

# AGRIVIEW



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## Preliminary USDA Census Data Paints a Positive Picture of Vermont Ag

By Alison Kosakowski, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets

In February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agriculture Statistic Service (NASS) released preliminary findings from the 2012 census. Conducted every five years, the Ag census provides the most comprehensive data available about agriculture in Vermont and across the nation (see attached .pdf for the NASS report).

These early census show Vermont agriculture is trending in a positive direction. Some highlights:

- The overall number of farms in Vermont has increased by 5% in the last five years, from 6,984, to 7,338.
- Vermont agricultural land base has also increased 1% in the past five years, from 1,233,313 acres to



Alison Kosakowski

*It's been a long winter for Vermont farmers, but spring is fast approaching!*

- 1,251,713 acres
- The overall Market value of Vermont agricultural products sold has grown 15%, from \$673,713,000 to \$776,105,000.
- More women are farming: the number of farms principally operated by females is up 12%

- and makeup 22% of Vermont's principal farm operators.
  - There's also been a slight increase in the number of minority-operated farms.
- Other findings of note:
- The farming population is aging – in 2007, the average age of a Vermont farmer was 56.5 years, today, the average age is 57.3 years old.
  - However, new farmers are joining the ranks - there has been a 22% increase of farmers in the 25-34 year age bracket. The number of new farmers, those who've been on their farms less than ten years, has also increased. New farmers accounted for 28% of Vermont principal farm operators compared to 26% in 2007.
  - Almost half of farmers still have

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## AGRIVIEW

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

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

The preliminary census findings, featured on page 1 of this issue, paint a positive picture of Vermont's community-based system of agriculture. This is a great story for Vermont – more acreage in agriculture, more farms overall, an increase in the overall value of our agricultural products – this is how we can ensure our working landscape will thrive for generations to come. I am also very encouraged to see new perspectives in agriculture – more women, young people, and diversity add to the fabric of Vermont farming. Vermont agriculture has a bright future!

*Charles R. Ross*

## Secretary Ross Visits Vermont Foodbank

By Hannah Baird, Intern,  
Agency of Agriculture

On February 12, Secretary Ross was invited to tour and hear about the changes that face the Vermont Foodbank, headquartered in Barre, Vermont. With a statewide network of 270 partner food shelves, meals sites, shelters, senior centers, and after-school programs, and 48 employees, the Foodbank is Vermont's largest hunger-relief organization. Secretary Ross learned about how the Foodbank's strategy is changing to meet the ever increasing food access

needs of Vermont citizens. One reason for the shift in strategy is attributed to industry efficiencies which have decreased food donations resulting in a decrease in the volume and types of available foods to fill a food pantry. This shift forces the Foodbank to find other sources of food to fill the gaps and build the infrastructure to handle the change in product type. John Sayles, CEO of the Vermont Foodbank, led the tour in Barre and shared with Secretary Ross information about

their programs as they brainstormed opportunities to collaborate more in the future.

The Foodbank offers a variety of programs that promote food accessibility including:

### VT Fresh Pilot Program

The Vermont Foodbank is piloting a nutrition education program this year, VT Fresh, with 11 network partner food shelves across the state. Vermont Foodbank staff offer cooking demonstrations and taste tests

1-2 times per month at selected sites. The project looks to engage visitors of community food shelves by providing an opportunity for them to taste recipes that use a specific fruit or vegetable as the primary ingredient. In addition, food shelf customers are able to take a recipe and primary ingredients home after they visit the food shelf that day.

### Pick for Your Neighbor (PFYN)

Pick for Your Neighbor is a

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### Editors Note:

## Use Social Media to Connect!

*Part 2 in our monthly social media series.*

Let's face it: agriculture can be a solitary business. Alone in the tractor, up early to feed the animals...this is work that doesn't leave much time for socializing and professional development off the farm.

Social media can be a great tool to connect with other farmers, share best practices, and gather news ideas, all from the comfort of your arm chair. Here are a few quick ideas for expanding your horizons on social media.

**BEST PRACTICES:** Every Tuesday evening, farmers across the country converse on Twitter using the hashtag #AgChat. Log-on for moderated discussions and best practices Visit [www.agchat.org](http://www.agchat.org) for more information. Much easier than attending a national conference, AgChat is a great way to connect with and learn from farmers from all across the country.



**GRANTS & FUNDING:** Follow VT Agency of Ag, NOFA VT, and The USDA on Facebook for information about grants and funding.

**EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:** UVM Extension, including the Women's Agricultural Network (WAGN) and The New Farmer Project, host many classes throughout the year. Follow Extension on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-the-minute info.

It's easy to write off social media as a "waste of time," but there's a lot to be gained by connecting with fellow farmers online. Take some time to explore what's out there! It's a big world, with much to learn, and social media can help you get started. See you on the Internet!

— Alison Kosakowski  
Follow VAAFM on Twitter @VTAgencyofAg  
and follow me @VTFarmGirl

# New Maple Grading System Adopted

By Matt Gordon, Executive Director, Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association

In 2014, Vermont has officially adopted a new grading system for maple syrup, part of a larger industry effort to align the grading nomenclature of all syrup-producing states and provinces. Moving forward, all maple syrup with good flavor and no defective characteristics is officially GRADE A and each of the four grades, or classes, of syrup, have a color and flavor descriptor as the official grade name. Here are the facts you need to know.

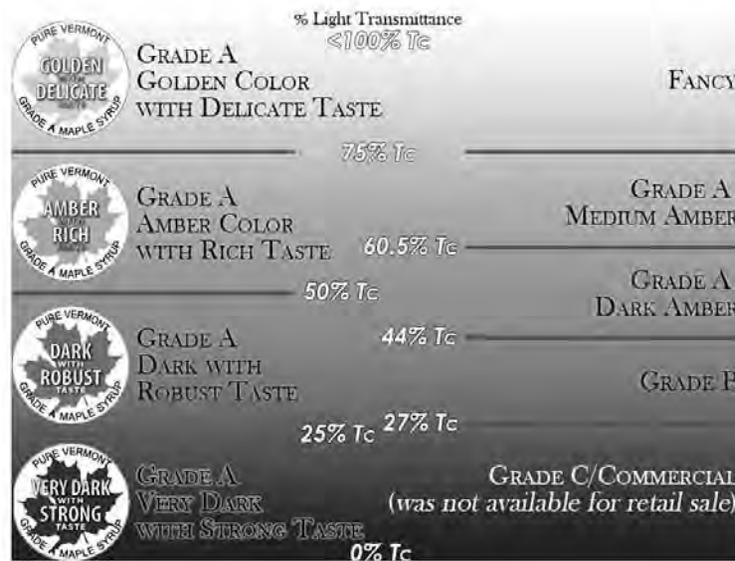
2014 is a year of transition – you may elect to use the new grades this year but you are NOT required to do so. You may continue to use the previous grades on your syrup for 2014 so that you may use up existing labels or begin to transition your customer base to the new system. Beginning in 2015 you will need to use the new grading system on your syrup.

What is happening to Vermont Fancy? While the name for the lightest syrup is going to change in its official name, no other attribute of that grade is changing. In

other words, what has been known as Vermont Fancy will be identical to Grade A Golden with Delicate Taste. Therefore, you may continue to use the term Vermont Fancy as a marketing descriptor on that syrup.

Color no longer serves to indicate commercial-grade syrup. The only indicators for Processing Grade syrup now will be off-flavors or syrup that is otherwise damaged in some way. Syrup that is darker than what we have known as Grade B will now be graded as Grade A Very Dark with Strong Taste. The chart below shows where the old and new grades exist on a scale of light transmittance.

Why go through all this bother? We recognize that many long-time customers were not confused about the existing grades. However, consumer surveys have shown that there is, in fact, a great deal of confusion among our potential customers, both nationally and internationally. And even in Vermont there are those who profess to have an undying love for “Grade A Amber” despite that not being an actual grade of syrup. This new system has been created to mitigate confusion between syrup grades by



providing color and flavor descriptors.

Why this won't dilute Vermont's market position Vermont-made maple syrup will still need to be labeled as such. The rules on this are clear:

“The word “Vermont” (or the abbreviation “Vt.”) shall appear in conjunction with the grade on any maple syrup container when the maple syrup therein is 100 percent pure maple syrup which is entirely produced within the State of Vermont.”

Three of the four grades we had been using were shared by other states. The USDA grades and all other states used Medium Amber and Dark Amber and Grade B was also used by New Hampshire. Vermont Fancy

will no longer be the official grade of our lightest syrup but can still be used to help differentiate that syrup if you so choose to use it.

Further, the reason for Vermont maple syrup to be prized by customers locally, nationally and abroad is because of our reputation for making a high quality product. These new grades do nothing to change what is the most important part of pure Vermont maple syrup: the trees and the people who

care passionately about the high quality product they make.

## Other Things to Keep in Mind

- There were no changes made to the legal density of Vermont maple syrup. All syrup made in Vermont must continue to be between 66.9° and 68.9° Brix.
- All retail syrup containers must have a batch code on them. This does not need to be complicated and a simple code that is assigned to each batch or date and is logged in a book will suffice. The batch code can be on the bottom of your containers and does not need to be understood by anyone but yourself. If you have questions concerning the regulations of the new grades, please contact Henry Marckres at the Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-3458.

## Medium Farm Operation (MFO) Annual Report Deadline Approaching

By Nate Sands, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

This is to serve as a reminder that on April 30th of each year, each permittee of a MFO must submit an annual report to the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) in order to remain in compliance with the MFO General Permit.

The annual report is listed as Appendix D attached to the general permit, and is available online at [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/Appendix\\_D\\_MFO\\_Annual\\_Report.2012.pdf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/Appendix_D_MFO_Annual_Report.2012.pdf). Contact your MFO coordinator directly at VAAFAM for a hard copy.

