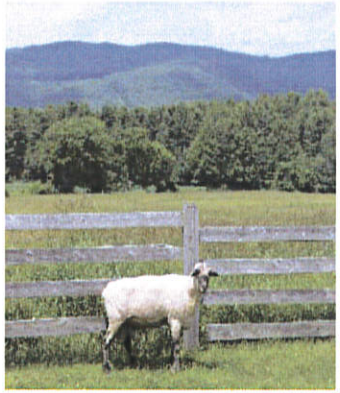
Benefits of Grazing Lands

- An available supply of food and fiber
- Clean air
- Healthy wildlife populations and habitat
- Improved fisheries and aquatic systems
- Healthy riparian areas
- Improved water quality and quantity
- Reduced potential for flooding
- Less sediment in streams and reservoirs



For more information on NRCS in New Hampshire visit:

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA-NRCS/ Conservation District Offices

New Hampshire State Office
2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-7581

Belknap County Conservation District
719 North Main St., Rm. 203,
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
24 Main Street
Newport, NH 03773
603-863-4297

Strafford County Conservation District
259 County Farm Rd, Unit #3,
Dover, NH 03820
603-749-3037

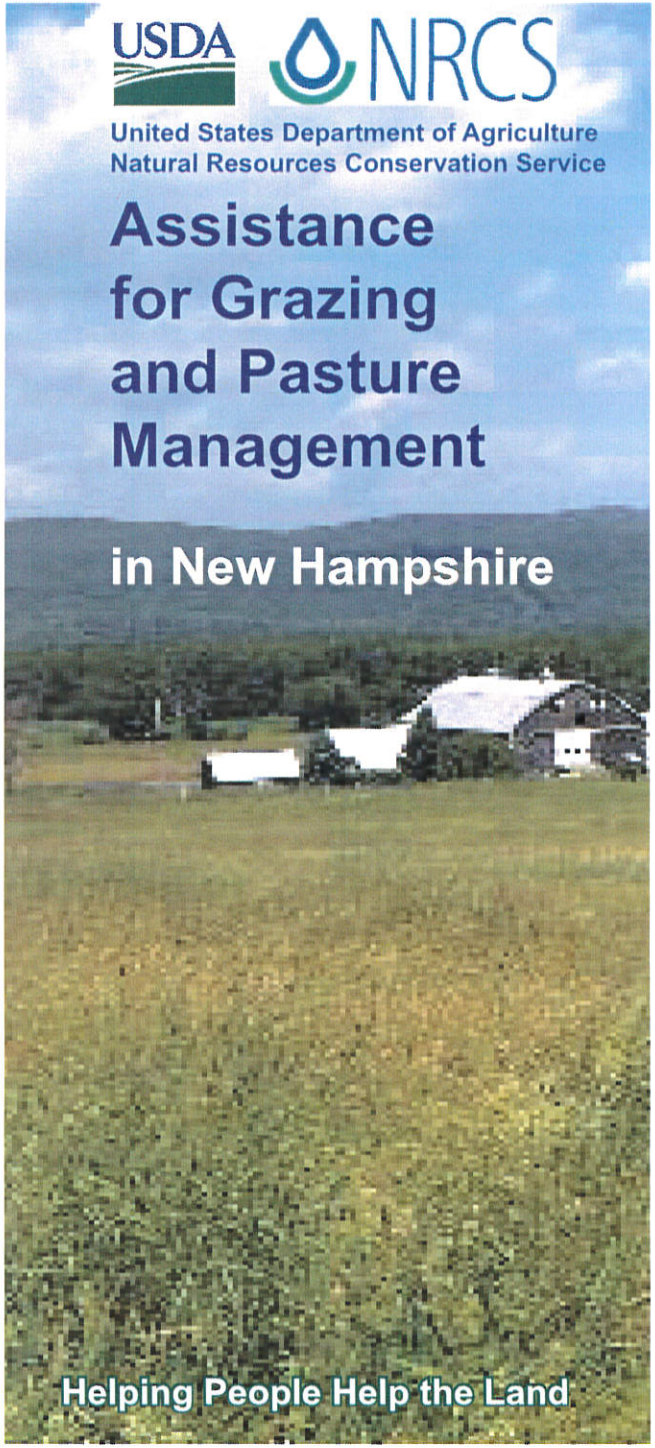
Walpole Field Service Center
Cheshire County Conservation District
11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2988

USDA NRCS

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance for Grazing and Pasture Management

in New Hampshire



Helping People Help the Land

What is the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative?

