

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality Division FY2021 Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance Summary

The Water Quality Division within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) is responsible for ensuring farms meet the State agricultural water quality non-point source regulations. VAAFMM performs this task through the use of regulatory, technical, and financial assistance programs provided to farmers and partner organizations.

VAAFMM also works to reduce non-point source nutrient pollution from agricultural land through education and outreach programs, as well as grant awards to partners through the Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (Ag-CWIP). Ag-CWIP, which is made possible by the Clean Water Fund (CWF), supports partners to provide educational programs, innovative phosphorus reduction strategies, and technical assistance to Vermont farmers.

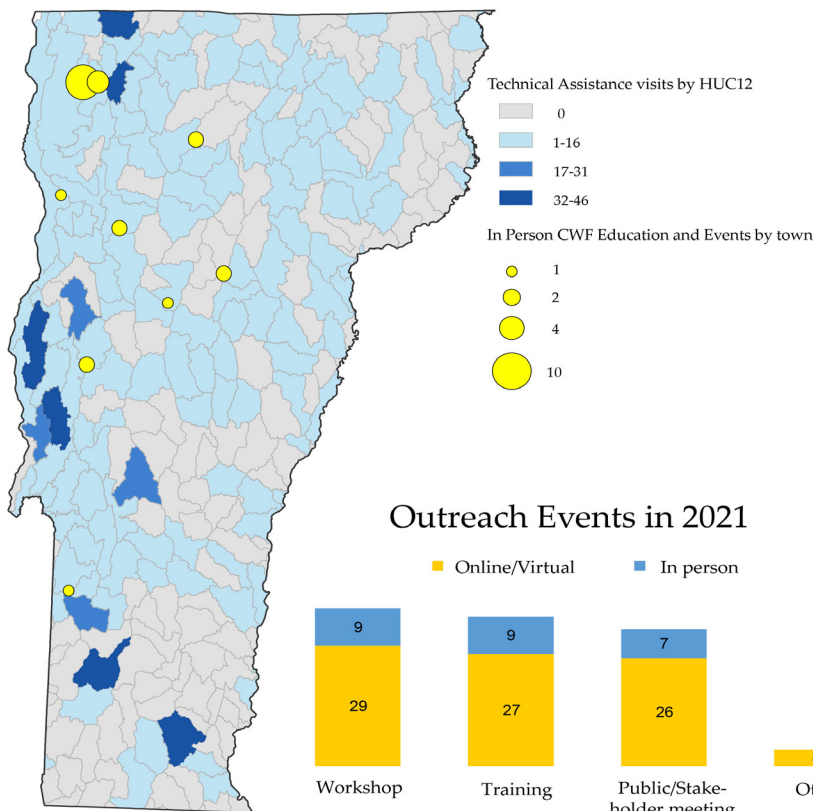
FY2021 PROGRAM IMPACT:
3,097 ATTENDEES
REACHED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

249 HOURS
OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VT FARMERS

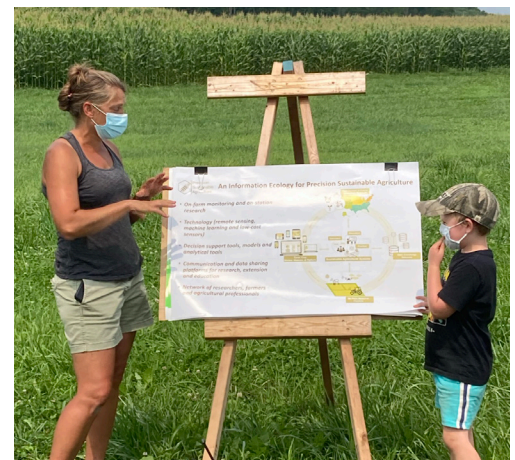
111 EVENTS
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS HELD STATEWIDE AND ONLINE

908 VISITS
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY VAAFMM STAFF AND PARTNERS

AGRICULTURAL CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STATEWIDE



Map of VT showing Technical Assistance visits by HUC12 catchment areas, and the number of outreach and education events by town. Darker blue regions received more TA. Bubbles are proportional to number of events in each town.



Heather Darby of UVM Extension leads a workshop on precision agriculture with a young participant



A Custom Applicator training workshop led by VAAFMM and UVM Extension

AG-CWIP RECIPIENT GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: UVM EXTENSION

Water Quality Business Analysis Program

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension is a major player in agricultural water quality education, outreach and technical assistance in Vermont. In 2020, UVM Extension was the recipient of a \$1.2 million Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (Ag-CWIP) grant over two years, which was divided between four regionally specialized programs.

The Water Quality Business Analysis program is one of the UVM extension programs funded through AgCWIP. The program provides farm owners with one-on-one business planning services and support for informed decision making. The team serves an indispensable service in offering business planning to farms and helping them implement often-expensive WQ improvements. This work is especially important in the current farm economy where it can be difficult to implement improvements. Part of their work is to connect farmers to appropriate service providers and organizations working in the State. They have reached 100 farms this grant cycle.

When COVID-related concerns affected UVM Extension plans, the team has adjusted how they work. Rather than performing farm visits, they have been connecting farmers to resources through webinars, phone calls, newsletters and emails, although they hope to get back onto farms once it is safe to do so.



“ We have to build in capacity to work one-on-one with farmers...so much can be accomplished in that scenario. ”

–Zac Smith, Farm Business Management Specialist

SUMMARY OF ACTIVE AG-CWIP RECIPIENT PROJECTS

RECIPIENT	DESCRIPTION
Natural Resources Conservation Council	Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance to farms, Organizational Capacity Development across the State's 14 Natural Resource Conservation Districts
Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition	Education and Outreach to farms, Organizational Capacity Development
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)	Organizational Support for VACD and the Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership (VAWQP), Land Treatment Planning
Farmers Watershed Alliance	Education and Outreach to farms, Organizational Capacity Development
Lewis Creek Association - Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative	Improved Collaboration with Agricultural Landowners and Partners
Vermont Vegetable & Berry Growers Association (VVBGA)	Education and Outreach and Organizational Capacity Development through a comprehensive VVBGA website
University of Vermont – Northwest Crops and Soils Program	Development and Launch of Discovery Acres Research Site, Agricultural Conservation Equipment Program and GoCrop Modifications
Scott Magnan's Custom Service	Technical Assistance for Precision Agriculture
Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District	Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance to farms
University of Vermont Extension	Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance to farms from the Agricultural Business Team, Vegetable and Berry Team, Northwest Crops Soils Team and Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team, Organizational Capacity Development for Grazing and Livestock Program