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# Farm First Expands To All Farmers

By Myra Handy  
Invest EAP

If you are a beef, hog, goat, poultry, fruit tree, berry, vegetable, equine or maple farmer or logger grossing a minimum of \$10,000/year at your operation, you and your household members are now covered by Farm First in a new pilot project.

## What is Farm First?

It is a statewide enhanced employee assistance program (EAP) for Vermont's farmers. EAPs are typically a service provided by an employer, designed to assist employees in getting help for their problems so that they may remain on the job and effective. Farm First is modeled on EAPs, but in so far as farmers are self-employed with no "employer" to pay for the EAP benefit, the VT Agencies of Agriculture



and Human Services have co-sponsored Farm First for dairy producers for the past few years. Now the Farm First program is expanding to cover all Vermont's farmers and loggers in a special pilot program for 2014. Farm First is operated by Invest EAP, a public/private non-profit EAP.

## Why Would I Call Farm First?

Whether you have a farm personnel issue or a personal or family concern, Farm First is ready to help. Farmers call with practical questions about a wide range of resource issues (eldercare, childcare, housing, fuel,

healthcare, state benefits, legal or financial concerns and more). Farmers also call with questions about obtaining adaptive equipment due to injuries or disabilities, relationship or family issues, alcohol or drug addiction, depression or anxiety, and management issues such as how to help employees with performance or personal problems.

Farm First responds by providing information, brief counseling and referral, on-farm evaluations and problem solving for disability assistance, on-farm crisis debriefing and more; help when you need it where you need it. With a single phone call, you can reach Farm First's licensed, agricultural-sensitive counselors and resource specialists. They will discuss with you, confidentially and at no cost, the best method to address and resolve your concerns.

## How and Why Did Farm First Begin?

2009 was the year that milk prices declined precipitously and dairy producers felt a dangerous rise in stress and financial strain. Neighboring states experienced a rise in farmer suicides. Recognizing the emergency, representatives from Vermont's Agency of Agriculture, UVM Extension and Invest Employee Assistance Program (EAP) formulated a response. The Farm First program was born: the nation's first program to make wide-ranging EAP services available to individual dairy farmers and their families. The innovative program has been so well utilized and appreciated by dairy farmers since its inception that the founders believe it is vitally important to extend its benefits to all farmers and loggers in the state.

## Reducing Risk of Accidents

Farmers and loggers are at very high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries as their occupations rank among the most dangerous. The US Department of Labor reports that more than half of all on-the-job injuries happen when workers are distracted by thoughts and worries about problems other than the job at hand. Studies show that EAPs such as Farm First reduce on-the-job accidents by reducing stress through counseling and referrals for any problem, large or small, for any family member.

## Website and Phone Access

The Farm First website provides self-assessment tools and heaps of information at [www.investeap.org](http://www.investeap.org) (use either password farm or dairy). Call Farm First: 1-877-493-6216 (24/7)!

## Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program Update: Winter Cover Cropping

By Nate Sands, Vermont  
Agency of Agriculture

As the FAP Program has grown over the years, we have reached the point where there is more demand than money available for winter cover cropping. This year the FAP Program will have very limited funding available for winter cover cropping for fall 2014.

We are encouraging

farms that are interested in financial assistance for winter cover cropping this fall to work with their local NRCS office. We have discussed this transition with NRCS and they have stated that most farms should be eligible for cover cropping through their program even if farms have received assistance through the FAP Program. Farms will only be eligible for financial assistance for cover cropping

through the Agency's FAP Program if they are denied funding through NRCS. Please note that the seeding deadline for both the NRCS and FAP cover cropping programs will be October 1.

It is important to note the fast approaching NRCS application deadline for fall 2014 winter cover cropping. The upcoming deadline is: Thursday, April 17, 2014.

We encourage all farms interested in planting fall

cover crops to call their local NRCS office as soon as possible to discuss enrollment for cover cropping. A list of NRCS Field Offices can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/vt/contact/local/>.

The Agency has appreciated the continued participation from farms in the FAP cover cropping program. We understand that this is a shift in how to

receive financial assistance for winter cover cropping and feel confident that farms will be able to continue to receive assistance through the NRCS program. The Agency is hopeful to be able to continue to offer financial assistance for the other practices in the FAP Program if funding is available.

## Agency of Ag Shares Tips for Antibiotic Residue Avoidance

By Kristin Haas, D.V.M.  
Vermont State Veterinarian  
and VAAFM Director of  
Animal Health & Consumer  
Protection

On-farm therapeutic use of animal health care products occurs to treat disease, injury and other maladies of livestock and poultry. In the early 1990s, FDA, in collaboration with states, established a fluid milk screening process to ensure that medications administered to dairy livestock do not result in violative residues in milk

consumed by the public. Today, all milk is screened before it is accepted into a processing plant. Milk that tests positive for antibiotic residues is rejected for human consumption and appropriately discarded.

Targeted testing for drug residues is also performed at slaughter in order to help prevent the presence of violative drug residues in meat-based foods. The most common reasons that animals end up at slaughter with illegal and unsafe levels of medications in their organs and tissues include the

administration of incorrect drug dosages via inappropriate routes (IV vs. IM), feeding of antibiotic-containing milk replacer to bob veal, inadequate record keeping/poor on-farm management practices, and lack of observance of appropriate withdrawal times once animals have been medicated.

In 2011, the legislature authorized the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to issue administrative penalties against producers whose animals are found to have violative residues at slaughter. It is imperative that Vermont

producers work diligently to reduce the incidence of violative drug residues in milk and meat. Please follow these tips to decrease the incidence of residues in animals originating from your farm:

1. Visit the Vermont Agency of Agriculture website's tissue residue avoidance page at [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal\\_health/on\\_farm/antibiotic\\_residues](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/on_farm/antibiotic_residues) for valuable resources to aid you in establishing good on-farm practices.
2. Work closely with your veterinarian to gain an understanding of allowable extra-label drug usage in milking animals; closely follow his/her recommendations.

3. Develop firm protocols for all farm employees regarding drug administration in calves and adult animals as well as consequences for mistakes to ensure improvement the next time.

4. IF IN DOUBT, DO NOT SHIP!!!
5. Read milk replacer labels carefully to determine if the product is medicated; follow instructions when feeding.
6. If you are in need of technical assistance or advice regarding this issue, feel free to contact the Agency of Agriculture's Animal Health office at (802) 828-2421 or AGR. [AnimalHealth@state.vt.us](mailto:AnimalHealth@state.vt.us).

## Vermont Sheep Shearing School Announces 2014 Dates

By Jim McRae, VT Sheep & Goat Breeders Association

The Vermont Sheep and Goat Breeders Association will sponsor two Vermont Sheep Shearing Schools this year: April 26th at Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT and April 27th at Merck Forest and Farm Center, Rupert, VT. These are beginner and intermediate sheep shearing schools. Participants will have a hands-on experience shearing sheep with the guidance of professional shearers. All aspects of shearing will be discussed including shearing day preparations, equipment set up and basic maintenance,

fitness, the shearing pattern, sheep handling and control and basic wool handling. We will also go over the angora goat pattern and some of the special techniques associated with shearing goats. Participants will receive an ASI shearing binder that covers all the course work and has a wealth of additional pertinent information. Also, this year we will give instruction for shepherds on how to crutch and deal with fly strike. Even if you are not interested in shearing sheep for a living the course will offer valuable information to the shepherd regarding the process and the equipment.

Participants should have

their own equipment. Oster Shearmasters or equivalent electric machines are ideal. There will be a limited number of loaners available for the day. We will also have a sharpening wheel available for combs and cutters. As always there will be lunch time entertainment by The Ruminators. We will supply coffee and bagels, participants should bring a bag lunch.

The lead instructor will again be our own "Old Shepherd", Chet Parsons. The course is also open for auditing without the actual shearing. The cost for the complete course at either location is \$125.00. For auditors the cost is \$50. The

VSGBA offers one scholarship a year for young shearers (The Dan Korngeibel Scholarship). Schools start at 8:30am and usually wind up around 3pm (or when all the sheep are sheared). We

have limited openings this year so register early.

To register or for more information call 802-483-2463 or email Jim McRae at [vtshearer@yahoo.com](mailto:vtshearer@yahoo.com).

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# Vermont AgrAbility Helps Disabled and Suffering Vermont Farmers

By Geoff Whitchurch, UVM AgrAbility Program

**W**e have all been injured in one way or another at work or at play. Sustaining an injury usually affects our ability to be as productive as our uninjured selves. Many of us will heal fairly quickly and get back to business as usual. What happens to those who do not recover from their injury? What happens to a farm or other agricultural enterprise when a farmer or farm hand is unable to work due to an injury or a chronic health condition?

The University of Vermont Extension has a couple programs in place that address this and related issues. The Rebates for Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) program helps prevent injury by providing a 70% rebate (up to \$865) for the installation of a ROPS on farm equipment. The Vermont AgrAbility Project provides resources for farm and equipment modifications to farmers with a disability or chronic health condition.

Agriculture consistently ranks as one of the nation's most dangerous occupations. Each year agricultural workers in Vermont sustain disabling injuries in work-related accidents, non-farm injuries, illness and other chronic health conditions. The effects of a farm going out of business are felt from the family level to the state level. Farming has about a \$4 billion impact on Vermont's

economy (<http://governor.vermont.gov/govdash/agriculturepage>). When farms go out of business or do not run efficiently, families are devastated and Vermont suffers.

## Preventing Injury

The first step toward keeping a productive farm in business is ensuring safety. When 7 out of 10 farms are out of business within a year of a tractor rollover, it makes sense to protect yourself, your family, and your business. Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) are 99% effective, when used with a seatbelt, in preventing rollover deaths and serious injuries. If your tractor does not have ROPS installed, do it now! You can save 70% (up to \$865) on costs to retrofit your tractor with ROPS. Just call, 1-877-767-7748 with the year, make, and model of your tractor and they will help you find the right ROPS for your tractor. This rebate offer ends soon.

