

# AGRiVIEW



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## Farmer and Public Feedback Will Shape the Agency of Ag's New Draft "Required Ag Practices"

By Alison Kosakowski, VAAFM

Over the past four months, Vermont's Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM) has embarked on an extensive outreach effort to solicit feedback on the new draft Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs). The response from the farming community and the public-at-large has been significant. Nearly 800 people attended more than 30 meetings across the state to voice their opinions, and 169 Vermonters submitted written comments. The Agency is now in the process of consolidating this feedback and re-drafting the RAPs to reflect the community's input.

The RAPs are an updated version of the Accepted Agricultural

Alison Kosakowski



Practices (AAPs), the laws which regulate farms in order to protect water quality, re-written to a higher level of performance. As part of Act 64—the Clean Water Act—signed into law in July 2015, the Agency of Agriculture was tasked with updat-

*Act 64 requires the Agency to define what constitutes a "small farm" – a number of factors, including sales, size, and number of animals, are being considered.*

ing these regulations to further reduce the impact of agriculture on water quality across the state. The Agency sought public input on its first draft of the new regulations, to ensure the draft RAPs reflected the realities of farming and the legislative intent of Act 64.

"The feedback we received

over the past few months is now being incorporated into a second draft, which we will present to the legislature and the public in February," according to Jim Leland, VAAFM's Director of Ag Resource Management. "From February to March, we will continue to be open for informal public comment at our [AGR.RAP@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.RAP@vermont.gov) e-mail address. We will file a final draft of the RAPs with the Secretary of State in mid-March, which will kick off the formal rulemaking process."

The public will then have the opportunity to comment formally and attend public meetings during this process. Act 64 specifies that the RAPs will be finalized by rule before July 1, 2016.

"We are pleased to have received

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## AGRiVIEW

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets**

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

Over the past five years serving as Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture, I have had the privilege of witnessing, first hand, the tremendous impact farming has on our state. It touches nearly every aspect of Vermont life – our communities, our economy, and our culture.

According to the USDA Ag census, sales of Vermont agricultural products exceed \$776 million annually.

And that just sales of agricultural products – the overall impact is much greater. For instance, when you count up all the ways our largest agricultural sector, the dairy industry, impacts our economy – from creating jobs, to supporting local businesses, to bringing services providers, like veterinarians, to the region – the overall economic impact to the state exceeds \$2.2 billion each year. The food and farming sectors continue to fuel job growth: according to recent data released by Farm to Plate, since 2011, the Vermont's food system has added an additional 4,486 jobs.

Beyond the obvious economic impact, agriculture is key to our way of life. Farms represent about 18% of our total landscape in Vermont

– keeping scenic land in use, and undeveloped. And though harder to measure, farms enrich our communities in countless ways - from the important role farmers' markets play in connecting neighbors, to providing healthy, local food, to inspiring students through Farm-to-School programming.

Our industry is not without challenges. Anyone who visited the Missisquoi Bay last summer knows the issues facing Lake Champlain are real, and agriculture, like the development, transportation, and business sectors, has a big role to play in turning things around. In July, the legislature passed Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, which requires the Agency of Agriculture to write the Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs) to a higher level of performance. The new rules will be known

as the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).

Throughout the fall, we held 30 meetings across the state to share a preliminary draft of the RAPS and gather feedback from farmers and the public-at-large. The turn-out was tremendous – our farmers are eager to be engaged and be part of the solution. Based on what we heard, we are now revising our draft, and will present a new version to the legislature this spring.

Our goal is to create a new set of rules farmers can realistically implement, and to help them every step of the way by providing both technical assistance, and access to financial resources. We understand the pressures farmers face, and want to put forth guidelines that are not only effective in restoring water quality, but also fair to the farming

community.

The bottom line is, agriculture is critical to our state. And we owe it to future generations to preserve and restore the waters of our state. I believe both can thrive. If there was ever a group of people who rise to a challenge like this, it is Vermont's hardworking farmers.

For more information about the impact of agriculture on Vermont's economy, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Vermont/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Vermont/) or [www.VermontDairy.com](http://www.VermontDairy.com)

To learn more about the Agency's efforts to implement the Clean Water Act, visit <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality>

Thank you for all you do to support Vermont agriculture.

*Charles R. Ross*

## RAPs

*continued from page 1*

so much constructive feedback," said Vermont's Ag Secretary, Chuck Ross. "This is a clear indication that Vermonters, particularly farmers, care very deeply about water quality and getting this right. When the RAPs are eventually finalized and signed into law, I know they will be stronger and more effective, as a result of all the input we received."

A wide range of Vermonters contributed feedback, including lakefront camp owners, environmentalists, and farmers. Based on the sign-in sheets, 54% of the attendees at the public meetings were farmers. Respondents shared a wide range

of opinions on issues ranging from the definition of "small farms" to the standards associated with manure spreading and stacking, to the proposed requirements for cover cropping on fields subject to flooding.

"We are currently making significant changes to the draft, based on the feedback we've received," said Leland. "For instance, we now know we need to make changes to the small farm definition, and revise the proposed standards around manure application and stacking – among other changes. We look forward to finalizing the second draft, and sharing it next month."

In addition to sharing the second draft of the RAPs, VAAFM will make available all written public

comments received before Jan 1, 2016. The Agency will also publish an abridged summary of public comments. The delivery date for the second draft of the RAPs was originally scheduled for mid-January, but due to the volume of feedback, the deadline has been extended. The second draft of the RAPs, the responsiveness summary, and the public comments will be available to the public on the Agency's website in early February.

For more information about the RAPs, and the Agency's efforts to implement Act 64, visit <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>

Questions and comment about the RAPs can be directed to [AGR.RAP@Vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.RAP@Vermont.gov).

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## Editor's Note

Exciting news, readers: my husband, Ransom Conant, and I are expecting our first child in February! So, I will be taking a short break from my role at the Agency of Ag to be with my little family. I will be back in May, just in time for all the excitement of spring.



In the meantime, Faith Raymond and Hannah Reid will oversee *Agriview* – as always, with the help of Tim Newcomb, who designs the issue every month.

Wish me luck!

Alison

— Alison Kosakowski

Follow VAAFM on Twitter @VTAgencyofAg  
and follow me @VTFarmGirl

# Vermont at Five Year Mark Implementing Farm to Plate Food System Plan

By Rachel Carter,  
VT Farm to Plate

Increases in local food consumption, jobs, and overall economic activity in the farm and food sector over the past five years are highlighted in the *2015 Farm to Plate Annual Report*, released by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. 2016 marks the halfway point of the release of the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan and the Farm to Plate Network is entering its fifth year implementing Vermont's food system plan. A presentation to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees this morning was immediately followed by a press conference at the Statehouse.

"We could not be more pleased with the 5,300 new jobs that have been created and the overall positive impact Farm to Plate is having on the state's economy, which has grown to over \$10 billion in annual sales. When we passed the Farm to Plate Investment Program legislation in 2009 which called for increasing economic development and jobs in the farm and food sector and improving access to healthy local food for all Vermonters, we had no idea how much change might be possible. Because of the impressive and far reaching efforts of the Farm to Plate Network, this initiative has far exceeded our expectations. We've learned so much about how the food system works, how many types of jobs it encom-



passes, and how many opportunities there are for young people. Farm to Plate has also helped our Committee pass more informed policy and smarter investments in our food system," says Representative Carolyn Partridge (Windham) and House Agriculture & Forest Products Committee Chair.

