

What is the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program?

The USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) helps New Hampshire farmers keep their productive land in agriculture in perpetuity by providing matching funds with cooperating entities to help purchase development rights or easements. FRPP easements protect entire working farms, woodlands, wetlands, important natural

areas, and historical and cultural resources.



Nationally, the FRPP partners with states, tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations to protect the agricultural use and related conservation values of land by limiting non-agricultural uses.

How does FRPP work in New Hampshire?

The NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program establishes partnerships with land trusts, state and local unit of government, and other non-profit organizations, to facilitate and provide funding for the purchase of conservation easements and other interests on land in New Hampshire.

Landowners participate voluntarily and protected land remains in private ownership. The property owner still owns the land and retains the right to sell it, lease it, or will it to his or her heirs.

Participating landowners agree not to convert their land to non-agricultural uses and to develop and implement a conservation plan for any highly erodible land.



What land is eligible?

To qualify for FRPP, the land offered must:

- Be productive agricultural property; or
- Have historical or cultural resources;
- Have the easement purchased through partnerships with state and local units of government, land trusts, or other non-profit organizations;
- Be privately owned.
- Be owned by an individual or entity that does



not exceed the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation.

How much farmland has been protected in New Hampshire?

Since the FRPP came into existence in 1996, NRCS in New Hampshire has provided over \$18 million to support the purchase of, and provide permanent protection of just over 7,000 acres of agricultural land on 90 farms across the State.

The \$18 million in Federal funds leveraged \$25.5 million in local funds and \$4.5 million in landowner contributions for a total easement value of \$48 million.

New Hampshire Agriculture

New Hampshire agriculture is quite diverse, encompassing many crop, livestock and specialty products.

The value of New Hampshire's agricultural industry is nearly \$935 million. This includes \$554 million in direct sales of agricultural and \$381 million in direct spending by agriculture related tourists.

Farming activity provides the fields, pastures and meadows that buffer New Hampshire's residential and commercial development and affords the views of the hills, valleys and mountains.

Without land kept open by farming, there would be no greenbelts around our towns and cities and without farming, there would be no barns, silos, or sugar houses that give our state its special character.

Some 4,100 individual operations qualify as commercial farms in New Hampshire, managing 471,000 acres including crop, pasture, maple and Christmas tree production, conservation and other agricultural uses.

The state's farms produce a wide variety of conventional bulk commodity crops, with milk and apples being the most significant. New Hampshire farms produce many specialty and horticultural crops for markets both within and beyond the state.

Food manufacturing in New Hampshire, including dairy products, bakery products, confectionery, beverages and seafood products, is valued at \$550 million per year. Internationally, New Hampshire exports over \$36 million annually in food and agricultural products.

More Information

For details on FRPP, contact:

Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Durham, NH 03824
603-868-7581

For more information on FRPP in New Hampshire visit:

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Farm_Bill/FRPP/FRPP.html



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Farm & Ranchlands Protection Program in New Hampshire



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