## Accommodating an Injury

So, what happens when a farmer or other agricultural worker must live with an injury indefinitely? Vermont AgrAbility is a free, confidential service provided by University of Vermont Extension, promoting success in Vermont agriculture for people with health conditions and their families.

Vermont AgrAbility helps farmers and agricultural workers with chronic health conditions gain more control over their lives, continue to

farm successfully, and live independently. They offer education, assistance, referrals for financial assistance, and facilitate farm modifications to accommodate your unique abilities.

## Eligibility

Vermont Farmers and agricultural workers eligible for Vermont AgrAbility services may have any type of acquired or traumatic disability - physical, cognitive or sensory. AgrAbility addresses many conditions, including, but not limited to:

- Arthritis
- Spinal cord injury
- Paralysis
- Back impairment
- Amputation
- Brain injury
- Visual / hearing
- Respiratory
- Muscular

## No Cost Services

### 1. Information and referral

- Information about farming with a disability
- Referrals for financial assistance

### 2. On-Site and Technical Assistance

- Restructure work tasks / operations
- Modify farm equipment and tools
- Acquire assistive technologies
- Explore alternative agriculture enterprises

### 3. Secondary Injury Prevention

- How to prevent further injuries or disabling conditions

## 4. Peer Support

- Connect with others who have accommodated their disability

## Background and Resources

The Vermont AgrAbility Project operates under a grant from USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service in Washington, D.C. We have a vast network of resources to address the individual needs of each farmer. Currently, there are 21 USDA-funded state AgrAbility projects, plus

affiliates serving other states using other funding sources.

Install your ROPS so you do not become an AgrAbility client. If you do sustain an injury or would like to accommodate to an existing injury or disability, take advantage of your Vermont AgrAbility Project. Vermont needs farmers and we may be able to help you continue to farm comfortably and productively. For more information contact [vtagrability@uvm.edu](mailto:vtagrability@uvm.edu); (802) 888-4972 ext. 403

## Navigating Federal Laws on Farm Labor

By Louise Waterman, Agency of Agriculture

Is your farm in compliance with federal payroll requirements?

An upcoming workshop will provide federal payroll training for farmers. The workshop will be held from 8:30am to 12:30pm on April 4th at the VT State House Room 11

**When:** April 4, 2014 8:30am-12:30 pm

**Where:** Vermont State House, Room 11, Montpelier

**RSVP:** By March 28th to Louise Waterman at 802-828-6900 or [Louise.Waterman@state.vt.us](mailto:Louise.Waterman@state.vt.us)

Federal laws like the Fair Labor Standards Act have been a hot topic in recent months, as farmers around New England have been facing increased enforcement of labor regulations. Several local farms have faced heavy fines for inadvertent violations to these laws, sparking debate about the details of these laws and how they are being interpreted. Daniel Cronin and Christopher Mills of the U.S. Dept. of Labor will tease apart some of the nuances of these laws and explain how they are being enforced by the Dept. of Labor. In particular, they will explain where the line is currently drawn between types of farm work that are and aren't exempt from the laws' provisions.

Please join us for this workshop!



# Proposed Changes to the Farm Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

By Annie Macmillan, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing updates and revisions to the existing worker protection regulation for pesticides. The proposed changes are in response to extensive stakeholder review of the regulation and its implementation since 1992, and reflect current research on how to mitigate occupational pesticide exposure to agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. EPA is proposing to strengthen the protections provided to agricultural workers and handlers under the worker protection standard by improving elements of the existing

regulation, such as training, notification, communication materials, use of personal protective equipment, and decontamination supplies. EPA expects the revisions, once final, to prevent unreasonable adverse effects from exposure to pesticides among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers; vulnerable groups, such as minority and low-income populations, child farmworkers, and farmworker families; and the general public. EPA recognizes the importance and independence of family farms and is proposing to expand the immediate family exemption to the WPS.

The draft rule starts the clock on a 90-day public comment period, which will be followed by final regula-

tions. The entire process is expected to take a year.

Proposed changes include:

- Annual mandatory trainings (rather than once every five years) to inform farm workers about the protections they are afforded under the law, including restrictions on entering pesticide-treated fields and surrounding areas, decontamination supplies, access to information and use of personal protective equipment. Expanded trainings will include instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.
- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides. The signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.
- First-time ever minimum age requirement: Children under 16 will be prohibited from handling pesticides, with an exemption for family farms.
- New no-entry 25-100 foot buffer areas surrounding pesticide-treated fields will protect workers and others from exposure from pesticide overspray and fumes.
- Mandatory record-keeping to improve states' ability to follow-up on pesticide violations and enforce compliance. Records of application-specific pesticide information as well as farmworker training and early-entry notification must be kept for two years.

## Additional Proposed Changes

Personal Protection Equipment (respirator use) must be consistent with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration standards for ensuring respirators are effective, including fit test, medical evaluation and training.

Requirement to make available to farm workers or their advocates (including medical personnel) information specific to the pesticide application, including the pesticide label and Safety Data Sheets.

For more information: [www.epa.gov/pesticides/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/)

For information on the WPS Standard in Vermont, Contact Annie Macmillan at 802-828-3479 or [anne.macmillan@state.vt.us](mailto:anne.macmillan@state.vt.us)

### For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Andy Li & Dan Ho of Middlebury, VT to buy, sell, process, package and transport dairy products 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 May 15, 2014.

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: Tanner Abbott of Highgate, VT to buy, sell, process, package and transport dairy products 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 April 15, 2014.

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.

### MFO Annual Reports

*continued from page 3*

Please be aware that this is not an optional submission and that further enforcement action, including fines could result if the report is not received by the required deadline. Again, please be aware that this is an annual requirement required of all MFOs.

Coordinator contact information:

- Abbi Pajak (828-1397)
- Nate Sands (224-6850)
- Trevor Lewis (585-5092)
- Katie Gehr (828-3476)



# Sweet Message: UVM Research Brings Many Happy Returns

By Cheryl Dorschner, UVM

The first crop of this year's maple syrup was not yet tapped and boiled on February 12 when about 180 University of Vermont scientists, their star students, program leaders and state officials gathered in the Vermont State House cafeteria for sugar-on-snow and other sweets to celebrate the publication of the Annual Report of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station and UVM Extension.

But the taste of things to come was a metaphor for UVM's thinking "way ahead of the times in the scientific research, outreach programs and maple syrup produced by the University of Vermont, the state's land-grant institution that serves Vermonters," as the introduction to the report says.

UVM President Tom Sullivan spoke of the role of the state's flagship university in conducting cutting edge research and teaching that helps Vermonters and the Vermont economy, with the cooperation of the state. He cited examples, such as Professor David Barrington, one of the foremost experts on ferns, studies of the fiddlehead fern genetics as a key to whether the populations can withstand heavy picking now that its an extremely sought after and lucrative Vermont food product. Sullivan introduced Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin who echoed the theme of collaboration between the

State and its University.

## Research Benefits Vermonters

Barrington and three other UVM College of Agriculture and Life Science researchers funded through the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station (VT-AES) were on hand with their students and posters to chat with state leaders while they sampled Vermont products.

- John Barlow studies the microbiology of bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* at Vermont farms where cheese is made.
- Yolanda Chen researches plant-insect interactions and how insects such as the Colorado potato beetle and Swede midge become rampant agricultural pests in Vermont and elsewhere.
- David Conner surveys and quantifies the effect of Farm-to-Institution sales relationships on the Vermont economy.

Their stories, along with that of four UVM Extension projects were featured in the annual report of state and federally funded programs for the fiscal year 2013. The Extension stories are:

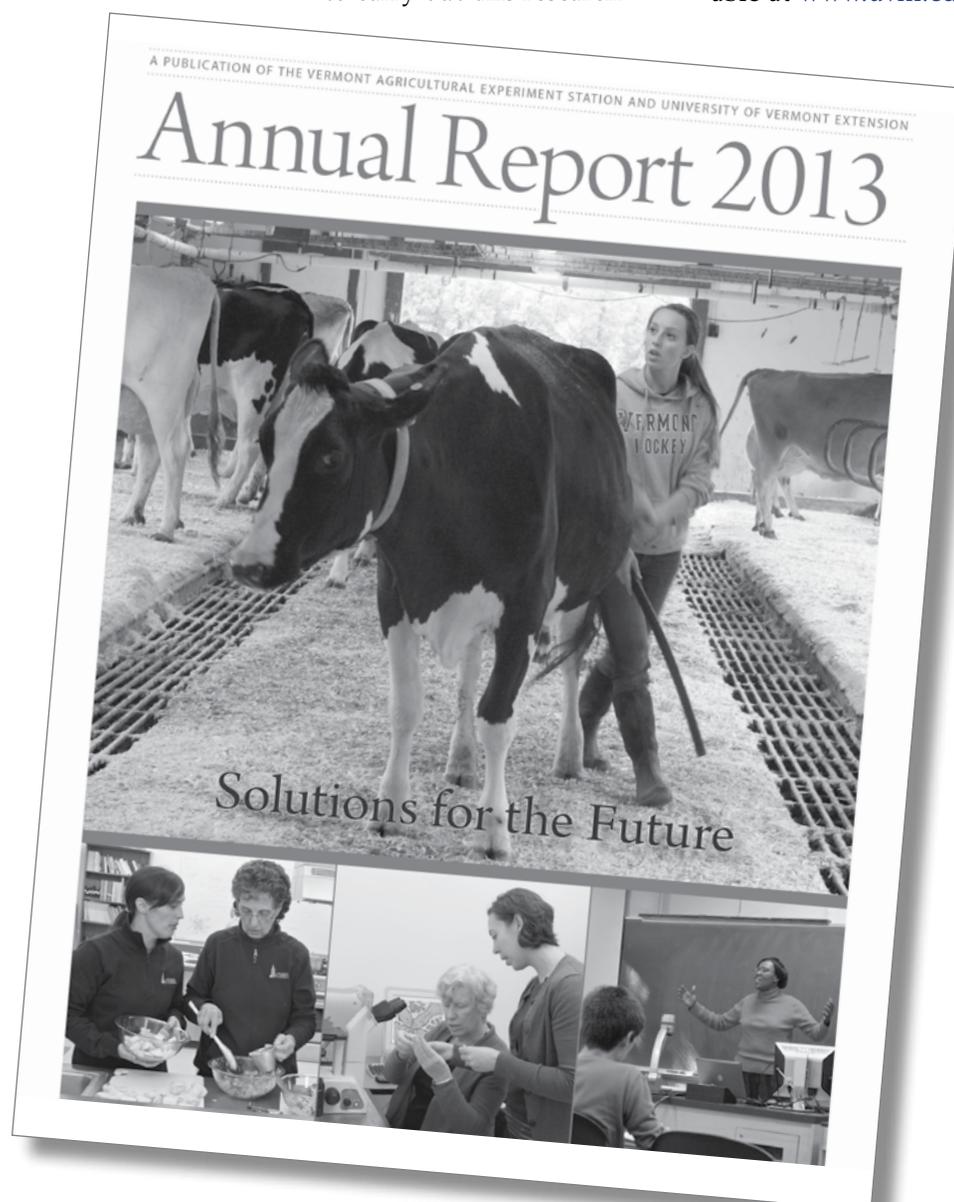
- Tim Wilmot of Proctor Maple Research Center talked about how gravity-fed technology can help small-scale sugarmakers increase efficiency and production and reduce costs.

