

AGRiVIEW



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Gov. Shumlin Kicks Off Christmas Tree Season

By Hannah Reid, VAAFM

Vermont's Christmas tree industry received one of its early customers on December 1st when Gov. Peter Shumlin arrived at Purinton's Christmas Tree Farm in Huntington, Vt., to select and cut a tree for the state Pavilion Office Building in Montpelier. The Governor's annual tree-cutting event not only signals the start of tree-hunting season for many Vermonters, but also draws some well-deserved attention to Vermont's robust Christmas Tree Industry, which supplies over 134,000 trees to Vermonters and customers throughout New England and as far away as Bermuda. Gov. Shumlin was joined by farm owner Peter Purinton, his sons Cody and Austin, state Rep. Tom Stevens, and the head of Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Plant Industry Division,

Hannah Reid



Left to right: Austin Purinton, Gov. Shumlin, Peter Purinton, Rep. Tom Stevens, Cody Purinton

Tim Schmalz, along with several members of the press.

"I'm so proud to continue this annual tradition on such a beautiful Vermont farm," said Gov. Shumlin. "Being outside surrounded by the

natural beauty of Vermont reminds me of all we have to be thankful for this holiday season. I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday."

Purinton's Christmas Tree Farm, which planted its first seedlings

in 1990, is one of 288 tree farms throughout the state of Vermont that collectively cultivate over 3,600 acres of trees, according to the USDA's 2012 agricultural census. The Purinton's Farm is home to over 16,000 trees, mostly Balsam Firs, spread across 14 acres of Huntington hillside. Peter and his family will sell roughly 2,000 trees this holiday season – over half of those will be sold over the course of the two weekends following Thanksgiving. In addition to Christmas trees, the Purinton's also sell their own pure Vermont maple syrup, maple candy, wreaths, and other holiday greenery hand-crafted by Peter's wife Carla Purinton.

"It's just like growing a garden," says Mr. Purinton. "If you do it right and you focus on growing beautiful, healthy trees, you'll sell every last one of them. But if your focus is on

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Partnership is Key to The Ongoing Effort to Mitigate Agricultural Impacts on Lake Champlain

By Chuck Ross, Secretary
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food,
and Markets

With the recent series of meetings by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) there has been much discussion about the agricultural water quality efforts on-going in the State. As the Secretary of Agriculture, I am responsible for ensuring that agricultural non-point source rules are enforced. I know that the success of our farms depends on a commitment to environmental stewardship and I want to take a moment to explain our regulatory and enforcement programs and to outline our current strategy to focus on the Northern Lake Champlain watersheds (Lake Carmi, Missisquoi Bay and St. Albans Bay).

First, it is important to note that since 1995 all farms in Vermont have

been required to operate in compliance the Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs). The AAPs are state-wide regulations designed to conserve and protect natural resources by reducing non-point source pollution through the implementation of improved farming techniques. When farms violate the AAPs, they are subject to regulatory actions that may include penalties. In conjunction with the new TMDL, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) is proposing revisions to the AAPs that will require a higher level of performance.

Since 1999, Large Farm Operations (700+ mature dairy cows) have been held to even higher standards and inspected annually to ensure compliance. In 2006, Medium Farm Operations (200-699 mature dairy cows) came under similarly stringent rules. These rules govern the way farms manage manure, waste water and field operations, as well as requiring nutrient management planning and the installation of structures to prevent pollution.

When farmers fail to comply with the regulations, we are required by state statute to give them notice through a formal enforcement action that a violation exists. The farms are informed about technical assistance options to assure compliance. If they fail to correct the violation in a timely manner, further enforcement actions will be taken. While farming is a critical component of Vermont's landscape and economy, so is clean water: therefore our Agency has the responsibility to ensure the waters of Vermont are protected from agricultural impacts. In the past two years, AAFM partnered with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Attorney General's Office to ratchet up our water quality protection efforts, which has led to increased penalties. Current examples include fines of \$33,000 and \$40,000 on two separate farms.

We recently launched a small farm inspection program in an effort to move away from complaint-based investigations. For the first time we can conduct more routine inspec-

tions of small farms to ensure they are aware of the AAPs and to provide them notice of where they may need to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) in order to comply with these rules. It is important to note that most of Vermont's dairies are small farms (fewer than 200 mature cows), and there are many other small livestock operations in the state (eg. horses, beef), so it is critical we have the capacity to bring these farmers more closely into our regulatory framework.

In addition, this summer AAFM and ANR have jointly focused our resources on Northern Lake Champlain watersheds, resulting in more inspections, education, technical assistance and enforcement in the Franklin County area where we face some of our most serious water quality issues. Our new Small Farm Program inspector has visited more than 175 of the small farms (dairy, beef, equine, etc.) so far this year. These efforts have increased our farm visits in Franklin County by

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Christmas Tree Season

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growing trees to make money, you'll be in trouble."

Tim Schmalz and his Plant Industry team from the Agency of Agriculture provide a range of services to the Christmas tree industry, including domestic and international export inspection and certification, as well as technical assistance around pest identification and management.

"The Christmas tree industry is an essential element of our thriving working landscape and economy" said Chuck Ross, Secretary of Agriculture. "Tree growers not only promote and preserve Vermont's cultural heritage, they help ensure our state's working landscape

endures for future generations of Vermonters to enjoy."

Mr. Purinton's parting advice to the Governor was to "Take good care of it. I've taken care of that tree for eight years and now it's your turn. Do a good job!"

For more information about Vermont Christmas trees, please contact the Vermont Christmas Tree Association or the NH-VT Christmas Tree Association, or contact Tim Schmalz at Tim.Schmalz@state.vt.us.

Editor's Note

Thank you, *Agriview* readers, for another great year. I wish you all a very happy holiday, and a healthy, successful 2015. Back at the home farm, we are really getting into the spirit. Hope you are, too! Wishing you the very best!

— Alison Kosakowski
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and follow me @VTFarmGirl



Save the Date for the Vermont Farm Show

January 27, 28, 29, 2015

By Ali Ziparro, VAAFM

The Vermont Farm Show will return to the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction January 27, 28, and 29.