The 2015 Farm to Plate Annual Report highlights both statewide and regional progress made to reach the Farm to Plate goals over the past five years as well as what is needed to reach the goals set forth in the Vermont's food system plan by 2020. Regional highlights from each Vermont County are included in the annual report.

## Economic Trends

At no other time in Vermont's history has food system activity been more coordinated and more of an economic driver in Vermont. Farm to Plate has firmly established that food system development is fundamental to Vermont's economy. Vermont generates the highest sales from agricultural production (\$776 million) in New England and Vermont maple syrup, cheese, ice cream, and beer are in high demand nationally. Vermont has witnessed sustained growth in food system sales, jobs, and businesses, and increases in value added food manufacturing, financing

opportunities, and supply chain connections.

- Food system gross sales are up 32% from \$7.6 billion (2007) to \$10 billion (2012) [in 2014 dollars].
- Net value added food manufacturing increased 58% (\$359 million) from 2004 – 2013 and now totals nearly \$1 billion (half of which are dairy related products).
- 5,387 new food system jobs were added in Vermont from 2009 – 2014; jobs in the food system now total 63,398.

## Social Trends

Consumer preferences have decisively moved away from artificial ingredients and highly processed food in favor of healthy, local food—and many Vermont businesses are taking advantage of this trend. At the same time, the effects of the Great Recession persist: 10.2% of Vermont households were food insecure at the start of the recession compared to 12.6% today—about 33,000 households.

- Local food purchases have increased by \$189 million between 2010 and 2014 (from 5% to 6.9% of total food purchases in the state); Vermonters spend \$3 billion on food annually.
- The percentage of overweight (37.2%) and obese (24.7%) adult Vermonters has increased over the past 20 years—in 1995 33% were overweight and 14.6% were obese.



## Environmental Trends

Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148), the Water Quality Law (Act 64), and the Renewable Energy Law (Act 56) require paradigm shifts in nutrient management, water quality practices, and renewable energy generation that change the way resources are managed and business is conducted. Many food system organizations in the Farm to Plate Network are already engaged in this groundbreaking work in a cooperative fashion (e.g., through the Farm to Plate Food Cycle Coalition, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) staff working to connect with food rescue efforts being expanded by the Vermont Food Bank).

Food diversion and food rescue (surplus food) due

to the implementation of Act 148 has increased above ANR estimates. According to the Vermont Foodbank, the number of food rescue pounds picked up increased by 30% over the past year.

- The number of impaired river and stream miles due to agriculture has decreased by 23.6% between 2008 and 2014.
- Farm and food system businesses are major sources of renewable electricity generation in Vermont with a total installed capacity of 41.6 MW across 184 sites around the state (33.4% coming from solar, 27.3% from landfill methane, 24.9% from wind, and 14.14% from anaerobic digesters like the one at VT Tech).

*continued on page 16*

# Thinking of Transitioning to Organic? Get the Facts First!

By Sarah Flack, Farm  
Consultant NOFA VT

The number of companies buying organic milk from dairy farms in VT has increased in the last couple of years. The organic pay price, which doesn't undergo the same cyclical rises and falls as conventional milk, has gone up. Organic milk buyers generally pay high premiums for quality and solids, so currently organic farmers are receiving from \$38 to over \$40/CWT in VT.

Transitioning a farm and the dairy herd to organic can be costly, which is why some organic milk buyers also pay transition incentives to help farms make it through the 12-month herd transition. It takes three years from the last date of application of prohibited materials (GMO crops,



synthetic fertilizers, etc.) to transition land to organic and a full year of organic practices (feed, medication, etc.) to transition the herd. Before starting the livestock transition, farms should get a contract from a milk buyer to assure there will be an organic milk market once the herd is certified. Certification doesn't guarantee an organic milk buyer will pick up your milk! It is also important to

start talking to the organic certifier before starting the transition to make sure the farm and herd will qualify for certification at the end of the transition.

Organic certification isn't going to be the right decision for every farm. The ease with which a dairy farm can be transitioned to organic varies depending on the details of a farm—the herd, feed sources and land base. Step one in the

transition process is assessing the farm to see if it is a good candidate for certified organic dairy production.

It is also important to look at how much the transition will cost and the different transition timelines and options.

Organic grain is more expensive than conventional grain; however, many farms find that even with higher feed costs, the benefit of the higher and more stable organic pay price makes it easier to have a long-term financial plan. Because of the high cost of organic feed during the transition year, some farms decide not to transition the whole lactating dairy herd. Instead they sell the dairy herd and buy an organic herd and/or transition a group of heifers so they don't need to buy so much organic grain while still receiving a conventional

pay price. Each farm will need to decide which transition plan is the best fit for their operation.

For farms thinking about transition, it pays to ask the right questions ahead of time, learn the facts, come up with a plan, and know the costs before starting. While the transition and certification process isn't easy, farmers who have successfully made it through say it was worth it to have a more stable pay price, making financial planning easier.

To learn more, come to the winter organic transition workshop being held at the VT Farm Show January 28th or the Organic Dairy Producers Conference March 10th. If you would like to talk to someone directly please call NOFA VT and ask to speak with an organic livestock consultant.

## Farmland Plays a Critical Role for Winter Sports Enthusiasts

By Alison Kosakowski

Vermonters know getting outside and staying active is the key to enjoying the Green Mountain State's long, cold winters. But did you know that farmland plays a big role in keeping Vermonters active?

The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) has more than 4700 miles of groomed snow mobile trails across the state, and 80% of those trails are on private land. Much of that land belongs to farmers.

Last year, a poll conducted by Castleton Polling Institute revealed that more than 60% of Vermonters regularly use farmland for recreational purposes – from snowmobiling, to cross country skiing, to hunting. And it is possible that many more Vermonters use farmland for winter recreation, without knowing even knowing it – they just ski on through!

Winter recreation is yet another reason why the Working Landscape is so important to Vermont. Not only does it enrich our economy and the beauty of our landscape, it helps us beat the winter blues!



Photo courtesy of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development

## NOFA Vermont's 34th Annual Winter Conference Theme is "Our Soil, Our Health"

By Kim Mercer, NOFA VT

The NOFA Vermont Winter Conference is a highlight of the winter for Vermont's local food growers and eaters on February 13, 14, and 15, at the University of Vermont in Burlington. It is an annual opportunity to bring together farmers, gardeners, homesteaders and food enthusiasts for three days of shared learning, inspiration, good food, and great conversation.

This year's conference theme, "Our Soil, Our Health" was developed in recognition of how the quality of our soil affects the quality of our food and its fundamental ability to nourish us. On the heels of the United Nation's 2015 International Year of Soils, the organizers of the Winter



Conference want to elevate the discussion of the linkage between soil health, plant health, ecosystem health, and human health. This theme will be addressed throughout the conference – in our keynote addresses, workshops, and a featured film *The Symphony of the Soil*.

NOFA Vermont is proud to feature two keynote speakers from Vermont at the conference this year: Heather Darby, who will address Saturday's focus on soils, and Guido Masé, who will address Sunday's

focus on health. Heather is a certified organic farmer from Alburgh, Vermont and an Agronomic and Soils Specialist at the University of Vermont. Guido Masé is a clinical herbalist, herbal educator at the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism in Montpelier, and garden steward specializing in holistic Western herbalism.