- Heather Carrington represented the Master Gardener program and its role in Vermont's food system.
- Kate Forrer coordinates a number of urban and community forestry programs in the state.
- Joan Vance provides training and curriculum development for professionals working with families in which children live with grandparents or relatives other than their parents.

"Science is needed to clarify some of the unknowns of the future and focus research on key topics relevant to Vermont's agricultural economy," says Tom Vogelmann, dean of the VT-AES and UVM's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Those "unknowns," he said, include the challenges of feeding an increasing population, creating a resilient local food economy, addressing food safety, controlling invasive species and indentifying adaptive responses to severe weather.

Of course, it takes money to carry out this research

and outreach to Vermonters. And the crux of the annual report, is that last year the combined budgets of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station (VT-AES) and University of Vermont Extension totaled about \$21.9 million, down \$1.5 million from the previous fiscal year due largely to the federal budget sequester. Still the message from every corner of the State House cafeteria is that it is money well invested, duly leveraged that brings a huge return to the home state. The annual report in its entirety is available at [www.uvm.edu/vtaes](http://www.uvm.edu/vtaes).



# Grow Your Farm Income with Agritourism

By Rachel Carter,  
Vermont Farm to Plate

**A**gritourism is an opportunity for a working farm to generate additional income by offering educational or leisure experiences on the farm with a more general public appeal. The merger of agriculture and tourism on a farm provides a farmer with another option for farm diversification that includes increasing opportunities for the purchase of farm products as well as both a recreational and educational experience for visitors.

"Agritourism includes many kinds of activities, such as overnight farm stays, hay rides, corn mazes, observing or petting animals, pick-your-own produce, and use of farm land for bird watching, bike riding, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, snowmobiling and other recreational activities. Some farms may charge for these activities or use them as tools to promote retail sales," says Lisa Chase of the Vermont Tourism Data Center at UVM Extension. "Agritourism also includes educational programs for the public, school children, seniors, and all types of visitors, often involving exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops around specific topics and skills. On-farm classes teach visitors how to milk cows, make cheese, prune raspberry bushes, and bake apple pies, for example."

Farmstands, community supported agriculture, value-added processing and other commercial food enterprises on the farm are considered

part of agritourism, as they include on-farm experience. During that experience, farm visitors may learn basic information about food production and develop an appreciation for the hard work involved in producing food. Agritourism can be connected to marketing agricultural products or promoting agricultural literacy to help consumers understand where their food comes from. More often than not, agritourism does both! Additionally, agritourism can have indirect marketing benefits with brand awareness. For instance, visitors to a dairy farm, who can't purchase the milk directly, might be more inclined to buy locally-produced cheese that was made using that farm's milk.

"When you visit a farmstead cheese maker, the smell of the barn, the pasture, make room, and cheese cave are all stored away as a memory of that place. When you taste the same cheese—even years later thousands of miles away—you are transported back to the farm. It's like traveling all over again with just a small bite. Travel—at home or away—is a journey to find fascinating stories that help us connect with place. For me, the story of place is most compelling when told by the people who work the land. And when that story engages my senses (especially food!), I'll remember it for a lifetime," shares Chris Howell, owner of Vermont Farm Tours and co-chair of the Farm to Plate Agritourism Task Force.

Lisa Chase concludes, "Agritourism includes a

range of experiences, some are directly connected to the marketing of a farm's product and some are not. In essence, agritourism provides authentic experiences related to agriculture that enhance marketing of farm products, educate the public about farming, and improve public support for agriculture."

A collection of agritour-

ism resources specifically for Vermont farmers is being developed and temporarily housed on the site: <http://vermontopenfarms.wordpress.com/> and farmers are invited to join the Farm-Based Education Network at [www.farmbasededucation.org](http://www.farmbasededucation.org). Additional resources are available on the UVM Extension Tourism

Data Center's website: <http://www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/agritourism/>

For more information connect with Vera Simon-Nobes at [vera@farmbasededucation.org](mailto:vera@farmbasededucation.org), 802-985-0382 or Lisa Chase at [lisa.chase@uvm.edu](mailto:lisa.chase@uvm.edu), 802-257-7967 ext 311; co-chair and member of the Farm to Plate Agritourism Task Force, respectively.

## Shopping for Plants and Seeds

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

**O**ne of my favorite means of getting through a long winter is to start this coming year's gardening by looking through catalogs, books, and shopping online. Several considerations when shopping early for plants and seeds will make the process fun and less overwhelming. You'll end up with more garden successes this season, and fewer disappointments.

Whether ordering plants or seeds, keep in mind they will seldom look as spectacular in your garden as they do in the catalogs. Thanks to photo technology, just as with models, plant photos are often "enhanced". Plus, they are usually taken under ideal conditions or at professional display gardens. The printing process, if not done properly, may alter colors somewhat. Consider the photos as a useful guide, just don't despair if your plants aren't quite the colors

shown, and the plants aren't as tall or wide, nor the flowers quite as large. I often find this the case in my North Country gardens where the light isn't as bright, nor are my beds as ideal and fertile as those where those "model plants" were photographed.

Another warning for both plants and seeds is to only order what you can manage to plant and care for. Remember, you don't just plant and walk away until bloom or harvest time. The more you plant, the more time will be needed for watering, weeding, and other care.

Speaking from experience, it is too easy during a long winter to end up ordering a bit here and a bit there. The final result is way more plants and seedlings than you have time to plant and care for, or even space for. I try to figure just where plants will go in my gardens when ordering. Of course all may not germinate, or be available, but you can always buy others later to fill in. Chances are you'll end

up seeing some plants this season you "must" have, and having a few extra spaces in beds or the garden for these unplanned purchases is always handy.

Especially with seeds, order only enough for your needs. Otherwise, you will be faced with entirely too many plants or with storing the unused seeds. Ordering just what you can use and handle is one of the toughest problems most gardeners face this time of year, as seeds are so much easier to get too many of than plants. But, if so, at least you can store leftovers of most seeds for a year or more under cool and dry conditions (a jar in the refrigerator works well).

When ordering seeds, first figure how many plants you'll need. Then consult the catalog description to find the percent germination, and how many seeds per packet. The germination is important, since if the packet has enough seeds, but the germination is low, you'll want to

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## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,  
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vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu  
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

## Reports From The Field

(South Burlington/ Shelburne) We spent the last 24 hours on full time snow removal from our greenhouses. The heavy snow and steady 30+ mile per hour winds were the perfect scenario for uneven snow load on the north side of our houses and we wanted to take every precaution to prevent the houses from collapsing. We ended up with about 2 feet of snow, although it is super hard to really tell the total quantities because of the drifting. But, the south sides of my hoops are so highly piled with snow and there is none on the north side. Inside the greenhouses the spinach has steadily started growing again and harvesting is back in full swing, despite the unseasonably cold temperatures of late. The kale is just having a hard time snapping out of January slumber. My kale is smaller and less vigorous looking than I have ever seen, which is a huge disappointment. I am actually ripping out some of it early to replant with other crops which should yield more, sooner. Disappointing but a good lesson in what the limits are for full sized kale. Cilantro

is looking great. It too has sprung back and appears as though we will get several good harvests before those beds get turned over.

(Fairfax) Carrot washing still going strong. Only a few weeks left of washing. Greenhouses are sucking down the fuel. Minus 6 this morning and another round of minus temps coming. The fuel bill is growing rapidly. At least the skiing is good! Just calculated we spent over \$120 for one day to heat a 30 x 95 GH. That was for propane and pellets. We continue to use our beleaguered old LDJ pellet corn furnace. We are anxiously awaiting a delivery of corn, which it much prefers over pellets. Our Maxim boiler burns well with either corn or pellets, and with it being outdoors we don't have to worry about ethylene issues.

(Randolph) If I'm going to plant corn in 40 days, either the weather, or my plans, will be changing significantly, and soon.

(Westfield) The soil is finally thawed in the high tunnels and the spinach is starting to grow. The greenhouse seeding is well underway: onions, leeks, greenhouse tomatoes, celery, spinach, begonias, perennials, herbs, petunias, and the pansies are transplanted. The first hanging baskets are transplanted and will be ready for opening in May. The low temperatures make for higher fuel consumption; not so great for the bottom line. There's nothing like the smell of fresh green sprouts, moist soil, and the warmth of a greenhouse oasis in a snowy northern Vermont March landscape!

