

AGRiVIEW



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Henry Marckres Recognized for Outstanding Leadership within the International Maple Industry

Agency of Ag Consumer Protection Chief & Maple Expert

By Hannah Reid, VAAF

Henry Marckres, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture’s Consumer Protection Chief and resident maple syrup expert was awarded the prestigious Lynn Reynolds Award for Leadership in the Maple Industry at the annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council and the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) held October 21-23 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Established in 1999 in honor of long-time IMSI supporter and director, Lynn Reynolds, the prestigious award is bestowed annually on a worthy IMSI member in recognition of outstanding leadership in the International Maple Syrup Industry.

The award was bestowed on

Photo courtesy of IMSI



From left to right, Dave Chapeskie, Executive Director of the IMSI, Henry Marckres, and Yvon Poitras, President of the IMSI.

Marckres at the meeting’s closing banquet on October 23rd by IMSI Executive Director, Dave Chapeskie, who added, “Henry has been a

huge asset to the maple community both in the State of Vermont and internationally. He has graciously been a guest speaker all around the

maple community and is considered by many to be the go-to expert for maple syrup grading. Henry is well respected, and held in high regard by all who know him. He is a true leader in the maple community.”

The son of a buyer for a Maple Sugar Company, Marckres, a 30 year veteran of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, has been tasting and grading Vermont maple syrup since the age of three. Now 60, Marckres is one of the world’s leading maple experts, spearheading educational and professional trainings (also known as Maple Grading Schools) throughout maple-producing states in the U.S. and Canadian Provinces with colleague and fellow maple expert Kathy Hopkins, from the

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET



On behalf of the entire Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, I'd like to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a day to gather around a table with family and friends and express gratitude. Food is at the core of this celebration. It's a time to acknowledge importance of building a sustainable food system, which protects the working landscape, preserves natural resources, supports healthy communities, and creates economic opportunities.

Thank you for all you do to support Vermont agriculture. Wishing you the very best this holiday season!

Charles R. Ross

Henry Marckres

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University of Maine. When he's not teaching Grading School, or judging maple contests, Marckres utilizes his finely tuned "Maple Pallet" to grade syrups, help producers identify and address "off-flavors", and protect the integrity and reputation of Vermont's signature agricultural crop.

"I was very surprised to receive this award." Says Marckres. "I have always enjoyed working with the international maple community, I think I've judged syrup from every single maple producing state and province... including syrup from Iowa for the first time this year! I am very pleased and honored

to have selected by the (IMSI) executive committee."

Marckres and his colleagues at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture are looking forward to a busy fall and winter ahead of the 2015 sugaring season as they continue

to roll out the new maple syrup grading standards proposed by the IMSI and approved by the Vermont Legislature in 2013. To learn more about Henry's work and Vermont's new Maple Grading System, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to watch a short

video about the new maple grading system.

For more information, please contact Henry Marckres at Henry.Marckres@state.vt.us, 802-828-3458 or Hannah Reid at Hannah.Reid@state.vt.us, (802) 828-6418.

A Message from Vermont Health Connect

*By Jacqueline Rose, MPH
Education and Outreach Manager
Vermont Health Connect*

Open Enrollment for 2015 is from November 15, 2014 - February 15, 2015. That is the time to review your health plan and make changes, if you so desire.

For your convenience, your Vermont Health Connect plan will automatically renew for 2015 unless you hear from us that additional information is needed. If you're happy with your current plan and don't have any changes to report, you do not need to contact us.

If you need to report a change in your income or household, and/or you want to pick a different health insurance plan for 2015, please let us know. Please complete and mail in the "Change Report Form" as included in your Renewal Notice, or printed from our website (http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/Learn_More) or contact us by phone 855-899-9600 Toll Free. A change in income or family situation can impact your choices and the amount of financial help you qualify for.

If you've had a "qualifying event" such as a marriage, new baby, or loss of health insurance, you don't need to wait until 2015 to get covered.

Call us anytime report a life event.

If you have a Medicaid plan, you will generally be asked to confirm your income and household information every year. You will hear from

the State when it is time for you to provide current information. If you enrolled your child in Dr. Dynasaur through Vermont Health Connect, their plan will be renewed during

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Editor's Note

My first "local" Thanksgiving

Here's a poorly kept secret: I am not a "real" Vermonter. In fact, I arrived here only five years ago. I grew up in NJ, went to college in Philadelphia, worked in New York City for many years, and then one day I met (and eventually married) a VT dairy farmer. Funny how life works.

In the past five years, I've been a very local eater. We raise our own beef, eat eggs from our chickens, and grow a lot of our own vegetables. It's not so much a political statement, as a matter of practicality. This food comes from our own backyard.

But this is my first truly "local" Thanksgiving. For the first time, I won't be traveling back down to NJ to see my parents, or visiting my grandmother in Pennsylvania. I'll be spending Thanksgiving here in Vermont, eating corn, squash, carrots, beets, and more grown right here at home. I will be eating locally, locally.

I didn't think very much about where my food came from before moving to Vermont. My grandmother always purchased the fixings for Thanksgiving at the grocery store, and truth be told, it was always a delicious feast. This year, however, I will be eating locally, in every sense of the word.

— Alison Kosakowski

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and follow me @VTFarmGirl

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CHUCK ROSS
Secretary of Agriculture
ALISON KOSAKOWSKI
Editor

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Working Lands Grant Enables Doe's Leap Goat Dairy to Innovate and Expand Agricultural Offerings

By Noelle Sevoian, VAAFM

In the spring of 2013, Does' Leap Farm in Bakersfield, VT, a diversified organic farm specializing in fresh and aged goat cheeses and artisanal sausage, received a \$6,103 grant from the Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI). The grant enabled them to expand their on-farm pork and sausage production venture and improve the health of their farmland.

To date, there have been 73 Working Lands grants awarded. Does' Leap is one of the many grant recipients seeing significant growth as a result of Working Lands funding.

The WLEI grant dollars were invested in streamlined sausage-making equipment and a whey pump designed to distribute whey left over from the farm's cheese operation to different areas of the farm for consumption by pigs. The new whey pump not only facilitates the recycling of whey, a waste product of cheese-making, but also helps improve the health of the land by increasing the area in which the farm's pig



population can "renovate" soils. According to George Van Vlaanderen, owner of Does' Leap Farm, the pigs of Does' Leap play a vital role transforming low quality land into productive grazing land for the goat herd.

"The Working Lands grant was vital in enabling us to scale up our operation to meet current demand, improve the efficiency of sausage production, and broaden the ecological role pigs play in our farm ecosystem," says Van Vlaanderen.

Swine-driven land rehabilitation is just one example of Van Vlaanderen's unique approach to self-reliance

and sustainable farming. Other examples including plowing, harrowing, spreading manure, logging and haymaking via draft horse power, and reliance on mixture of pasture and wild browse (the shoots or twigs of shrubs and trees) as the primary feed source for their goat herd, resulting in exceptionally high quality meats and cheese that and take on the flavor of Vermont's changing seasons.

Sausage production investments included a meat grinder, which, along with various hand tools (knives, sharpeners, cutting board etc.), increases sausage-making efficiency. A new freezer and refrigerator

enables more product storage, while a vacuum packer is improving freezer life and frozen sausage point-of-sale aesthetics.

The new infrastructure established with the WLEI Grant funds have already had a significant impact on Does' Leap Farm's business, including: (1) more than double sausage production; (2) increase gross sausage

sales by 186%; (3) improve sausage-making and pig-raising productivity; and (4) enhance their ability to renovate marginal land on their farm with their pigs.

"Does' Leap submitted a really successful application," says Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Jolinda LaClair. "It is a compelling and innovative project, creating sustainable impacts for their farm not only financially, but also environmentally."

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, Act 142, is administered by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and is in partnership with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, as well as the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Visit the website for more information: Vermontworkinglands.com

Vermont Health Connect *continued from page 2*

Open Enrollment.

In-person help is also available. We have hundreds of trained and certified Vermont Health Access assistants across Vermont, ready to help. Visit our website at <http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/find> to find someone near you. Even if you are seeking insurance for the first time, you can get help finding a plan that meets your needs and budget, completing an application, and, if you qualify,

accessing financial help.

Vermont Health Connect is getting ready for tax season. We will be reaching out with guidance about tax filing as the season approaches, so be on the lookout for that. You can also access the IRS on-line for lots of helpful hints. Please visit <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision> to learn more.

For questions about staying covered, call our Customer Support Center toll-free at 1-855-899-9600. Or visit us online at www.vermonthealthconnect.gov.



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Vermont Celebrates National Farm to School Month

By Allison Carrier, VAAFM

Last month, schools throughout Vermont celebrated their continuing commitment to agricultural literacy during National Farm to School Month. Congress declared the month of October “National Farm to School Month” in 2010, and the movement has been gaining momentum across the country in recent years.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to School census identified 4,322 districts (roughly a third of all US public school districts) as operating Farm to School programs in the 2011-2012 school year.

Vermont continues to be a leader the nation in the Farm to School movement with its “3 C’s of Farm to School Engagement” model: classroom, community, and cafeteria. More than 89% of Vermont schools report that they participate in Farm to School activities, according to the USDA’s 2012 Farm to School Census.

