

New Hampshire Association of Conservation District' Position Paper
November 2022

NHACD believes that farm and forest viability depend on updated conservation practices and economically sustainable distribution systems.

Farms and forests contribute to the economic wealth of the nation. Harvests depend on healthy soils, renewable fresh water sources, and sustainable conservation practices, while economic success requires avenues for product distribution and sales. New Hampshire farm and forest viability depends on a willingness to understand and apply updated conservation and distribution methods.

Viability support

NHACD supports efforts to assist landowners and land occupiers to keep New Hampshire farms and forests economically viable. These efforts include encouraging conservation easements, agriculture land value agreements, sustainable land use education, market development, and legislation. The NHACD believes that these efforts should be accomplished by working in partnership with federal, state, county and municipal governments. Land Trusts and other nongovernment organizations are also essential in assisting by providing tools and guidance for maintaining economically self-sufficient and profitable farm and forest enterprises.

Distribution systems

Equally important is the distribution systems that are essential to bring the products produced and processed by New Hampshire farms and forests to consumers. These systems include; direct farm to table sales, CSA, farm to retail, farm-wholesale-retail.

Actions

While NH land occupiers maintain the right to work their lands as they choose, the NH Conservation Districts exist to assist land occupiers with making their lands productive in the most sustainable and profitable ways. Current farm and forest conservation practices focus on creating productivity without:

- polluting surface and subsurface waters
- infringing on aquifers
- interfering with fresh water recharge areas

The NHACD believes that areas that are ecologically unique should be preserved. It also believes that farm and forest lands should be working lands.

The production of food and fiber is essential to a stable and healthy population.

Resources

New Hampshire Department of. Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forest Lands, New Hampshire Forest Action Plan. 2020

New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands. www.nh.gov/nhdf

New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, *New Hampshire Forest Statistics, 2012*
www.nh.nhdfi/report/forest-stastics.htm

NorthEast Forester's Association, *the Economic Importance of New Hampshire's Forest Based Economy, 2013*
www.nefainfo.org

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service New Hampshire. www.NFC's.usda.gov

University of New Hampshire Extension, Forest Management Planning