

**CHAPTER 167**  
**HB 394-FN - FINAL VERSION**

19Mar2019... 0879h

2019 SESSION

19-0393  
08/04

HOUSE BILL                    ***394-FN***

AN ACT                    relative to crop theft.

SPONSORS:            Rep. O'Connor, Rock. 6; Rep. Comtois, Belk. 7; Rep. Turcotte, Merr. 22; Rep. Aron, Sull. 7

COMMITTEE:          Environment and Agriculture

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Changes the criminal intent for the crime of crop theft.
- II. Expands the definition of crop theft.
- III. Raises the compensatory amount that must be paid to the victim.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~.  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen*

AN ACT                    relative to crop theft.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            167:1 Crop Theft; Agricultural Vandalism. Amend RSA 539:9, I to read as follows:

2            I. Whoever shall [~~knowingly~~] **recklessly** cut, fell, destroy, injure, damage, cause to be  
3 damaged, carry away, **consume**, tamper with, worry, or vandalize any legal crop or legal crop  
4 bearing tree or plant, **Christmas tree**, cropland, pasture or pasture land, livestock or other farm  
5 raised animals, as defined in RSA 21:34-a, and all farm buildings, enclosures, structures, or  
6 equipment used in the care and production of crops, livestock or other farm raised animals, or aid in  
7 such action without permission of the owner, shall forfeit to the person injured **a minimum of \$500**  
8 **or** up to 10 times the market value or repair cost, **whichever amount is higher**.

9            167:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2020.

Approved: July 10, 2019  
Effective Date: January 01, 2020