For agriculture professionals, the Farm Show is an opportunity to meet with vendors, preview products and machinery and network with the farm community. For consumers, it's a great venue to learn about technological advances in agriculture that benefit all sizes and all kinds of farms.

The Farm Show also hosts key meetings for Vermont agricultural groups. The Vermont Christmas Tree Growers, Beekeepers, Sugar Makers, and Dairy Farmers will all hold annual meetings. The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Future Farmers of



America, Organic Farmers, Specialty Food Producers, and alumnae of Vermont Technical College will also gather at the Farm Show, to name a few.

The 4th Annual Farm Show Consumer Night will happen on the evening of Jan. 28th beginning at 4pm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to attend the Buy Local Market where they can learn about, sample and purchase a broad range of products made within the state. Attendees will also have the opportunity to watch state Representatives, Senators and employees of the Agency of

Agriculture, Food and Markets compete in the annual Capital Cook-off—an Iron-chef style cooking challenge.

At 5:15pm the Capital Cook-off will begin with the unveiling of the evening's local ingredients. The cooking challenge continues until 6:30pm at which point

the contestants must submit their dishes for review by a panel of judges.

The Agency will again hold the 2nd annual consumer scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt is open to all Consumer Night attendees and will run from 4pm – 5:15pm. Those who complete the scavenger hunt will receive a door prize and be entered to win the final seat on the esteemed judging panel which will be similar

to last year's distinguished group.

Event highlights and winners will be announced live on WCAX during the evening news, but don't miss the opportunity to sample and learn about Vermont's products in person—perhaps even pick up a recipe or two from the Capital Cook-off winners! For more information, visit www.VTFarmShow.com.



View From 116 State St. *continued from page 2*

more than 30 percent, and have resulted in 40 percent more enforcement actions. In an effort to inspect as many farms as possible in the near term, we are deploying all the resources we have available in this area for a

number of months to ensure farms are complying with the law. We want to make sure all farms in the Northern Lake watersheds understand the rules and comply with them.

On the whole, Vermont farmers are outstanding stewards of our environment who recognize their success

relies on the health of our natural resources. However, many smaller farmers, especially non-dairy farmers, are not aware that state and federal regulations apply to all farms, and we are working to provide the education needed to help all Vermont farmers understand the regulatory requirements in effect.

Moreover, for those farmers working hard to comply with those regulations, we are helping them identify problems, prioritize projects, and access the technical, engineering and financial resources available from state and federal sources to protect water quality. Nonetheless, as in any industry, a few bad apples can tarnish the reputation of all. Let it be known, these "bad apples" are the minority, and we are ratcheting up our enforcement efforts to bring them into compliance.

Agriculture is critical to the economic viability of Vermont, and the dairy industry is the bedrock

of Vermont agriculture. Lake Champlain is one of Vermont's most precious resources, and the future of the lake will depend on farmers, businesses, communities, individuals and policy-makers working together to build a culture of lake stewardship and accountability. It will require cooperation, innovation, and a long term determined effort to protect the Lake for future generations. I believe we can have both- a clean, healthy lake and a viable, sustainable agriculture and dairy economy.

Charles R. Pusey Jr.

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Old-timer: The Widow-maker That Didn't Make a Widow

By Michael Caldwell
 Edited & submitted by UVM's
 George Cook, with permission

The way the old-timer's friend Merle told the story, he was lucky to be alive.

He was drawing a beech log out of the woods with his tractor last week. It was green, and about as heavy a log as he could draw.

The tractor didn't take the exact path he chose due to the lag of the log. As the left rear tire bounced off a standing deadwood snag, suddenly everything went black. When he came to, his glasses were pinching his nose. Blood ran down the lenses. He turned off the switch and got stopped. He realized something hit him but it took a moment before he could collect himself enough to see the branch on the ground that fell from the snag. He'd been hit on the forehead by a two-inch diameter widow-maker and lived to tell about it.

Woods work could never be entirely danger-free even under the best of circumstances. Workshops given by the extension service helped maximize safety, but they always said you couldn't be too careful and to try to be prepared for the unexpected.

Merle had run a chainsaw most of his adult life. Every time he fired it up he reminded himself not to over-reach, to always stay balanced, and to never cut when it's wet. He'd knicked his boot one day years ago



but that's a close as he ever came to an accident with the saw.

He'd had less experience drawing logs. And he knew it was a little unorthodox to skid logs directly from the drawbar with a chain, without the typical guard, and without hydraulics. But it was all he had so the old-timer just told him to be careful, take it easy, don't overdo it, and draw the log

from the top end so that it wouldn't dig into the ground as much when it was pulled. He hadn't ever thought much about the path of the tractor through a newly made logroad. He even took some pride in taking logs out through narrow spots between trees, not that he'd do that if he knew one of the trees was a snag.

In this case, he didn't plan to come anywhere

near the snag he hit. And the snag wasn't large, so it didn't seem like a potential problem at all. Talking to the old-timer helped him realize that's where he'd gone wrong.

"First of all, small snags can be as deadly as big ones. Only takes a two-inch diameter branch falling from the top of a dead tree to kill a man. Sure, a bigger tree can be a bigger hazard, especially if you're felling it. But you can't ignore small snags, whether sawing or drawing. Now you know."

The other thing Merle knew from his close call was that he'd like to avoid another one. His wife cleaned him up when he got back to the house and reprimanded him more than he liked. But he took it because he knew

it was her expression of long-held anxiety about his woodwork, especially because he worked alone most of the time. They both knew that wasn't recommended, but he'd convinced her he was careful enough. Now, with the danger imprinted in the wound on his forehead, and on his mangled glasses, he knew he had to let her have her say.

Fortunately, it was a glancing blow. Fortunately the widow-maker wasn't larger. Fortunately he loved the work and could apply his new awareness the next day he headed to the woods. He thought of others who'd paid with their lives, and hoped his experience would be a reminder to be careful in the woods.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: McDermotts, Inc. to operate a milk and milk products hauling company based in Enosburg Falls, VT. 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 January 15, 2015.

