United States Department of Agriculture

New Hampshire NRCS

New England Cottontail

About NRCS

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with agricultural and forest producers to protect and conserve natural resources on our nation's private lands.

NRCS administers conservation programs funded primarily through the current Farm Bill (Agricultural Act of 2014), and offers financial and technical assistance to landowners to address high priority resource concerns through the implementation of conservation practices. Contact your local NRCS field office for assistance.

The 2014 Farm Bill

The 2014 Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014, offers voluntary conservation programs that benefit both agricultural and forest producers and the environment.

The conservation provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill continue to build on the conservation gains made by U.S. citizens over the past decades and previous farm bills.

Contact NRCS:

Dover State Office:
603-868-7581
NH USDA Service Centers:

Concord:	603-223-6021
Conway:	603-447-2771
Epping:	603-679-1587
Lancaster:	603-788-4651
Milford:	603-673-2409
Orford:	603-353-4651
Walpole:	603-756-2988

OVERVIEW

Over the past several decades, the New England Cottontail rabbit (NEC) population and habitat have been in serious decline. Since 1960, the NEC's historic range has declined 86%. As a result of declining numbers and habitat, the NEC was listed as a federal candidate species under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 2006. In both New Hampshire and Maine, the NEC is listed as an "endangered" species by state law. The NEC requires at least 25 acres of continuous early successional habitat within a larger landscape. Key features of prime habitat include dispersal corridors, shrub wetlands, and smaller parcels containing dense thickets. Landscape fragmentation, loss of habitat from succession, infestations of invasive plants, and alterations of hydrology are the most common resource concerns affecting NEC.

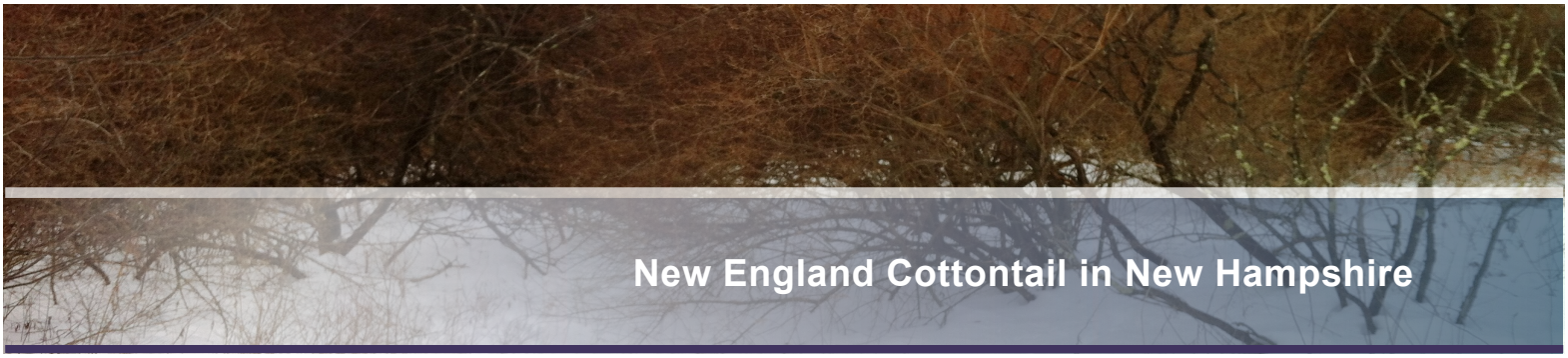
GET INVOLVED

In a special initiative to recover NEC, NRCS is providing financial and technical support for private landowners through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The goal is to create and enhance habitat with the following list of conservation practices:

- Brush management
- Early Successional Habitat Management
- Tree and Shrub Planting
- Invasive Plant Control

Several other practices are available for private landowners interested in enrolling in this initiative. Contact your local field office (see reverse) for more information.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL • CT ME MA NH NY RI •



New England Cottontail in New Hampshire

NRCS NH Office Locations

Concord Field Service Center
10 Ferry St., Suite 211
Concord, NH 03301

Conway Field Service Center
P.O. Box 533, 73 Main St.,
Conway, NH 03818

Dover State Office
273 Locust St., Suite 2D
Dover, NH 03820

Epping Field Service Center
Knightly Plaza
629 Calef Highway, Suite 203
Epping, NH 03042

Lancaster Field Service Center
4 Mayberry Lane
Lancaster, NH 03584

Milford Field Service Center
Chappell Professional Ctr., #468
Rte. 13 South,
Milford, NH 03055

Orford Field Service Center
19 Archertown Rd., Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777

Walpole Field Service Center
11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608

LAND PROTECTION

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE), part of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), offer landowners the opportunity to restore and permanently protect the wetlands and associated uplands on their property. The program focuses on lands that have been used for agriculture or forestry and stand to benefit from wetland restoration efforts. NRCS will purchase an easement on the property as well as provide 100% of the technical and financial support needed to complete the restoration. WRE can help private landowners in by:

- Restoring wetlands and riparian areas
- Protecting rare wildlife and plant communities
- Improving water quality
- Relocating forest trails

New England Cottontail Habitat

New England Cottontail habitat consists of dense cover and young forest, as seen in the photos below. The following towns are a focus for management: Derry, Dover, Durham, Madbury, Rollinsford, Londonderry, Lee, Litchfield, Hudson, and Pelham.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP helps promote farm and forest production by enhancing the environmental quality of soil, water, air, plants and animals.

Call your local NRCS field office or visit us online for more information.

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

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