

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



New Hampshire Summary

Customer Focus— The Scruton Family, Strafford County, New Hampshire

Frank Scruton, his son, Arthur, and Arthur's family own the largest dairy farm in Strafford County with 300 cows. Here, the development pressure is high and the neighbors are close. This creates additional economic, social, and environmental challenges for this three generation farming family. A few years ago, it was determined that runoff from the farm was contributing to local water quality declines. NRCS, along with UNH Cooperative Extension, the NH State Department of Agriculture, and NH Department of Environmental Services, worked to help the farmer identify and implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve water quality. With \$50,000 provided through EQIP, the Scrutons were able to begin installing BMPs, such as manure storage pits, roofed feedlots, and constructed wetlands to treat milkroom waste and other runoff. When EQIP money was not enough, NRCS also assisted the Scrutons with securing additional funding through the Clean Water Action Plan funds to complete installation of the needed conservation practices. Although they contributed \$200,000 of their own money and services towards the cost of these BMPs, EQIP, and other funds have helped them stay economically viable, and even reduce some of their labor costs. The Scruton family continues to work with NRCS on improving water quality on and around their farm.

Overview

New Hampshire has had an overwhelming interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in FY 2000. Nearly 75 landowners applied for funding, which totaled over \$645,000. NRCS assisted landowners in developing 52 contracts, which obligated nearly \$420,000 of federal cost-share assistance. Local work groups have continued to assess and document their needs in resource inventories, which allows some of them to obtain funding from other sources, thereby stretching limited EQIP funds.

Accomplishments

This fiscal year has been an active one for EQIP in New Hampshire. Over 50 landowners participated in the program, and have received technical assistance that will address agricultural and forestry non-point sources of pollution. This year, EQIP contributed to getting Resource Management Systems (RMS) on over 1700 acres of cropland, and 4,500 acres of forestland. Nutrient management systems were applied to over 5,800 acres. In addition, EQIP Educational Assistance Grants allowed for workshops on manure and forestry best management practices (BMP's).

Outlook

Agricultural manure storage and land application practices will continue to be the leading non-point source pollution issue in rural New Hampshire. Incentives to apply BMPs are always needed to reduce farm runoff and soil erosion on agricultural and forestland. Additional funding would ensure a viable agricultural sector in the State, ease the overall demand of conservation efforts on private landowners, and provide needed financial incentives for environmental stewardship.

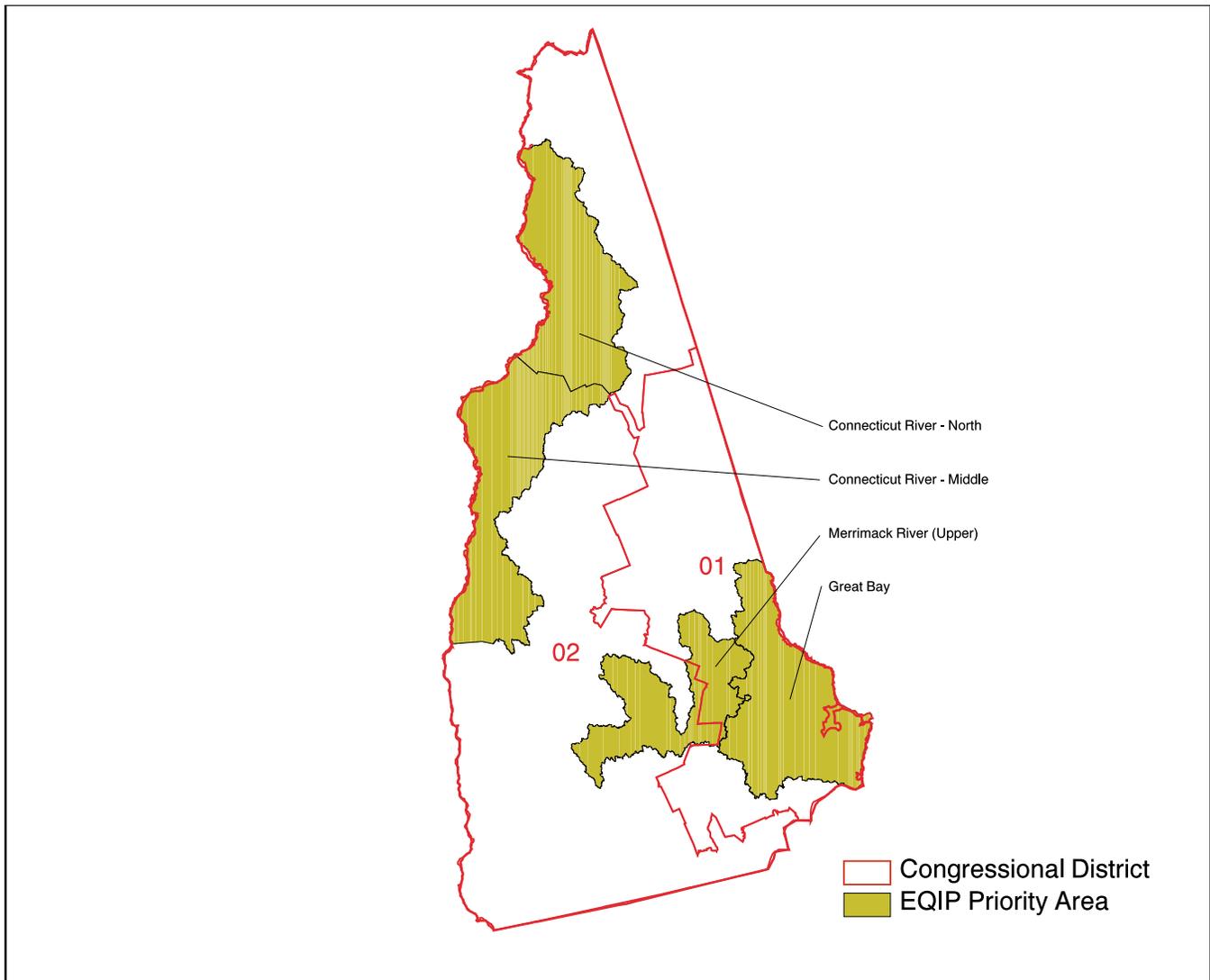
State Contact

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Rick Ellsmore, National Resources Planning Leader for Strafford County, and Arthur Scruton inspect a roofed feed lot at the Scruton farm.

New Hampshire EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



New Hampshire EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$102,393	6	\$250,144	37
District 1	150,000	28	579,419	76
District 2	186,151	20	968,491	91
State Totals	\$438,544	54	\$1,798,054	204

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas which may include more than one district. Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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