Through the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), NRCS offers a variety of technical assistance to landowners and operators interested in grazing.

The development of a conservation plan for your entire agricultural operation can help you effectively deal with the challenges on your farm and assist you in taking advantage of new opportunities.

A prescribed grazing plan is a tool used to manage your livestock and forages to maximize productivity for long-term sustainable use.

How We Can Help

Access to good quality water is essential to an effective grazing system. NRCS can help you fence livestock out of surface water and wetlands, plant riparian buffers and install fencing and alternative livestock watering facilities for prescribed grazing.

An essential part of keeping pastures and livestock productive is managing your soil fertility and forage quality.

NRCS assistance can include nutrient management, pest management (including control of invasive species), pasture and hayland planting, composting and manure utilization.

Additional grazing and pasture management practices could include: animal trails and walkways, transition to organic production, heavy use area protection, feed management, manure storage facility, field border and riparian forest buffer.

NRCS also offers a variety of conservation practices to enhance upland and wetland wildlife habitat.

Financial Assistance

There's a great deal of funding available to New Hampshire producers through programs like the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

You need to work with your local NRCS office to determine your eligibility and to find out specific details about programs and practices that will work on your farm.

Cost-Share Programs

NRCS cost-share programs are available to all farmers that meet basic eligibility requirements. This includes all landowners and operators:

- Who are engaged in crop or livestock production on eligible land (pasture, cropland, hayland, forested land, farmstead, etc.) may participate;
- Must own or control the land and agree to install and maintain specific eligible conservation practices;
- All grazing land applications are evaluated against each other to determine the environmental benefits of the proposed work. Funding is competitive statewide; and
- Applications with the greatest environmental benefits are funded first.

Granite State Graziers

The Granite State Graziers is the GLCI Steering Committee in New Hampshire. They exist **to strengthen the viability and sustainability of New Hampshire's farms through forage and grazing-based agriculture.**

The Granite State Graziers (GSG) are an advisory group of New Hampshire farmers that plan educational activities about grazing and pasture management.

For more information about GSG please call the NRCS State Office, 603-868-7581, and ask for the GLCI State Coordinator.

Technical Resources

- Conservation Planning
- Data, Maps, & Analysis
- Ecological Science
  - Agronomy
  - Biology
  - Cultural Resources
  - Invasive Species
  - Manure Management
  - Nutrient Management
  - Pest Management
  - Threatened & Endangered Species
- Engineering
- Land Use
- State Technical Committee

Manure Management

Livestock farms must deal with the manure the animals generate. Animal manure can negatively impact water and air quality if not handled properly. NRCS has many practices and technical information to help farmers with manure management. Properly managed manure can improve soil quality, crop yields and reduce the risk of runoff to the surface waters.

Structural / Engineering conservation practices related to manure management include:

- Waste Storage Facility (313)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Roofs and Covers (367)
- Waste Transfer (634)

Agronomic / Non-structural conservation practices related to manure management include:

- Cover Crop (340)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Waste Recycling (633)

Land Use

- Cropland
  - Erosion
  - Nutrient & Pest Management
  - Organic Farming
  - Resources & Publications
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Forestry
- Range & Pasture

Nutrient & Pest Managment

Nutrient Management Definition

Nutrient Management is defined as the management of the 4R's of Nutrient Management:

Right amount (rate)
Right source
Right placement (method of application)
Right timing of commercial fertilizers, manure, soil amendments, and organic by-products to agricultural landscapes as a source of plant nutrients while protecting local air, soil and water quality.