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.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Hillside Creamery of Milton, VT to buy, sell and transport milk from dairy farms 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 January 15, 2015.

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.

NOFA Vermont Offers Workshops for Farmers on Human Resources

Half-day intensive training sessions will cover wide array of labor management issues

By Kim Mercer, NOFA

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT), in partnership with Vermont Technical College's Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems (VTC), will be launching a new winter workshop series related to human resources and labor management for farmers. Each session features real-life stories, practical advice, and useful resources from successful farmers and experts from around Vermont and beyond.

Labor is often the highest expense on a farm, and labor management is frequently cited as critical to a farm's success. Many farmers are drawn to the production side of farming, not to the management of labor. Additionally, many farms are run by couples who may find it challenging to make business decisions together as well as work side by side on a daily basis. The NOFA-VT and VTC workshop series will give farmers practical skills from both professionals working in human resources as well as from vegetable, dairy and fruit farm managers and value-added producers.

NOFA-VT and VTC's human resources and labor management series will cover an array of relevant topics, including employee management and com-

munication, interpersonal relationships, labor regulations, staff recruitment, retention and even firing. The workshops include: "Get Your Team: Hire, Train and Retain a Strong Farm Crew," "Run Your Team: Tools for Managing and Motivating Employees on the Farm," and "Conflict on the Team: Effective Leadership and Communication with Farm

Employees." The seminars will be offered January through March, with each workshop being hosted in two different regions in Vermont to make them more accessible to attendees. Participants who attend all three sessions can receive a certificate in farm labor management from Vermont Technical College.

Walk-ins are welcome

the day of the workshop; however, preregistration is required for discounts and to guarantee lunch. Funding is provided by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2012-49200-20031 and the Department of Labor. For additional information and online registration please go to www.nofavt.org/farmerHR. If you have any questions regarding the

workshop content or registration process please contact Rachel Fussell, NOFA-VT's Education Coordinator, at rachel@nofavt.org or (802) 434-4122 x28. If interested in signing up for the certificate program, please contact Cara Gauthier, Vermont Technical College's Outreach Coordinator, at cbutterlygauthier@vtc.edu.

Do Vermont Farmers Get SAD?

By Myra Handy, Farm First

Yes, a percentage of the population does experience this type of "winter blues." SAD — the acronym for Seasonal Affective Disorder — is the diagnostic name for the winter blues, and it is a type of depression that occurs at the same time every year. Symptoms begin in the fall and may continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you irritable. Symptoms of SAD include depression, hopelessness, anxiety, low energy, a "leaden" feeling in the arms or legs, social withdrawal, oversleeping (up to 2.5 hours extra/day), loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed, a craving for foods high in carbohydrates, weight gain, and difficulty concentrating.



What causes seasonal affective disorder?

The specific cause remains unknown, but a few related factors include:

- **Your biological clock** (circadian rhythm). The reduced level of sunlight in fall and winter may disrupt your body's internal clock which lets you know when you should sleep or be awake. This disruption of your circadian rhythm may lead to feelings of depression.
- **Serotonin levels.** A drop in serotonin, a brain chemical (neurotransmitter) that affects mood, might play

a role. Reduced sunlight can cause a drop in serotonin that may trigger depression.

- **Melatonin levels.** The change in season can disrupt the balance of the natural hormone melatonin which plays a role in sleep patterns and mood.

Don't just "tough it out"

Seasonal affective disorder can have serious consequences. Untreated, depression can lead to avoidance of farm business demands such as financial planning and tax preparation, over-spending, self-medication with alcohol or other drugs, family conflict or suicidal thoughts.

Your mood and functionality can be improved by taking recommended steps for the full duration of diminished light (usually from October to April). FARM FIRST can help you identify

the issues and develop a strategy for handling SAD.

What You Can Do

1. Stay connected to others. Talk with a trusted friend about your concerns.
2. Exercise outdoors, preferably with the early light of morning.
3. Sit closer to bright windows.
4. Talk to your physician.
5. Light boxes (phototherapy) may help and are best used in the morning.
6. Call FARM FIRST at 1-877-493-6216 about this or any other question. We will help you develop a plan for addressing winter moods, get you information, give you free sessions, etc.

FARM FIRST is for all Vermont farmers!
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Vermont AgrAbility Project Helps Westfield Farmer Keep Farming

By Geoff Whitchurch, Vermont AgrAbility Project education and outreach coordinator

The large tires on the power chair easily navigated the rough terrain around the farmhouse as Robert Smith skillfully piloted it through several doors through the milk house into the feeding pens. He picked a pitch fork off the wall, plucked a fork-full of hay from a pile in the middle of the barn and drove to a pen of goats, who received their first feeding from the smiling farmer in a new wheelchair.

Smith, 49, operates a goat dairy farm with his parents, Linda and Richard Smith, in Westfield. Although he has managed almost every aspect of the operation, his difficulty walking due to his cerebral palsy has made it challenging for him to get from his home to his barn to tend to his goats.



Geoff Whitchurch/UVM Extension

Thanks to the Vermont AgrAbility Project, he recently received the assistive equipment he needs to maneuver around his farm more easily.

Geoff Whitchurch, an outreach specialist with University of Vermont Extension's Vermont AgrAbility Project, was able to obtain a motorized wheelchair at no cost through GetATStuff (Get Accessible

Technology Stuff), an online database (www.getatstuff.com) of used and new assistive devices that people donate or sell to help others in need.

The resource is just one of many that Vermont AgrAbility accesses to help farmers and agricultural workers who have been seriously injured or have chronic health conditions. These include, but are not limited to, arthritis, spinal cord or back injury, amputation, brain injury, paralysis, visual or hearing problems, respiratory ailments and muscular impairments such as cerebral palsy.

"In addition to locating assistive equipment to help farmers around the farm and home, we help find funding sources through VocRehab Vermont and the Vermont Center for Independent Living to help with farm modifications to accommodate physical and mental challenges," Whitchurch says. "This most recent success story offers insight into how

With the help of his new power wheelchair, farmer Robert Smith is able to care for his goats on his Westfield farm.