With a total of over 100 workshops, there is something for everyone. Are you a homesteader or gardener interested in growing figs or hops? A

food enthusiast interested in learning about fermented foods, or how to make crisper pickles? Are you a commercial grower interested in more energy efficient cold storage or producing sweet potatoes and ginger? Or are you interested in the business and marketing of farming? If a day-long intensive workshop appeals to you, you can choose workshop intensives on Elderberries, Bees, Agroforestry or Vegetable Growing. In addition, there are daily discussion groups and films.

With so many interesting attendees and exhibitors, one of the highlights of the conference is the opportunity to network. You

can catch up with people during our extended lunch time, during our evening social opportunities, at the seed swap, while working on a community art project with Bonnie Acker, or eating roasted roots from the NOFA-VT oven.

Early registration for the conference is offered at a discounted rate until February 4th, with additional discounts for NOFA Vermont members and volunteers. More information and online registration is at <http://nofavt.org/conference>.

There is also a Children's Conference for the next generation of farmers, gardeners, and foodies which features hands-on workshops, art projects, yoga, outdoor play and much more. The cost for children ages 5-12 is a sliding scale of \$0-\$30 per day. More information about the Children's Conference is at <http://nofavt.org/childrens-conference>.

### Sell Direct to Stonyfield

Stonyfield, the world's largest organic yogurt maker, is looking for exceptional organic dairies throughout the Northeast for our direct-sourcing program. As part of the Stonyfield team, you'll receive:

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For more information, visit [www.Stonyfield.organic](http://www.Stonyfield.organic) or contact **Kyle Thygesen** (802) 369-0267 [kthygesen@stonyfield.com](mailto:kthygesen@stonyfield.com)



# Hop Conference Features Speakers from U.S. and Abroad

By Susan Brouillette, UVM

**N**ortheast hop growers will have an opportunity to hear from an international slate of experts at the seventh annual Hop Conference, Feb. 19, in Colchester.

The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension-sponsored conference will be held at the Hampton Inn Vermont Event Center. It will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The fee, which includes lunch, is \$60 for Northeast Hops Alliance members, \$70



for all others. Anyone not able to attend in person may watch the conference as a live broadcast for \$35.

Growers are asked to register by Feb. 16

at [www.regonline.com/hopconference](http://www.regonline.com/hopconference). To request a disability-related accommodation to attend, contact Susan Brouillette at (802) 524-6501 or (800)

639-2130 (within Vermont) by Jan. 29.

The agenda includes presentations by three hop growers including Nathan L'Etoile from Four Star Farms in Northfield, Massachusetts, on scaling up production and Dan Wiesen from Empire Hops Farm in Empire, Michigan, on efficient hop yard management. Richard Phillips of Worcester, England, a British Hop Association board member, will discuss successful disease management strategies used by hop growers in Europe.

Growers also will hear from Sarah Del Moro, an agronomist with John I. Haas, Inc. Yakima, Washington, on agronomics and fertility management.

Research updates from agronomist Heather Darby and the UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Team and Steve Miller, Cornell Cooperative Extension hops specialist, round out the agenda.

For more information, call (802) 524-6501 or (800) 639-2130 to speak with Heather Darby or Susan Brouillette.

## Changes to EPA's Farm Worker Protection Standard

By Annie Macmillan, VAAFM

**T**he Environmental Protection Agency has revised the 1992 Agricultural Worker Protection Standard regulation to increase protection from pesticide exposure for Vermont's local and migrant agricultural workers and their families. These changes will afford farmworkers similar health protections that are already afforded to workers in other industries while taking into account the unique working environment of many agricultural jobs.

The regulation seeks to protect and reduce the risks of injury or illness resulting from *agricultural workers'*

(those who perform hand-labor tasks in pesticide-treated crops, such as harvesting, thinning, pruning) and pesticide handlers' (those who mix, load and apply pesticides) use and contact with pesticides on farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses. The regulation does not cover persons working with livestock.

Major changes to the regulation:

- Annual mandatory training to inform farmworkers on the required protections. This increases the likelihood that protections will be followed. *Currently, training is only once every five years.*
- Expanded training includes instructions to reduce

take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.

- First-time ever minimum age requirement: Children under 18 are prohibited from handling pesticides.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides. The signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- New no-entry application-exclusion zones up to 100 feet surrounding pesticide application equipment will protect workers and others from exposure to pesticide overspray.
- Requirement to provide more than one way for farmworkers and their rep-

resentatives to gain access to pesticide application information and safety data sheets – centrally-posted, or by requesting records.

- Mandatory record-keeping to improve states' ability to follow up on pesticide violations and enforce compliance. Records of application-specific pesticide information, as well as farmworker training, must be kept for two years.
- Anti-retaliation provisions are comparable to Department of Labor's (DOL).
- Changes in personal protective equipment will be consistent with the DOL's Occupational Safety & Health

Administration standards for ensuring respirators are effective, including fit test, medical evaluation and training.

- Specific amounts of water to be used for routine washing, emergency eye flushing and other decontamination, including eye wash systems for handlers at pesticide mixing/loading sites.
- Continue the exemption for farm owners and their immediate family with an expanded definition of immediate family.

Additional information on the rule is available at [www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard](http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard)

# Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEX) Will Host Innovation Seminar for Working Lands Businesses

By Robynn Albert, VMEX

Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEX) will host an innovation seminar for Working Lands businesses at Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph Feb 16 - Feb 17, 2016 from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

In two full days, Innovation Engineering Experience will help participants go from defining their strategic mission for innovation, to having a tested idea ready to pitch to new or existing customers. And, they will receive support and coaching following the event, to help complete a project. With grant support from the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, the event cost is just \$250 per person for both days, including breakfasts and lunches.

Ideas for new company products, services and business models will be created and tested as part of the event. Up to 150 participants, from 25 or more companies in the agricultural, food production, forest products and wood products businesses, will be able to participate in this high energy, fast-paced, learn-and-apply experience.

Innovation Engineering® is a proven, scientific system for never-ending innovation developed by Eureka! Ranch, the University of Maine, NIST MEP and the



Innovation Engineering Network. Grounded in 27+ years of research and project work, it incorporates the systems thinking mindset of Dr. W. Edwards Deming through education, tools, coaching and mentoring to enable innovation by everyone, every day. VMEX is a founding member of the Innovation Engineering Network and has been assisting companies with Innovation Engineering projects since 2006.

## Some Testimonials

*"Having been to a similar two and a half day event put on by VMEX along with most other RDC directors in the state, I can tell you first hand that the takeaways from attending and fully participating in this very intense training program are absorbing, eye-opening, mind-expanding and above all, enlightening beyond anything I expected at the time."*

– John Mandeville,  
Executive Director,  
Lamoille Economic  
Development Corporation

*"At first I was fairly skeptical of the three-day commitment it would take for so many folks from our company. I can tell you it's been transformational in our view of the importance of innovation and how it will affect our ability to deliver interesting new products and great marketing in the future."*

– Joe Perrotto, President,  
Country Home Products, Inc.

## Registration Details

The discounted registration fee for this event, made possible through a Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Initiative grant for Vermont working lands sector companies (including

agriculture, food production, forest products and wood products) is \$250 per person, including breakfast and lunch. NOTE: The registration fee for non-Working Lands organizations is \$895 per person; please visit [www.vmec.org/events/innovation-engineering-experience/](http://www.vmec.org/events/innovation-engineering-experience/) to register. If possible, companies are strongly encouraged to bring 2-4 team members from their company. Seats are limited, so we encourage you to register early.

