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.

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: 85 percent
EPA Estimated TMDL Ag Phosphorus Reduction Goal: 4,170 pounds per year
Local Watershed Team Ag Phosphorus Reduction Goal (2019-2023): 2,500 pounds a year (40.5 percent of TMDL goal)

![Graph showing annual phosphorus loading reduction goal and reduction by year]

Numbers may vary slightly from previous reports due to updated science supporting P reductions from conservation practices, and ongoing quality control checks of reported data.
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 vary by practice and are flat payment rates (typically, but not always, averaging 75% of the installation 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.

For assistance with conservation planning in the Hungerford Brook Watershed

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