When Whitchurch contacted Flinn, who comes from a farming family, she was excited to be able to donate the chair to a Vermont farmer.

"The joy and excitement of receiving a power wheelchair was evident in Robert's eyes," says Whitchurch, who recently delivered the chair to the long-time goat farmer. "The pain and frustration that was evident before when Robert walked into and out of his house was replaced with relaxed confidence as I watched him smoothly transition from his house to his tractor and barn in his new power wheelchair."

For more information on the Vermont AgrAbility Project or any of the associated services, contact Geoff Whitchurch, Vermont AgrAbility Project education and outreach coordinator, at (802) 888-4972, ext. 403, or (866) 260-5603 (toll-free in Vermont) or by e-mail at vtagrability@uvm.edu.

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www.uvm.edu/pasture



Agency of Ag Issues Winter Reminder to Farmers

By Alison Kosakowski,
VAAFM

Winter 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:

Manure Spreading Ban Begins Dec. 15

The manure spreading ban will once again take effect December 15.

This annual ban is part of an overall strategy to protect our working landscape and natural resources, as outlined in Vermont’s Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs). The Agency works closely with farmers across the state to ensure the AAPs are enforced.

Manure spreading is a common practice in Vermont agriculture which enriches the soil for production and helps manage animal waste.

The manure spreading ban is a regulation that has been in place since 1995 under the Accepted Agricultural Practice rules. Vermont was a leading state in developing such a ban. In recent years several other states have considered adopting, or have adopted, the idea. Research has shown that manure applications on frozen ground can increase the runoff potential. Vermont chose

to select a ban period from December 15th to April 1st each year to protect water quality; however the Agency has discretion with those dates to accommodate unusual circumstances.

During the ban, farmers must either have a storage structure that is capable of holding all manure produced from December 15th to April 1st, which is 107 days, or they must be able to stack all manure produced in a way that will not lead to water quality impacts.

When stacking manure, AAPs require that stacking sites be located more than 100 feet from private wells or property boundaries. Also, manure cannot be stacked on unimproved sites within 100 feet of surface water, or on land that is subject to annual overflow from adjacent waters. In all these situations, however, farmers have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Secretary of Agriculture that no alternative sites exist to enable you to meet these restrictions.

If you have any questions about the manure spreading ban, or if you would like assistance in the selection of appropriate manure stacking sites, please call the Agency at (802) 828-3475.

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.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Sticky Fingers Bakery, West Dover VT to buy, sell, process and transport of milk and milk products. 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 January 15, 2015.

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.

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Efficiency Vermont

Winter Snow is Pretty, But Dangerous on Barn Roofs

By Annie MacMillan,
VAAFM

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Health are urging farm and home owners to diligently monitor their roofs and clear off snow if necessary and if it can be done so safely. If there is a concern for personal safety while clearing a roof, a professional contractor should be called in to inspect the roof, or to clear the roof of snow.

Guidance for what constitutes a safe load of snow on your roof is based on a number of factors and is not the same for every dwelling or structure. It depends on the age of the roof, the amount of snow on the roof, and the weight of that snow.

Strange noises, cracking, or visible movement of rafters should be signs that your roof is headed for a collapse. However, those signs won't necessarily present themselves before a collapse.

Steps provided by Vermont Fire Safety and the Agency of Agriculture when dealing with roofs.

- All of the mentioned actions should only be performed by able-bodied adults, as the snow is heavy, and roofs and other surfaces may be slippery. Protective headgear and eye protection is recommended.
- Try to plan an escape route before you begin and keep safety the first



- If roof snow can be removed with the use of a snow rake (available at most hardware stores), do so. Use caution, as metal snow rakes conduct electricity if they come into contact with a power line. Also be careful not to let large amounts of snow fall

on you.

- Try to avoid working from ladders, as ladder rungs tend to ice up. Snow and ice collect on boot soles, and metal ladders.

On Barns:

- When clearing snow from a roof, work to ensure an even unloading from both

sides at a time. Always work in pairs and use a safety line when clearing steep pitched roofs.

- The center of the rafters and the center of the building are the weak points. It is advised to keep some 4x4 or 6x6 poles on hand to place under every fourth rafter, or along the center of the roof line.

This will provide additional strength to the roof.

Other important advice

for winter months:

- When you go to work, check to see if the emergency exits are clear. Leave the building at the first sign of danger.
- Make sure your home is

protected with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, Locate alarms close to where you sleep.

- Make sure heating system vents are not blocked by snow. As snow falls off roofs it can cover the direct vents that are located lower down on walls. A blocked vent can lead to carbon monoxide backing up into your home.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from any heat source. Store your stove or fireplace ashes in a fire resistant container with a cover and keep the container outdoors and away from the building.

Workshops Help Farmers Ensure Safety Of Their Produce

By Ginger Nickerson, UVM Extension

Workshops for fruit and vegetable growers interested in developing a produce safety plan will be held at five locations in February. UVM Extension's Center for Sustainable Agriculture will sponsor the full-day workshops for small farmers who market directly to restaurants, schools and other local markets. The fee, which covers lunch and all materials, is \$18 and \$10 for each additional person from the same farm.

In addition to hearing from local producers about how they developed and implemented produce safety plans for their farms, participants will learn how to identify potential food safety risks and the steps to take to reduce risk and improve the quality and safety of their produce. They also will draft a food safety plan designed to help them follow proper procedures from planting to storing produce.

All workshops will run from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dates and locations are:

Feb. 18: UVM Extension Office, 374 Emerson Falls Rd.,

Suite 1, St. Johnsbury. Farmer presenter: Mary Skovsted, Joe's Brook Farm, St. Johnsbury.

Feb. 19: Yankee Farm Credit, 52 Farm Vu Dr., White River Junction; Farmer presenter: Pooh Sprague, Edgewater Farm, Plainfield, New Hampshire.

Feb. 20: Workforce Investment Board Training Center, 10 Precision Lane, Swanton (co-sponsored by Healthy Roots in St. Albans). Farmer presenter: S'ra DeSantis, Diggers Mirth Collective Farm, Burlington.