The corner stone for Nutrient Management is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **590 Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard** (PDF, 72 KB). Contact John Davis via phone at 202-720-2308, or email j.russell.davis@wdc.usda.gov

In addition to the 590 Nutrient Management Standard, NRCS provides further guidance on the application of nutrient management via the National Nutrient Management Policy (PDF, 33 KB) and National Instruction (PDF, 36 KB).

Nutrient Management Technical Notes

Title 190, Nutrient Management (NM) Technical Note No. 9 (PDF), Introduction to Waterborne Pathogens in Agricultural Watersheds has been produced for use by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel, technical service providers (TSP), growers, and others. This document presents general background information about waterborne pathogens in agricultural watersheds. The document provides information on common pathogens, their fate and transport, their importance to agriculture, and their control. The document deals with both pathogens that can cause problems with contamination of food products and also pathogens that cause diseases in livestock. The document introduces many different types of pathogens, many concepts, and relates these things to NRCS conservation practices. The aim of this technical note is to outline the various aspects of waterborne pathogen fate, transport, and control, and relate them to NRCS conservation practices so that NRCS personnel can build pathogen management into the planning process.

Nutrient Management Tools

Manure Management Planner (MMP) EXIT
Animal Waste Management (AWM)
Nitrogen Loss Environmental Assessment Package (NLEAP) EXIT
Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation, Version 2 (RUSLE2) EXIT
Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS)

Nutrient Management Useful Links

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Policy Subpart A

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Policy Subpart B

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Policy Subpart C

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Policy Subpart D

TSP Technical Service Provider Site

National Handbook Conservation Practices (NHCP)

NRCS Directives Site (Policy, Bulletins, Manuals, Handbooks, Technical Notes)

Nutrient Management Tools

Plant Materials Program publications and tools relating to nutrient management

Pest Management

Pest Management is implemented utilizing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system process that is an ecosystem-based strategy. It is a sustainable approach to manage pests using a combination of techniques and technologies that may include chemical, biological, cultural, habitat manipulation, and use of resistant plant varieties. Chemicals and methods of chemical application are selected in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the natural resources.

Pest management in conservation planning

Conservation planners start by identifying site-specific natural resource concerns in the conservation planning process. For pest management related resource concerns may include the potential for pest management activities to impact soil, water, air plants, animals, and humans. Once the site-specific natural resource concerns are identified, the conservation planner can provide technical assistance to clients to mitigate identified environmental risks and assist clients to adopt IPM techniques that protect natural resources.

Pest management risks are associated with the use of chemical, biological, and cultural pest suppression techniques. Tools such as the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation, Version 2 (RUSLE2), the Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS), and if chemicals are used, the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST) assist the planner to assess and plan appropriate mitigation strategies.

Useful Links and Documents

NRCS Pest Management Policy

National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practice Standard 595 (PDF)

Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST)

NRCS Agronomy Technical Note No. 5 – Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process (PDF)

National Information System for the Regional IPM Centers

EPA - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Principles

University of California, UC IPM

Technical Resources

Conservation Planning
Conservation Technical Assistance
Technical Service Providers

Data, Maps, & Analysis
Ecological Science
Engineering
Land Use
State Technical Committee

Conservation Buffers

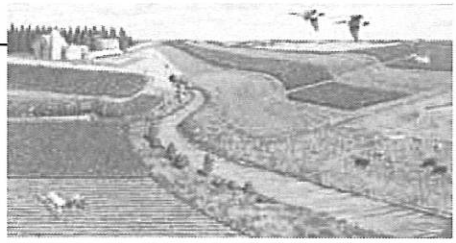
Buffers for Conservation

What is a buffer?

Conservation buffers are strips or other areas with trees or grass that help control pollutants, erosion, or other environmental concerns.

