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Natural Resources Conservation Service 2018 Conservation Highlights



State Conservationist
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We are inspired by a shared passion for conservation. The Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Service collaborates with farmers, forest landowners, communities, and state and local conservation partners to protect and improve natural resources on private lands.

VT NRCS in 2018...

- 60 NRCS Employees
- 3 Pathways Students
- 10 Field Offices
- 14 Natural Resource Conservation Districts
- \$1.76 million to conservation partners to leverage NRCS efforts
- 61 partner employees assisting NRCS with conservation work
- \$6.35 million of NRCS technical assistance to private landowners
- 138,000 of acres protected and improved with conservation practices
- 3,869 acres protected through easements
- \$1.7 million obligated through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- \$18,681,838 million of financial assistance allocated



In 2018, farmers and landowners in Vermont improved and protected over 138,000 acres with nearly 6,500 conservation practices utilizing financial and technical assistance from NRCS.

Vermont NRCS -Selected practices implemented in calendar year 2018				
	Practice Name	units	Amount Implemented 2018	Number applied
Agronomic Practices	Cover Crop	acres	23,097	1900
	Forage and Biomass Planting	acres	2,424	261
	Residue and Tillage Management-No Till	acres	2,682	243
	Residue and Tillage Management-Reduced Till	acres	8,308	573
	Nutrient Management	acres	9,387	878
Grazing Practices	High Tunnel Systems	sq. feet	200,816	80
	Prescribed Grazing	acres	1,280	95
	Watering Facility	each	72	72
	Livestock Pipeline	feet	41,468	35
Barnyard Improvement	Trails and Walkways	feet	14,739	30
	Waste Storage Facility	each	18	18
	Heavy Use Area Protection	square feet	92,531	31
	Roofs and Covers	each	8	8
Forestry and Wildlife	Waste Transfer	each	37	37
	Forest Stand Improvement	acres	243	55
	Early Successional Habitat Management	acres	596	92
	Brush Management	acres	1,048	131
	Forest Trails and Landings	each	52,842	67
	Number of phosphorus-reducing conservation practices in Vermont, implemented in 2018, on fields with high or very high risk of erosion and runoff	4,863 practices	76% of all practices were on erodible lands	

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Statewide		Lake Champlain Watershed		Outside of Lake Champlain	
	Amount Obligated	# of Contracts	Amount Obligated	# of Contracts	Amount Obligated	# of Contracts
Farmstead	\$6,359,169	21	\$5,121,150	18	\$1,238,019	3
Pasture and Perennial cropland (grazing)	\$504,144	15	\$433,843	13	\$70,301	2
Cropland	\$2,607,640	96	\$2,188,932	76	\$418,708	20
Forestry and Wildlife	\$1,015,204	68				
Conservation Activity Plans	\$421,435	170				
Other -historically underserved, high tunnels, organic	\$1,706,243	83				
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) contracts	\$1,701,755	58				
TOTAL	\$14,315,590	511				

In 2018, a total of \$18,681,838 was obligated through 555 contracts/ easements to help protect and improve natural resources on private lands throughout Vermont.



Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations. AMA helps agricultural producers manage risk and in Vermont is primarily focused on new or improved irrigations systems and seasonal high tunnels. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

Dollars Obligated: \$128,100 **Contracts: 11**
Acres in contracts: 1811

The Conservation Stewardship Program helps the best forest and agricultural stewards maintain and enhance existing conservation practices already in place. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment. Through CSP, participants take additional steps to improve resource conditions including soil quality, water quality, water quantity, air quality, and habitat quality, as well as energy.

Dollars Obligated: \$20,248 **Contracts: 7**
Acres in contracts: 1,194

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that protect and improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Dollars Obligated: \$12,613,836 **Contracts: 453**
Acres in contracts: 49,800

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, State and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. There are two types of ACEP easements—

◆ **ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)**

NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land.

ACEP Dollars Obligated: \$2,502,500 **Number of Easements: 17** **Acres Conserved: 2,335**
RCPP ALE Dollars: \$1,182,500 **Number of Easements: 6** **Acres Conserved: 1,409**

◆ **ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)**

NRCS also provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement.

ACEP Dollars Obligated: \$227,032 **Number of Easements: 2** **Acres Conserved: 38**
WRE-RCPP Dollars: \$305,867 **RCPP-WRE Easements: 1** **Acres Conserved: 87**