Visit [www.vmec.org/events/innovation-engineering-experience/](http://www.vmec.org/events/innovation-engineering-experience/) for more information.

## For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Merlin Backus and Rebecca Velazquez aka Barn First Creamery of Westfield, Vermont to sell, process and package goat's milk and goat's milk cheese in the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
Dairy Section Office  
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by February 15th, 2016.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

# New Vegetables to Grow in 2016

By Dr. Leonard Perry,  
Horticulture Professor,  
University of Vermont

Each year the best of the new annual flowers and vegetables are judged nationwide, and the winners given the All-America Selections (AAS) designation. To be an AAS winner, plants must show improvements over any similar existing cultivars (cultivated varieties). This year's vegetable winners include a mustard, onion, two sweet peppers, a pumpkin, radish, two tomatoes, and even a strawberry.

In the past, the winners were only those that were deemed worthy across most of North America. While there are still these "national" winners, there are now regional winners as well—those performing best in a particular region. This doesn't mean that they won't grow and produce acceptably in other regions too.

**Japanese Red Kingdom mustard** was a national winner, being an F1 hybrid (a cross of two specific parents). It is the first mizuna type, or Japanese, mustard AAS winner, and has attractive reddish-purple leaves in addition. It has higher yields than some other mizunas, is less likely to "bolt" (make flower stalks), has a mild flavorful taste, and the leaves make it good too as an ornamental. It only needs three to five weeks from sowing until harvest. Mizuna greens are used in



Asian cooking, such as stir fry, or in hot dishes such as to flavor potatoes.

**Bunching Warrior onion** is a bunching or green scallion type, good grilled or to add texture and flavor to salads and many kinds of recipes. It is reported to last longer, if left in the ground, than other similar onions. This is a regional winner, needing about 60 days from sowing until harvest. If sowing seeds indoors, figure on about a month to harvest from transplanting.

**Cornito Giallo** is a sweet Italian frying pepper, a cone or horn shape, and bright yellow when left to mature. From transplanting outside, figure on about 75 days to harvesting. It is prolific, and can have two dozen or more fruits per plant.

Judges reported this national winning pepper to have an outstanding flavor either raw, cooked, or fire-roasted.

**Escamillo** is another sweet frying horned-type pepper and, like the other winning pepper, is a national winner, an F1 hybrid, and bred by Johnny's Seeds of Maine. Its fruits, when mature, are a golden yellow. Figure on about the same time to



**Strawberry Delizz**

harvest as the other pepper, and similar uses.

**Super Moon pumpkin** is an F1 hybrid and regional winner. As you might guess from its name, it is white when mature-- the first white pumpkin to be an AAS winner. Fruits can get large—up to 50 pounds—although they are usually 25 to 30 pounds. The plant is disease resistant. Figure on about 90 days to harvest from sowing seeds.

**Sweet Baby radish**, too, is an F1 hybrid and regional winner. Fruits (roots) are an elongated egg shape ("obovate"). On the outside they mature purplish, and on the inside mostly white with purple streaks. Their taste is described as crispy, crunchy, and slightly spicy. Days to harvest from sowing seeds is 40 to 45 days. Make successive sowings every two to three weeks if you want to harvest through the season.

**Candyland Red tomato** is a national winner, and the only currant-type winner ever. This type has smaller fruits than cherry tomatoes. Fruit are dark red and sweet,

maturing about 95 days from sowing seeds, or about 55 days from transplanting seedling plants that you started indoors about six weeks earlier. Fruit are only about one-half inch wide and weight about one-quarter ounce. Vines are indeterminate (keep growing from the tips) so can reach five feet or more, and need suitable staking. This makes them more suited to ground

beds than containers.

**Chef's Choice** is a green tomato, a national winner, and another F1 hybrid. Fruit are green with subtle yellow stripes, and flavor described as citrusy. The beefsteak type fruit get 6 to 7 inches wide, and can weigh 9 to 10 ounces. It too is indeterminate so needs staking.

**Strawberry Delizz** is an F1 hybrid, so is grown from seeds unlike most strawberries you buy as plant offshoots. This is a national winner, and the first strawberry AAS winner, coming from a gourmet strawberry breeding firm in Holland. Being compact, these strawberry plants are good in containers and hanging baskets, as well as in ground beds. Being a day-neutral type (length of day doesn't affect their fruiting), they'll fruit through the season. In the north, start plants indoors a month or more before planting outside, as they need 120 days to harvest from sowing seeds, or about 60 days from transplanting outside.

You can find more All-America Selections winners, information on them, and sources, from their website ([all-americanselections.org](http://all-americanselections.org)). If you're unsure what to grow in your garden this season, or want to try some new crops or varieties, these are a good place to start. Many won't be available as plants locally, so plan to order seeds and enjoy sowing and growing them yourself.

# Agronomy Plus Meetings Will Cover Wide Range Of Topics

By Dan Hudson, UVM Extension

The 2016 Vermont Agronomy Plus meetings, scheduled for seven Vermont locations in February, will give farmers an opportunity to learn from state and nationally recognized experts on a range of important topics.

Registration for the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension-hosted meetings is \$25, and includes lunch, if received at least three days prior to the meeting. Farmers may attend in person or remotely from home using GoToMeeting. As content varies for each meeting, all registrants will be able to access other sessions at no additional cost through a high-speed Internet connection.

Registrations will be accepted online or by mail. Go to <http://go.uvm.edu/agronomyplus2016> for information.

To request a disability-related accommodation or special dietary needs, contact Brent Passut at (800) 545-8920, ext. 351 (toll-free in Vermont) or (802) 751-8307, ext. 351, two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Dates and venues include:

**FEB. 16 – WHITE RIVER JUNCTION** (Yankee Farm Credit, 52 FarmVu Dr.): better bunker silo management (Limin Kung, University of Delaware); troubleshooting high-forage rations (John Goeser, Rock River Laboratory);

cropping systems innovations (Daniel Hudson, UVM Extension)

**FEB. 18 – DERBY** (Cow Palace, 3111 U.S. Rte. 5); preventing/treating environmental mastitis (Pamela Ruegg, University of Wisconsin); maximizing starch digestibility (Limin Kung, University of Delaware); no-till corn (Daniel Hudson, UVM Extension)

**FEB. 19 – HYDE PARK** (Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, 738 Rte. 15 West); managing for consistently high forage quality (Dan Undersander, University of Wisconsin); farm robotics (Larry Tranel, Iowa State University) and a farmer panel on experiences with robotics (facilitated by Tony Kitsos, UVM Extension)

**FEB. 22 – ST. JOHNSBURY** (UVM Extension office, 374 Emerson Falls Rd.); growing corn in a living mulch (Nick Hill, University of Georgia); trans-Iowa low-cost parlors (Larry Tranel, Iowa State University); optimizing rations on pasture (David Combs, University of Wisconsin)

**FEB. 25 – MIDDLEBURY** (Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave.); troubleshooting high-forage rations (John Goeser, Rock River

Laboratory); growing corn in a living mulch (Daniel Hudson, UVM Extension); revisions to the RAPS (required agricultural practices) (Ryan Patch, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets)

**FEB. 26 – BRATTLEBORO** (UVM Extension, 130 Austine Dr.); troubleshooting dairy rations (Mike

Hutjens, University of Illinois); cropping system innovations (Daniel Hudson, UVM Extension); potassium management for crops (Sid Bosworth, UVM Extension)

**FEB. 29 – ENOSBURG FALLS** (The Dairy Center, 2445 Sampsonville Rd.); insights on starch digestibility (Luiz Ferraretto, Miner Institute, Chazy, New

York); lowdown on Italian ryegrass, adaptive nitrogen management on corn (Daniel Hudson, UVM Extension)

Event sponsors include Ben and Jerry's Caring Dairy, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency, Barenbrug USA, Resource Management, Incorporated and Agri-Mark.