Lothrop Elementary School, in Pittsford, Vermont, is one such institution with an active Farm to School program. On October 17th, the school hosted “Take Your Parents to Lunch Day,” during which parents of students enjoyed the opportunity to taste the local food served in the school’s cafeteria. Lothrop School was a recipient of the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets’ Farm to School planning and pilot grant

in 2012. As a result of this grant, Lothrop Elementary now has a vibrant Farm to School program, which includes a garden plot and a composting system. Lothrop’s Farm to School program is collaboratively managed by a team of volunteers and supporters, including students, faculty, food service staff, janitorial staff, and the school’s Farm to School coordinator.

In 2006, the Vermont state legislature created a grant program that would provide schools with seed funding to plan and implement Farm to School Programs. Since then, the state has appropriated nearly \$775,000 to support Farm to School programming across the state. In the past eight years, 70 schools and supervisory unions throughout the state have received funds to support the integration local foods in school cafeterias, classrooms and communities.

“Farm to School programming helps build a culture of ‘Ag Literacy’ in our schools and communities,” according to Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Ross. “These programs are an essential part of building the connection between agriculture and the next generation of Vermonters, while also teaching our students to make healthy choices and ensuring food access for all.”

Throughout the month of October, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets



officials participated in Farm to School celebrations in classrooms, cafeterias, and school gardens across the state. Deputy Secretary Jolinda LaClair joined the Washington County school community on October 2 at Montpelier High School to officially kick off Farm to School Month celebrations by recognizing the district’s remarkable success in creating a garden in every school.

The Agency also hosted USDA Farm to School Program Northeast Regional Coordinator, Danielle Fleury on October 9th & 10th for a two-day tour of local food systems within the Burlington and Milton School Districts. Throughout her visit, Fleury was able to enjoy locally-sourced foods in school cafeterias, admire school gardens, and meet with school food service staff. Fleury also visited the Vermont Food Venture Center (VFVC) in Hardwick, where she observed the positive role that food hubs, like VFVC, can play in helping local food producers access

institutional markets, like schools and hospitals.

In September 2014, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets announced \$49,000 of available funding for Vermont schools interested in Farm to School programming. VAAFM’s Farm to School Grant Program encourages school districts to serve food to Vermont students that is as fresh and nutritious as possible, to maximize the use of fresh, locally grown foods, and to educate students about healthy eating habits through nutrition education. The desired outcomes are for students to make the connections between farming and the foods that they consume, increase the size and stability of farmers’ direct sales market, and increase school meal participation by increasing the selection of foods available to students.

To recognize the achievements of Vermont’s Farm to School programs to date, the state will host Farm to School Awareness Day on January 29th in

the Statehouse cafeteria in Montpelier. This event will bring together students, teachers, school food service staff, legislators, and representatives from the Farm to School Grant Program partners, which include the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Agency of Education, VT FEED (Food Education Every Day), and the Vermont Farm to School Network. Past Farm to School grant recipients will be honored, and the new 2015 grant recipients will be announced.

“Farm to School enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools,” according to Ali Zipparo, the Agency of Agriculture’s Farm to School Administrator. “Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as educational opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. It has become clear that the state’s grant program ensures these Farm to School programs are robust, and sustain throughout the future, impacting our next generation of Vermonters.”

To learn more about VAAFM’s Farm to School initiative, Farm to School Awareness Day, or general grant program information, visit website or contact Alexandra Zipparo alexandra.zipparo@state.vt.us or call at (802) 505-1822.

Elongate Hemlock Scale Found in Southern Vermont

By Mollie Klepack, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, UVM Extension

Early detection of the Elongate Hemlock Scale (EHS) is key to keeping Vermont's forests healthy and functioning. This invasive forest pest from Asia threatens hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*). Hemlock is Vermont's 7th most common tree. It provides many important ecological functions such as, providing winter shelter for wildlife and shading streams to keep them cool. The elongate hemlock scale feeds on the needles of forest and ornamental hemlock trees, causing needles to yellow. Over time tree growth is reduced, needles discolor, twigs die and the crown thins. Infested trees become susceptible to secondary pests like the hemlock borer and Armillaria root rot. Mortality may occur within 10 years. Outbreaks often increase in intensity following stresses from other causes like drought and hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).

Citizens are making an impact

In many cases, alert Vermonters have been the first to find these pests. The initial discovery of EHS occurred in Windham County in September 2014, by Bob Everingham, an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist and volunteer Forest Pest First Detector. He found EHS

on an ornamental hemlock tree in Brattleboro. Several discoveries of HWA as well have been made by volunteer First Detectors.

The Forest Pest First Detector program trains volunteer leaders in communities throughout Vermont to increase the public's awareness about the tree pests, assist government partners in responding to inquiries about suspect bugs, and help their community prepare for and respond to a pest infestation. To find out more about the Forest Pest First Detector Program visit <http://www.vtinvasives.org/first-detectors>.

A new population

The elongate hemlock scale is native to Japan and was first observed in Queens, New York in 1908 and has since spread to Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Virginia. In September 2014 it was found in Vermont in the towns of Brattleboro and Guilford. Vermont is participating in a multi-state project to protect the hemlock resource in northern New England by managing hemlock woolly adelgid and elongate hemlock scale. Scouts survey for elongate hemlock scale during routine surveys for hemlock woolly adelgid and include information about this insect in outreach efforts.



Elongate hemlock scale

Can EHS be managed?

For ornamental trees it is important to reduce stress to host trees to avoid sudden population growth of EHS. Keep trees watered in times of drought and avoid using nitrogen fertilizers, as these enhance EHS survival and growth. Ornamental trees can be protected with carefully timed applications of horticultural oil or labeled pesticides. Broad spectrum insecticides are discouraged since they can set the stage for population resurgence by killing natural enemies of EHS. Some native parasitoids and predators may have some effect on EHS levels, but not usually significant enough to control the population. Sanitation or salvage cuts can be used in forested situations to prevent population build up and spread.

Take a stand for hemlock

Informed, involved citizens are crucial to managing EHS and preserving hemlocks. Here are some things people can do:

- Familiarize yourself with elongate hemlock scale and hemlock woolly

adelgid and Look Up! for potential infestations. The most obvious sign is an elongated scale, flattened against the underside of the needle that is yellowish to brownish orange in color.

- When purchasing hemlocks, check that they don't come from areas with elongate hemlock scale.
- If shipping hemlock products, stay abreast of changing quarantine regulations.
- Don't rush to salvage hemlock. Our cold winter temperatures can be lethal to elongate hemlock scale.
- Spread the word—Volunteers with an interest in public speaking or organizing a presentation in their community can be

supplied with notes and power point presentations.

To get involved contact: Jim Esden, VT FPR, Springfield, VT at 802-885-8822 or jim.esden@state.vt.us

For more information:

Vermont Elongate Hemlock Scale Information: <http://www.vtinvasives.org/invasiders/elongate-hemlock-scale>

USFS Pest Alert: http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/ehscale/ehscale.htm

Penn State Entomology Fact Sheet: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/elongate-hemlock-scale>

Quarantine information: <http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/hwawoodproductconsiderations.cfm>

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Efficiency Vermont

Vermonters Head North to Tour Quebec's Agriculture

By Reg Godin, VAAFM

In late October, a delegation of Vermont's agriculture organizations and businesses, gathered in Newport for an agri-tourism trek into the Eastern Township region of Quebec. The Eastern Township region is situated just north of Vermont, geographically the region stretches from the tip of the Missisquoi Bay to the middle of the Maine border. A vast region, it is home to more than 400,000 Quebecois.

Eastern Township has a history steeped in transition, once heavily populated by the Abenaki tribe, the township was created in 1792 following a wave of immigration resulting from the American War of Independence. The first settlers were from Great Britain, but as English settlers left to colonize the Canadian and American west in the 20th century, French Canadians took over the Eastern Township. Subsequently, Eastern Township shifted from a predominantly English speaking population in the 19th century to a mainly French speaking population 100 years later.

The goal of this study trip was to innovate, strengthen and inspire the already robust Vermont agri-tourism network. The two-day trip had a packed agenda, visiting a total of 6 agri-tourism venues in less than 36 hours. These venues included 3 orchards (Domaine de



The Vermont delegation takes a break during a busy day of farm tours.

Dunham, Verger Champetre, & Ciderie Verger Ferland), an Apalca Farm (Les Alpagas de la Ferme Norli), and one cheese factory (Fromagerie le Station). Each stop was very unique and interesting in its own right, but a unifying theme quickly emerged: Each owner noted their ability to earn income from tourism as their only way to survive. Moreover, at each visit we heard a report echoed at small farms nationwide: unless you are creative, it is hard to receive a reasonable price for your product.

The outing had interesting similarities to the Vermont agricultural landscape, while each venue offered a unique experience, the farms encountered similar challenges as their Vermont counterparts. Finding reliable labor and dealing with the violent weather patterns of late struck chords with other Vermont farm-

ers on the tour. Two of the orchards noted that their labor is imported from Guatemala and that there are issues with the government in keeping these workers around. They also mentioned how hail storms in recent years have become a major issue with their fruit trees. Small family farms are another strong similarity between Vermont and Eastern township farmers such as at Fromagerie le Station, where three brothers split duties of milking the cows, making the cheese and marketing it around the region while their parents oversaw the entire operation. The orchard Ciderie Verger Ferland had three generations actively helping the orchard and cidery.

Each location noted the incredibly high volume of visitors. Verger Champetre, the recent winner of The Eastern Townships Grands Prix du tourisme, noted

it had over 100,000 visitors in 2013, mostly from Montreal and Sherbrooke. Tourists came to pick their own apples, pumpkins and tour the animal barn. Just as impressive were the 25,000 visitors annually to Miellerie Lune de Miel's Apiary, which included its very own nectarium (think planetarium), bee museum and a beautiful gift shop.

