

The New Hampshire High Tunnel Story



BACKGROUND

National High Tunnel 3-Year Pilot Program

NRCS offered seasonal high tunnels (officially called “seasonal high tunnel system for crops”) as a conservation practice for the first time in fiscal year (FY) 2010 as part of a three-year trial to determine their effectiveness in conserving water, improving soil health,

“As expected, the seasonal high tunnel pilot has been popular in New Hampshire. In just one year, the NRCS-NH helped fund seventy-nine high tunnels.”

Rick Ellsmore, NH State Conservationist

increasing yields, and reducing transport of agricultural pesticides. After receiving nearly 3,000 applications for high tunnels nationwide, the NRCS obligated \$13 million in fiscal year (FY) 2010 for 2,422 seasonal high tunnels in 43 states. New Hampshire obligated the fifth largest amount of money for high tunnels with \$705,469, behind Alaska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri. NH funded 79 tunnels, the tenth most among the states, in addition to helping build four additional demonstration sites.

Easy to build and maintain, high tunnels are structures made of metal pipe with a polyethylene-cover used to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnels are different from greenhouses because, typically, they are unheated, non-permanent structures. Additionally, high tunnel crops are grown directly in the soil, rather than in pots or on benches like they are in greenhouses.

Conservation Benefits

High tunnels can provide a number of significant conservation benefits such as an increase in plant and soil quality, a decrease in pesticide use and foliar (leaf) disease, and improved energy savings. Many farmers who want to grow tomatoes without using pesticides often find they can only do so successfully if they are grown in a tunnel. Without rainfall, foliar disease is often reduced because the leaves stay dry. Insects that are commonly a problem in the field may not be so in the tunnel because the tunnel tends to disrupt their feeding patterns. Other insects that occur in a high tunnel are often more easily managed using predator insects or non-persistent insecticides. High tunnels may also reduce nutrient loss by preventing phosphorus runoff and nitrogen leaching. Finally, producing food locally can improve air quality and decrease food transportation energy use.



Cover crop growing in December

“High tunnels are a cost-effective approach to conserving our soil quality, reducing pesticide use, and providing more affordable access to local healthy fruits and vegetables for our families. This program is another example of New Hampshire’s role as an innovation leader.”

Jeanne Shaheen, U.S. Senator

Local Foods Initiatives

Growing food locally, especially before and after the traditional growing season, helps strengthen the local economy and helps ensure the viability and profitability of small farms. When NH farms succeed, valuable farmland and cultural heritage are protected. High tunnels are important tools for enhancing the availability of local food year-round.

“It is phenomenal that winter farmer’s markets in NH have grown from none four years ago to twenty today. High tunnels provide fresh produce for those markets.”

Lorraine Merrill, NH Commissioner of Agriculture

The USDA’s “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” initiative, seeks to create new economic opportunities to promote local foods. The USDA is trying to connect average Americans and their farmers and to help create the link between local production and local consumption.

The NH Department of Agriculture is also promoting locally grown foods. According to the NH Department of Ag., NH only produces 6% of its food, where Vermont produces 23%. NH only has a two-day supply of produce. Lorraine Merrill, NH Commissioner of Agriculture says this is “unacceptable” and has been working hard to change that. On the bright side, there are currently 20 winter farmer’s markets and 29 Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) farms in NH. Individuals or families become members of the CSA. In return for an annual membership fee, they receive shares of farm offerings. High tunnels can increase the produce sold at winter farmer’s markets as well as add to CSA shares.

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“By virtue of keeping rain off of crops, high tunnels dramatically increase marketable yields and shelf-life, while also reducing fungal diseases on high-value perishable crops like tomatoes and raspberries.”

Dr. Becky Sideman
Assoc. Ext. Professor,
University of NH
Sustainable Horticulture



Left to Right: Otho Wells, Brandon Smith, Ed Person

“Producer input was valuable for insuring that tunnels built in New Hampshire not only meet the individual needs of NH producers but are also durable, cost-effective, and provide the best possible conservation benefits.”

Rick Ellsmore,
State Conservationist



Gothic-style tunnels are required by the NRCS in New Hampshire because they hold up best to snow and wind.