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# Using Safe Salts And Other February Gardening Tips

By Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist, and Charlie Nardozi, Garden Consultant

**D**eicing walks safely for plants, searching catalogs and online for new flowers and vegetables, and growing flamingo flowers indoors are some of the gardening activities for this month.

When deicing walks, use one of the granular products with a “chloride” other than from sodium—these are safer on plants. They may cost a bit more, but you often can use less product. Calcium chloride works best in the coldest areas (down to about 5 degrees F). If below this temperature, don’t use any chemical product but rather sand instead for traction. To save on cost and dilute the salt too, mix it with a large portion of coarse kitty litter. Liquid products don’t track into buildings as granular ones often do. Apply any material before ice and snow, if possible, for best results.

If you are clearing your driveway with a snow blower this winter, direct the snow away from plants. Otherwise, the blowing ice crystals may damage the tender bark of young trees and shrubs. This isn’t as much of a concern for plants wrapped with burlap.

A great winter pastime for gardeners is spending hours with seed and plant catalogs, or at such firms online. Make sure if choosing fruit plants that they are suited for your region and hardiness zone. Make sure if choosing vegetables that the varieties fit your growing season. Catalogs generally will list how many days from



*All-America Selections Chef's Choice green tomato*

sowing, or transplanting (read the fine print to find out which applies) until harvest. If you’re in an area with cooler summers and short growing seasons, look for varieties having the fewest days to harvest.

Look for All-America Selections winning flowers and vegetables to try. These are the best of the new seed-grown varieties, and you’ll often need to start the newest ones from seeds yourself in order to have them. A couple of new 2016 winning vegetables are Chef’s Choice green tomato, and Candyland red tomato.



*All-America Selections Brocade Cherry Night geranium*

The latter is a currant-type tomato, meaning fruit are even smaller than cherry tomatoes. Other winning vegetables to check out are Sweet Baby radish, Super Moon (of course white) pumpkin, Japanese Red Kingdom mustard, Bunching Warrior onion, and two golden-yellow frying peppers.

New flower winners for 2016 in the All-America Selections program include Brocade Cherry Night geranium, with large cherry-pink semi-double blooms; Brocade Cherry Fire also has semi-double blooms only in orange, and with tri-colored leaves; and Summer Jewel Lavender salvia is the fourth winning color in this series of upright flowering sages.

Flamingo flower often just goes by its scientific name of *anthurium* (say an-THUR-ee-um). This is an easy houseplant tolerating low light, only with fewer if any flowers there. Ideal is bright, indirect light. Too much direct sun and the leaves may get bleached out or “burn”. They like a moist soil, but not wet. If in doubt, don’t water. Generally red



*All-America Selections Candyland red tomato*

and heart-shaped, the flowers are a good fit for Valentine’s Day. Actually, these “flowers” are modified leaves called “spathes”. The “spadix” or central column has the real, but inconspicuous, flowers.

Other gardening activities for this month include bringing any potted spring bulbs that you’re forcing from cold into warmth, cleaning bird feeders and heated bird baths, checking seed starting supplies, sharpening pruning tools, sowing begonias and onions (and their relatives) indoors, and buying some Valentine flowers for special people in your life.

*Charlie Nardozi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach (CharlieNardozi.com). Distribution of this release is made possible by the University of Vermont, and New England Grows—a conference providing education for industry professionals and support for university outreach efforts in horticulture.*



*Anthurium*

## MARKET REPORT

**Wholesale Prices**

January 2016t

Wholesale prices paid per dozen for Vermont Grade A brown eggs delivered to retail stores.

**Vermont Egg Prices:**

Jumbo . . . . .	\$3.00
X-Large . . . . .	\$2.75
Large . . . . .	\$2.50
Medium . . . . .	\$2.25

Market is steady  
and supply is good.

You can find more reports  
online at

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm>

This is the web source for  
USDA Market News

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture - USDA Market News**

Addison County Commission Sales — East Middlebury, VT

Livestock Auction Report for January 2016

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Calves</b>
This Week:	106	191
Last Week:	129	193

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold steady with good demand. Slaughter cattle supply included 105 cows and 1 bull. All prices quoted per cwt.

**SLAUGHTER COWS:**

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	80.00-80.50	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	72.00-75.00	75.00-77.00	66.50-69.50	—
Boners	80-85	68.50-72.50	—	63.50-65.00	—
Lean	85-90	65.00-68.50	68.50-72.00	61.50-65.00	55.00-63.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 2190 lbs @ 93.50

CALVES: When compared to last sale Holstein bull calves sold 10.00-20.00 higher with good demand. All prices per cwt.

**HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:**

**Number 1:** 100-120lbs 190.00-220.00; 90-100 lbs 190.00-210.00; 80-90 lbs 180.00-200.00; 70-80lbs not tested.

**Number 2:** 100-120lbs 170.0-192.50; 90-100 lbs 150.00-180.00; 80-90 lbs 150.00-170.00; 70-80lbs 140.00-180.00.

**Number 3:** 100-120lbs 100.00-150.00; 90-100lbs 125.00-170.00; 80-90lbs 122.50-150.00; 70-80lbs 100.00.

**Utility:** 100-120lbs 70.00-110.00; 90-100lbs 80.00-100.00; 80-90lbs 60.00-100.00; 70-80 lbs 45.00-85.00.

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 82-92lbs 107.50 – 125.00

Price and grade information is reported by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture-USDA Market News Service. While market reports reflect the majority of livestock sold at each sale, there are instances where animals do not fit reporting categories and are not included in this report.

**SOURCE:**

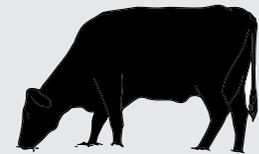
VT Agency of Ag-USDA  
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA

Darryl Kuehne  
Market Reporter  
Cell: 802-793-5348

Levi Geyer, OIC  
Cell 717-406-7350 / Office 717-354-2391

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/MP\\_LS141.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/MP_LS141.txt)

For all USDA Livestock and Grain market reports:  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMNPubs/index.htm>



## CLASSIFIEDS

**Advertising in Agriview**

**Classified Ads: Free to subscribers only.** Limited to two ads per issue, ads will run for two issues. **Must include subscriber number with ad request** (number appears at the top of the mailing label)

**Deadline For Ads:** 10 days prior to the publication date.

**Display Ads:** Information available upon request

**Classified advertisements must be sent:**

- **By mail:** (see address on page 2)
- **By e-mail:** (to [Ag-agriview@state.vt.us](mailto:Ag-agriview@state.vt.us))
- **Online at:** <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/Agriview/agriviewclassified.html>
- **We do not accept ads over the phone.**

Only items of an agricultural nature will be listed. The only real estate which will be listed are tracts of Vermont land two to five acres or more which are being used or can be used for agricultural purposes. All Feed, Hay and Forage ads must have county, town, and phone number, **and must be renewed each month.**

The Secretary reserves the right to make a final decision on the eligibility of items listed. The editor reserves the right to censor and edit ads. **The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets assumes no responsibility for transactions resulting through advertising in Agriview.** Advertisers are cautioned that it is **against the law** to misrepresent any product or service offered in a public notice or an advertisement carried in any publication delivered by the U.S. Mail.

