



# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## In New Hampshire



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

New Hampshire • 2016



Above: Land before and after cover crop  
Below: Wildlife Habitat Restoration

New Hampshire  
Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://nh.nrcs.usda.gov)



### USDA-NRCS and Conservation District Offices

**New Hampshire State Office**  
273 Locust St., Suite 2D  
Dover, NH 03820  
603-868-7581

**Belknap County Conservation District**  
64 Court Street  
Laconia, NH 03246  
603-527-5880

**Concord Field Service Center Merrimack County Conservation District**  
10 Ferry St., Suite 211  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-223-6021

**Conway Field Service Center Carroll County Conservation District**  
73 Main St.  
Conway, NH 03818  
603-447-2771

**Epping Field Service Center**  
Knightly Plaza  
629 Calef Highway, Suite 201  
Epping, NH 03042  
603-679-1587

**Lancaster Field Service Center Coos County Conservation District**  
4 Mayberry Lane  
Lancaster, NH 03584  
603-788-4651

**Milford Field Service Center Hillsborough County Conservation District**  
Chappell Professional Ctr., #468,  
Rte. 13 South,  
Milford, NH 03055  
603-673-2409

**Orford Field Service Center Grafton County Conservation District**  
19 Archertown Rd., Suite 1  
Orford, NH 03777  
603-353-4651

**Rockingham County Conservation District**  
110 North Road  
Brentwood, NH 03833  
603-679-2790

**Sullivan County Conservation District**  
95 County Farm Rd.  
Unity, NH 03743  
603-863-4297

**Strafford County Conservation District**  
264 County Farm Rd.  
Dover, NH 03820  
603-749-3037

**Walpole Field Service Center Cheshire County Conservation District**  
11 Industrial Park Dr.  
Walpole, NH 03608  
603-756-2988



Seasonal High Tunnels (below) & Heavy Use Areas (above: before and after)



# The EQIP Program

## Financial Assistance for Conservation Practices



Pollinators

EQIP offers technical help for planning and designing conservation practices that protect our water and air, improve soil health, enable us to better care for farm animals, manage animal waste, and sustain our agricultural land. EQIP also offers financial assistance to make these practices more affordable.

### Who can participate?

All private landowners and operators who are engaged in forestry, wildlife management, crop, or livestock production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP Program. Participation is voluntary.

Eligible land includes cropland, pasture, hayland, forestland or other lands associated with the agricultural operation.

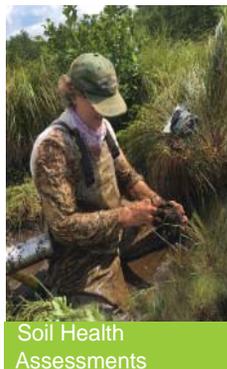
### How do I get started?

Call your local NRCS field office to discuss your resource needs and work with staff to develop a conservation plan. Your conservation planner will visit your farm and

identify resource concerns, discuss your goals, inventory resources, and evaluate alternatives. Your goals and objectives, with a list of recommended conservation practices for your farm, will be included in your conservation plan.

### How do I apply?

Once you have a conservation plan and would like to apply for EQIP funds to help you implement your list of recommended conservation practices, we will help you understand the program eligibility process. NRCS will evaluate your completed eligibility forms and needed practices. After you have finalized practice decisions and agree to move forward, we'll work with you on the application. EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, but they are considered for funding during specific ranking periods. Once you have passed eligibility and finalized practice decisions, your application is eligible to be considered for the next ranking period.



Soil Health Assessments

### How are applications ranked?

Applications will be ranked according to state and local resource concerns and the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide. Applications demonstrating the highest environmental benefit will be awarded contracts until NH EQIP funds have been exhausted.



Oyster Reef Restoration

### What is the process for implementing the contract requirements and for getting paid?

Once you have been selected and sign the contract, you will be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice(s) and you will have a specified time to implement them. The contract will be carried out, in part, according to the conservation plan that you developed. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you will receive the predetermined payment rate for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications. All practices established with EQIP funding must be maintained for the life span of the practice. Most approved practices for New Hampshire are listed on the other side of this page.

### What are payment rates and is there a limit on how much I can get paid?

EQIP offers payment rates for installed practices to eligible producers based on allowable average costs for the region. Historically underserved producers may qualify for a higher practice payment rate. The total limitation on EQIP payments is \$450,000 per individual or entity member for the period from 10/1/2014 to 9/30/2018, regardless of the number of farms or contracts. Payments are made to participants once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements and certified by NRCS staff.



Manure Management