Feb. 23: Green Mountain College Library, Poultney (co-sponsored by Green Mountain College); Farmer presenter: Carol Tashie, Radical Roots Farm, Rutland.

Feb. 24: UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury; Farmer presenter: Jeremy Gildrien, Gildrien Farm, Leicester.

Registrations will be accepted up until one week prior to the workshop. To register, go to <http://go.uvm.edu/sus-agctr-registration>. If requesting a disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact Cheryl Herrick at (802) 656-5459 at least three weeks in advance.

Fun Facts About Poinsettias

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

Do you like trivia, or at least learning more about the top-selling holiday plant? If so, perhaps you will be interested in a dozen fun facts about the poinsettia plants you buy and see everywhere each December.

FACT 1: Did you know that the poinsettia's main attraction is not its flowers, but its leaves? The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the center (termed "cyathia"). The colored leafy parts are actually bracts or modified leaves, that turn color in response to the plant forming flowers. When buying a poinsettia, make sure it has the buds, preferably not yet open.

FACT 2. Red is the most popular color, accounting for roughly three-quarters of all sales nationwide, followed by white and pink. The more than 100 varieties of poinsettias come in a range of colors from red, salmon, and apricot to yellow, cream, and white (but not blue—these are a designer color created with dyes). There are also unusual speckled or marbled varieties with several colors blended together. New varieties are introduced yearly.

FACT 3. How many poinsettias do you think are sold in a year? According to the 2014 USDA Floriculture Crops report, poinsettias accounted for about one-

fifth (19 percent) of sales of all flowering potted plants. In economic terms, that's \$146 million out of a total of \$778 million in sales of all flowering potted plants, with about 35 million pots sold. This makes them the highest selling potted flowering plant.

FACT 4. Although every state in the United States grows poinsettias commercially, California is the top producer with almost 7 million pots grown, followed by North Carolina with 4.3 million pots sold, Texas with 3.3 million, Florida with 3.2 million, and Ohio with 2.9 million poinsettias sold.

FACT 5. Did you know that in the wild, or planted in tropical climates, the poinsettia can reach heights of 12 feet with leaves measuring six to eight inches across? It is actually a small tropical tree (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) belonging to the *Euphorbia* plant family.

FACT 6. A native of southern Mexico, the poinsettia blooms in December and has been used in that country to decorate churches for centuries. In the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, the Aztecs used the poinsettia leaves to dye fabric for clothing and the sap for medicinal purposes, including to help control fevers. They also considered the red color a symbol of purity, and so poinsettias were traditionally part of religious



ceremonies. In Mexico and Guatemala, the poinsettia is called (translated) the "Flower of the Holy Night" referring to Christmas Eve.

FACT 7. Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, an amateur botanist and first United States Minister (the position called "ambassador" after 1896) to Mexico, introduced the plant that became known as the poinsettia to this country. He discovered a shrub with brilliantly colored red leaves growing by the side of the road in Taxco, Mexico, in December 1828 and sent cuttings home to his plantation in Greenville, South Carolina.

Most botanists at that time dismissed the poinsettia as a weed. Fortunately, Poinsett continued to study and breed this plant in his greenhouse, sharing plants with his horticulturist friends. It soon gained acceptance as a holiday plant, despite its very short bloom time. It wasn't until the 1960s that researchers were able to successfully breed plants to bloom more than just a few days.

FACT 8. Here's another bit of interesting trivia. December 12 is National Poinsettia Day (www.poinsettaday.com/). Never heard

of it? Believe it or not, the United States has observed this official day since the mid-1800s.

It honors the man and the plant he introduced. Poinsett died on Dec. 12, 1851.

FACT 9. For much of the last century, the Paul Ecke Ranch in Southern California produced the majority of poinsettia cuttings and plants purchased in the U.S. and many of those worldwide. Paul Ecke, Jr. is considered the father of this industry, as it is he who figured out a method for getting poinsettias to branch. Prior, they grew tall so stems had to be bent back into a loop, or "tromboned," to keep them at a desirable height. It is from this plant and firm that the football bowl game in San Diego gets its name.

FACT 10. True or False. The poinsettia is a poisonous plant. If you answered false, you're correct. The plant has been tested repeatedly and cleared of this charge by authorities such as the National Poison Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and the American Medical Association. However, this doesn't mean that poinsettias are meant to be eaten. If ingested, this plant can cause stomach irritation and discomfort. Cats and children also may choke on the fibrous parts, so be sure to keep these plants out of their reach. The sticky white sap also may cause skin irritation for some people.

FACT 11. Do you know the best way to prolong the life of this Christmas plant? Avoid hot or cold drafts, keep the soil moist not soggy, and place in a room with sufficient natural light and temperatures of around 60 to 70 degrees F. Water when the soil begins to dry. Once the leaves wilt too far, it's too late.

Above all, protect it from exposure to wind or cold on the way home from the store. Poinsettias are highly sensitive to cold temperatures and even a few minutes of exposure to 50-degrees F or lower temperatures will cause them to wilt. But when cared for properly, poinsettias usually will outlast your desire to keep them!

FACT 12. The most common question many have is, can I get the poinsettia to rebloom next year, and if so, how? Yes is the short answer, but it requires some work and regularity. If you want to try though, keep in mind that flowering in this plant responds to short daylengths (or actually long nights). They need daylight for no more than 10 hours daily, beginning around October 1. So you'll need to place plants in a darkened closet or room (with no lights at any time) from about 5pm to 7am or so, daily, for 8 to 10 weeks. Don't forget to bring it back into the daylight every day! Even if you are successful, keep in mind that much superior plants will be available from greenhouses and growers, as well as new varieties in all sizes.

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont Extension
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vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

Vermont Vegetable & Berry Growers Association Annual Meeting

**Wednesday,
January 21, 2015**

LAKE MOREY INN
1 CLUBHOUSE ROAD, FAIRLEE, VT
(800) 423-1211 or
info@lakemoreyresort.com

Sponsored by: Johnny's Selected Seeds,
Vermont Compost Company, USDA:
Risk Management Agency and Farm
Service Agency, and University of
Vermont Extension.