What was apparent throughout the whole trip was the level of teamwork between the tourism venues and the Eastern Townships marketing machine, Tourism Eastern Townships, a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the development and promotion of regional tourism products in Quebec and international markets. Tourism Eastern Townships works with over 800 businesses covering every sector of the tourism industry. Its main partners are the

Ministère du Tourisme du Québec, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, and other non-profit consultants.

The impact from Tourism Eastern Townships on the vitality of the businesses visited was very clear. They published a very detailed tourism guide, worked closely with the farmers and made sure that all visitors felt very welcome. Tourism Eastern Township also encouraged farmers to monetize their operation at every moment. The gift shops were well stocked and merchandised. These venues were not set up simply for visitors but also for shoppers. The delight of the owners and their staff made it easy to want to spend money and support these businesses.

There was much to take away for the Vermont delegation, perhaps most importantly is that there are many ways to be a successful tourism operation. From small guided tours, to hay wagon rides to product tastings and demonstrations, there were a plethora of approaches! What our friends to the north demonstrated best though, is that agri-tourists are not just visitors, they are also consumers who were more than willing to pay a fair price.

Special thanks goes out to Vera Simon-Nobes, Grace Meyer and Koi Boynton who helped organization the trip and all the logistics to get to and from Canada, merci beaucoup!

Matching Grants Available to Support Producers at Trade Shows

By Reg Godin, VAAFM

The Agency of Agriculture has announced the availability of matching grants for agriculture and forest products businesses to attend trade shows that will expand Vermont producers' market presence in other U.S. states. These grants will support promotion, marketing and other programming to connect Vermont businesses with buyers and brokers at trade show events.

Applications for the grants can be found online at using the following web

link: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/market_access_development/domestic_export

The deadline for applications is Friday, January 9th.

The trade show assistance grant is part of the new Domestic Export Program that was created during the 2014 legislative session, and aims to connect Vermont producers with brokers, buyers and distributors in out-of-state markets. The Agency of Agriculture acknowledges the opportunity that Vermont companies have to leverage the

Vermont brand and access new markets. The Domestic Export Program aims to assist Vermont businesses in all aspects of securing and maintaining buyers in various regions throughout the country, including wholesale market entry, direct sales and promotional opportunities, regional marketing, and technical assistance.

"The trade show assistance grant is an important step to assuring our Vermont businesses are prepared and able to succeed in out-of-state markets" said Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross. Trade shows require a large

capital investment from small businesses, but they offer a significant opportunity to connect with out-of-state buyers. These funds will support early and growth stage Working Lands businesses to grow sales and increase their economic impact on the state of Vermont."

Associations such as the Vermont Specialty Food Association have helped Vermont businesses attend domestic trade shows in the past. Shows such as the Summer Fancy Food Show and Natural Products Expo East routinely have a strong Vermont showing. In July

of 2014, 28 Vermont businesses exhibited their wares at the Summer Fancy Food Show, the Big Apple's signature event for specialty foods. Moreover, the state continues to look for new venues such as the Boston Public Market where it can further influence the sale of Vermont goods.

The Trade Show Grant is administered by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, and Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Annual Farm to Plate Gathering Highlights Successes, and Challenges, of our Local Food System

By Rachel Carter, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

Vermont farm and food industry leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs gathered in Killington in October to share progress and explore key issues facing Vermont's food system at the annual Farm to Plate Gathering. Farm to Plate is the statewide effort to implement Vermont's ten year plan to increase economic development and jobs in the farm and food sector and improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters.

The initiative has many Vermonters—in business,

government, and nonprofits—working together on these issues to create a more robust, resilient and equitable food system.

"Our success is built on partnership, sharing success and sharing credit," Secretary Ross stated to almost 300 attendees. He also presented a new set of jobs numbers.

According to the data, over the past five years, the Vermont's farm and food economy has grown at a rate of 3% per year and is responsible for adding 8,884 new direct, indirect and induced jobs. There has also been an increase of 625 new farms and food-related businesses

created in the state over a similar time period.

But, one in seven Vermonters are food insecure and struggle to meet one of their most basic needs. At the Gathering, attendees focused on both the moral imperative to ensure that all Vermonters can benefit from the local food movement and the fact that overcoming

food access barriers is good for food and farm businesses because it expands the market of consumers. Personal stories of inequity and how it impacts our communities were shared food equity was discussed in great detail.

Additional topics that address the food system were explored deeply including getting local food into

retail stores, marketing the Vermont brand, financing the food system, the need to get more farmland under production, understanding Vermont's food consumer, farm viability, food system education, and how public health relates to our local food movement.

The Farm to Plate Gathering covers issues in depth for attendees to share, learn from one another, and identify gaps and potential next steps for action.

Learn more at www.VTFarmtoPlate.com.



Secretary Chuck Ross addresses the crowd at the annual gathering.

Cold Storage for Business Success

By Marielle Fisher and
Ian Hartman, Vermont Farm
& Forest Viability Program

Winter is well on its way, and however one feels about the colder months in Vermont, they require us to think strategically. The state's vegetable and berry growers are no exception to this phenomenon. At Evening Song Farm in Cuttingsville, Ryan Wood Beauchamp has been preparing for winter by filling his walk-in cooler and passive thermal root cellar for sales at the Rutland Winter Farmers' Market. According to Ryan, "the ability to market our produce in the winter months helps make our business viable."

At the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program (VFFVP), we've seen many growers transition to year-round sales models in order to take advantage of more even cash-flow and consistent customer relationships. For farmers whose business plans include generating income outside of the growing season, their limiting factor tends to be storage systems, rather than production capacity. To reap the many benefits of spreading sales across the calendar year, we have helped growers address the technical challenges posed by off-season crop storage.

The quality of locally grown vegetables available through the winter and spring depends largely on storage conditions, and controlling temperature and



Kara Fitzgerald, owner of the Evening Song Farm in Cuttingsville, installed a CoolBot with funds from a VFFVP grant.

humidity can be a tricky task as different crops prefer particular storage conditions (for example, root crops prefer to be cool and damp, whereas winter squash prefer warmer and drier conditions). Depending on the size of the harvest to be stored, some farmers choose to build a single walk-in cooler, while others build custom corridors for each specific storage zone. One popular storage solution for inexpensive temperature regulation has been the adoption of CoolBots.

CoolBots are electrical controllers that integrate with household air conditioners to allow them to run at lower temperatures without freezing up. This inexpensive tool transforms an insulated space into an efficient cooler at lower costs and energy consumption than conventional compressors. Chris Callahan,

University of Vermont Extension agricultural engineer, shares that he has "seen increased adoption of CoolBots by growers seeking inexpensive first time storage spaces and also by growers seeking to expand their storage. In the latter case, the expansion is often being done to allow for more zones of storage." Vern Grubinger of University of Vermont Extension notes that it is very important to know your crop cooling needs prior to building a storage system and that Extension has a multitude of online resources to help farmers determine their storage needs.

Many growers in the state have used VFFVP's one-on-one business planning and technical assistance to navigate the issues and implications of expanding on-farm storage capacity. Farms that complete business plans

through the program are eligible for VFFVP implementation grants, and several cold storage projects have been funded this way, including two vegetable farms that sell their produce year-round.

One of these farms is Luna Bleu in South Royalton, owned by Suzanne Long and Tim Sanford. Prior to their storage upgrade, Suzanne and Tim used various spaces on their farm for cool season storage resulting in inefficiencies and crop losses due to less than ideal storage conditions. Now each segregated storage system will provide specific storage zones for crops. According to Suzanne, the farm has "improved CSA retention with members who get vegetables all year long. And, as the farm generates more income in the winter, we are able to reduce the need to generate so much in the

summer when we are already busy. By spreading our growing, processing, and marketing throughout more of the year, we can be better managers and more efficient in the summer season."

With an implementation grant through the VFFVP, Evening Song Farm's Kara Fitzgerald and Ryan Wood Beauchamp are building a walk-in cooler. They installed a CoolBot system and have seen great results, as the new cooler is much larger than the last. The farmers said that the increase in storage capacity has made "CSA pickups easier for us, and better for members as they can pick up their shares over a 48-hour period" while their vegetables wait patiently in the cooler.

Cold storage systems like the CoolBot are helping Vermont growers to control crop quality and inventory during the growing season and to expand income-generating opportunities throughout the year. Both Luna Bleu Farm and Evening Song Farm are selling produce well after the growing season ends, maintaining contact with their customers, and assuring their businesses year-round income. When well planned and appropriate, these storage systems can be powerful tools for Vermont growers to take advantage of the growth in winter farmers' markets and CSAs.

To learn more about the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program visit us at www.vhcb.org/viability or call 802-828-3370.

photo: VFFVP

Make Your Own Holiday Decorations

By Dr. Leonard Perry,
University of Vermont

Natural holiday decorations such as roping, swags, wreaths, and table arrangements are not hard to make. You will catch on to the simple principles quickly, and in a short time your results may surprise everyone, including yourself. You can be proud of the decorations you made, giving your home a truly festive spirit and even involving various family or friends too.