New Hampshire’s High Tunnel History

New Hampshire was an ideal participant in the NRCS High Tunnel Pilot Project, not only because of the obvious benefits season extension affords in a northern climate, but because NH was instrumental in bringing high tunnels to national prominence. The University of New Hampshire was one of the first universities to conduct research on high tunnels through the efforts of Dr. Otho Wells (retired), Dr. Brent Loy, and John McLean. Dr. Wells began collaborating with Ed Person of Ledgewood Farm in Moultonborough,

NH on high tunnel production in the 1980s. From the ‘80s until now, Dr. Wells and Mr. Person made improvements in high tunnel design as well as fine tuned crop scheduling to maximize profitability. They continue to show farmers how to extend their growing season to get maximum return for their investment by selling early and late season crops. Ed Person was the first NH-based supplier of high tunnels and currently has 23 of his own at Ledgewood Farm.

NRCS NH’s High Tunnel Expert

Dr. Brandon Smith, currently an agronomist with the NRCS in NH, has also become a high tunnel expert. Dr. Smith worked at UNH’s Woodman Horticultural Farm from 1995 to 1997 when he was an undergraduate at UNH. At that time, he helped construct and maintain many small high tunnels used for research trials. In 2006, Dr. Smith became a research professor at the University of Tennessee and continued his high tunnel work. He built three high tunnels on

the UT organic farm – the first research high tunnels in the UT system. With the help of Dr. Annette Wszelaki and Mary Rogers, they researched how crops perform in high versus low tunnels or with no cover at all. They also performed variety trials to gain a better understanding of growth performance in the tunnels. His focus was on season extension for hearty winter greens such as spinach, kale and other winter vegetables. Dr. Smith joined the NH NRCS in November of 2008.

The NH NRCS High-Tunnel Pilot

Once NH was chosen for the pilot, the New Hampshire high tunnel specifications that would qualify for financial assistance under the Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) interim practice standard were created. It was still necessary to tailor the specifications for NH’s environment, particularly the concerns of snow load and wind. Throughout the process, producers made inquiries about differences in tunnels and how they are built, giving important feedback on their special needs and challenges. For example, producer inquiries resulted in plywood end walls being allowed. This information was valuable for insuring that tunnels built in NH with NRCS financial assistance meet the individual needs of NH producers but are also durable, cost-effective, and provide the

best possible benefits. The process resulted in 12 approved stationary high tunnel specifications and two approved rolling high tunnel specifications in NH.

The NH NRCS provides financial assistance for high tunnels through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Financial assistance is offered for a maximum of 2,178 square feet per agricultural operation and must meet the following requirements:

- Tunnel must be maintained according to NRCS specifications for a period of 4 years.
- Provide soil quality, pest, and nutrient information to the NRCS related to the high tunnel.

The NH NRCS High-Tunnel Pilot (Cont.)

Producers who receive assistance will need to complete an evaluation questionnaire every growing season.

- The payment rate for new, historically underserved, or limited resource farmers is \$4.75 per square foot and \$3.95 per square foot for all other applicants.
- Tunnels must be gothic-style and meet the criteria listed on NH 789 Approved Product List and Selection Criteria.
- Electricity, mechanical ventilation and heating will be permitted, but NRCS will not provide financial assistance for these items.
- The tunnel will be installed according to manufacturer's instructions. All designs must be approved by NRCS.
- The width of the tunnel shall not exceed 30 feet.

- The tunnel shall not be used to house livestock.

In order to be eligible, growers must have:

- Cropland
- Control of the land (i.e. own the land or have a lease or rental agreement)
- Produced or sold at least \$1,000 of agricultural products in the past year.

If you currently have a high tunnel, then you can get assistance to build one additional tunnel, as long as the total square feet of high tunnels on your land (including the tunnel to be built) does not exceed 5% of the total acres of cropland. New tunnels can be installed next to each other on the same acre of land.

“By making high tunnels a special initiative and creating a separate funding pool in NH, applications increased.”

Rick Ellsmore,
State Conservationist

In fiscal year 2010, New Hampshire ranked fifth in the nation for high tunnel financial assistance and had the tenth most high tunnels.