8:00 Registration, Trade Show,
Refreshments

9:30 President's Remarks
*Andy Jones, Intervale Community
Farm, Burlington*

9:50 Lessons from the Field in 2014
Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension

10:10 Interseeding a Cover Crop
Between Vegetable Rows
*David Marchant, River Berry Farm,
Faifax*

10:30 SWD Exclusion Netting
Research
*Rachel Schattman,
University of Vermont*

10:50 Growing and Marketing
Aronia, Elderberry and Currants
*John Hayden, The Farm Between,
Jeffersonville*

11:10 Tile Drainage to Improve
Soil Productivity
*Joshua Faulker, UVM Center for
Sustainable Agriculture*

11:30 Update from Trade Show
Representatives on Products and
Services

12:00 Luncheon and Trade Show

1:30 Business Meeting: Election of
Officers, etc.

1:40 Tunnel Tomatoes at Crossroad
Farm, *Tim Taylor, Fairlee*

2:00 VVBGA's Produce Safety
Accreditation Program
Hans Estrin, UVM Extension

2:20 Update on Swede Midge
Research
Yolanda Chen, UVM

2:40 Innovative Weed Control
Equipment at Roxbury Farm
Jody Bolluyt, Kinderhook NY

3:00 Pests to Keep an Eye Out For
in 2015
*Ann Hazelrigg,
UVM Plant Diagnostic Lab*

3:20 Intensive Strawberry
Production at Darby Farm
Ron Hermann, Alburgh

3:40 Adjourn

Special Topics Conference: Post-Harvest Handling of Vegetable Crops

Tuesday January 20, 2015
LAKE MOREY INN
1 CLUBHOUSE ROAD, FAIRLEE, VT
(800) 423-1211 or
info@lakemoreyresort.com

*Attendance at this conference is limited
to 100 people. Presentations are 20
minutes each, followed by 10 minutes
of discussion*

9:00 Registration and refreshments.

9:30 Top Ten Things to Know about
Storing Crops.
Chris Callahan, UVM Extension

10:00 A Small-Scale Washing and
Cooling Unit.
*Ansel Ploog and Justin Cote,
Flywheel Farm*

10:30 Cold Storage Upgrade in an
Old Barn.
*Tim Sanford and Suzanne Long,
Luna Bleu Farm*

11:00 A New Barn for Washing,
Packing and Storing.
Mark Fasching, Jericho Settlers' Farm

11:30 Curing and Storing Roots
Crops.
Justin Rich, Burnt Rock Farm

12:00 Lunch (included)

1:00 Garlic Harvest, Handling and
Storage.
*Howard Prussack,
High Meadows Farm*

1:30 Vegetable Harvesting Systems
at Roxbury Farm.
Jody Bolluyt, Kinderhook NY

2:00 Wash Water Collection and
Recycling.
Mike Collins, Old Athens Farm

2:30 Leafy Greens On-Farm Wash
Water Study 2014.
Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension

3:00 Rodent Control Tactics.
*Hank Bissell, Lewis Creek Farm;
Lisa McDougall, Mighty Food Farm*

3:30 Common Diseases of
Vegetables in Storage.
Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Extension

4:00 Adjourn

Registration for either the
Annual Meeting or the Post Harvest
Conference is \$40 per VVBGA
Member, \$50 per Non-Member,
per meeting. Add \$10 for walk-
in registration, per person, per
meeting. The fee includes morning
coffee break and a lunch buffet.
Pre-registration payment must be
received by January 17 at 5 pm,
either on-line or by mail (see below).
2015 VVBGA annual member-
ship dues for calendar year 2015 are

\$35 per farm; \$45 after January 30.
Benefits include:

- \$10 discount for the Association's annual meeting registration
- Access to the VVBGA listserv: buy/sell equipment, plants, etc. and share information
- Eligibility for the Association's research grants
- 10% discount on publications from UVM Extension's Vegetable and Berry publications list
- Vermont vegetable and berry grower e-mail newsletter subscription
- Registration waiver for on-farm workshops

Register for the annual meeting and/or pay membership dues on-line at <http://2015vvbga.eventbrite.com>. On-line registration closes at 5 pm, January 17.

Or, print the membership form: www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/VV&BGA/VVBGA_membership_form.pdf, then mail it with your check to: VVBGA, PO Box 2091, South Burlington, VT 05407

If you are also registering for either of the meetings by mail please include a note with the names of all registrants for each meeting, and the payment for each person: \$40 per VVBGA member, \$50 per non-member.

Questions? Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension, 802-257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu.

If you require accommodations to participate in this program, please me know 10 days prior to the event.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting will be worth 3 pesticide recertification credits for applicators certified in categories 1A, 2, 3, 6 and 10. Attendance at the Post Harvest Conference will be worth 1 credit.

University of Vermont Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. If you need accommodations to attend this even please contact Vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu prior to January 12.

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Prices

December, 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 • December 15, 2014

Cattle: 177	Feeder Calves				
Calves: 205	Holstein Bulls	90-120 lbs.	400.00	440.00	cwt
Slaughter Cows		80-90 lbs.	380.00	425.00	cwt
Breakers 75 - 80% lean	Utility	70-120 lbs.	70.00	250.00	cwt
Boners 80 - 85% lean	Holstein Heifers	82 lbs-88 lbs	82.00	197.50	cwt
Lean 85 - 90% lean					

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

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)

Blonde d'Aquitaine. Prepare for the 2015 breeding season. Bring that bull in now to

CLASSIFIEDS

ensure readiness (herd and environment compatibility). PFB YASMIN 99.22%BD, born 11/19/2011. Top bloodlines. Progeny registerable. A great opportunity to elevate those hanging weights. Come take a look! Blonde d'Aquitaine. Prepare for the 2015 breeding season. Bring that bull in now to ensure readiness (herd and environment compatibility). PFB ARNIE 99.22%BD, born 12/02/2013 out of a DDD CLAY daughter. Progeny registerable. A quiet individual, good length of loin. Blood lines for production. PADDOCK FARMS, 802/426-4086, Please leave clear and distinct message. Thank you. Or beef-by-pfb@yahoo.com (2/15)

