

Gingue Brothers Dairy

Medium Farm Operation (MFO) | Fairfax and Waterford, Vermont



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Implementing new conservation practices can be challenging, but with the help of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farmers Watershed Alliance, we were able to improve water quality. It's our responsibility as farmers to be good stewards of the land and that's something we take a lot of pride in.”

— SHAWN GINGUE

Gingue Brothers Dairy, owned and operated by brothers, Dan, Shawn, Jeff and James, have been producing Vermont milk since 2008. Managing 1100 acres in two locations, Waterford and Fairfax, the farm currently milks 550 dairy cows and raises 450 replacement heifers. Committed to improving water quality, the Gingue's have implemented the following conservation practices:

CHALLENGE: Reduce risk of pathogen contamination

SOLUTION: Built mortality composting pad away from surface waters



CHALLENGE: Nutrient and sediment runoff from fields

SOLUTION: Planted 25 foot grass filter strips



CHALLENGE: Increase water infiltration and reduce sediment runoff

SOLUTION: Applied cover crops and reduced tillage techniques



CHALLENGE: Maintain streambank vegetation and reduce manure contamination

SOLUTION: Streambank fencing and limited watering access



Windfall Acres

Small Farm Operation (SFO) | Franklin and Highgate, Vermont



Windfall Acres



Promoting clean and clear water is everyone's responsibility. As a farmer, a main priority is to implement best management practices that will improve water quality. The challenges are the trials and costs to realize these practices. We are grateful for the cost-sharing opportunities and for the support that we have been given over the years from the University of Vermont Extension Service, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, NRCS, and the Farmers Watershed Alliance." — WAYNE AND NANCY FISKE

Wayne and Nancy Fiske have been producing Vermont milk since 1976. In 1979, they purchased the small dairy farm, Windfall Acres, which they still own today. Managing 360 acres around Franklin and Highgate, the farm currently milks 130 dairy cows, and raises 70 replacement heifers. Committed to improving water quality, Wayne and Nancy Fiske have implemented the following conservation practices:

CHALLENGE: Divert clean water from barnyard
SOLUTION: Installed gutters on barn



CHALLENGE: Manage manure
SOLUTION: Created a Nutrient Management Plan and used GoCrop App to spread planned manure application rates



CHALLENGE: Runoff from feed storage
SOLUTION: Built holding pond



CHALLENGE: Field erosion
SOLUTION: Converted fields to strip cropping