Examples of buffers are:

- Grassed waterways
- Contour grass strips
- Field borders
- Filter strips
- Riparian buffers
- Ponds

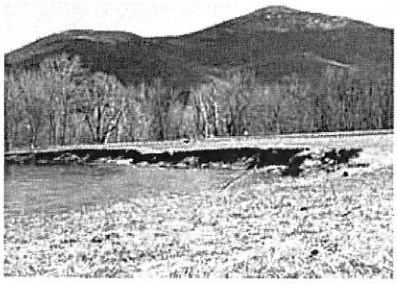


Which areas in this image need buffers?

See examples of buffers in New Hampshire

How do buffers help?

- Slow water runoff
- Trap sediment and dust
- Trap fertilizers and pesticides
- Protect wildlife and livestock from harsh weather
- Reduce winds, noise and odors
- Provide food, nesting cover and shelter for many wildlife species
- Increase privacy and beautify the countryside



Where are buffers needed?

- Along streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and the seacoast
- Next to roads and driveways
- Along parking lots
- Along and in agricultural fields
- Around residential and commercial property
- Any other area that can serve to filter runoff and pollutants before they reach a water body

The area along this New Hampshire river needs a conservation buffer. If you have property that looks like this, call your local NRCS / Conservation District office for assistance.

See examples of buffers at work in New Hampshire.

Technical Guidelines - How Do I Make a Buffer?

NRCS is in the business of providing technical guidelines for implementing conservation practices like buffers. We have "practice standards" in our Field Office Technical Guide and other publications available for landowners and planners to put buffers on the ground that really work the way they are supposed to. Here are some helpful resources on buffers:

Check our our conservation practice publications to see how to implement different types of buffers such as filter strips, field borders, riparian forest buffers, grassed waterways, etc.

For specific technical guidance on designing buffers, view our practice standards and specifications.

Visit the Connecticut River Joint Commission website to download excellent user-friendly riparian buffer fact sheets that can help you assess and implement buffers on your own property.

The National Conservation Buffer Initiative

Buffers are such a critical conservation practice that we have developed a national, partnership effort to promote their use. This effort strives to help landowners:

Use grasses and trees to protect and enhance resources.
Maintain a healthy, productive environment.
Ensure clean water, fish and wildlife habitat and better air quality.

Visit the National Conservation Buffer Initiative website!

Getting Help for Designing and Installing Buffers

Check out the USDA programs that promote buffers

Visit the Riparian Buffer Quick Guide web site to view many sources of assistance for work on buffers.

Who is promoting conservation buffers?

Everyone interested in water quality, fish and wildlife!

Conservation Districts

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Cooperative Extension (CE)

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Lake and River Associations and Commissions

Private conservation groups

Sportsman's groups

State agencies

Visit our web site on partnerships for many links.

NRCS-District Partnership

Our Local Partners - The Conservation Districts

NRCS was established in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service in response to the Dust Bowl. There were folks that knew that the best way to help local people choose conservation and reduce soil erosion was to involve and empower them. In 1937, the first county Conservation District was formed to link federal agency resources with the local farmers. Since then, nearly 3000 Conservation Districts have been organized, including the ten county Conservation Districts we have in New Hampshire.

This partnership between NRCS and the Conservation Districts is one that was carefully designed. This unique and productive relationship continues to be a model for providing Federal resources at the local level. Find out more about locally-led conservation.

The formation of NRCS (previously SCS) and the Conservation Districts recognized that conservation was a problem shared by society. Solving conservation problems was often beyond the means of a single landowner and, therefore, needs cooperation and public support. The partnership of Conservation Districts and NRCS is a way to help.

The Conservation Districts

Conservation Districts are the medium by which cooperation can take place through landowners, state agencies, Federal agencies, programs, grants, and a variety of other partners. Districts provide help to landowners and others on resource management, land-use planning, and detailed soils information. Districts set the local priorities, administer grants, facilitate fund leveraging, and provide a variety of outreach services.

Through the legal powers given to the Districts, they are in a position to seek funding from public and private sources. The Districts are independent, non-profit, semi-governmental entities.