7 month old Black Angus Bull, great temperament and great bloodline \$1600 call (802) 558-8196 (2/15)

Employment

Wanted loader & pick up operator for snow plowing. 603-479-3790 (12/14)

Equipment

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 (3/15)

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, owner's 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 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 farmall 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 wer-satile. \$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.youngs-milkywayfarm.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)

2001 Corn Pro trailer 25 Ft flat deck x 102" wide, 21K GVW, Tri Axle with all new tires and brakes, stored indoors when not in use, Excellent condition has 4 Ft. Adjustable beaver tail with 5 Ft ramps, Pintle pull. \$4,200.00 Call 802-537-3167 (2/15)

New glass jars with gold cap, 7.2oz. In case lots of 12,24,36,48,60, \$ 5.60 per. Dz. Call for details 802-343-7303. Note jars are fancy. (2/15)

Antique farm wagon or called Keystone farm truck, Made for Int. Harvester co. In good condition. Call for more details 802-343-7303 Asking \$1,100.00 or Best offer (2/15)

Farm & Farmland

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 pur-

chase 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)

12 + 1/4 acre parcels vast trail surveyed 400 ft well 750 gal septic, pond nice horse barn, 1 bedroom camp access to 100' s of trails. Able to develop organic gardens and fruits. Part of a very exciting community. 150 k firm, 802-751-9826. Please leave a message.

Hay, Feed & Forage

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

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

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

Second cut, wrapped, round bales. 4 1/2 by 4 'bales. \$35 per bale. Crescent Bay Farm, South Hero 802-318-3208 or Email crescentbaybb.com (2/15)

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

Wooden halflingers cart custom made, motorcycle wheels

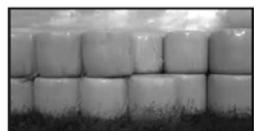
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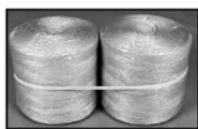
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7,200 \$26/roll
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\$400. Horse jog cart \$100. Metal framed small horse cart \$200. Antique wooden pony cart for about a 12H pony \$300. 4 western saddles 14", 15", and 16" \$100 each. 603-756-4348 (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)

Meadowbrook Horse Cart, good condition, Harness with bridle, Western Saddle almost new, Bridle, blanket and other accessories. Perfect size for Standard Bred. Crescent Bay Farm, South Hero 802-324-5563 or Email crescent-baybb.com (2/15)

Sheep

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. Genealogy 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: \$300.00. 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-250.00. Reg Ram Lambs-200.00(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

Used Dual-Action Vacuum Sap Pump With Float Control \$450.00. Atlantic Fluids 200 CFM Vacuum Pump Electric, Gas, or PTO Powered \$2500.00. 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 reclaimers \$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

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

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)

Help wanted on diversified organic dairy in southern Vermont. Learn and participate in all aspects of organic dairy, maple sugaring, and woodland management. Room and board with farm family plus a competitive wage based on ability, willingness to work hard and learn, and experience. 802-254-2228 Guilford (2/15)

One used Same (Drago) tractor rear wheel rim. Tractor is 120 horsepower. Rim size 18.4"x 38". 8 bolt hole rim. Richard Alexander, Chester. 802-875-3659. (2/15)

1st cut hay, square bales 40 - 45 lbs, Will pay up to \$3.25 bale. Large quantity wanted. Call cell: 603-848-2477 (2/15)

Holstein Brown Swiss crossed bull calves 802-775-5316 (2/15)

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The Best Succulents For Indoors

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

Succulents generally, are tender (not tolerant of cold) plants with thick or fleshy leaves. In recent years a whole range of species have been introduced to gardeners, mainly as outdoor seasonal plants, but which make great plants indoors too. Here are ten good choices, starting with three of the older standards—aloe, ponytail palm, and jade plant.

Aloe (*Aloe vera*) is found in many skin and hair care products. It is known to be very effective in treating burns. Gently rub some sap from a leaf on a burn, and repeat after a few minutes. The burn will go away, and the skin should heal quickly. Some sunburn lotions are close to 100 percent aloe sap. Aloe is grown in desert gardens in mild climates, but it can easily be grown as a potted plant in our climate as well. The aloe will produce offshoot plants, which can be removed and potted.

Pony-tail Palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) is not really a palm at all. It has a characteristic palm-like shape, stem and leaves, with an expanded and flaring base. The leaves are two to six feet long and are often twisted. The leaves actually do look like a ponytail. The flowers and fruit are seldom seen in cultivation as plants must be quite large to produce them.

Pony-tail palm has a moderate growth rate and is often used in interior beds or as a potted specimen.

Indoors, it usually reaches a height of one to three feet and a width of one to two feet. Under high light in conservatories, or where it can be grown outdoors, it may reach 20 or more feet high, with the flaring base several feet across!

The Jade plant (*Crassula ovata*) gets its name from the Latin *crassus*, meaning thick or swollen, which refers to the leaves and stems of this and many other species. The leaves are glossy green (dark jade color, hence the name), and occasionally have red margins. One cultivar even has variegated leaves. The flowers are star-shaped and white to pale pink in color.

Jade plant has a moderate growth rate and may grow one to two feet in height and width. The plant may need a heavy soil or pot to keep from toppling as older plants become top-heavy. When watering the jade plant, do not let the leaves get water on them because this will cause leaf spots. If you are successful with this plant and want more, simply take leaf or stem cuttings and root them in potting mix to grow additional plants. Watch for mealybug insects, small white masses particularly where leaves join stems.

Zebra plant (*Haworthia fasciata*) is appropriately named for its thick, dark green, fleshy and pointed leaves marked with regular, horizontal white stripes that arise from low on the plant. Since its roots are shallow, you can give it a shallow pot.

Repot every year or two, as the plants need to get rid of old roots to grow new ones. It only grows about 5 or 6 inches tall and wide.

Panda plant (*Kalanchoe tomentosa*) has whitish leaves covered with soft hairs, making them irresistible to feel. Leaf edges often have contrasting red hairs. It grows upright, from 12 to 18 inches tall.

