

HELPING FARMERS PROTECT WATER QUALITY IN THE HUNGERFORD BROOK WATERSHED



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and UVM-Extension can assist you in meeting state and federal regulations to protect water quality.

Fiscal Year 2021

Why is the Hungerford Brook watershed an area of focus?

- This watershed will receive priority **technical and financial assistance from NRCS through 2023**.
- NRCS initiated a **strategic planning approach** to water quality improvement for watersheds that were **most impaired and contribute heavy concentrations of agricultural phosphorus runoff**.
- The objective is to work with farmers to provide **one-on-one assistance** to identify areas in need of conservation practices.

Hungerford Brook Watershed Stats

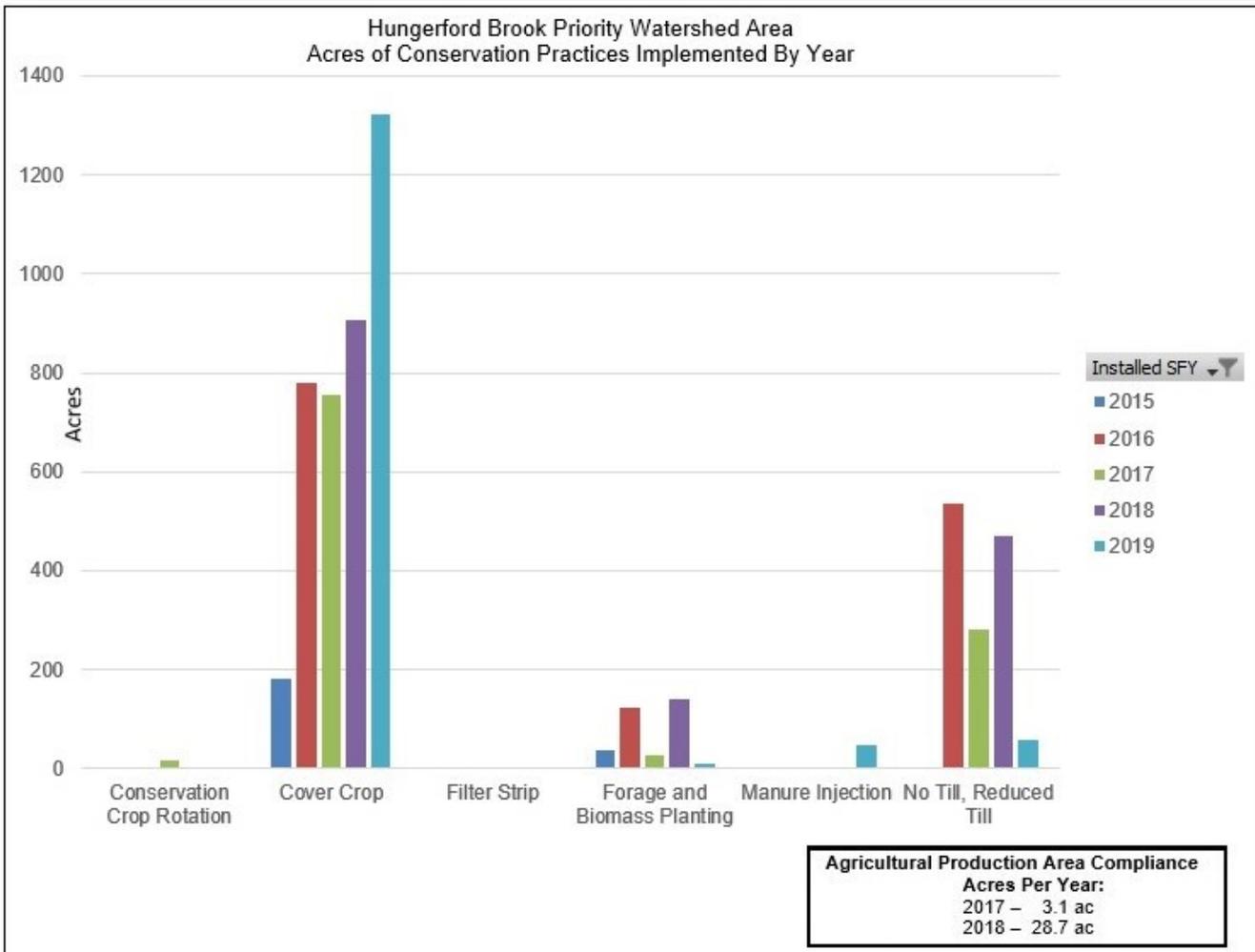
Watershed Area: 12,534 acres

Total Estimated Ag Phosphorus Loading: 4,906 pounds a year

EPA TMDL Reduction Goal: 83 percent

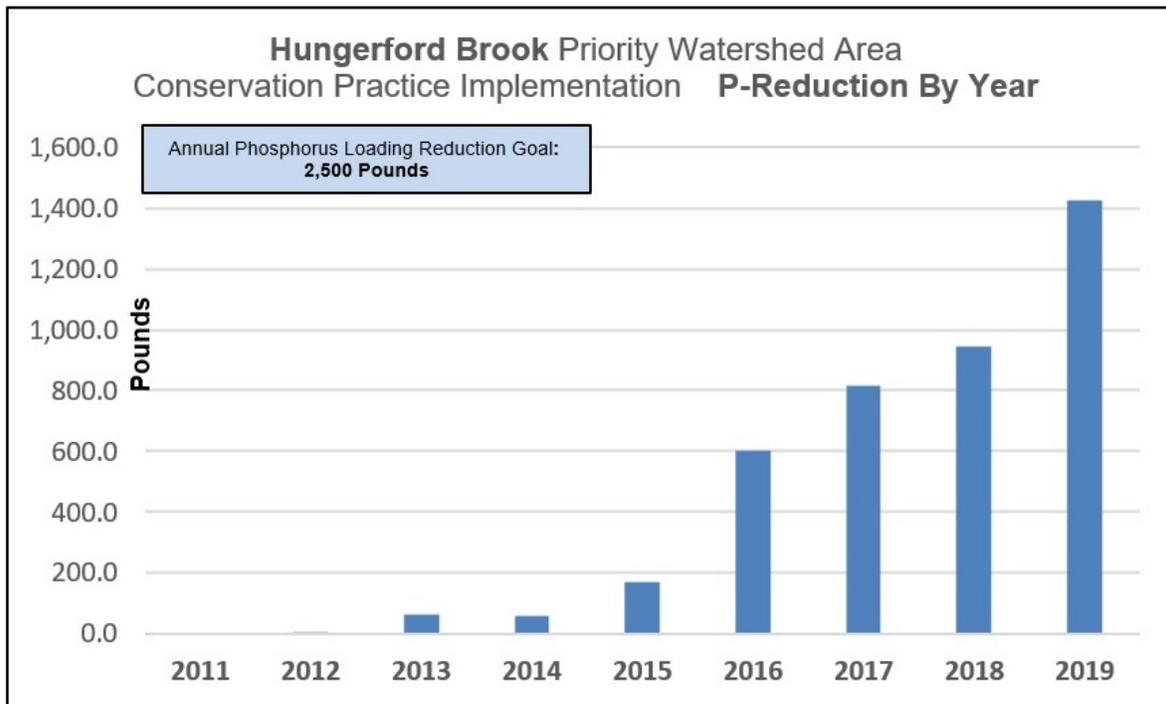
EPA Estimated TMDL Ag Phosphorus Reduction Goal (over 20 years): 4,170 pounds per year

NRCS Ag Phosphorus Reduction Goal (2019-2023): 1,700 pounds a year (40.5 percent of TMDL goal)



What type of assistance is available for farmers?

- The NRCS **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides technical and financial assistance to eligible producers to address natural resources concerns including water quality and soil health.
- Practice payment rates offer an average of 75 percent of the typical install costs to help farmers implement conservation practices including crop rotation, cover crops, grassed waterways, heavy use areas, riparian buffers, waste storage facilities, nutrient management plans, and more.
- Limited resource producers, new and beginning farmers, and veteran farmers may be eligible for up to 90 percent practice payment rates.
- Other entities may also provide financial assistance, including the Vermont Agency of Ag, Food, and Markets.



Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) estimated phosphorus loading reductions from implemented conservation practices using a model adapted in collaboration with the EPA for use in the Lake Champlain Basin to determine progress in meeting the established TMDL. The reduction estimates were based on the type and acreage of practices selected, soil drainage classification, land cover and slope. Practice implementation data is primarily compiled from federal and state cost-share programs and captures only a small portion of practices implemented by farmers on their own. In some cases, this number is believed to be substantial and efforts are being made by the State to obtain this data from farmers. Reduction efficiencies have not yet been determined for all conservation practices implemented in the watersheds. For these reasons, total reductions are believed to be higher than those documented. A State-led working group is continuing to develop efficiencies for additional practices as efficiency data and tracking methods become available. **Graph reflects state fiscal year data collected by the State of Vermont from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.**

For assistance with conservation planning in the Hungerford Brook Watershed

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