(Williston) Cold weather and gray skies have taken a toll on my hoophouse

crops. Spinach and cilantro have held on but kale and chard are looking sad. The 20 inches of light fluffy snow we got makes it very dark inside the house when it all piles up. There is only 1 layer of plastic greenhouse cover and my row cover inside was too lightweight for the polar blast that persisted through the winter. As soon as the warmer, sunny days of late March/April come along I will take a soil sample in the hoop house and send off to UMaine lab for the long term high tunnel test, to get ready for the new summer season; I already picked up my NOFA bulk order so ready with soil amendments. I signed up with the AgSquared program and working on crop succession plantings; it works very nicely and is user friendly. You can get a free month trial through Johnny's. I spent some time looking over my weather records from the last 3 years and saw how all over the chart they were. I guess this is part of climate change which makes it hard to plan. I saw that April was the driest month in the spring and that is when to take advantage of getting into the fields.

(Guilford) Things are frozen that haven't frozen in 15 years.

(Woodbury) All of our recent snow makes spring seem far away, but I know it gets closer every day. Keeping up with the snow and the greenhouses was relatively easy until this last month. The tractor mounted snowblower paid for itself these last few storms. This is the part of the year where I really need to stay on the calendar, because I am not inspired quite yet. Tomatoes for the first greenhouse are looking good, ready to graft soon for a mid-April plant

date. Haven't fired up the main greenhouse, will do so March 21. Filling it with onions and first seeding of everything else. I am hopeful that this is the season that I finally put together under bench heating and make better use our wood boiler for targeted heating. Winter seems to fly by when it comes to all those things I was going to do before spring comes.

(Monkton) All set up for sugaring but very few runs so far. The snow cover is great for strawberries though. Onions are up, other seeds started, supplies, and plans ready. All we need is spring, and another experienced person for our crew. Apparently lots of choice out there for good help.

(Westminster West) The crazy cold is less fun and less profitable but the weather has a way of balancing out so looking forward to April for payback? Erecting 2 new greenhouses is almost impossible with the ground being frozen solid but we are making headway and the time crunch will only get worse later so we press on. Awaiting arrival of much needed predators for the greenhouses now that the days are longer and a bit warmer. Aphids have made their appearance but we have the natural tools to deal with them. Life is easier now that I installed wireless temperature sensors in all the greenhouses that give me live graphic updates online and on my iPhone as well as phone notifications when temps go too low or too high. I found them at the Veg and Fruit Conference in Manchester last Nov. and that alone made the trip worthwhile. Still doing last minute planning on field stuff and looking forward to using our new 3-row

Rainflow waterwheel in the spring. I'm shopping for a new tractor to pull it; prices are a bit higher than the last new tractor I bought 34 years ago. Glad I signed a contract last fall for the propane and oil we are going thru. Still selling turnips and carrots from the cold storage unit we built last fall; quality has stayed high and customers are thankful.

(Plainfield) Onions and leeks coming up in the greenhouse. Two weeks late in starting up. Time to seed peppers and celeriac. Bought a new heat mat set up. The old one could not heat above 70 no matter what temp it was set for. Nothing overwintered growing in the unheated hoop houses. It's going to be April before we get anything edible. Looks like quite a mud season. Lot's to do, trying to muster some enthusiasm.

(Elmore) I have never had more people asking me when we are opening, telling me about their large crop of cherries this past season, or asking me when they can up to the farm to pick up more blueberry plants. We have been shoveling the high tunnel and making plans for what need to accomplish each week of spring. If we plan well when we can't be out in the fields, then when we are out in the fields, the planning will help us to be so more efficient and not spin our wheels. Knowing what to dig, what to propagate, will help us to focus on getting the most important things done within the slim window of spring we always get in the north county. It seems like common sense, but it has only gotten through to me as we begin our 35th year.

(Burlington) Finally getting to the back of the

*continued on page 15*

MARKET REPORT

**Wholesale Prices**

March 11, 2014

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

**Vermont Egg Prices:**

Jumbo . . . . . \$2.50  
 X-Large . . . . . \$2.45  
 Large . . . . . \$2.39  
 Medium . . . . . \$1.52

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 • March 18, 2014**

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

Source: Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc., [www.northamptonlivestockauction.homestead.com](http://www.northamptonlivestockauction.homestead.com)

Calves:	LOW	HIGH		Cows:	LOW	HIGH	
Good & Choice: 61-75 lbs	40.00	62.00	cwt	Canners	20.00	81.00	cwt
76-95 lbs	20.00	72.00	cwt	Cutters	82.00	97.00	cwt
96-105 lbs	50.00	62.00	cwt	Utility	100.00	108.50	cwt
106 lbs and up	50.00	70.00	cwt	Sows	75.00	76.00	cwt
Farm Calves	100.00	270.00	cwt	Hogs	90.00		cwt
Starter Calves	50.00	60.00	cwt	Boars	none		cwt
Feeder Calves	84.00	114.00	cwt	Shoats	none		cwt
Vealers	126.00		cwt	Feeder Pigs	none		each
Bulls	85.00	100.00	cwt	Lambs (new crop)	285.00	315.00	cwt
Heifers	80.00		cwt	Sheep	47.50	100.00	cwt
Replacement Cows	none		each	Goats	22.50	240.00	each
Steers	none		cwt	Rabbits	4.00	25.00	each
				Hay (17 lots)	3.20	5.30	bale

**Addison County Commission Sales • Middlebury, VT • March 10, 2014**

Cattle: 124		Feeder Calves						
Calves: 166		Holstein Bulls	92-125 lbs.	70.00	270.00	cwt		
Slaughter Cows			80-90 lbs.	83.00	202.50	cwt		
Breakers 75 - 80% lean	88.00	103.00	cwt	Vealers (good & choice)				
Boners 80 - 85% lean	75.00	93.50	cwt		70-120 lbs.	35.00	69.00	cwt
Lean 85 - 90% lean	71.50	90.00	cwt					

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](mailto: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.

**Bees & Honey**

5-Frame nucleus colonies. Honeybees with our own Northern Survivor stock queens. Order now for April-May pick-up. \$140 each/no frame exchange. Also order Spring Queens. Singing Cedars Apiary at 77 Singing Cedars Rd. Orwell, Vt. 05760. (802)948-2057 or order on-line at [www.vtbees.com](http://www.vtbees.com) (5/14)

Bees Packages Bees; this year I will have Russian Bees late in April. Tentative - Italians early in May, and as always Italians packages & queens late in May, as always assistance with installation will be available. 802-244-7534. (5/14)

BEES AND QUEENS: Honeybees from our own Northern Survivor Stock queens. Five-frame nucs at \$140 each/\$20 deposit. NO FRAME EXCHANGE. Our

queens are hybrids bred for the best traits and strength and gentleness. Order spring nucs or queens now by mail (include phone #) or on-line. Singing Cedars Apiary, 77 Singing Cedars Rd., Orwell, Vt. 05760 (802) 948-2057. [www.vtbees.com](http://www.vtbees.com) (5/14)

Like to have this run in the next issue -5frame nucleus colonies ready in may, \$148 each. Put down \$40 deposit pay the rest when you pickit up; no frame exchange. Vtbees.com online or call Singing Cedars Apiaries at 802-948-2057. Queens available the end of may \$28 each (5/14)

**Cattle**

9 year old PB Belted Galloway (Settled, 4/2014) with 8 month mismarked heifer by her side. Excellent mother. \$1500.00. Newbury, NH

603-763-9422. (5/14)

Jersey cow for sale, five years old, bred AI to Exc, bull preg tested, due 1/28 would make a fine family cow; very gentle disposition asking \$600. Also have yearling Jersey heifer sired by Stone \$350 contact 802-875-3159. (5/14)

Nice, healthy 10 month Belted Galloway Heifer. Ready to go. \$550.00. Newbury, NH (603)763-9422. (5/14)

Certified Organic Cows Wanted: Looking for high producing Jerseys or Holsteins with low SCC counts. Must be CERTIFIED. Prefer early to middle lactation. Also bred/springing heifers or dry cows soon to calve. 802-782-8833. (5/14)

Good looking two year old Highland Bull. Gentle with offspring. \$500.00

## CLASSIFIEDS

Call or email for info:  
1(802)446-2118 skhal-  
ford@vermontel.net  
(5/14)

3 Angus Bulls for sale. Can  
be registered. Born Nov-  
12. Greensboro. 533-  
9804 or 533-2208 (5/14)

American Milking Devon  
registered Heifer for sale.  
11 month old - \$1000.  
Raised naturally. Sired  
by the Meadow Brook  
Napolean bloodline.  
Please contact Liza or  
Derric at 802-247-9309 or  
email: lsm20@comcast.net  
(5/14)

Belted Galloway Steer. 930+  
lbs. Gentle, halter broke.  
Ready to go. \$1300.00.  
Newbury, NH (603)763-  
9422. (5/14)

2 purebred Dexter Heifers  
for sale; 6 months old;  
Just weaned, 4 23 month  
old Dexter steers. \$600  
each Call 802-247-6076  
evenings or leave a mes-  
sage (5/14)

Jersey Heifer Sire Plus 3 yr  
old Due Feb \$1500, 5  
Beef Animal - 2 cows; 2  
Heifers and 1 cross steer  
5 for \$5500 contact 802-  
229-4628 (5/14)

5 Reg Angus Heifers 10  
months old, will keep  
until turning out time.  
These heifers are in a  
warm barn about 900 lbs  
each, excellent breeding  
and condition, must see,  
call after 7:30am 802-746-  
8979. (5/14)

6 certified organic heifers -  
one Holstein - two Jerseys  
and three crossbreeds. Due  
in March through June.  
802-254-6982 (5/14)

2 year old Jersey Holstein  
heifer due 4-1-14 \$900.  
802-276-3385 (5/14)

Beef feeders all sizes all natu-  
ral good condition your  
choice. 802-483-2210  
(5/14)

**Employment**

Herdsperson for Registered  
Holsteins. Need assistant  
who enjoys top notch

cows, maintains posi-  
tive nvironment, milking  
duties, herd health.  
References required.