Hahn's bird's nest (*Sansevieria trifasciata*) often goes by its genus name of just

sansevieria (pronounced san-se-Veer-ee-ah). It has a rosette of wide, tough leaves with irregular horizontal lighter bands. It tolerates low light. It is compact, only getting about 6 inches high and tall. Leaves are typically green, but you may find ones with some gold.

There are a range of *echeveria* (pronounced etch-eh-Veer-ee-ah), with thick leaves in rosettes of white, roses, and blues. Most remain a few inches high and wide. Don't let water sit in the rosettes or it may lead to rot. Remove any dead, lower leaves as these are a haven for mealy bugs.

There are several *senecio* (pronounced sin-Ess-ee-o), generally with tubular steely blue or grayish green leaves, and going by descriptive names such as "chalk fingers" or "blue chalksticks". Some remain low, others can reach a foot or more tall and easily stretch if not in full light. If too tall, simply "pinch" them back to promote branching.

Tree houseleek (*Aeonium*) come in many variations,

from upright with shiny black leaves ('Zwartkop' black rose), to bright colors of pale yellow, white, green, and pink tips ('Sunburst'), or pale yellow centers when young maturing to red and green ('Kiwi' or 'Tricolor'). *Aeonium* often have woody and long, sometimes arching, stems with the rosettes of leaves on the ends. They somewhat resemble echeveria, only with stems.

Pencil cactus (*Euphorbia tirucalli*) is related to the poinsettia, having a white milky sap (and other common name of Milkbush). Avoid getting the sap on skin or in eyes, as it may cause a reaction. Leaves are pencil thickness or less, and long. Plants can be highly branched and get 2 or 3 feet tall and wide inside (up to 30 feet tall in their native Africa and India), but are easily pruned, which also helps correct leggy plants. One selection with fiery red and orange young leaves, turning green with age, is called Firesticks or a variation on this name.

Succulents prefer high light, but often adapt well to low light of homes. Best is bright light most of the day, such as a south-facing window, or at least a half day of good sun as in an east-facing window. If your plant starts to "stretch", getting tall and lanky with space between leaves, it isn't getting enough light. Rotate plants weekly if they are bending toward a light or window.

Succulents prefer the dry humidity of indoors, and don't like overwatering. But they do like warmth. Be sure

to keep them away from door drafts, and from touching cold windows in winter.

A well-drained soilless mix with sand or perlite is the best potting medium. Although the fertility needs for succulents is low, plants may become pale and red if it is too low or they are too dry. One fertilization in spring with a houseplant fertilizer usually suffices.

Allow the potting medium to dry between waterings. Make sure pots don't sit in a saucer of water. Water less when the plant is inactive, perhaps only once every couple of weeks, but water well when you do. When plants are actively growing, probably water them once a week. One rule of thumb is that the thicker the leaves, the less water the plant needs. The thick leaves that make them "succulent" are designed to store water under dry conditions.

Jade plant and succulents with fleshy leaves are easy to propagate. If you want to make more plants, simply place leaves on damp soil to root and grow new plants.

Look for succulents this spring for outdoor containers. Bring smaller containers indoors to enjoy over winter. Many garden centers, greenhouses, and other stores sell succulents. Look for small ones for smaller containers, dish gardens, or terrariums. Keep in mind they will eventually grow, some faster than others. Although they do well potted, and this will slow growth, in a year or two they may need larger pots or at least repotting.



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What Is the Food System and Why Does It Matter?

By Rachel Carter,
Farm to Plate

As a state, we are too reliant on food grown and distributed outside of our region and decisions made outside of our control. Even in locally conscious Vermont, only 5% of the food consumed here is actually produced here.

Many Vermonters refer to the food system when discussing how to relocalize our farm and food economy, the future of farms, sustainable agriculture practices, how to feed our growing population, and environmental issues.

Also referred to as a food shed, the food system includes all components of how food is produced and distributed including everything in between from farm viability and labor costs

to consumer demand and food equity to education and energy. There are seven primary components of the food system (how food gets from farm to plate):

1. Nutrient management is the control, movement, and coordination of primarily nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium from food waste, livestock manure, fertilizer, and other amendments in order to minimize the negative impacts of nutrient losses on the environment and to provide sufficient nutrients for crop and animal growth throughout their life cycles.
2. Farm inputs are resources such as land, soil, fertilizer, animal feed, seed, labor, equipment, energy, and other agricultural production needs and costs that
3. Production is growing and raising food, and the expansion of that food production into additional markets. Major categories include dairy production, livestock grown for meat, maple syrup, fruits and vegetables, grains, honey, beer, hard cider, spirits, wine, and fish.
4. Processing converts raw produce and animal products into food that can withstand shelf-life, transportation, and meet marketing demands. Food processing and manufacturing viability for farm and food businesses is



are essential for food production, as well as opportunities for reducing farm production expenses.

determined by the stage of development and scale of operation.

5. Wholesale distribution of food is the sale and storage to institutions and industrial and commercial resellers and is an important part of supplying all markets – from restaurants to supermarkets.
6. Retail distribution is the reselling of food direct to consumers who purchase food in a variety of locations including grocery stores, country stores, food co-ops, farmers' markets, CSAs, restaurants, superstores, schools, and hospitals.
7. Consumer demand drives the marketplace. Where our food comes from and where people buy food are key variables for under-

standing how to boost consumer demand for local food products.

Vermont's Farm to Plate Initiative is a partnership of farmers, government officials, entrepreneurs, producers, and non-profits all working together in the food and ag space to develop the farm and food economy that builds upon the Vermont brand and our working landscape. Entering its fourth year out of ten, Farm to Plate is working to bring Vermont's food system back into balance by relocalizing where food is produced, how it is distributed, and how it impacts all of the food system components along the way (environment, farmland, equity, marketing, etc.). Learn more at www.VTFarmtoPlate.com.



Dairy production, products, and distribution as well as education of our youth are all parts of Vermont's food system. Photo courtesy Kingdom Creamery

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