**Ads must be limited to 40 words or less.**

**Agriview Subscribers can Now Submit Classifieds Online**

*Agriview* subscribers now have the ability to submit their classified ads online.

Subscribers can log on to [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news\\_media/agriview](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news_media/agriview) and submit their ad using the online form.

Classified ads are free to all subscribers — limit two ads per issue. Ads must be 40 words or less. You must include your subscriber number when submitting your ad.

Please take advantage of this service, which will help streamline the classifieds process. For those who are unable to access the Internet, we will still accept classifieds by mail.

If you have questions about classified ads, please contact Faith Raymond at 802-828-1619 or [Faith.Raymond@state.vt.us](mailto:Faith.Raymond@state.vt.us).

**Bees & Honey**

Glass Honey Jars with plastic screw top lids, two sizes. Be ready for the honey harvest. 1 lb jars—\$0.58/ea or \$14.18/case of 24. 2.5 lb jars—\$1.60/ea or \$19.20/dozen. Inquire to buy jars/lids separately. Call 802-244-7534 or email [cawlow@gmail.com](mailto:cawlow@gmail.com). (2/16)

Nucleus Colonies And Queens: Order 2016 nucleus colonies at last year's price now! Still \$155! We sell 5-frame nucs which include frames of bees with brood and a queen. Our Northern Survivor stock have

been bred for winter hardiness and productivity. Our Northern Survivor Hybrid Queens are still \$32.00. A shipping charge of \$7.50 per box will be applied. We do not sell specific breeds of queens. Our queens are bred from the various strains we use to breed traits into our bees. Go to our website for more information and to place your order and learn about pick up dates for the nucs. [www.vtbees.com](http://www.vtbees.com) or call (802)948-2057 Roland and Deborah Smith, Singing Cedars Apiary 77 Singing

Cedars Rd. Orwell, Vt. 05760 (2/16)

**Cattle**

Looking to lease Angus bulls for 2016 season and maybe beyond. 2 Angus Bulls for sale 1 Registered BC Lookout and 1 Commercial Pioneer 7301 very calm and productive 8027592135 (2/16)

Starter herd or add onto your herd - two heifers born April 2015 and a 2 year old bull. Two Bison butcher bulls - 3 years old

## CLASSIFIEDS

Located in Townshend, VT Call 802-365-7721 after 5 pm (2/16)

Two year old beautiful angus registered AL Sire. Sired by Garretts Credence 165, with great statistics. Phone 802-746-8979 at 7:30 (2/16)

Two registered pregnant angus cows. Your choice two of 15. Phone 802-746-8979 (2/16)

Registered Jersey heifer, polled. DOB 4-22-14 due 3-25-16 to retreat P \$1400. Registered Ayrshire heifer dob 3-1-14 due 2-19-16 \$1400. 802-483-2889, 802-558-1732 (2/16)

### Deer/Cervid

Yearlings and doelings available from a registered, disease free herd of high producing, organically fed Alpine dairy goats with excellent, diverse genetics. Rotationally grazed and trained to electric net fencing. Cold hardy & disease resistant. Attentively raised by a veterinarian. (1/16)

### Employment

Organic livestock farm seeks co-manager/co-producer to assist in current operations and produce your own products for direct sale in our established on-farm meat store. Poultry is most needed but beef, lamb, fruits and vegetables are possible. Vince Foy, Danville, 802-748-8461. (2/16)

### Equipment

2002 New Holland TV140 Bi-Directional, 2300 hrs., PTO bucket and clam. \$42,500.00. Please call 802-525-1272. Like new!! (1/16)

Cedar fence posts. 40 8' and 40 10' posts. Take them all for \$250. I can load them onto your trailer. Call Israel in Cabot 563-6061 (1/16)

Cheese Plant for sale: 50 gal. pasteurizer and all equipment sold as a package. \$13,000. kirchner@hughes.net; 802-755-6349 after 6PM. (1/16)

Tractor chains 16.9X30 or 18.4X30 cross chains every other link \$200 Brookfield 276-3385 (1/16)

1000 gallon used fuel tank for repurposing. BO. Call Gary at 635-9550, Eden. (1/16)

KUHN GF 22 NT tedder, new IDKA 402 – five bar side delivery rake, wagon gears 802-291-0543 (1/16)

Leader 5' by 7' front pan stainless steel. Excellent shape \$400 or best offer. 802-524-4345 (1/16)

John Deere 4955 4wd 7600 hrs 1500 On engine 600 hrs on transmission rebuild Rice an canes front and back duals excellent condition sunflower 1232 disk Harrows 24ft choice of two u pick Ready to go 18027592135 (2/16)

Harness making machinery Singer model 97-10 leather stitcher with deep throat on floor stand sews up to 1 inch leather and other materials also a United Shoe Co. hide splitter extra set of knives \$1800 for pair 802 387 4412 (2/16)

Fasse Remote Master converter converts 2 remotes to 4 remotes should fit any farm tractor comes with wiring and control box in excellent condition asking 600.00 OBO call at 802-537-3233 or e-mail sdkelly@shoreham.net (2/16)

Paul Scales, Hog & Sheep scales 58sx500 great shape with wheel kit. \$1000. Jim 802-457-4806 ext 3. (2/16)

New Holland 166 Hay Merger with Turnchute \$3750.00. Case IH 900 cyclo Corn Planter, 30" Dry Fertilizer \$3700.00. Bradford-White 75 Gallon LP Gas Water Heater, 7 years old never used \$675.00. Mueller 600 gallon oval Bulk Tank \$2750.00. Please call Joe at 802-770-0959 (2/16)

CAM SUPERLINE TRAILER - 2.5 ton 5x8 feet with spare tire and battery. Model: 2.5 Cam 508D with 50 to 200 hours on it. Retail at \$4293, asking \$2900; STIHL CHAIN SAW, MS261 with 18 inch bar. Lightly used. Retail \$610, asking \$500 or BO. Call 802-948-2211 (2/26)

Int'l 766- Cab- 3300 hrs-Super clean..\$13,500. Int'l 2250 Mount-o-matic Loader- Super Nice...\$3500.

NI 3632 Tandem man sprdr- 300bu- Exc..\$5800. Hesston (NI) S260 man sprdr- 250 bu- Exc..\$5800. JD 450 Hydra Push man sprdr- Nice..\$4800. Gehl 250 man sprdr- words good..\$1850. JD #350 man sprdr-125 bu..\$1600. 802-376-5262 www.youngsmilkywayfarm.com (2/16)

Bell saw sawmill \$750. MF to 35 \$3400, MF 50 \$2000, MF IND 20w ladder \$4000, MF 35 gas \$3500, MF 3 pth 2BTM plow 250 Ford 101 3 BTM plow \$400, case 3 pth 2 BTM \$250, case 1 row corn picker \$750, cub cadet 104 w mower deck \$450, Honda 4 tray \$1500, Big red \$750, 5&6 ft drag harrows 250+up ANBO 5 1/8 ft brush grapple rake \$3500. 603-313-3039 (2/16)

3 PTH Round Bale Spear, excellent condition, don't need it any more. \$150.00, 802-234-5653. (1/16)

82 front New Holland elevator, 24 ton grain bin excellent shape, 5-6 ton C51 grain bin, 9-10 ton grain bin. Call 802-624-0143 (2/16)