Our cows are our liveli-  
hood. Come work with  
us to make the best bet-  
ter. Robeth Holsteins,  
Rochester, 802-767-3926;  
starbuckdave@yahoo.com  
(5/14)

Small family business in the  
lower southeast corner  
of Vermont is looking  
for a "Jack of All Trades".  
We do snowplowing,  
lawnmowing, landscap-  
ing, excavation, as well as  
maple sugaring, haying,  
field mowing and other Ag  
services. Applicant should  
have knowledge of tractor  
operations and an inter-  
est in excavation equip-  
ment. Must be able to do  
equipment maintenance.  
A great opportunity for  
growth with our family  
business. Send resume or  
letter of interest to gfc-  
serv@svcable.net (5/14)

We are looking for a reliable,  
dependable Herdsman  
to join us at our Dairy  
farm located in Rutland  
County, VT. References  
required, salary based on  
experience and knowledge  
necessary to complete  
required tasks. If inter-  
ested call 802-235-2246.  
(5/14)

We are looking for reliable,  
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Farm located in Rutland  
County. References  
required. Salary based on  
experience and knowledge  
necessary to complete  
required tasks. If interest-  
ed 802-235-2246. (5/14)

**Equipment**

24 Victoria Grain Bin like  
new, 10 Grain bin good  
shape, John Deere Harrow  
excellent shape, 24 hay  
elevator, 36 hay elevator,  
72 hay elevator, contact  
802-624-0306 cell or 802-  
895-4683. (5/14)

2 pickup Fuel Tanks, 110  
gallon with pump fil-

ter, meter, hose &  
shut off nozzle, asking  
\$1000 OBO. 75 gallon  
Aluminum with no pump  
asking \$300 OBO contact  
802-373-3024 Al. (5/14)

1947 2N tractor good tires,  
good tin, needs paint job  
will run \$1800. 1939  
Farmall H Tractor, needs  
rear tires, good tin \$900  
contact 603-256-3202.  
(5/14)

John Deere transport har-  
rows all re done; hay ele-  
vator all different lengths;  
24 grain bin excellent  
shape; 6 to 7 tin brock  
grain bin good shape, call  
802-895-4683 or 624-  
0306. (5/14)

Rears miniblaster 50 gal stain-  
less steel air blast sprayer  
excellent conditions per-  
fect for controlling 5WD  
in berries \$3000. Rears  
nifty fifty 50gal weed  
sprayer w/dual spray valve  
excellent condition \$1500  
contact 860-633-2789.  
(5/14)

Takeuchi TB45 mini excava-  
tor w/3 buckets, rubber  
tracks are in excellent con-  
dition \$8500 contact 860-  
633-2789. (5/14)

100 Ton Hydraulic Jack has  
low & high speed \$400  
contact 603-543-3616  
(5/14)

Farm Tractor snow plow  
assembly, 7 1/2' Meyers all  
angle plow with bracket  
ass. Bolts to your loader  
bucket, comes with bolts  
and hydraulic hose, good  
condition, \$675, goose-  
neck hitch plate assembly,  
\$100, trades or best offers  
always considered contact  
802-236-4917. (5/14)

6 IQ Milker units with 6 one  
touch pulsators. 1,000 gal  
Meuler tank with washer.  
Surge pacemaker stainless  
steel wash tank. 2" pipe-  
line for 48 cows. 2 Surge  
75+ Alamo pumps. Call  
for pricing and info 608-  
574-4586. (5/14)

JF Chopper Model FCT  
900, grass head, 2 row

corn head.--1000 PTO  
Excellent Condition  
\$15,000

Kuhn side discharge manure  
spreader, Model 8114  
tandem axle. Excellent  
Condition only used 1 1/2  
years. \$15,000 Call Roger  
Wood 802-695-8818  
Concord, VT (5/14)

Double-6 herringbone milk-  
ing parlor wanted. Clay  
stall parts and milking sys-  
tem. Call 802-645-0865  
(5/14)

JD 330 round baler \$4,000;  
JD 7000 corn planter  
\$1,500; JD 3970 chopper  
with grass and 2 row corn  
head \$6,000; Lucknow  
200 mixer wagon \$2,000  
Brattleboro, 802/579-8241  
(5/14)

MX230 Case Tractor: 6200  
hours, engine completely  
rebuilt, deluxe cab, 3  
ptos, 4 remotes, extra  
weights, 6 new Firestone  
tires 520-85R 46 rubber,  
excellent condition. asking  
\$92,500- (retiring must  
sell) call 802-849-6195  
(ask for Dick) (5/14)

24 hay elevator good shape;  
5hp universal vacuum  
pump like new; 5 horse-  
power beaumatic vacuum  
pump contact 802-895-  
4683. (5/14)

Hay Rakes - MF four pin-  
wheel on wheels; 4-spin-  
ner 3-point rake \$150.00,  
5 wheel Farmland \$150  
each. Diesel Engines, DT  
466, DT 360, Isuzu 239  
refer, Iveco 4 cylinder,  
contact 802-878-4025.  
(5/14)

JD 330 round baler, \$4,000;  
Lucknow 200 mixer  
wagon, \$2,000; JD 3970  
chopper, 2 row corn head,  
7 ft hay head, \$6,000  
or will trade for a bale-  
age baler of equal value.  
Brattleboro 802/579-8241  
(5/14)

Potato Harvester; 2012  
Potato Digger, 3pth, 24"  
wide with padded roller  
chain. Works with all  
root crops. Heavy duty

nose, and coulters for cut-  
ting vines. \$5250 OBO.  
Contact Tim at 802-325-  
2054 (5/14)

New Holland 315 baler  
with model 70 kicker in  
excellent condition with  
new belts \$6,500 and two  
Stoltzfus kicker wagons all  
steel with PT wood decks  
in excellent condition  
\$3,200 each. Newbury  
802-584-3769. (5/14)

Vicon RC361 Hay Bob  
combination rake and ted-  
der. 11' 10" wide rake  
area and 9' 10" ted area.  
Excellent condition always  
stored indoors. Complete  
with manuals and spare  
tines. \$1800.00 or best  
offer. John Deere front  
loader fork lift attach-  
ment for 5000 Series trac-  
tors Excellent condition.  
\$500.00. Call Mark,  
802- 879-0391 Westford.  
(5/14)

Kuhn FC300- 10' Disc  
moco- flail- Fresh cut-  
terbar! \$6500; JD 1470-  
Disk mower- 11 1/2' -Rolls  
\$5800.

NH 408- Disk mower- 8'  
Rolls \$5500; JD 3940  
Chopper- 5' head-  
Field read \$2200; Dion  
Forage wagon w/ roof-  
16'...\$1500. NI 212  
manure spreader- new  
apron...\$1350. Gehl 250  
tandem manure spreader-  
\$2200. Eltek 3801  
Winch...\$2100. AgriMetal  
sq.bale chopper/ mulcher-  
Honda motor..\$975. Full  
line of other farm equip-  
ment available! www.  
youngsmilkywayfarm.com  
(5/14)

100 ton Hydraulic jack has  
low & high speed \$400; 6  
yd quick hitch John Deere  
Bucket like new condition  
\$6500, contact 603-543-  
3616. (5/14)

Woods model PRD 8400  
rear discharge mower 7'  
cut excellent condition  
802-388-7878. (5/14)

250 ton corn silage for sale  
\$60 located in WRJ VT  
contact Dan at 802-356-

CLASSIFIEDS

7668. (5/14)  
Vicon RC361 Hay Bob combination rake and tedder. 11' 10" wide rake area and 9'10" ted area. Excellent condition always stored indoors. Complete with manuals and spare tines. \$1800.00 or best offer. Call Mark, 802- 879-0391 Westford. (5/14)

IH 826 Diesel 4 New tires. Extra parts \$7000.00. Kuhn 4 Star Tedder GF440 11.5 foot wide \$1200.0. 2 Firestone 16.9.34 tires \$200.00. H&S Steel Kicker Rack needs floor have wood \$1700.00. Orwell 802-948-2627 (5/14)

1 stainless Steele double sink with legs \$250.00 OBO. Call Mike Eagan 802-345-2284 (5/14)

Hiniker 22 ft field cultivator good shape \$3000.00. Brillon 8 ft towbehind cultipacker \$400. 802-265-4589 (5/14)

Massey Ferguson MF50 loader/backhoe new rear tires \$4500 or B.O. International Farmall 656 Tractor \$3500 or B.O. Galvanized Stock tanks various sizes B.O. 802-263-9393 (5/14)

Behlen Country Electric Heated 2 Hole Cattle Drinker, brand new, still in its plastic wrapping. \$300. Orwell, VT 802-948-2211. (5/14)

325 gal polyethylene storage tank \$175.00 325 gal polyethylene pick up tank for 8ft body \$175.00. Kohler 6 HP gas engine new in 2006 used on season on vacuum pump. \$175.00. Breyer Millennium chain lift out off ATCR bus \$150 OBO 802-247-6430 (5/14)

2002 New Holland LS 160 Skid steer hand controls – mechanically tight good condition comes with toolbar asking \$9500. 18 x38 tractor chains like new \$500. call Mark at

868-3154 or leave message (5/14)

Woods model PRO 8400 rear discharge push mower 7' cut excellent 802-388-7878 (5/14)

100 ton hydraulic jack has low & high speed \$400. 6 yrd quick hitch – John Deere bucket like new condition \$6500. 603-543-3616 (5/14)

