Do you own farmland, forest, or wetlands and want to protect and/or restore them?
Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help you protect your land.

**Land & Project Pre-screening**
- Contact our Easement Professionals for a free evaluation and consultation. Starting with a map and deed of your property, we’ll see if one of our conservation easement programs meets your goals and explain the process and available financial assistance.

**Application & Eligibility**
- We’ll walk you through the application and the landowner or entity eligibility process, including, but not limited to:
  - The program application: CPA-1200
  - Necessary eligibility forms
  - DUNS and SAM registration (may be required)

**Field Visit & Land Eligibility**
- We’ll visit your property and meet with you to determine if your land is eligible for an NRCS conservation easement. NRCS reviews the application, verifies landowner and parcel eligibility, orders an environmental records search, reviews the hazardous materials checklist with the landowner, and when a wetlands

**Ranking & Agreement**
- NRCS will review and rank applications based on conservation and resource criteria like:
  - Natural resource features
  - Land conversion pressure from population growth
  - Infrastructure factors and proximity to other protected land

**Acquisition & Closing**
- NRCS will help guide the landowner or entity through the acquisition and closing process. The easement purchase price is determined, a boundary survey is done to determine final easement acres, a title search and review is completed to ensure clear title, final deed language is reviewed and approved, and the easement is closed and recorded.

**Monitoring & Restoration**
- After the easement is in place, monitoring occurs to ensure compliance; for a wetlands easement, restoration and habitat enhancement is initiated. For both types of easements, a monitoring report is submitted annually by the easement holder in perpetuity.

**Approximate Timeline:**
- (Congressional actions can affect timelines including, but not limited to, the release of program funds.)
  - **1** Mo.
  - **2-3 Mos.**
  - **3-4 Months**
  - **2-4 Months**
  - **12-18 Months**
  - **1-3 Years for Restoration Monitoring in Perpetuity**

**www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov**
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The 2014 Farm Bill combined the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), into two types of easements: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE).

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE):
- NRCS will pay a maximum of 50% of the appraised easement value, and will not hold the easement.
- A sponsoring entity must submit the application package to NRCS (including the landowner application and eligibility forms, parcel, and entity workbooks), hold the easement, and match a minimum of 50% of the NRCS contribution (or 25% of the appraised easement value).
- The entity is also responsible for obtaining a title search, boundary survey, appraisal, baseline documentation, and negotiating the deed language between NRCS and the landowner. The 2015 NRCS minimum deed terms are posted on the NH web page.
- Funds are obligated to the sponsoring entity through a Cooperative Agreement. The 2015 Cooperative Agreement template is posted on the NH NRCS web page.
- The sponsoring entity (typically a Land Trust or Conservation Commission) must have a DUNS number and have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of fund obligation. These rules do not apply to the landowner if they are an entity (such as an LLC, Corporation, Trust).
- Land Eligibility Criteria: 1) minimum 50% prime, unique, statewide, or locally important soils; or 2) historical or archeological significance; or 3) furthers a state or local initiative. All parcels are limited to a maximum of 66% forestland, however, active sugar bush can be considered cropland. The entity match must be demonstrated at the time of application.

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE):
- There is no entity sponsorship required, the agreement is directly between NRCS and the landowner, the easement is held by NRCS, and the land must have been owned by the applicant for a minimum of 2 years prior to filing an application.
- A minimum of 50% of the land must be: 1) former or degraded wetland (previously drained, filled, or altered for agricultural or silvicultural production); or 2) riparian land that connects to other riparian land already under a conservation easement.
- NRCS is continually accepting applications on form CPA-1200. They will be processed and ranked as they are received. Eligible applications meeting the minimum ranking threshold will be tentatively selected for funding and funded monthly as available funds allow.

New Hampshire Conservation Districts:
- Belknap County Conservation District
- Carroll County Conservation District
- Cheshire County Conservation District
- Coos County Conservation District
- Grafton County Conservation District
- Hillsborough County Conservation District
- Merrimack County Conservation District
- Rockingham County Conservation District
- Strafford County Conservation District
- Sullivan County Conservation District

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts: www.nhacd.org

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS Easement Team:
- Located at the State Office in Durham
- Sue Knight, All Easement Programs 603-868-9931 x118
  susan.knight@nh.usda.gov
- Ryan Dubois, ALE Easement Contact 603-868-9931 x124
  ryan.dubois@nh.usda.gov
- Brooke Smart, WRE Contact 603-868-9931 x106
  brooke.smart@nh.usda.gov

New Hampshire State Office
- 2 Madbury Rd., Durham, NH 03824
  Richard P. Ellsmore, State Conservationist 603-868-7581

Concord Field Service Center
- Serving Merrimack and Belknap Counties
  10 Ferry St., Suite 211 Concord, NH 03301
  603-223-6023

Conway Field Service Center
- Serving Carroll and Belknap Counties
  73 Main St., Conway, NH 03818
  603-447-2771

Epping Field Service Center
- Serving Rockingham and Strafford Counties
  629 Calef Highway, Suite 203 Epping, NH 03042
  603-679-1587

Lancaster Field Service Center
- Serving Coos County
  679 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster, NH 03584
  603-788-4651

Milford Field Service Center
- Serving Hillsborough County
  #468, Rte. 13 South Milford, NH 03055
  603-673-2409

Orford Field Service Center
- Serving Grafton County
  19 Archerton Rd., Suite 1 Orford, NH 03777
  603-353-4651

Walpole Field Service Center
- Serving Cheshire and Sullivan Counties
  11 Industrial Park Dr., Walpole, NH 03608
  603-756-2988