Most of the materials you need are inexpensive, or free for the asking, in many locales. But remember to get permission before cutting branches or fruits on someone else's land! Your local florist also should have natural materials, both local and from warmer climates. Tree farms are a good source of greenery, or even undecorated products you can then decorate yourself. Check local newspapers for such farms, or check online (www.nh-vtchristmastree.org).

For plant materials, evergreen twigs and boughs are the most important.

You may be surprised at how much material goes into even small decorations. If you have a cool, moist spot free of drafts for storage, you can start gathering greens as early as Thanksgiving. For longest life, keep them away from heat, wind, and sun.

The most common evergreens include balsam fir (the most common), spruce (needles don't last as long as fir and are prickly), white pine, and hemlock (needles will

drop in dry air). Other less commonly used evergreens are white cedar or arborvitae (foliage fades to yellow in a few weeks), red cedar and other wild junipers (sharp needles, so use sparingly to add variety, color, texture, and form), and broad-leaved evergreens like rhododendrons. One caution about using yew (or taxus) is that all plant parts are poisonous, especially the attractive seeds.

Look for a few branches of yellow-leaved evergreens for some color, such as certain variegated yews, gold-thread false cypress, old-gold juniper, or one of the gold arborvitae.

Other plant parts you can use for interest, and to give arrangements a New England "country" appearance include cones, grasses, pods, and berries. The latter can be found in many colors. For red or orange, try winterberry, sumac, crabapples, hawthorn, and mountain ash. For a touch of blue, use nannyberry, arrowwood, or junipers, and for yellow, crabapples. Florist shops may carry more exotic plant parts such as lotus pods (which can be sprayed colors), holly (both for berries and leaves), mistletoe, and various greens (such as boxwood or western cedar).

Some people like to add artificial decorations like bells, balls, and fake berries to their natural arrangements. Red ribbons also are

popular, although hundreds of other styles and color combinations of ribbons are available. If using outdoors, make sure you select a ribbon rated for that use.

Keep the width in proportion to the size of the arrangement.

In addition to plants and other decorative materials, you will need something for a base for most decorations if starting from scratch.

Wreaths require a wire, foam, or straw wreath form or a coat hanger bent into a circle. Rope or thick, coarse twine makes a good base for garlands or roping. Florist foam, which comes in "bricks" that can be cut to fit any container, may be purchased at florist or craft shops.

Other essentials include a pair of clippers or utility scissors, florist picks (to hold greens to straw bases), and florist wire. The latter is a thin green wire, available in several widths, that is used to hold everything together, such as cones to wreaths, greens to frames or rope, and decorations to walls.

The range of decorations you can make reaches far beyond what you may think is possible. Arrangements for sale in florist shops may give you ideas, as can browsing through holiday magazines and online sites. So, don't hesitate to try out new ideas. Just keep in mind that whatever you make should be in proportion to, and harmo-

nize with, the surroundings.

To make wreaths or ropings, you will need individual branchlets or bundles of them. Simply cut small branch pieces four to six inches in length from main branches, and wire or pin them directly to the frames.

Or you can wire several together into a bundle, then wire the bundle to the base.

Overlap one branchlet or bundle over the cut ends of the last to hide them and the wire or rope base. Proceed down the rope or around the frame in this manner. Finally, once the greens are secured, add a bow and a few ornaments of interest, such as cones, berries, or artificial decorations.

To make a table arrangement, start with a wet block of florist foam, either free standing or cut to fit a basket or other decorative container. Use a saucer under the wet foam, unless the container is water tight. Place sprigs of green in the foam, followed by natural ornaments such as berries and artificial ornaments. Berries can be wired to a florist pick, then stuck in the foam. Follow the same design principles as you would if arranging flowers.

A door swag is simple. Take several branches of a desired length, usually 2 feet or so, and tie together to hang upside down. Then tie a shorter branch or two on top, upright. Where these all tie together, place a bow, group or cones, or other ornamentation.

If you want to use candles, use decorative lanterns to keep candles away from the greens (which, when dry, can

be quite flammable), then decorate around these with greenery and color. Get a mold for making a luminary of ice, and place greens and berries in the water before freezing.

These, with a candle inside, make an elegant table decoration for a special dinner.

If you have a stairway and banister, hang a grouping or two of greens and berries from the upright supports. Create a winter or holiday scene in a terrarium, glass bowl, or empty fish tank. Make a fairy garden with a holiday theme. Fill a wooden bowl or basket with an assortment of cones and nuts, perhaps with some bright baMany other decorations are possible using wire or Styrofoam bases in the shapes of candy canes, cones, or balls, among others. You'll find these online or at local craft stores. Simply follow the above procedures and your own creativity!

Dr. Leonard Perry is the Greenhouse and Nursery Extension Specialist for the University of Vermont, where he provides information and programming to the industry of Vermont, region, and North America. As a Professor, Dr. Perry researches all aspects of perennial production and overwintering. Students know him from his courses at UVM on Garden Plants and Indoor Flowers, with the Herbaceous Garden Plants course now available to anyone totally online. For more articles, visit his website at <http://perrysperennials.wordpress.com/>



VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension

(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

Reports From The Field

(Shelburne/South Burlington) First stretch of colder temperatures so I finally got my row covers out and have the kale/collards/parsley/cilantro covered, but not the spinach. I am continuing to see growth and harvesting a lot out of the two high tunnels. So far I have been pleased with the production from the full sized red Russian kale. I have been harvesting it harder than the green curly, but it has been re-growing rapidly and the profits from it are good. Spinach is looking the best I have ever had at this time, the only issue is some Cladosporium so I am scouting for that and removing infected leaves. That seems to be keeping it at bay. I am really thankful I don't live anywhere near Buffalo, NY right about now!

(Plainfield) Happy to have made it through yet another interesting, challenging, and rewarding growing season. As always, I am making a lot of notes to myself about what I want to change about my growing practices. Always a lot to learn, always new things to try, old ones to let go of, and successful

practices to continue. Overall the plan is to plant less, fewer crop units, while providing the best soil fertility, weeding, pest and disease control I can muster. I guess I am a market gardener at heart, with a toe into vegetable farming. Looking forward to cleaning up, getting more rest, and having some time to think. Happy Thanksgiving, all.

(Charlotte) We are busy getting our farm ready for next year. There is a lot of pruning going on and getting fields ready for planting next year.

(Westfield) Not 7 feet of snow, but a good 1/2 foot and very cold! Fortunately the sunny days made it possible to pick some greens in the high tunnels for our winter CSA. A few aphids in one greenhouse on the spinach. I am glad I had mulched my strawberries before this cold spell. Next on the list- radiant heat in our tomato greenhouse.

(Elmore) Digging hazelnut bushes to plant out, putting compost over northern exotic trees and vines we planted late this fall, trying to keep warm even though we had 6 inches of snow and it has been about 11 degrees until today. Somehow our greens have not frozen in the high tunnel or the rest of our ginger crop. Tomorrow we plant our last orchard trees and freeze our last apples then it will be time for planting black walnut seed, and pine nut seed and apple seed left over from our cider pressings. For a new year of baby seedlings who all need cold and snow to sprout...

(Plainfield NH) The last week of unseasonably cold weather destroyed the fall Brassicas as everything

froze solid. Still we have some carrots in the balance (and in the ground) that I'm hoping the gleaners for Willing Hands (local food shelf/hub) can get to if they are not damaged too badly by the ground freezing. Still packing out onions, carrots and potatoes for wholesale accounts, and the holiday week has spiked sales. Repairs on buildings have been going on at the same time a local guy is building some dedicated office space. If I knew the amount of paperwork that we would be facing years ago when we began farming, I might have been discouraged enough to look elsewhere for a career. Winter prep in the strawberries has been problematic, because they were nowhere near dormancy prior to this cold snap that abated finally today. As temps neared freezing for the last week, I didn't dare spray for fear of freezing something up. But today I cleaned out the antifreeze out and started spraying, and we hopefully get some mulch on before Thanksgiving. Fall CSA finished last week, everyone sad to see it end, but were picking up their orders in freezing temps. Everyone agrees it's time to be over.

(Grand Isle) 2014 was a fine growing season! The snow can't be too far away so we are down to the wire with cleanup and organization projects. Since we have heavy soils, we have used the last two weeks to make lateral ditches and put down drainage tile and a layer of stone in some of our more productive fields. It is amazing to unearth a layer of ancient sea shells from a bygone era when our farm was part of the ocean. Our pH is good and we never lime our fields due to natural lime stone and shells. Hopefully with our digging

we have alleviated standing water problems down the road. Seed catalogues are already arriving in the mail to tempt us with thoughts of the next year!

(Westminster West) I spent today digging about 1,000 ft of drainage ditches to improve my ability to get on the fields early next spring and to help during very rainy conditions. Renting a small excavator is a very cost-effective way to get the job done plus now I know how to run an excavator! We picked out the last of our carrots and turnips on Nov. 20 this year which is the latest we have ever gone on field crops. Thanksgiving orders from our store are very strong and we are much ahead on all produce sales compared to past years. We even held a Pop-Up market last weekend on a busy road and it was a huge success, one which we will try to duplicate, again next year. Coolers are filled with storage crops and hopefully we won't be storing them for long. Still equipment to clean and put away this week and repairs and maintenance on the many greenhouses have started as well. Truckloads of potting soil and related spring equipment arriving this week and next. Already planning for next year at the same time cutting checks for this year's Thanksgiving bonus for the crew.

(Rochester) We always look forward to the fall and early winter to be done with picking berries and get other things done but always seem to run out of time. However, the farm is basically buttoned up for the winter. Hope to lay on the couch and read a little during the holidays.