Huhn GFZZNT Tedder, new idea 402-five bar side delivery rake, wagon gears. 802-291-0543 (2/16)

3 feed racks 10ft with plastic trough never used \$500 each. Hay elevator tube type, 20ft motor \$750. IH model #470 Harrows 20ft solid \$2750. 3 calf hutches, used \$200 each. JD 4 bottom plow, with coulters, clean \$975. Ford 3 bottom plow, with coulters \$850. Ford tractor 1949 with sicklebar mower excellent condition, little use \$3500. Farmall A w/f with plow, excellent tires \$2750, Farmall C w/f with mower runs great \$2750. 2 150 gal water tanks \$100 each 802-483-2870 (2/16)

### Farm & Farmland

Organic Farm for lease in Northeast Kingdom May 1, 2016. 75 acres of divided pastures. We will crop grass silage for purchase. Would consider leasing fields for you to put up feed. Tom 802-274-4934/802-744-2444 (1/16)



### Hay, Feed & Forage

Good quality first and second cut hay large and small bales and organic. Straw, large or small square bales whole or pressed bales at farm we load or direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 (1/16)

4000 ton corn silage. 1000 ton 2nd cutting haylage, 1000 ton 1st cutting haylage 802-394-2976 (1/16)

1st cut hay: \$5.00. 2nd cut hay: \$6.00. Cash sales only. 603-543-3616 (2/16)

50 early June 1st cut 4 by 4 wrapped round bales \$50 each Livewater Farm Putney Vt 802 387 4412 Livewaterfarm@comcast.net (2/16)

For Sale: 1000-2000 tons of 1/3 corn silage, 1/3 2nd cut and 1/3 3rd cut mixed; \$50/ton. Please contact at 802-533-2984 after 4 PM. (2/16)

Hay - Dry Round Bales 4' First and Second crop \$40 each Danville, VT Call 802-748-9868 or 802-424-6110 (2/16)

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Dry hay, organic, large round bales. Montgomery, VT. 802-326-4151 (2/16)

### ORLEANS COUNTY

Organic Grass Silage Call Tom 802-274-4934 or Shaye 802-274-4939 or 802-744-2444 Will deliver ask for price (1/16)

### Goats

Sugar Top Farm is taking orders for spring goat kids. Registered and unregistered stock will be available. We are disease tested negative for CAE, CL and Johne's. Check

our website for more information: [www.sugartopfarm.com](http://www.sugartopfarm.com) or follow us on facebook. (1/16)

Lazy Lady Farm is taking orders for our 2016 kids. We are an award winning cheese operation and registered alpine goat dairy with 40 milkers. The bucks used this season are from Tempo Aquila Farm of Oregon, Mamm-Key Farm of Colorado, and Redwood Hills of California. DHIA testing with a herd ave of 2400lbs. CAE and CL free herd. 30 years of breeding and caring for this herd. Please visit our website: [lazyladyfarm.com](http://lazyladyfarm.com) to read about our farm and herd. Contact me for a sales list with prices and breeding information. [laini@lazyladyfarm.com](mailto:laini@lazyladyfarm.com). 802-744-6365 Westfield, VT (1/16)

Registered White Angora Goats for sale. Must stay together. 2 year old, 4 year old, and 13 year old. All very healthy, gentle and friendly. The two younger have never been bred. \$450.00. Delivery available. Call 860-659-3426. (1/16)

Aprx 500 Leader King buckets with covers and spouts. \$4 set 802-895-4005 (1/16)

Alpine Goat Kids (registered and not) available soon. Holistically managed. Organically fed. Humanely raised. Negative for CAE, CL, Johne's. Prices start at \$100. Please check out our website for more information and photos: [www.sugartopfarm.com](http://www.sugartopfarm.com) or call: 802-224-6577 (2/16)

CLASSIFIEDS

Folding metal goat milking stand like new. \$150. Pics upon request. kkirchner@hughes.net; 802 755-6349. E.Allbany

**Horses & Other Equine**

Beautiful 6 yr palomino mare. 14.3 hands up to date on everything. Unregistered good home very important \$2500 802-886-1473 (1/15)

**Horse Equipment**

Used Hereford Western show saddle, 15 1/2" equitation suede seat, silver lacing, german silver trim, square skirts, fully stamped, full quarter horse bars, in very good condition. 802 482-2583, Hinesburg, Chittenden county \$450 (1/16)

Used western trail saddle, The American Saddlery Company, 15 1/2" seat, round skirts, stamped design, leather covered stirrups, with girth. Well used, in good condition. Made in the USA. 802 482-2583, Hinesburg, Chittenden County \$200 firm. (1/16)

4 Horse Drawn Kicker Tedders all need work have X parts \$300. 1- Manure spreader 4 steel wheel \$500. 3-1 horse single seat sleighs decent \$500 - 750. 11 - 8" wide double row disc harrow 16" disc - drag \$500. 1- 79" wide single row disc harrow 21" disc. 4 - cord saws \$250-\$300. 603-738-3839 (1/16)

**Llamas & Alpacas**

2 female llamas for sale, BO. Call Gary at 635-9550.(1/16)

**Poultry & Rabbits**

Older organic laying hens for sale. 1.5 years old, still laying but well suited to process for stewing hens. \$3-\$5 each depending on quantity- 200+

available. Call John 802-454-814. Plainfield, VT (1/16)

**Sheep**

White Romney ram, 2 1/2 yo, proven. Tame and easy to handle; excellent health and wool. Will trade for same. Too many related animals. (Springfield) Call 928-848-3429 or email: dogsong5@msn.com (2/16)

**Sugaring Equipment**

Leader syrup pan 40" X5' stainless, lead free soldered \$250 brookfield 276-3385 (1/16)

Leader 5'x7' front pan stainless steel. Excellent shape \$400 or best offer. 802-524-4345 (2/16)

Aprx 500 Leader 8 king buckets with covers and spouts. \$4 set 802-895-4005 (2/16)

**Wanted**

Wanted. Am looking for an original Buller cord wood saw set up that bolted the a Farmall Cub draw bar. Do not want something someone has modified from another saw. (802) 765-4823 (1/16)

John Deere 2630, 1309 Scarengan manure spreader 802-695-2866 (1/16)

Wanted, ear corn elevator, interested in any size under 30 feet, contact Geo 802-763-7446 (2/16)

Tractor about 60 hp and baler. 80 sap buckets with spouts and covers. Tire chains: 15x19.5 rear and 25x8.5-14 front. 802-438-5590 (2/16)

3 pth log grapple JD 140 or 314 lawn tractor. 603-313-3039 (2/16)

Cedar Fence post, 6ft sharpen 3-4 inch tops, good quality. 802-483-2870 (2/16)



**Beef Report**

For the month of December, ending Thursday Dec. 31, 2015

Est. Volume: 30,743 lbs • Last Month: 34,358 lbs

Report reflects beef sold direct to consumers on a wholesale carcass basis and on a retail basis. All beef products are considered local to Vermont and are raised within state borders plus 30 miles outside the border. Cattle are processed under State or Federal Inspection

This month, the wholesale/retail trade was moderate. A few individuals reported good sales while others had limited movement of beef due to the season end of farmer's markets. Retail prices were mixed with only a few minor adjustments in both directions of last month's averages. No dress sales to report this month as our data pool was to light to accurately reflect the market. YTD and three-month rolling averages were adjusted to account for what sales did occur on the carcass trades. All dressed values are quoted as price per hundred pounds unless otherwise noted. Retail sales are quoted on a per pound basis.