PROGRAM ROLL-OUT



NRCS Staff inside a high tunnel at the Ledgewood farm



Field Staff Training

Once the specifications were complete, the high tunnel program was introduced to NRCS field staff in January of 2010. At that time they received classroom training on high tunnels and were excited and enthusiastic about the potential for the practice in NH. In June, over 25 NRCS employees gathered at Ledgewood Farm in Moultonborough, NH for a High Tunnel workshop. The training featured Brandon Smith, Ed Person and Otho Wells who shared their expertise with field staff from several New England states, covering all aspects of high tunnel production including planning, site preparation, construction, crops, irrigation, and nutrient and pest management.



NRCS field staff from New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont spent a full day at Ledgewood Farm, learning all aspects of high tunnel management.

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Public Information and Outreach

In the Spring of 2010, Dr. Smith gave two talks at organic producers meetings in Keene and Plymouth attended by about 150 producers. Many farmers heard, for the first time, of the benefits of high tunnels for their farms and the NRCS program to provide financial assistance. When producers learned they could grow some vegetables almost year-round, the word quickly spread across NH. In the fall, two more workshops were held on high tunnel construction in Manchester and Plymouth attended by approximately 40 people. In December, there was another talk in Plymouth on managing nutrients in high tunnels.

Throughout the year, District Conservationists met with numerous groups and individuals in their counties, press releases were issued, fact sheets were created and displayed in all field offices,



Roll up sides provide ventilation in the summer

information was posted on the NRCS-NH website, and the high tunnel pilot program was highlighted at State Technical Committee meetings and other important Agriculture meetings across the State by Rick Ellsmore, the State Conservationist, and the NH NRCS leadership team.

A Contribution Agreement was created with the NHACD to conduct outreach on Farm Bill Programs, including high tunnels throughout New Hampshire. Conservation District personnel held numerous workshops, giving out information to hundreds of people throughout the spring and summer of 2010. High tunnels quickly became a sought-after practice with NRCS contracts, including 79 high tunnels covering 161,233 square feet, being approved as early as April, 2010.

“New England grows less than 10% of its own fruits and vegetables. The 347 high tunnels built under this pilot in the six New England states, including the 79 in NH, will really help narrow the gap between local and long-distance fruit and vegetable production.”

Cris Coffin,
New England Director,
American Farmland Trust

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 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance program (AMA). Financial assistance will be offered for a maximum of 2178 square feet (approximately 22 x 96 ft.) per agricultural operation.

REQUIREMENTS

Some requirements for producers that get high tunnel assistance through NH NRCS:

- Tunnel must be maintained according to NRCS specifications for a period of 4 years.
- This is a 3-year pilot study. NRCS will work with producers to collect information on the effectiveness of High Tunnels for improving soil quality and managing nutrients and pests. Producers who receive assistance will need to complete an evaluation questionnaire every growing season.
- The payment rate for new, historically underserved, or limited resource farmers is \$4.75 per square foot and \$3.95 per square foot for all other applicants.
- Tunnels must be gothic-style and meet the criteria listed on NH 789 Approved Product List and Selection Criteria.
- Electricity, mechanical ventilation and heating will be permitted, but NRCS will not provide financial assistance for these items.
- The tunnel will be installed according to manufacturer's instructions. All designs must be approved by NRCS.
- The width of the tunnel shall not exceed 30 feet.
- The tunnel shall not be used to house livestock.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, growers must have:

- Control of the land (i.e. own the land or have a lease or rental agreement)
- Produced or sold at least \$1,000 of agricultural products in the past year.

If you currently have a high tunnel, then you can get assistance to build one additional tunnel, as long as the total square feet of high tunnels on your land (including the tunnel to be built) does not exceed 9% of the total acres of cultivated cropland. For example, 9% of one acre is 2178 square feet (approximately 30 x 72 ft.). If you already use one 30 x 72 ft. high tunnel, you would need to have a minimum of 2 acres of cultivated cropland to be eligible for a 30 x 72 ft. tunnel through NRCS. This ratio is used only for eligibility purposes; new tunnels can be installed next to each other on the same acre of land.

APPLYING

To apply for high tunnel assistance, contact your local field office (see reverse).

- Applications can be filed 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.
- High tunnels are funded through AMA and EQIP.