(Argyle NY) It was a wonderful warm fall with the broccoli coming on

early, but generally a great for all crops. The cold spell last week had us racing to harvest the Brussels sprouts and the non-winter leeks, which are both being bagged and stored in the root cellar for early winter sales. All the winter leeks are still in the field with one layer of row cover on them, waiting for the January/February harvest. Our trial of white plastic, black plastic, and paper mulch on onions, cabbage, leeks and Brussels sprouts was interesting as there were no significant differences in the crops however it was not a cool summer so results may be different with a hotter summer. Onions and cabbage were slightly larger on the white plastic. We will be using the white on black Bio-telo again next year for further trials. We had to harvest spinach and arugula out of the high tunnels last week due to the cold weather but hope to finish off the field crops over the next 2 weeks.

Hold The Dates

On January 20 and 21 there will be an all-day post-harvest handling of vegetables conference followed by the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association annual meeting. Both events will be packed with information and take place at Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee VT. The agendas and registration information will be posted in early December.

Still Room In The Practical Food Safety Workshops

These workshops, offered at five locations around the state over the first half of December are a great way to write or update your food safety plan. Register now, for details see: <http://www.uvm.edu/~susagctr/whatwedo/producesafety/GAPsResources/PPSregistrationDec2014.pdf>

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Prices

November, 2014

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

Vermont Egg Prices:

Jumbo	\$2.25
X-Large	\$1.89
Large	\$1.85
Medium	\$1.33

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



Northampton, MA • November 18, 2014

All prices are per hundredweight on the hoof unless otherwise indicated.

Source: Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc., www.northamptonlivestockauction.homestead.com

Calves:	LOW	HIGH		Cows:	LOW	HIGH	
Good & Choice: 61-75 lbs	20.00	78.00	cwt	Canners	24.00	93.00	cwt
76-95 lbs	40.00	85.00	cwt	Cutters	96.00	113.50	cwt
96-105 lbs	78.00	87.00	cwt	Utility	115.50	122.00	cwt
106 lbs and up	80.00	90.00	cwt	Sows	62.50	65.00	cwt
Farm Calves	100.00	450.00	cwt	Hogs	none		cwt
Starter Calves	41.00	300.00	cwt	Boars	none		cwt
Feeder Calves	134.00		cwt	Shoats	none		cwt
Vealers	none		cwt	Feeder Pigs	47.00	50.00	each
Bulls	104.00	120.00	cwt	Lambs	125.00	280.00	cwt
Heifers	70.00	160.00	cwt	Sheep	40.00	100.00	cwt
Replacement Cows	none		each	Goats	140.00	260.00	each
Steers	74.00	110.00	cwt	Rabbits	2.00	26.00	each
				Hay (8 lots)	3.70	5.60	bale

Addison County Commission Sales • Middlebury, VT • November 17, 2014

Cattle: 199		Feeder Calves	
Calves: 225			
Slaughter Cows		Holstein Bulls	92-125 lbs. 325.00 400.00 cwt
Breakers 75 - 80% lean	100.50 121.50 cwt		80-90 lbs. 297.50 317.50 cwt
Boners 80 - 85% lean	94.50 112.00 cwt	Utility	70-120 lbs. 127.50 172.50 cwt
Lean 85 - 90% lean	90.00 104.00 cwt	Holstein Heifers	82 lbs-107 lbs not well tested

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 Agr-agriview@state.vt.us)
- By fax: (802) 828-2361
- 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 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.

Cattle

Organic fresh cows, grass fed, very healthy. Cash or bank checks accepted. 802-309-9209 (10/14)

Young Ayrshire bull. Fence trained gentle ready to breed. \$350 802-586-2857 (10/14)

Jersey Heifer due late October. She is a sweet heart very tame was raised for family cow. Great heifer for small herd. 802-685-4566 (10/14)

Belted Galloway registered herd for sale. 3 cows, 2 older heifers, 2 heifer calves, 1 bull calf.

Great genetics! \$8,500.00 for all. Individual pricing available on request. S. Strafford, VT. 802-765-9639 (10/14)

Black angus bull, 2 y/o. Est. weight is 1,000 lbs. Calm, friendly and respects fence. Would like to see him go for a breeding bull. \$1,200 firm. In Albany VT. (802) 754-6047, please leave a message on machine. (10/14)

1 Polled Hereford Bull. 2.5 Years old, Gentle, Proven, Electric Fence trained, rotational pasture, Grass Fed,

\$1800 OBO

Polled Hereford Cows. Grass Fed, Electric fence trained, rotational pasture, 2 pairs Bred cow calf pairs \$2000 OBO, 1 Bred Cow \$1600 OBO, 1 Bred Heifer \$1400 OBO Berkshire, VT Call (802) 933-6143 (10/14)

Three certified organic registered Jersey bred heifers due 10/17/14, 11/27/14, and 11/28/14, all to AI service sires. Appraisal scores on dams all very good. Performance pedigrees avail-

