

What is the Grassland Reserve Program?

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators



restore and protect eligible grazing lands, including rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, and certain other lands, using rental contracts or conservation easements.

The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development, and other activities that threaten grassland resources.

How GRP Works

Landowners may file an application for an easement or rental agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the



right to conduct common grazing and grassland management practices.

GRP contracts and easements prohibit the production of crops (other than hay), fruit trees, and vineyards that require breaking the soil surface and any other activity that would permanently disturb the surface of the land, except for appropriate land management

activities included in a grazing management plan. A grazing management plan is required for all rental contracts and easements.

The Benefits of GRP

Grasslands make up the largest land cover type on America's private lands. Privately-owned grasslands and shrublands cover more than 525 million acres in the United States. Restoring and protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

Four Enrollment Options

Permanent Easement. This is a conservation easement in perpetuity. Easement compensation equals the fair market value, not to exceed the lesser of the appraisal, geographic area rate cap, or applicant offer, less the grassland value of the land encumbered by the easement.

Rental Contract. Participants may choose a 10-year, 15-year, or 20-year. USDA will provide annual payments in an amount that is not more than 75 percent of the grazing value of the land covered by the agreement for the life of the agreement.



Rental Contract Payments will be disbursed on the agreement anniversary date each year.



Restoration cost share agreement. An approved grassland resource management plan identifying required restoration activities will be incorporated within the rental agreement or easement. Up to 50 percent of the restoration costs may be provided. Participants may contribute to the application of a cost-share practice through in-kind contributions. There is a \$50,000 annual payment limitation per person per year on all rental contracts and restoration agreements.

How do I apply?

Applications are accepted through a continuous sign-up process. Applications may be obtained and filed at any time with your local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.

Is my land eligible?

Eligible land includes privately owned and Tribal lands, such as

- Grassland
- Land that contains forbs (including improved rangeland and pastureland or shrubland)
- Land that is located in an area that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrubland that has the potential to serve as wildlife habitat of significant ecological value; contains historical or archeological resources; or would address issues raised by state, regional, or national priorities.

For more information on NRCS in New Hampshire visit:

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

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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
603-223-6023

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 203
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



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Grassland Reserve Program

in New Hampshire



Helping People Help the Land