Farm Tractor snow plow assembly 7.5' Meyers all angle plow with bracket ass. Bolts to your loader bucket. Comes with bolts and hydraulic hose, good condition, \$675.00, goose-neck hitch plate assembly \$100.00 trades or best offers always considered. 802-236-4917. (5/14)

Ford 2 row corn planter, 3pt - \$750. Ford 4 row corn planter 3pt - \$2750. Ford 461 tractor 27 HP 3pt as is - \$2500. Farmall C w/f mower solid - \$2750. IH 9 shank chisel plow 3 pt strong - \$3250. Springtooth harrows 10 ft \$575. 802-483-2870 (5/14)

**Farm & Farmland**

Farm for Sale in South Hero. 169 acres, house, garage, and barn, includes 100 acres of cropland/pasture. Restricted by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks buyers who will farm commercially. \$460,000. Contact Jon Ramsay at (802) 533-7705 or jramsay@vlt.org. www.vlt.org/landon (5/14)

Farm and home with barn for sale with 30+ acres of the best farm land the State, on the Conn. River. Presently used as organic growing site. Near I-91 off exit 5. House has 3 bedrooms, has been completely renovated; 27 new windows etc. \$499,000 Call owner Christian Blake 802-732-8888 (5/14)

Westminster VT Windham County 1.83 acres of



choice land for home or business on paved dead end road near high school on Cemetery Rd. Only lot on street, Private. \$29,000 will consider lease. Call owner Christian Blake 802-732-8888 (5/14)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Corn silage in WRJ, VT \$65 TN delivery available contact Dan 802-356-7668. (5/14)

Certified Organic Hay Wanted: Looking for reasonably priced certified organic hay (round or large square bales). To be delivered to our farm in Georgia, Vermont. 802-782-8833. (5/14)

Certified organic hay square bales, never rained on, \$4.25 per bale at barn can deliver. 802-537-3167 (5/14)

200 tons of NOFA certified organic first cut haylage. \$40 per ton. West Haven 802-265-4496 (5/14)

ORGANIC GRASS SILAGE First and second cut 2013 organic grass silage. Will deliver within a 50 mile radius. Call: 802-274-4934 – 802-274-4939 or 802-744-2444 and leave a message. (5/14)

Organic 4' x 5' 2013 dry unwrapped round bales \$40 2013 organic square bales 1st cut \$5, mulch bales \$3 2012 8 x 200 2nd cut haylage \$30/ ton 802-334-2401 or 802-323-9793 (5/14)

Certified Organic Hay Wanted: Looking for rea-

sonably priced certified organic hay (round or large square bales). To be delivered to our farm in Georgia, Vermont. 802-782-8833. (5/14)

1st cut hay. Excellent quality. Mixed grasses Large square bales. \$4.00 per bale. Easy access. Cash only. 802-879-4269 Westford (5/14)

First cut dry round bales (4x5) stored inside. \$45.00 a bale delivery available. 1-802-457-1376 (5/14)

Processed Corn Silage.... \$60.00/ton loaded. Springfield 802-885-4000 (5/14)

1st cut \$4.50 - 2nd cut \$6.00 603-543-3616 (5/14)

Hay for sale round bales 802-355-2930 (5/14)

**ADDISON COUNTY**

West Haven – 4x5 1st cut round bales, small 2nd cut square bales, contact Don Pettis at 802-265-4566. (5/14)

Addison – Large Square Bales, 1st & 2nd Cut, Under Cover, Never Wet, SL Moore @ (802) 463-3875 or Alden @ (802) 989-0479. (5/14)

West Haven - 20 NOFA Certified Organic 4' x 5' second cut round bales. Stored inside under cover. \$45 per bale. West Haven 802-265-4496 (5/14)

**BENNINGTON COUNTY** Manchester Center-

Gorgeous green third cutting grass hay \$5.50/bale FOB contact 802-362-1565. (5/14)

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**

We have fresh 2013 Certified Organic 4' x 4' Grass Silage Round Bales. First and Second cut available. Approximately 50% moisture content, fermented, net wrap bales with double wrap plastic. Excellent quality and quantity at this time. Contact us for further details and prices. Buffalo Mountain Farm. (802) 472-9360 or (802) 888-7881 (5/14)

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

Milton- 1st cut 2013 Hay \$3.00 per square bale. Mulch Hay \$2.00 per square bale. All Hay stored under cover. Call 802-893-7883 (6/14)

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Good Quality 1st & 2nd cut hay and organic. Straw large or small square bales, whole or pressed by bales at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load, contact 802-849-6266. (5/14)

1st & 2nd cut hay and straw, organic. Large or small square bales, whole or processed bales at Farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 (5/14)

**GRAND ISLE COUNTY**

Grand Isle – Hay 2nd cut; square bales @ \$4/bale. Call 802-372-3110 (5/14)

**ORANGE COUNTY**

First cut hay for sale, square bales, organic, never wet, 3.50 per bale. Delivery available. Call Bonnie at home 802-685-2292 or work 802-685-4821. Chelsea, VT. (5/14)

**ORLEANS COUNTY**

North Troy – Certified Organic 1st and 2nd cut large dry round bales and 1st cut small square bales, 1st and 2nd cut large wrapped bales and 1-9x200 Ag Bag of 1st cut

## CLASSIFIEDS

haylage. Conventional 1st and 2nd cut dry large round and small square bales, and 1-9x200 Ag Bag of 1st cut haylage, Delivery available contact 802-988-2959 or 802-274-2832. (5/14)

**RUTLAND COUNTY**

Processed corn silage for sale for details call Mike 802-345-2284 (5/14)

250 Square Bales of Real Nice 2nd & 3rd Cut Grass Hay. \$4.50 a bale. 802-483-6597 - evenings or leave a message. (5/14)

Brandon -4x4 wrapped Haylage bales for sale; 1st cut. 802-247-6076 (5/14)

Tinmouth - 1st cut balage cut early July. 4x4round bales \$35. 802-446-9137 evening or leave a message. (5/14)

Available around a dozen bags of Organic corn seed purchased from Lakeview Organic Grain in 2013. Selling for \$75 a bag please contact (845)270-4159. (5/14)

**WINDHAM COUNTY**

Guilford - Good quality 1st cut hay, small squares, never rained on, from Fert. & wood ash fields, \$4.50/ bale, delivery possible, contact 802-254-5069. (5/14)

100+ 4'x5' Dry Round Bales 1st cutting, about 800 lbs.each. VOF certified. All offers considered, any quantity you need. 802-368-7294/7192 or llcorse6@gmail.com (5/14)

**WINDSOR COUNTY**

Springfield - Processed Corn Silage.... \$60.00/ ton loaded 802-885-4000 (5/14)

**COUNTIES OUTSIDE OF VT**

Price Reduced: Certified organic & conventional 4'x 5' round bales of mid-June, 1st cut, mixed grass hay stored inside. \$40 each by the tractor trailer

load (38). Baleage too:\$45 each. Help with trucking arrangements. Whitehall NY 518-499-0239 gsearles@verizon.net (5/14)

**General**

Frigidaire Gallery Chest Freezer - Lightly used 24.9 cu. ft gallery chest freezer in excellent condition. Retail \$779. \$600 or Best Offer; Traulson Commercial Refrigerator - 46 cu. ft. Lightly used Traulson stainless steel 2 door refrigerator with full door standard hinge. \$2100 or Best Offer. Orwell, VT 802-948-2211 (5/14)

Kuhn FC300- 10' Disc moco- flail- Fresh cutterbar!..\$6500. JD 1470- Disk mower- 11 1/2' - Rolls....\$5800.

NH 408- Disk mower- 8' Rolls...\$5500. JD 3940 Chopper- 5' head...\$2200. NI 212 spreader- new apron, \$1350. Gehl 250 tandem spreader-\$2200. AgriMetal sq.bale mulcher- Honda motor. \$975. www.youngs-milkywayfarm.com Ken Young Springfield 802-885-4000 (5/14)

Johnson Wool Hunting jacket black & red checker chest 40-44 \$20.00 802-674-5044 (5/14)

**Goats**

Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Buck (proven, black, 7 years old), Doe (expecting in late March, good milker/mom, 4 years old) for sale. Would prefer they go together - \$500 OBO for 2 adult goats and babies. Contact Jess in Southern VT at jessweitz72@gmail.com (5/14)

Kid goats from proven milkers in commercial goat dairy. Sires are Saanen, Alpine, and LaMancha. Available from May 25th 2014. To reserve and for prices call Lynn evenings 802-563-2999. (5/14)

**Poultry & Rabbits**

Flemish Giant Rabbits!

Babies ready for new homes end of February. Good for meat, fertilizer, and pets. 20-30 lb adults. \$30 a piece. Contact Jess in Southern VT at jessweitz72@gmail.com (5/14)

**Sugaring Equipment**

4 x 12 Leader all stainless steel pan never used priced to sell, contact 802-895-4683 (5/14)

Leader front syrup pan, 5'x7' stainless steel excellent condition \$450, sap buckets king 16qt. covers and spouts \$7 per set, contact 802-524-4345. (5/14)

Maple Syrup \$40/gallon or \$25/half gallon al grades, small amount of Fancy, also cooking syrup \$25/gallon, \$15/half gallon (C grade but good flavor) contact 802-728-5241 Randolph. (5/14)

Bucket Washer \$150; Leader front pan 5x6 stainless steel \$200; 18" smoke stack complete with cover \$100, contact Doug 802-895-4005. (5/14)

Maple Syrup Bottling Unit: LaPierre/Waterloo/Small Gravity Bottling Unit with Electric Heated Water Jacketed Tank-welded stainless steel. Two Stainless Steel filling nozzles; mechanical foot pedal; 32 gallons; 34" X 24". 2002-brand new, never used before. \$4,200 Call Lynn at 802-356-1585 or e-mail lspencer@kua.org (5/14)

Galvanized Sap Buckets in good condition. Available without sorting: \$3.00 each. Selection: \$5.00 each. At least 200 available. Some covers and spouts also available. Brookfield, VT. Contact: lhstrees@myfairpoint.net or 802-276-3382. (5/14)

1-5 Barrel Gabu Gathering tank \$300.00 Sap buckets covers .05 cents each Carleton Rogers 802-889-3422 (5/14)

Galvanized Sap Storage 50 barrel and 20 barrel B.O. 802-263-9393 (5/14)

**Wanted**

Chevrolet or GMC 1 ton dump truck with standard shift and rust free, prefer 1972 or older, contact 603-272-4903 Philip. (5/14)

Certified Organic Cows Wanted: Looking for high producing Jerseys or Holsteins with low SCC counts. Must be CERTIFIED. Prefer early to middle lactation. Also bred/springing heifers or dry cows soon to calve. 802-782-8833. (5/14)

Culti packer, 10 - 12 foot, field ready. Newbury, NH (603)763-9422. (5/14)

P.B. Angus Bull for breeding purposes. 16 to 18 months old by June 1st. Call (603)938-5911.