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603-788-4651

New Hampshire State Office
2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-7381

603-769-3037

Walpole Field Service Center
Cheshire County Conservation District
11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2988

QUALITY INCENTIVES

Quality Incentives Program conservation program for agricultural production and as compatible national and technical help to install or implement practices on eligible

- Offices**
- intervention District
1, #468, Rte. 13 South,
 - intervention District
NH 03813
 - intervention District
NH 03773
 - intervention District
#43, Dover, NH 03820

NRCS NH High Tunnel Fact Sheet posted on NRCS NH website and displayed in all field offices



NRCS NH web page dedicated to high tunnels

DEMONSTRATION SITES — The NHACD Partnership

A Contribution Agreement was signed on July 15, 2010 with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD) to establish high tunnel demonstration sites. The NHACD, in turn, partnered with various organizations to build and use the tunnels as well as make them available to the NRCS, Conservation Districts, and others, for information and education. To date, three sites have been strategically chosen, and four tunnels built, in different geographical locations to reach diverse people in various counties across the state. “The NHACD is thrilled to help showcase this remarkable technology to farmers in New Hampshire, particularly its underserved populations like the refugee farmers”, said Bill Stockman, NHACD President. “Having demonstrations also helps our local conservation districts spread the word to their constituents”.

Manchester, NH: Refugee Farmers and the International Institute of New Hampshire (IINH) (High tunnel construction completed September 2010)

Founded in 1924, IINH helps immigrants and refugees successfully integrate into New England. Fundamental to all of the Institute's programs is the

“A barrier to getting the refugee farmers engaged in using high tunnels productively is that they need to see vegetables growing and in production at other locations. The concept of it needs to be seen to be understood.”

Dr. Teena Hayden,
IINH Agriculture
Specialist

promotion of self-sufficiency – giving clients the tools to help themselves become active participants in the social, political and economic richness of American life. For the past two years, Burundi, Bhutanese, and Iraqi refugees have been farming a ½ acre lot on the

Manchester, NH Youth Development Center (YDC) land with the help of the IINH. Last year, in the ½ acre field produced approximately 3,000 lbs. of vegetables including dry grinding corn, tomatoes, eggplant, okra, mustard greens, beans, cucumber, winter melon and squash. About 50 people farm IINH plots in Manchester, Bedford and Derry, benefitting over 250 family members. Families use the yield or distribute it to people in public housing and on financial assistance.

This year, with the help of the NHACD and the NRCS, two small high tunnels were built at the YDC site to showcase all the different options available for high tunnel construction and to demonstrate that NRCS limits the total square footage within high tunnels, not the number of high tunnels a producer may have. (Financial assistance is available for up to 2,178 square feet.) In some applications, due to visibility issues with neighbors, or differences in crops, two smaller tunnels are better. One was constructed by John Wells and Adam Earle and is a more expensive tunnel with all steel frames and sliding end doors. The second tunnel, constructed by volunteers, including Paul Doolittle and the refugee farmers,

“The NHACD is thrilled to help showcase this remarkable technology to farmers in NH, particularly its underserved populations like the refugee farmers.”

Bill Stockman,
NHACD President



November Workshop for Producers at the IINH High Tunnels in Manchester, New Hampshire

under the direction of Brandon Smith, has simple, low-cost end walls and roll-up sides. The NRCS is also advising the refugee farmers on what to plant and when. As of mid-December, an oil seed radish cover crop was still growing in the tunnels to build up soil nutrients. Radishes can help alleviate soil compaction and help retain nutrients.

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Manchester, NH: Refugee Farmers and the International Institute of New Hampshire

(Continued from page 5)

Dr. Teena Hayden, IINH Agriculture Specialist, hopes to expand into farmers' markets and other vending opportunities. "Unfortunately", she says, "most farmers' markets don't accept food stamps and low income people or refugees perceive that the produce is too expensive." This is a hurdle she's working to overcome. Dr. Hayden adds, "A barrier to getting the refugee farmers engaged in using the high tunnels productively is that they need to see vegetables growing and in production at other locations. The concept of it needs to be seen to be understood." She took one of the Bhutanese women to see a high tunnel in production and, after seeing it, the woman simply said, "A good idea."

Through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), two high tunnels have been approved by the NRCS for the Institute's beginning farmers training site in Derry owned by Paul Doolittle. There, refugees will be growing ethnic crops using season extension techniques that can greatly increase yields of hot peppers, okra, bitter melon, and mustard greens. Many are fulfilling the work experience requirements necessary to receive state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. The TANF program requires people to show they've worked a certain amount to get benefits and is often called the welfare to work program.