New Hampshire Conservation Districts on the Web:

- NH Association of Conservation Districts
- NH Conservation District Employees Association
- Merrimack County Conservation District
- Hillsborough County Conservation District
- Rockingham County Conservation District
- Belknap County Conservation District

The Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS provides technical standards and guidance on conservation problems. NRCS has soil conservationists, soil scientists, biologists, foresters, and engineers to assist with conservation planning and implementation. As an agency within USDA, NRCS can also provide Federal funding for many projects. With the Districts providing the guidance on conservation priorities, this funding can be allocated to those resource needs that are most pressing.

Working together, the NRCS/Conservation District team can really get some conservation on the ground!

The Natural Resource Concerns

Conservation priorities have changed since the years of the Dust Bowl, but the cooperation remains. NRCS and the Conservation Districts in New Hampshire are working on the following current conservation issues:

- Water quality
- Farmland protection
- Nutrient management
- Watershed education
- Ecosystem restoration
- Reducing erosion and sediment runoff in rural and urban communities
- And many others

Keeping New Hampshire's Natural Resources Healthy

That's what this partnership is all about. Please contact your local NRCS-county Conservation District office to find out more about this unique partnership, to volunteer with us through the Earth Team Volunteer Program, to obtain soil information, or to find out about the resources available for private land conservation.

This information is available for download as a brochure. This document requires Adobe Acrobat.

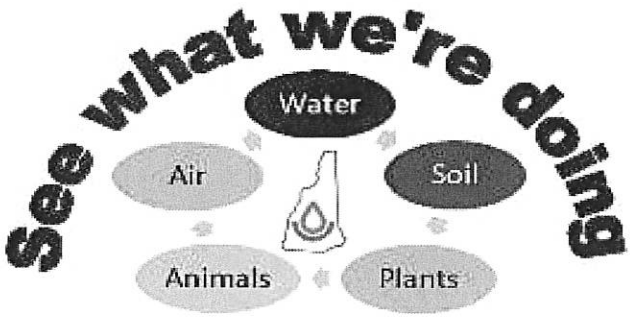
A Partnership That Works at Keeping NH's Natural Resources Healthy (142 KB)

USDA **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
New Hampshire
United States Department of Agriculture

What does the NRCS do?

We provide technical and financial assistance for conservation practices and conservation easements. **See before and after pictures of projects.** **See a short video highlighting some projects.**

2 / 5



Popular Topics

- Farm Bill Programs
- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Conservation Easements
- Soils

>>> More..

Sign up for email updates: Go

In the News Events & Deadlines

USDA Announces $350 Million Available to Help States, Private Partners Protect and Restore Sensitive Lands. NH NRCS encourages ACEP applications be submitted by January 15, 2016.

NRCS NH Announces Fiscal Year 2016 EQIP Ranking/Batching Dates

All NH NRCS Press Releases

Highlights

Cover Crops and Soil Health

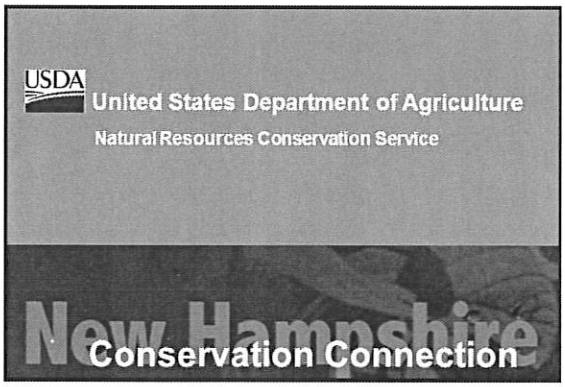
NRCS New Hampshire and National Publications

Seasonal High Tunnels

New England Cottontail

Grazing and Pasture Management

For Maple Producers



New Hampshire NRCS News

Conservation Compliance

New Hampshire Conservation Stories

We'd Like to Reach You . . .

Web Soil Survey

NRCS Websites & Additional Assistance

Web Applications & Tools

A list of Web-based resources for access to natural resource data collected by NRCS.

NRCS State Websites

Find local program and technical information on our NRCS state websites.

En Español

Información de NRCS en español.

Limited English Proficiency

Information on Limited English Proficiency.