

Seasonal High Tunnels In New Hampshire



OVERVIEW

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Hampshire is providing financial assistance for high tunnels through the EQIP and AMA program.

Financial assistance will be offered for a maximum of 2,178 square feet (approximately 22 x 96 ft.) **per agricultural operation per fiscal year**. Multiple smaller tunnels, or tunnels larger than 2,178 sq. ft. are permitted, but assistance is capped at 2,178 sq. ft./yr.

For more information, check with USDA-NRCS or Conservation District Offices in your county. The FY14 payment rate for historically underserved farmers is \$4.38 per sq. ft, and \$3.65 per sq. ft. for all other applicants.

REQUIREMENTS

- All tunnels must be gothic-shaped and be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. All designs must be approved by NRCS using the criteria listed on NH 798 Job Sheet.
- Vegetables and fruits should be grown in the natural soil profile or in raised beds. Container crops are not permitted.
- Tunnels shall be installed on cropland with **suitable, natural soils**. Tunnels shall not be installed on steep slopes (>8%) or when shallow soil depth to ledge/bedrock or other extreme soil conditions do not allow posts to be embedded to the appropriate depth.
- Soil may be amended with artificial media (<10%), but shall not consist entirely of an artificial medium.
- Tunnel must be maintained according to NRCS specifications for a period of 4 years.
- Electricity, mechanical ventilation and heating is allowed, but NRCS will not provide financial assistance for these items.
- The tunnel shall not be used to house livestock or farm equipment (e.g. tractors, field equipment).
- Do not use cement with the ground posts.



Northern Coos County, NH. Plant Hardiness Zone 3

Seasonal High Tunnels help farmers increase the availability of locally grown produce by extending the growing season



ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, growers must have:

- Produced or sold at least \$1,000 of agricultural products in the past year - or have records from FSA identifying you as the owner or operator.
- Control of the land (*i.e.* own the land or have a lease or rental agreement)
- Cropland for the high tunnel (includes hayland, pasture, vineyards and orchards). High tunnels shall not be installed on lawns, gravel pits, wetland, parking lots, brushy areas, forested or recently-cleared areas.

Producers must also be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985

Helping People Help The Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

January 2014

APPLYING

To apply for high tunnel assistance, contact your local field office .

- Applications can be filled out anytime throughout the year.
- Funding is competitive. If you are not selected for funding during a particular funding cycle, your application can be deferred to the next funding cycle.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for farmers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible

USDA-NRCS/Conservation District Offices

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
603-223-6021

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

New Hampshire State Office

2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-7581

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

Helping People Help The Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.