CLASSIFIEDS

- able upon request. \$1750 each 802-748-8461 (11/14)
- 5 short-bred heifers for sale: one Holstein heifer and four Jersey/Holstein heifers. 802-438-5761(11/14)
- Jersey heifer calf. Certified organic. Born 7/2/14. From high producing dam. \$200. Susan & Barbara Carpenter, Cabot. 426-3331(11/14)
- 14 Certified Organic Dairy Dry Cows. 7 due within 2 mos., 7 due in Nov./Dec. Mostly Holsteins with some belted and. Super milking cows with low SCCs! Prefer to sell as a group. Also have 5-6 cows currently milking for sale. Contact 802-582-9026. (11/14)
- Jerset heifers for sale. Due late Oct. She is a sweet heart, vert tame. Was raised for family cow. Great heifer for small herd. 802-685-4566 (11/14)
- Beef cattle cow calf pairs \$1700. Yearling heifers \$750 or \$1.49 a lb 802-728-3760 (11/14)
- One black and white beef cow with her heifer calf at side. Calf DOB 8/16/14. Excellent mother. Asking \$1200.00 for the pair. Please call evenings 802-287-9170 (12/14)
- Two year old Jersey first calf heifer. Calved 4/8/2014. Giving around 30lbs of milk a day. Quiet disposition. Short bred. Certified organic. She turns around in our freestalls and makes a mess. Therefore, she has to go. \$700 obo.Call John 802-254-2228 Guilford (12/14)
- Registered Milking Devon bull. 6 years old. Runs with a grassfed rotationally grazing herd. Horns, but a real gentleman. \$1,800. Newbury 802-584-3769. (12/14)
- Milking Devon herd: 9 hand milked cows, 6 yearlings, and 9 spring calves. Prefer herd sale @ \$22,000 (OBO) or by the head @\$500-\$1500 (OBO). Call 802-484-5229 or email windgatefarm@outlook.com. (12/14)
- VT Black and white Hereford angus cross beef cow with
- heifer calf at side Calf DOB 8/16/14 Excellent mother. \$1200 for the pair. Please call evenings 802-287-9170 (12/14)
- Rotokawa Red Devon and Devon cross cows checked pregnant to Rotokawa Devon bull, \$2,000 each Wells, 802-645-0865 (1/15)
- 500-gallon Sunset flat-top bulk tank, used last winter. \$2,000 Wells, 802-645-0865 (1/15)
- Employment**
Consider Bardwell Farm in West Pawlet, VT is urgently seeking a twice daily weekend milker for our herd of 120 dairy goats. Milker will also be responsible for morning and evening feedings of our meat goats, doelings, and chickens. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone looking to gain experience with animals on a working Vermont dairy. March-May kidding f/t paid internship also available. Contact peter@considerbardwellfarm.com. (11/14)
- Maple/Christmas tree farm in Shoreham, Vermont looking for general farm help 1 day a week. Pay \$11-\$17 depending on carpentry or chainsawing experience. Please contact 802-897-2448. (11/14)
- Home Bakery in Shoreham, Vermont looking for kitchen help 1 day a week.
- Baking knowledge and experience is necessary. Pay \$10.75 - \$12.00. Please contact 802-897-2448. (11/14)
- Wanted loader & pick up operator for snow plowing. 603-479-3790 (12/14)
- Equipment**
JD444 Loader – new paint, tight pins & bushings, brakes & lights. Nice small loader. Asking \$12,000. 802-584-3025 (10/14)
- 1971 Chevy 1 ton cab & chassis. Dual wheels. 350, 4 speed 1500 or best offer. 1969 Chevy ½ ton four wheel drive. V-8 4 speed 1000 or best offer. 603-272-4903 (10/14)
- Rain flo raised bed plastic mulch layer purchased
- 2011 from Market Farm Implement Adjustable 1" – 6" high, 3' -4' wide beds like new condition \$2800. 802-922-6782 (10/14)
- Complete milking system to handle 200+ goats. Includes: 500 gal Mueller bulk tank and washer, pipeline, head locks for 16 animals, 6 ton grain bin including auger and motor and 3 hp vacuum pump. All in good condition. \$14000. 802-586-2857 (10/14)
- Round Bayle handlers \$500. Steel post 7 ft \$5 per piece. 100 sap buckets with covers \$2.50 each. Horse drawn plow \$95. 802-895-2833 (10/14)
- 24 ton Victoria grain bin. 9 to 10 ton grain bins. 80 – 90 feet elevator good shape 802-898-4683 (10/14)
- 24 ton Victoria bin with 6" auger like new. 13 ton grain bin. 8-9 ton grain bin excellent shape. 80 feet new Halford hay elevator. 32 feet hay elevator good shape 802-898-4683 (10/14)
- Valmetal Silage Conveyor. 30 ft x 9 inches wide. Excellent condition. 802-433-5837 (10/14)
- Kubota Tractor M4030Su 44HP 18" tires at 5 ft centers, with Woods Bucket loader, 2wd. In great condition, 516 hours! This tractor is great working order, serviced yearly. Selling for \$12,000
- Taylor Pittsburgh Rotary Tiller 962 Series - gear driven Makes 4 foot wide beds. Purchased in 2009.
- The safety guard/shield is missing. Selling for \$1,200 802-233-4781 (10/14)
- Caterpillar truck engine- Model 3406- 290hp- - Runs great..\$750. 802-376-4041 (10/14)
- Howard 2-door floral cooler, 53" W x 79" H x 30" D, on casters. Top-mounted compressor, 115V, 11.0 amps. Bought used in 1997, operated 4 months each year. \$500. Call 802-875-2758 (11/14)
- Allis Chalmers 50-50 Tractor for
- sale. 2WD 50 HP 2978 hours Has a turtle/creeper range as well as Low and High range making it good for transplanting/cultivating in addition to other field work.
- Adjustable rear and front wheel base for different bed widths
- 3 pt hitch, PTO, drawbar, 2 hydraulic ports Is in good working order and has recently been gone through by a mechanic Has a shade cover that needs repair, paint is fair, Manual available
- \$5500 OBO Call Mike 869-1214 or email mikeghia@gmail.com (11/14)
- John Deere 676 snowblower for 3 p.h. old but runs good \$750. FIMCO boom sprayer with 110 gal. tank \$750. Brand new 20' x 2' culvert \$275. Spin spreader for 3 p.h. \$50. Newbury. Tel. 802-584-3769 (11/14)
- 4'x8' hydraulic dump cart \$1,200. Woods 1130 post hole digger \$400. Woods RM500 5' rotary mower \$400. Silage blower \$100. MK Martin Track Curry 5' riding arena groomer \$1,800. 4.8 kw generator \$250. 2012 Sears riding lawn mower \$800. Craftsman self-propelled lawnmower \$150. 5' chain harrow w/mounting frame for 3-point hitch \$400. All reasonable offers considered. Moretown. mac@gmavt.net or 802-496-9281. (11/14)
- EnRosi 17-ft, 4-basket PTO tedder in excellent condition. \$1900. Grimm ground drive tedder, completely rebuilt: professionally sand-blasted and painted, new tines, belts and tires. \$1000.
- Located in Corinth. (603) 778-5276 or (802) 439-9132 (11/14)
- Ground-driven Pequea 50G manure spreader: 2 wheel; 50 bushel; Barely used! Selling because its too small. 518-645-2697 ash.kay.lee@gmail.com (11/14)
- MF 283 loader for sale-- only loader, bucket, hydraulic system and mounts; came off MF 236 fits other Masseys; great working condition; new cylinders this spring; 518-
- 645-2697 \$2700obo (11/14)
- JD 24T baler no kicker, Kuhn Gfzgn gyro tedder, new idea side rack (no front wheel) Take all, price will be better 802-291-0543 (11/14)
- International 826 Diesel 4 new tires many new parts \$7500. 1982 international dump truck model 1824, 10pt body \$2500. Belshe 9 ton equ trl needs wock \$1000. 802-948-2627 (11/14)
- 5 horse power vacuum pump good shape. 32 front hay elevator like new. 4x12 leader pans with evaporator never used. 802-895-4683 (11/14)
- New Holland tandem maure spreader good shape \$1200. Gehl nine wheel pinwheel rake, working width 19" for \$1200. 14ft tandem cattle trailer \$400. 20 ton running gear with truck tires \$1000. 802-537-2435 (11/14)
- Meat band saw- US Berkel – commercial \$1100. 3 Bay SS sink \$400. 802-365-4000. (11/14)
- Allis Chalmers 50-50 Tractor for sale. 2WD 50 HP 2978 hours Has a turtle/creeper range as well as Low and High range making it good for transplanting/cultivating in addition to other field work. Adjustable rear and front wheel base for different bed widths
- 3 pt hitch, PTO, drawbar, 2 hydraulic ports Is in good working order and has recently been gone through by a mechanic Has a shade cover that needs repair, paint is fair, Manual available
- \$5500 OBO Call Mike 869-1214 or email mikeghia@gmail.com (11/14)
- Hay elevator 24' electric motor like new stored inside \$1250. Delivery available 603-503-7480 (12/14)
- John Deere 350 plow. Five bottom, hydraulic reset. Many new parts, owners manual. Very good shape for the year. Used this past spring. Asking \$1500 or best offer. Call 802-285-6428, leave a message. (12/14)
- 14-T John Deere Baler, good

CLASSIFIEDS

condition, extra baler for parts with new knotter. Both power take off driven. \$2,200. New Holland cutter-crimper, 7ft., also good condition with a few parts. \$1,400. Farm Hand side delivery rake, 5 wheel, with extra parts. \$800. (12/14)

New Idea Manure spreader NO 17 ground driven, good condition \$800 or OBO. 802-295-2910 (1/15)

Spreader, broadcast, Herd Model 750, PTO mount with shroud for width control, use for sand, salt, seed, lime, etc, 9.6 bushel capacity, (See it at Herd.com) Good condition, minimal rust, works well \$650 802-685-3321 (1/15)

7ft McCormick Deering tractor Harrows. Came with farmal H tractor in the early 1940's. I used with 4 horses. 802-877-3297 (1/15)

US Berkel Commercial Meat Band Saw. 6' glass sliding doors. Old International register. 802-365-4000. (1/15)

Cedar fence posts 6' & 7' - \$3.25 to \$4.25. Corral panels 12ft walk through gate-\$90 ea. Farmall C, mower W/F good tires - \$2750. Farmall A, plow good condition - \$2500. Ford#461, blade as is - \$2000. Ford 8N, 1949, mower little use excellent condition \$3500. JD 3 bottom plws 3 pt, trip, no coulters -\$950. MF 3 bottom plows 3 pt coulters - \$750. Kuhn tedder #GA 5001, 17.5', clean - \$3950. JD 717 brush-hog 7dt clean - \$2500. IH brush hog #111, solid 3 pt, 5 ft - \$750. JD #60 H hopper blower- \$950. (1/15)

New Holland 892 Chopper both hay and two row corn heads, International NO 56 silo blower short hopper with auger feed. For price call 802-372-4513 (1/15)

1959 John Deere, 430, with bucket, gas engine tractor starts and runs excellent! Original condition very versatile. \$3300. 802-463-3190 (1/15)

Ball Hitch Horse trailer; Horse equipment; Bob sled; Horse shoe kit; etc. 1500 Gal

Hesston Liquid Spreader. 3200 Gal Harvester liquid tank. Three old International trucks. Call 802-885-4920 (1/15)

2014 Baleage for sale 4x4 wrapped round bales 1st and 2nd cutting, processed tight bales. Alfalfa and grass mix, forage tested \$55/bale. Equipment for Sale Patz round bale chopper, dry hay or straw only. \$1800 or best offer Walpole NH 603-445-5104 (1/15)

JD 12' Center Pivot MoCo-Runs smooth..\$1500. JD F845- 4 bm Roll over plows...\$2000. Gehl 312 Scavenger II-Side dischg man sprdr...\$2800. Kuhn Knight 1224 Man sprdr..\$8500 Gehl 1287 (NH 680) man sprdr-end gate..\$2800. 3PH Sq bale chopper..\$650. xHiSpec Super 14 MixMax mixer wagon...\$2800. 4' Woods Bush.hog....\$800. 802-376-5262 www.youngsmilkyway-farm.com

Hillsboro L700 Gooseneck Trailer. GVW 14,000 lbs. 18 foot with 5 foot dovetail (23 x 8 overall). Tandem axle, electric brakes. Excellent tires. Very good condition. Road ready. \$3200.00. Older model Black and Decker skill saw. 1 1/2 HP. In good working condition. 1st. \$5.00 takes it. Newbury, NH (603) 763-9422. (1/15)

Hillsboro L700 Gooseneck Trailer. GVW 7000 lbs. 18 foot with 5 foot dovetail (23 x 8 overall). Tandem axle, electric brakes. Excellent tires. Very good condition. Road ready. \$3900.00. Newbury, NH (603) 763-9422. Older model Black and Decker skill saw. 1 1/2 HP. In good working condition. 1st. \$5.00 takes it. Newbury, NH (603) 763-9422. (12/14)

Farm & Farmland

42 acres Weatherfield Vt. 70' barn 2 1/2 stories, 3 cow stanchions. 2 bedroom house. Wood & central heat. Cathedral ceiling. Hard wood floors. Fruit trees, blueberry bushes open fields-stone walls - maple orchard - hardwood - lg garden. 2 miles from I-91. Great for young

couple. Privacy. 802-674-5044 \$325,000. (9/14)

Farm for Sale in Fayston, VT - 283 acres - 30 acres open, remainder managed woodland. 1850s house, cattle barn, shed. Land protected by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks buyers to use the land productively for agriculture and forestry. \$225,000. Contact Liza Walker at (802) 496-3690 or liza@vlt.org or www.vlt.org/tenney (10/14)

Farm for Sale - St Johnsbury, VT - 35 acres with 26 tillable. House, dairy barn, ag buildings. \$160,000. Restricted by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks buyers who will farm commercially. Contact Jon Ramsay at (802) 533-7705 or jramsay@vlt.org or www.vlt.org/patenaude (10/14)

Farm for Sale in Fairfax - 326 acres - includes 120 acres hay/pasture. House and 80 stall dairy barn. Protected by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks buyers who will farm commercially. \$350,000. Contact Jon Ramsay at (802) 533-7705 or jramsay@vlt.org or www.vlt.org/berthiaume (11/14)

Farm for Sale in Dummerston, VT - 151 acres - includes 30 acres of open hay and pasture land - remainder is mature forest. Garage and barn. Protected by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks buyers who will farm commercially. \$200,000. Call (802) 533-7705 or jramsay@vlt.org or www.vlt.org/hmafarm (12/14)

Hay, Feed & Forage

Small square bales and 4x4 dry round bales undercover. 802-282-3254 (10/14)

NOFA Certified Organic 2014 First Cut Wrapped Round Bales. Bales are 4' x 4' with 50% moisture content and weigh about 1500 pounds.