Avg Hot Carcass Weight: 687.50 lbs • Last Month: 705.64 lbs

**Dressed Beef Carcass Value**

Dressed Basis Steers/Heifers (\$/cwt): NA Wt Avg Price: N/A  
Year to Date Wt Average Carcass Price: 374.32/cwt  
3 Month Rolling Average Carcass Price: 373.41/cwt

Above values reflect whole, half, or quarter carcass. Processing fees are not included in the dressed value. The aggregated price data is comprised from mostly grass finished operations and occasionally includes a small volume of partial to full grain finished cattle

**Direct To Consumer Retail Grass Fed Beef Retail Prices**

	(\$/lb)	Avg (\$/lb)
Tenderloin	10.00-22.69	15.09
Bone-in Ribeye	12.75-17.00	14.08
NY Strip	14.00-24.25	16.92
Porterhouse	12.00-22.75	17.28
T-Bone	12.00-20.56	15.82
Sirloin	8.00-16.00	11.11
Flank Steak	6.00-15.00	9.99
Skirt Steak	7.00-15.00	10.24
London Broil	7.00-12.00	9.29
Short Ribs	5.00-11.75	7.08
Rib Roast	9.55-17.00	13.05
Sirloin Tip Roast	6.58-16.50	11.27
Top Round Roast	5.77-12.50	9.61
Bottom Round Roast	4.78-12.00	8.73
Chuck Roast	4.67-13.75	8.72
Brisket	5.63-13.75	8.74
Hamburger	4.42-9.00	6.76
Stew	5.50-8.50	6.88
Heart	3.00-8.15	4.53
Tongue	3.00-8.15	4.56
Liver	3.00-8.15	4.60

Source: VT Agency of Ag - USDA Market News Service, Montpelier, VT  
Levi Geyer 717-354-2391 / NewHollandPALSMN@ams.usda.gov  
Hailee May 802-829-0057 / Market Reporter  
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ln\_lo100.txt  
www.ams.usda.gov/LPSMarketNewsPag

## Vermont Weekly Farmers Market Report

For week ending December 31, 2015

Commodity	Produce			Meats/Proteins		
	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
	Low	High	Average	Low	High	Average
Apples	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Beets	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Broccoli- Frozen	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
Brussel Sprouts	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Cabbage	\$1.25	\$3.00	\$1.77	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Carrots	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$2.05	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Celeriac	\$2.50	\$3.65	\$3.05	\$-	\$-	\$-
Garlic	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.67	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Green Beans- Frozen	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
Kale	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$3.13	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Leeks	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$3.55	\$-	\$-	\$-
Lettuce	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Onions	\$1.65	\$2.00	\$1.91	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Parsnips	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Peppers	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Potatoes	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$1.95	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Rutabaga	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$-	\$-	\$-
Shallots	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Spinach	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Sweet Potato	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$3.38	\$-	\$-	\$-
Turnip	\$1.00	\$2.15	\$1.58	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Winter Squash	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$1.63	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50

Commodity	Low	High	Average
	Lamb Chops	\$16.50	\$18.00
Rack of Lamb	\$16.50	\$18.00	\$17.25
Leg of Lamb	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$13.00
Ground Lamb	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Ground Beef	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$8.26
Ribeye	\$19.00	\$23.50	\$21.25
Sirloin	\$12.00	\$17.25	\$15.08
Round Roast	\$10.25	\$12.00	\$11.08
Chuck Roast	\$6.45	\$12.00	\$9.48
Strip Steak	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$21.00
Skirt Steak	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Tenderloins	\$20.25	\$29.50	\$24.58
Eggs (dozen)	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$4.88
Whole Chickens	\$4.15	\$5.00	\$4.72
Ground Pork	\$7.95	\$8.00	\$7.99
Pork Chops	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$10.45
Pork Loin	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$11.00
Pork Tenderloin	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$12.50
Shoulder Roast	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$8.82
Ham	\$8.80	\$12.00	\$10.40
Baby Back Ribs	\$7.00	\$10.50	\$9.17

### Market Comments

#### SEASONALITY:

Fewer choices than summer market. Some crops frozen and brought to the market make them available much longer than normal seasonality.

#### WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The lack of snowstorms has meant the weather has not affected our indoor markets!

#### ATTENDANCE:

Attendance has been normal for markets this time of year.

#### VENDOR COMMENTS:

N/A



Source:

VT Agency of Ag - USDA  
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA  
Hailee May, Market Reporter  
P. 802-828-5445  
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Levi Geyer, OIC  
Cell: 717-406-7350  
Office: 717-354-2391



# Farmers: Be Safe this Winter!

By Alison Kosakowski,  
VAAF

**W**inter requires farmers to operate with great care and also abide by season-specific rules.

“Winter presents all of us with weather-related challenges, but for farmers, there is a heightened need for vigilance,” according to the Chuck Ross, Vermont’s Secretary of Agriculture. “Safety, stewardship practices, and advance-planning must remain top-of-mind for all our farmers this winter.”

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets is issuing the following reminder to farmers:

## Be Prepared for Inclement Weather

The Agency suggests farmers take the following precautions this winter to deal with inclement weather...

- Be prepared for power outages. A back-up generator with sufficient fuel to run should be in place prior to the beginning of the storm.
- Apply sand or gravel to walkways used by workers or livestock.



- Charge cellphones and cameras. Keep flashlights, with batteries, handy.
- Pump and store adequate supplies of drinking water for humans and animals in case of power outages.
- Be prepared for delays on the road, including obstructed roadways, which may delay deliveries

- from suppliers .
- If milk trucks are unable to reach farms, dairy farmers may exceed their holding capacity for stored milk. If this is the case, be prepared to dispose of your excess milk in a suitable location. Make sure to record the volume of milk.
- The weight of ice on trees and branches may cause them to break off and fall onto buildings and equipment. Take steps in advance to mitigate the impact, if possible.
- If it is safe to do so, shovel the snow off barn and house roofs. If you cannot safely shovel your roof, contact a professional. The weight of ice or rain added to the weight of the

snow currently on roofs may exceed the capacity of the structure and lead to a roof collapse.

Farmers are urged to take preparations necessary to be self-sufficient for up to a week, including having

enough feed and water for livestock or moving them to a safer location, if necessary.

If you have questions related to winter storm preparation, please contact Annie Macmillan at 802-828-3479.



Stephen Goodhue Duttons

Photo courtesy of Agency of Commerce and Community Development



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**Thursday, January 28, 9AM – 4PM**

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**Farm to Plate**  
*continued from page 3*

**Getting To 2020**

Economically speaking, food system activities going forward need to focus more closely on improving farm viability, expanding non-dairy food production, strengthening Vermont's remaining dairy economy, and increasing the balance and diversity of food system companies

(e.g., 2% of farms accounted for 37% of sales in 2012; Keurig Green Mountain alone accounts for a major percent of food manufacturing sales).

Socially, supporting the continued evolution of the charitable food system and increasing local food availability where the majority of people shop are critical for Vermont to meet Farm to Plate goals. Connecting the food and health care systems

are also needed in order to address health trends (e.g., obesity) that are moving in the wrong direction.

From an environmental perspective in the coming years, protecting and incentivizing the sustainability of natural systems will be key—especially around healthy soils and clean water—as Vermonters prepare for, mitigate against, and adapt to the challenges presented by climate change.