There is also the opportunity to expand at the YDC land for production gardens and the IINH gardens are a place people can work and have their time sheets signed in order to gain TANF assistance. As TANF program participants learn of this, more people may want to farm at the Derry and Manchester sites.



In a group effort, professionals John Wells and Paul Doolittle, Brandon Smith, and the refugee farmers helped get the plastic covering over the high tunnel before it could be secured to the end walls with wiggle wire.



Bhutanese and Burundian farmers at the demonstration site on 12/23/10

DEMONSTRATION SITES

Whitefield, NH: White Mountains Regional High School
(High tunnel construction completed early December, 2010)

“For every layer you have, you gain a hardiness zone.”

Eliot Coleman,
 Author of
The Winter Harvest

The White Mountains Regional High School has a vocational agriculture program for high school students taught by Doug Paul. The goal is to expose students to careers in agriculture. Produce from the high tunnels at this location will be used by the cafeteria for school lunches.

Robert Knight and Jeremy St. James built the 22 ft. x 48 ft. high tunnel from a different manufacturer than the IINH tunnels with different end walls. Plantings are on raised beds inside the tunnel, unlike the Manchester site. Other sites also use low tunnels inside the high tunnel. Low tunnels are usually a fabric row cover, either put directly over the crop or supported. The NRCS does not currently allow financial assistance for low tunnels, but, as the expert Eliot Coleman advises, “For every layer you have, you gain a hardiness zone.” The NH NRCS is currently evaluating low tunnels and may include them in a financial assistance program at a later date.



Low tunnels add another level of protection for plants subject to harsh temperatures.



An inside look under a “low tunnel”

North Conway, NH: NH Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (NHIAF) (High tunnel construction in progress)

The NHIAF is an agriculture and forestry business incubator offering a common location (farm) to help people develop a new venture by taking advantage of resources and sharing capital-intensive costs. NHIAF specifically serves the agriculture and forestry industries of NH, where high land prices and other start-up costs make it hard for the aspiring farmer or forester. NHIAF was the first business incubator to operate on 100% renewable energy.

important rest periods for the soil, and help with crop scheduling. For example, a cool-season crop like spinach is typically planted in the fall during cool weather. A high tunnel can be used to help extend spinach growth into November and December, but if the crop is planted inside a high tunnel too early in the fall, excessively warm temperatures will inhibit growth. By using a rolling high tunnel, the spinach can be planted outside under cooler, natural conditions, then the tunnel can be rolled over the crop when it gets cooler. Many farmers find that

“Any NH farmer who does not grow peppers under some kind of structure all season long is asking for a crop that loses money. All it takes is a simple cover to make all the difference!”

Suzanne Brown
 NHIAF Executive Director

Every farmer needs to demonstrate a dedication to farming sustainably with a spirit of continuing the NHIAF culture of giving back. This site will showcase a 22 x 48 ft. rolling tunnel with a focus on winter production. Rolling tunnels are increasing in popularity due to their ability to enable cover cropping, provide

they can use a rolling tunnel to extend production for a warm season crop like tomatoes, then, once the tomatoes are finished, the tunnel can be rolled over the winter crops like spinach, kale, or winter broccoli.

“Rolling tunnels can be moved when rainfall is needed to provide for natural leaching of accumulated salt, and to improve crop scheduling.”

Dr. Brandon Smith
 NH NRCS Agronomist

EQIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SITE

White Gates Farm, Tamworth, NH

“Even in the dead of winter, growing in a high tunnel is like farming 900 miles south in Raleigh, North Carolina.”

Hank Letarte

Hank Letarte of White Gates Farm is a high-energy agricultural producer who recognizes a good idea when he sees it. High tunnels were one of those bright ideas. After hearing about the technology, he visited his NRCS service center and learned that the high tunnel pilot had just started. He promptly signed up for two high tunnels to cover the maximum square foot allowed. He and his sons did all the construction work themselves, resulting in significant savings. But, work is not something Hank shies away from. Deb Eddison, NRCS Soil Conservationist says that when Hank is ready to do something, it gets done in “the blink of an eye, and done well.”