Excellent quality and quantity. Call Buffalo Mountain Farm 802-472-9360 or 802-888-7881 (11/14)

NOFA Certified Organic 2014 First Cut and Second Cut Wrapped Round Bales. Bales are 4' x 4' with 50% moisture content and weigh about 1500 pounds. Excellent quality and quantity.

Call Buffalo Mountain Farm 802-472-9360 or 802-888-7881. Bales are ready to go anytime. We load and for a delivery charge we can deliver small quantities. (11/14)

Dry 4x4 round bales stored inside and small bales: 1st and 2nd cut. 802-282-3254 (11/14)

Canadian hay, big squares processed wrapped, round bales processed and wrapped, small squares and 90% Alpha available. Straw also available. 802-323-3275

June first cut 30# square bales. \$3.75 at the barn. Our horses love them. 600 available. Steve 584-4450 (12/14)

Quality 4 x 4 wrapped bales 1st and 2nd cut available Rutland County in Brandon, VT Spotted Dog Family Farm Call 802-247-6076 (12/14)

2nd cut sq bales \$4 per bale 802-796-6067 (1/15)

ADDISON COUNTY

Large Square Bales, 1st & 2nd Cut, Under Cover, Never Wet, SL Moore @ (802) 463-3875 or Alden @ (802) 989-0479. (11/14)

2nd cut clover/grass mix large square bales \$200/ton, small sales by the bale. 758-2682 (1/15)

ORANGE COUNTY

Excellent 2nd cut orchard, timothy and clover. Square bales in wagon on field in Corinth, \$4/bale. Early September.

(802) 439-9132 (9/14)

WINDHAM COUNTY

Hay available, Windham, Vermont. First and second cut; for more information please call George Dutton at (802)380-3898 (11/14)

General

DR Field and Brush Mower. 17H Kawasaki engine, wide cut, heavy duty brush blade & reg. blade, tire chains, parts manual, instruction booklet included. Well maintained. Great machine. \$1500.00. Williston. 872-0709. (10/14)

50 gallon cider barrel with roll a round stand \$250 802-948-2627 (11/14)

Goats

20 open dairy goats herd reduction. I lost my buck but they are ready to breed. Closed herd. 802-309-9209 (10/14)

Cute Angora goat kids for sale. Beautiful white mohair on the hoof. Great personalities, healthy, ready to wean in early August. \$300 registered/ select individuals available unregistered \$200. 3 year old buck, beautiful curls, ready for work. \$350 registered. Bluefaced Leicester ewe lambs. Long white wool, excellent for spinning soft, draping yarns. Well built, healthy twins. \$300 registered, \$200 unregistered. Stonestrow Farm, Wallingford, VT. 802-446-3325 katsmith@vermontel.net (10/14)

Looking for farmer with an extra farm building that could be converted to raise ducks. 4000 sqft or more (elec & water) For more info, Email: christophevermont@gmail.com or call: 802-4974549 (10/14)

Nigerian Dwarfs: Full grown wethers (2) and does (2), horns intact. Pet quality, best for grazing, not meat or breeding. Excellent foragers and brush clearers. Easy keepers. Herd reduction, prefer to sell in pairs or together to loving home. \$75 per wether, \$100 per doe. Group/pair purchase discount. Contact Michelle at goodenough-forme@comcast.net (10/14)

CLASSIFIEDS

Angora Goats for Sale

Registered AAGBA and Unregistered, purebred Bucks and Does from 3 months old to mature adults Granville, NY Call Heidi in the evening at 518-642-2902. Prices starting at \$75.00, call for info. (11/14)

Horses & Other Equine

Free Morgan Mare, clean neat well trained shots feet cross-ties well. Flaxer main & tail. Perfect home adult needs to be alone and will thrive, worth calling. 802-751-9826 (1/15)

Horse Equipment

6 wall mount horse hay feeders \$25 each 802-263-9393 (10/14)

Wooden halflingers cart custom made, motorcycle wheels \$400. Horse jog cart \$100. Metal framed small horse cart \$200. Antique wooden pony cart for about a 12H pony \$300. 4 western saddles 14", 15", and 16" \$100 each. 603-756-4348 (11/14)

Horse Trailer, old but good shape, have no more use for it, \$1000. Set of new D ring harnesses used 3 times, 2 new bridles, no bits. Travis Sled holds 15 average people good shape \$800. Also, just the front sled that would fit onto sled \$200, has new runners. 3 collars, pads, pair new blankets, other blankets, wool blankets to use on sled. 802-295-2910 (1/15)

Sheep

North Country Cheviot breeding ewes & rams for sale. Lambs, yearlings, & up. All purebred. Call or e:mail for more information & prices. Pawlet, Vermont - Peter Helmetag 802.325.3131 or phelmetag@gmail.com (10/14)

Four ewes: one 5yo Columbia x Dorset x Romney x Corriedale & 2.5yo daughter; two 2.5yo crosses Cormo Merino/Dorset/Friesian. \$150 for the 2.5yo ewes and \$100 for 5yo. Geneology and health records available. Located in Brattleboro. 802-579-1261 or wildcarrotfarm@gmail.com. (12/14)



Border Leicester and Romney Sheep are looking for a new home. Border Leicester yearling ram (\$300), yearling ewe (\$250) and ram lambs (\$200). White 4 year old Romney ram (\$350). White and natural colored Romney lambs (\$200). These are show sheep with valuable fleeces and fabulous breed characteristics. All are registered and have pedigree papers. They have been handled a lot and are halter trained. Call with an email address for pictures. 802-233-2640 (10/14)

Sheep small flock Tunnis 4 ewes 1 ram. All 2 years old \$1200. Call 802-728-6077 after 6 pm. (11/14)

Polled Ram. Texel ¼ x Dorset ¾ - Born 3/16/2011 - covered flock for three years producing healthy fast growing lambs. \$100 - Ram replacement sale. 4 ewes (Finn/Dorset) crosses - all are producers of twins - \$75 each - can be bred for service fee of \$75.00 - will hold and pasture for later pick up if requested (flock reduction sale). 2 year old Fancy Rooster and 10 week old chicks (straight run) - \$15 obo fryer size. 1-800-229-9362 (12/14)

Scottish grey face ram, 2 years old, nice grey/black fleece, horned, nice temperament, \$150; Yearling black ram, very nice temperament, \$100. Please contact (802) 7798271(12/14)

Four ewes: one 5yo Columbia x Dorset x Romney x Corriedale & 2.5yo daughter; two 2.5yo crosses Cormo

Merino/Dorset/Friesian. \$150 for the 2.5yo ewes and \$100 for 5yo. Geneology and health records available. Located in Brattleboro. 802-579-1261 or wildcarrotfarm@gmail.com. (12/14)

Bred Registered Katahdin Ewes ready to leave our farm Nov 1, 2014; will lamb in early March, 2015. Price: \$300. We will have a select number of bred ewes available-please reserve asap. All sheep are raised on our family farm, healthy, closed flock, grass fed, antibiotic-free. Also still have a limited number of registered 2014 lambs available. Reg Ewe Lambs-\$250. Reg Ram Lambs-\$200 (normal meat price). 802-928-4190. www.mill-pond-farm.com (12/14)

Sheep for Sale in Windham VT 2 1/2 year old Navajo churro mix ewes. 1 1/2 year old ram. April lambs also available. \$100 each, obo. Call 802-342-8543 (12/14)

Sheep management books such as: Practical Sheep Dairying by Olivia Mills \$30 for 6. 802-463-3190 (1/15)

Sheep: Beautiful, registered, 2 year old Border Leicester ewe with a fabulous fleece needs a new home. She had twin lambs last year, in her first year of lambing. Excellent mother with great breed characteristics. She would be a great addition to a spinner's flock, or for anyone wanting to look out their window to a beautiful grazing ewe. Call 802-233-2640 for a visit, or pictures. \$225. (1/15)

Selling beautiful registered Border Leicester ram lambs who would make great breeding rams for a wool flock. Shine and luster in a consistent fleece is evident. Breed characteristics are top of the line. Friendly dispositions and come from great stock. \$175. Call 802-233-2640 for pictures or to schedule a visit. (1/15)

Icelandic Sheep 3 Proven Ewes, and two lamb ewes for sale. Want to find good home for older Ewes. (518) 963-4355 (1/15)

