length. In addition to EQIP financial assistance, EQIP helped fund organic practices, high tunnels, air quality practices, pasture management, grazing practices, buffers, integrated pest management, and many other practices.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) were also funded under EQIP in 2011 helping to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.



Heavy Use Area Before NRCS Assistance



Heavy Use Area After NRCS Assistance

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP):

Is a voluntary program to improve wildlife habitat on working lands. WHIP helps private landowners establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat through technical and financial assistance under contracts that are usually 13 months to 5 years long. In 2010, a New England Forestry Initiative started to focus on the health of New Hampshire's forests.



New England Cottontail Rabbit is nearing listing as a Federally Endangered Species



River flow before NRCS assistance with no fish passage

River flow after NRCS assistance with fish passage



**FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FUNDING
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN 2011:
406 CONTRACTS³**

**EQIP:
\$3,539,510³
297 CONTRACTS³**

**WHIP:
\$871,157³
51 CONTRACTS³**

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

**CONSERVATION
 EASEMENT
 PROGRAM FUNDING
 IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
 IN 2011:**

**\$5,412,462³
 2,170 ACRES
 PROTECTED²**

WRP:

**\$2,927,174³
 24 EASEMENTS²
 1,328 ACRES²**

FRPP:

**\$2,365,550³
 7 EASEMENTS²
 773 ACRES²**

GRP:

**\$50,140³
 1 EASEMENT²
 69 ACRES²**

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):

Offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property and focuses on restoring hydrology and plants as well as protecting wildlife and migratory birds. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. Floodplain forests and coastal marshes are among the types of wetlands restored through WRP. This program offers landowners an opportunity to conserve wetlands under permanent conservation easements as well as restoration agreements.



*Wetland Easement and Restoration
 Before NRCS Help*



*Wetland Easement and Restoration
 After NRCS Help*

**FARM AND RANCH LANDS
 PROTECTION PROGRAM
 (FRPP):**

Helps slow the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. New Hampshire lost 26,700 acres of cropland and pastureland to urban development from 1982 to 1997 (National Resources Inventory) and the trend continues.

The NRCS is working with communities, organizations, and land trusts throughout the state to permanently protect as much farmland as possible. The NRCS has funded over 107 easements protecting over 7,225 acres of valuable farmland in New Hampshire.



FRPP Easement

**GRASSLAND RESERVE
 PROGRAM (GRP):**

Is a voluntary conservation program that supports working grazing operations, enhances plant and animal biodiversity, and protects grassland under threat of conversion to other uses. Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses with retaining the right to conduct grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding.



GRP Easement