Mr. Letarte hopes his farm will become a year-round vegetable farm and high tunnels were a big step toward realizing that goal. He is currently (in January) growing peas, lettuce, beets and carrots in one of his two high tunnels. He grew tomatoes in the other tunnel well into December. He thought about planting garlic but felt

that there wasn't enough time before he begins tomatoes again in mid-February. “I have more to learn about crop rotation in high tunnels to maximize production, but this is only my first year”, he said.

Mr. Letarte enthusiastically informs amazed colleagues and acquaintances that “having the high tunnel in New Hampshire in winter is like growing 900 miles south in Raleigh, NC.” When it is ten below out, the soil temperature is between



Lettuce growing in NH high tunnel in January.

24 and 27 degrees which doesn't adversely affect carrots, beets, or lettuce.

White Gates Farm sells its produce to local businesses where his lettuce is featured in their delicious salads. Hank says that he aims to educate more local chefs on the benefits of winter greens where “slower growth increases flavor.” He also supplies produce to the Community School in Tamworth for their school lunches and special Thursday lunches for members of the community who can experience a delicious meal with Letarte's winter greens in exchange for a small donation.



Hank Letarte explains how he covers the crops at night for further protection and uncovers them during sunlight hours for growth.



Crops covered for nighttime protection .



Snow quickly melts off of the tunnel when the sun comes out.

Education

UNH Cooperative Extension State Specialists and County Educators and the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, will be assisting with the high tunnel effort in NH by providing workshops on high tunnel construction and crop management, conducting tours to promote local foods, and writing case studies on the benefits of high tunnels in order to share the lessons learned from the NRCS high tunnel pilot.”

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ✓ THE REQUIRED 6 ML. UV-RESISTANT GREENHOUSE-GRADE PLASTIC IS A CRUCIAL MINIMUM.
- ✓ PAY ATTENTION TO EROSION CONTROL. HIGH TUNNELS CONSTRUCTED LATE IN THE SEASON SHOULD BE MULCHED IF A SOD COVER CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED.
- ✓ USE LOW TUNNELS INSIDE HIGH TUNNELS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.
- ✓ ASK THE NRCS TO HELP WITH SOIL HEALTH TESTING INSIDE TUNNELS.
- ✓ PLASTIC ON ROLL-UP SIDES CAN RIP EASILY IF NOT SECURED WITH ROPES OR OTHER MEANS.
- ✓ MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF PLASTIC IS CONTINUOUS.
- ✓ IT'S BEST TO CONSTRUCT STURDY END WALLS AND DOORS.

EQIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SITE



One of two high tunnels at White Gates Farm (left). Using a small fan, (below) costing about 14 cents a day to inflate the area between two layers of plastic, adds insulation, reduces snow build-up, and protects against wind damage.





Quality Assurance

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NRCS staff, trained on how to evaluate whether or not high tunnels meet NRCS specifications, have visited all approved high tunnel sites. All sites are inspected and certified before a payment is made. Completed means that the high tunnel is totally built and all disturbed areas have been properly reseeded.

\$705,469 in NRCS financial assistance (FY 2010) helped fund the installation of 79 high tunnels throughout all 10 NH counties with 4 additional demonstration sites.



IIINH refuge farmer display site during construction in September (left), and in December, 2010 (right)

Program Statistics

To date, \$705,469 in NRCS financial assistance (FY 2010) helped fund the installation of 79 high tunnels throughout all 10 NH counties with four additional demonstration sites constructed under a Contribution Agreements with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD). There are 347 tunnels constructed under the pilot program in the six New England States.

All NH Seasonal High Tunnel Practices funded in FY 2010 by County

County	AMA		EQIP		Total	
	Number*	Square feet	Number*	Square feet	Number*	Square feet
Belknap	0	0	7	14940	7	14940
Carroll	0	0	6	13068	6	13068
Cheshire	0	0	5	8712	5	8712
Coos	0	0	3	6534	3	6534
Grafton	0	0	14	29526	14	29526
Hillsborough	0	0	12	25624	12	25624
Merrimack	4	8694	11	21871	15	30565
Rockingham	0	0	9	17208	9	17208
Strafford	1	2178	5	8522	6	10700
Sullivan	2	4356	0	0	2	4356
TOTAL	7	15228	72	146005	79	161233

* each item could be one large or two small tunnels



Greens growing in a NH High Tunnel in December, 2010