Sugaring Equipment

2'6"x8' Leader Evaporator SS pans & stacks, retined \$2500. Sap storage containers 1- 50 barrel, 1 -20 barrel. Stock tanks different sizes (best offer) Assorted 5/16 sapline (memory line). 802-263-9393 (10/14)

4x14 Small Brothers arch and pans- 4x10 raised flue pan, 4x4 syrup pan. Stainless steel stack with cover. \$3000 obo, 1-802-254-2228 (10/14)

Leader SS kitchen/finishing pan (12" x 20") with two-burner gas stove. Includes syrup thermometer, brass draw-off valve and two handles. Holds ten gallons. Cost \$400 new. Price \$275. Call Bob @ 802-885-3571 (11/14)

2'6"x8' Leader evaporator SS pans & stack, retined. \$2500. Sap Storage containers 1-50 barrel, 1-20 barrel Stock tanks different sizes(best offer) Assorted 5/16 sapline (memory line). 802-263-9393 (11/14)

Used Dual-Action Vacuum Sap Pump With Float Control \$450.00 2. Atlantic Fluids 200 CFM Vacuum Pump Electric, Gas, or PTO Powered \$2500.00 3. Leader 10-inch Cast Iron Syrup Press with New Pump \$1650.00 802-754-6693 (12/14)

5 Horse power vacuum pump good shape. 80 ft hay elevator, 32 ft hay elevator. 8 to 9 ton grain bins very good shape. 12 to 13 ton grain bins. 4 by 12 Leader arch and pans new never been used. 802-895-4683 (1/15)

Sugaring Equipment Steel Sap Tank Approx 600 gallon capacity, \$300 or Best offer, Walpole NH 603-445-5104 (1/15)

3' x 10' Welded Leader raised flue evaporator, oil fired insulated arch with S.S. sides, burner cover & stack, includes 275 gallon oil tank, Carlin burner, 3 x 7 S.S. steam hood with stack, also small utensils. Very Nice Condition \$9000.00 Norwesco 550 gallon Vertical tank, Clean \$325.00 Norwesco 225 gallon Horizontal tank W/ valve, Clean \$275.00 Stock tank

300 gallon, no rust \$100.00 Stock tank 200 gallon, no rust \$75.00 2 HP Delaval 76 recently rebuilt \$900.00 3 HP Massport with reclaimer \$900.00 Whitingham 368-2420 (1/15)

Chopper, Excellent Condition JF Model FCT 900, 2 row corn head, never used grass head-1000 PTO \$15,000 Call Roger Wood 802-695-8818 Concord, VT (1/15)

New Idea manure spreader 90 Bushel. Clean and in excellent condition stored in barn. I don't use it anymore and need the space it takes up. Runs great. No rust! Asking \$5,500.00 OBO. Call Cabot 563-6061 (1/15)

Swine

Piglets - male/castrated 802-282-3254 (10/14)

Piglets for sale. Ready now and more later. 802-282-3254 (11/14)

Pigs for Sale-Windham, VT 1 1/2 yr old Sow \$225. 8 week old piglets \$75 . OBO. Call 802-342-8543 (12/14)

Piglets for sale. 802-483-6521 (1/15)

2 500-600 pound sows, were breeding stock, now for slaughter. Asking \$300 ea. 603-256-8422. (1/15)

Wanted

Dump body with hoist complete to fit 1971 chevy 1 ton. 603-272-4903 (10/14)

Dairy cattle, heifers, beef, bulls, steers, sheep and goats. 413-441-3085 (10/14)

Dairy Breed Sheep Ram, Friesion preferred. 802-439-5478 (1/15))

Round bale unroller self loading or traveling feeder for tie stall barn. 9:00 am 802-223-5747 (1/15)

Looking for a Galloway or (polled) Red Devon bull calf, preferably born last spring or summer, to grow into our herd sire. Please email neds-bestbeef@gmail.com if you have one you'd like to sell. (802) 485-9910 (1/15)

26th Annual World Cheese Awards

Vermont Cheesemakers Take Home World's Best Unpasteurized Cheese Plus 16 More

Winners Announced on November 16 from London, England

By Tom Bivins,
Vermont Cheese Council

The Vermont Cheese Council (VCC), an organization dedicated to the production and advancement of Vermont Cheese, announced that

Vermont took home 17 medals from the 26th annual World Cheese Awards, which were held in London, England, November 14-16. The standout among the impressive list of Vermont awards was Cellars at Jasper Hill's trophy for the World's

Best Unpasteurized Cheese for its Bayley Hazen Blue.

The World Cheese Awards is the leading and most diverse cheese competition in the world. At this year's event, more than 250 cheese experts from 26 nations travelled to London

to evaluate more than 2,600 cheeses from 33 countries. Judges ranked cheeses into Gold, Silver, Bronze and "no award." From those medaled cheeses, an intimate group of 62 were chosen for Super Gold Awards and then judged again to carve the final list to 16 cheeses.

After being awarded a Super Gold, Bayley Hazen Blue was officially recognized as a trophy winner under the heading of World's Best

Unpasteurized Cheese. Bayley Hazen Blue is a Jasper Hill Farm original, and is made from high-quality whole raw milk. Bayley has a fudge-like texture, toasted-nut sweetness and anise spice character. The paste is dense and creamy, with well-distributed blue veins. The usual peppery character of blue cheese is subdued, giving way to the grassy, nutty flavors in the milk.

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Vermont's Dairy Farmers Prepare for Margin Protection Program Roll-Out

By Pam Smith, UVM

Over 240 Vermont dairy farmers attended Dairy Margin Protection Program Protection workshops last month to learn more about the new program, which is intended to provide financial stability in the face of volatile markets.

Five statewide Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) workshops, offered in mid-October, as a collaborative effort between the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and UVM Extension, reached nearly one third of Vermont's dairy producers and service providers. The MPP is designed to smooth out years with volatile milk prices and shrinking margins like 2009 and 2010. This voluntary program offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

What does a dairy farmer have to do to participate?

FSA is administering the program and there are two forms that need to be submitted. Begin by contacting your county office well in advance of the November 28, 2014 enrollment deadline for 2014 and 2015. FSA staff will help you establish your production history based on using your farm's highest annual milk production marketed during 2011, 2012 or 2013. Next, choose your coverage, which ranges from the lowest level, called catastrophic coverage, offering \$4/cwt margin protection on 90% of the established production history, or choose a buy-up option, which protects margins up to \$8/cwt. The \$4.00 level requires no premium payment; however a \$100 administrative fee is due annually.

Selecting the percentage of milk you'd like to protect is the next step. This ranges from a low of 25%, up to 90% of your production history. Dairy operations may

select only one coverage level percentage and coverage level threshold for the applicable calendar year. A farm cannot participate in both MPP and the Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy program at the same time.

A web-based decision tool allows each producer to use data unique to their farming operation, combined with other variables, to test a variety of financial scenarios before making a final enrollment decision in MPP. This web tool is located at www.fsa.usda.gov/mptool.

When are payments made?

Participating dairies will receive a margin protection payment whenever the average dairy production margin for a consecutive two month period is less than the coverage level threshold selected by the producer.

November 28, 2014 is the enrollment deadline. Further information is available from FSA county offices, online at www.fsa.usda.gov, or by contacting UVM Extension.



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Annual World Cheese Awards

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Grafton Village Cheese came home with two coveted Super Gold awards, for its Bismark and Shepsog cave aged cheeses. This is the second Super Gold for Shepsog, having won the same trophy in 2012.

Vermont Creamery took home eight medals from the event, including gold for its Bijou. The event brought the company's season award total to a fitting 30, as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

"We are delighted for these cheesemakers and equally excited that Vermont cheesemakers continue to win whether in regional, national or international venues," said Vermont Cheese Council executive director Tom Bivins. "The fact that Bayley Hazen Blue won the World's Best Unpasteurized Cheese trophy is indicative of the quality and strength of the raw milk cheeses produced by Jasper Hill and by cheesemakers throughout the state. We couldn't be more excited."

Winning Vermont Cheeses

Cellars at Jasper Hill, Greensboro: Bayley Hazen Blue, Super Gold; Cabot Clothbound and Moses Sleeper, Gold; Harbison and Oma, Silver; Weybridge and Kinsman Ridge, Bronze.

Grafton Village Cheese, Grafton: Shepsog and Bismark, Super Gold

Vermont Creamery, Websterville: Bijou, Gold; Cremon, Fromage Blanc, Vanilla Crème Fraiche, Coupole, Chevre, Fresh Crottin and Creamy Goat Cheese, Bronze.

For a comprehensive list of the 2014 World Cheese Award winners, visit FineWorldFood.co.uk.

The state of Vermont, celebrated for its focus on farm-to-table lifestyle and Vermont-made products, including cheese, boasts more cheese companies per capita than any other state in the nation. In addition to the World Cheese Awards, Vermont cheese businesses have won awards at the American Cheese Society, International Cheese Championship, The Big E Cheese Championship, the American Dairy Goat Association and the Good Food Awards.

The Vermont Cheese Council is a statewide membership-based organization with 43 principal cheese producing members and over 100 associate members. The VCC is committed to the advancement and quality of Vermont cheese through promotion, education and strong peer-to-peer support. For information, contact: Tom Bivins, Executive Director at tom@vtcheese.com or call 802-451-8564 or visit the VCC website at www.vtcheese.com.



Bayley Hazen Blue



Grafton Village Bismark

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