Schroeder Farm, William Schroeder - S.Newbury, NH (5/14)

1 or 2 processed round bales. We are considering buying a baler with knives and would like to first check out how processed bales

will work in our system! Thanks, Paul 413 339 0033 (5/14)

Wanted in good condition Hay Rake 4 or 5 bar side delivery John Deere with front dolly wheel or a New Holland Hay Rake side delivery with front dolly wheels. Call Doug 802-457-2681. (5/14)

300 feet of uses Jamesway cutter cleaner chain good condition, also 2 good uses tires 18. 4x30 call after 7:30am 802-746-8979. (5/14)

Small wood processor and wood elevator contact 802-388-7878 (5/14)

Small wood processor and wood elevator 802-388-7878 (5/14)

Oliver 550 Farm trailer with front loader and bucket. And tree planter 3 pt oz pull. Any condition call 570-265-9714 (5/14)

Forage wagon roof or bows, or whole box. 802-878-4025 (5/14)

Dairy cattle, Beef cattle, Bulls, Steers, feeders sheep and goats strong market. 413-441-3085 (5/14)

**Vermont Vegetable and Berry News**

*continued from page 10*

walk-in. Appreciate how much good temperature and humidity control make such a big difference when storing for the long term. Further realizing how initial produce quality heavily influences storage crop profitability. We had unusually clean cabbage go into storage this fall and have been loving it all winter long. Next year's project: figure out a good winter wash station and logistics.

**Energy In Our Food System**

Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan calls for obtaining 90% of the state's energy from renewable

sources by 2050 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% from a 1990 baseline. The Energy Cross-cutting Team of the Farm to Plate Network has compiled many useful resources to help farms, businesses, vendors, installers, and technical assistance providers increase energy efficiency use of renewables, including seven Energy Success Stories that are the first in a series of case studies. See: <http://www.vtfoodatlas.com/network/energy>

**Crop Insurance Survey**

Please complete this short survey aimed at improving crop insurance programs for

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**Vermont Vegetable and Berry News**

*continued from page 14*

growers. Help us identify the methods vegetable and fruit growers currently use to manage production risk; their experience with crop insurance policies so we can determine how well crop insurance programs serve vegetable and fruit growers and make suggestions for improvement. Individual replies are anonymous; the aggregate results will be shared to inform farmers, technical service providers, program staff, and policymakers about the effectiveness of crop insurance from farmers' perspectives and to suggest possible program improvements. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and you can enter for a raffle prize of a \$50 VISA gift card. Questions? Jen Miller at [jmille30@uvm.edu](mailto:jmille30@uvm.edu). The link is: <https://survey.uvm.edu/index.php/257185/lang-en>

**Farm Transfer Workshops**

*March 26, 9:15 am - 3:30 pm at American Legion Hall, Middlebury and March 28 at Stone Grill Pub, Morrisville.*

This workshop will cover transition planning, goal setting and retirement, estate planning, tax and healthcare considerations, and facilitating communication among family members. An attorney will speak on wills, trusts, probate, and legal issues. Other speakers will address Medicaid and health issues and use of conservation easements. A farmer panel will share their experience. Registration is \$20 per person, \$25 if postmarked after 3/19 (Middlebury) or 3/21 (Morrisville); includes all materials, refreshments and lunch. To register send name(s), contact info,

workshop location, and check payable to UVM, to: Transferring the Farm, c/o Elisa Ziglar, 204A Morrill Hall, Burlington, VT 05405-0106. For more info: Bob Parsons (802) 656-2109 or [bob.parsons@uvm.edu](mailto:bob.parsons@uvm.edu).

**Selling To Regional Markets Discussion**

*April 1, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at the Berlin office of UVM Extension*

Two farmers will talk about selling to regional farmers' markets, restaurants, and retailers and two distributors talk about selling through wholesale. You will learn about the personal, production, financial, and marketing skills needed to sell to direct and wholesale regional markets. RSVP Maggie at the Intervale Center, [maggie@intervale.org](mailto:maggie@intervale.org) or (802) 660-0440 x116.

**Navigating Federal Labor Laws On Farm Labor**

*April 4, 8:30 am to 12:30pm VT State House Room 11*

This workshop will provide federal payroll training for farmers. Farmers around New England have been facing increased enforcement of labor regulations. Several local farms have faced heavy fines for inadvertent violations to these laws, sparking debate about the details of these laws and how they are being interpreted. Daniel Cronin and Christopher Mills of the U.S. Dept. of



Labor will tease apart some of the nuances of these laws and explain how they are being enforced by the Dept. of Labor. They will explain where the line is currently drawn between types of farm work that are and aren't exempt from the laws' provisions. RSVP by 3/28 to Louise Waterman at 802-828-6900 or [Louise.Waterman@state.vt.us](mailto:Louise.Waterman@state.vt.us)

**Pesticide Applicator Training**

*April 8, 9:30-11:30 am at Yankee Farm Credit, 52 Farmvu Drive, White River Junction*

Organic and conventional growers using pesticides on their farm are required by the Worker Protection Standard to be trained prior to doing so. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is offering this free training. To register contact Annie Macmillan, 802-828-3479 or [anne.macmillan@state.vt.us](mailto:anne.macmillan@state.vt.us). Additional group training is available by request.

**Spotted Wing Drosophila Workshop**

*April 10, 10:30 am- 3:30 pm at the New Community Center, in Claremont, NH.*

This workshop will cover the latest information on SWD monitoring, trapping, ID, cultural controls, and organic and conventional spray options. Speakers include Hannah Burrack, N. Carolina State University, Vern Grubinger and Margaret Skinner from UVM, George Hamilton and Alan Eaton from UNH. Preregistration by April 1st is required, the fee is \$25 per person. Five pesticide credits will be awarded. For more information, contact Cheryl Sullivan, 802-656-5434 or [cfrank@uvm.edu](mailto:cfrank@uvm.edu). The registration form is at <http://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/>.

**Shopping for Plants and Seeds**

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order more. Some packets such as geraniums may only contain five seeds, as they are quite choice and harder to produce. Others may contain hundreds of seeds and be enough for several years!

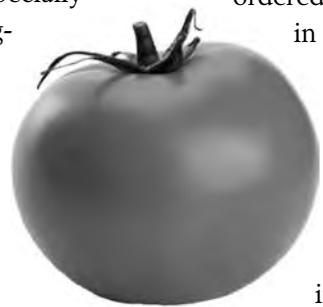
Choose varieties that will bear fruit or flowers in our short northern growing season. This is especially important for vegetables, such as tomatoes or corn. Days until harvest are usually given in the descriptions. For instance if your growing season is about 90 days, and you pick a variety that takes 120 days to bear fruit, you may be out of luck!

When ordering seeds, consider the All-America Selections. These are new introductions that have been judged best by horticulture professionals nationwide. These selections are one reason to start your own plants, as many are quite good, and can't be found at many garden stores or even greenhouses. You can learn more about this program online ([www.all-americanselections.org](http://www.all-americanselections.org)).

There are many new annual plants, often called "specialty annuals", grown from cuttings rather than seeds. You can read about these in catalogs and online, but an increasing number are available at local garden outlets so you may wish to plan now but buy locally this spring.

Catalogs and online websites also may be used for ordering plants that arrive in the mail later in the spring. This is a good way to find

many new and unusual perennial plants that may not be available locally. This is especially true if you are interested in a certain genus, group, or niche of plants such as hostas or aquatic plants. If you have some complete garden centers and specialty nurseries in your area, you may wish to check their listings first before ordering from catalogs. More than once I have found and ordered a prized plant in a catalog, only to find it later cheaper locally, and without having to pay shipping!



When ordering plants there are several important points to remember. Order from reliable sources in order to get good value and plants that are shipped properly. Such sources are ones you may have used before, or heard recommended by friends and neighbors. Beware of inexpensive plants. Price is often a good indication of quality and lower prices often reflect poor quality. These plants seldom resemble those in the catalog, and they often die.

Finally, with perennial plants make sure and check their hardiness. Hardiness zones are often quite variable among catalogs, so look at several for a particular plant. Then take an average or use the more conservative (warmer) zone figures if you want to be more assured of a plant surviving.

*Dr. Leonard Perry is the Greenhouse and Nursery Extension Specialist for the University of Vermont. For more articles, visit his website at <http://perrysperennials.wordpress.com/>*

**Vermont FoodBank**

*continued from page 2*

partnership between the Vermont Foodbank, the Vermont Tree Fruit Growers Association, and our very own Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. During apple harvest season, citizens and companies are encouraged to visit a participating orchard to pick and purchase extra apples for donation to the Foodbank. In 2013, 23 orchards located in 11 Vermont counties participated in PFYN, which resulted in a total of 18,751 pounds of apples being gathered and distributed to food shelves and meal sites in the Foodbank's network, making it the biggest collection ever.

**School Food Pantry To - Go**

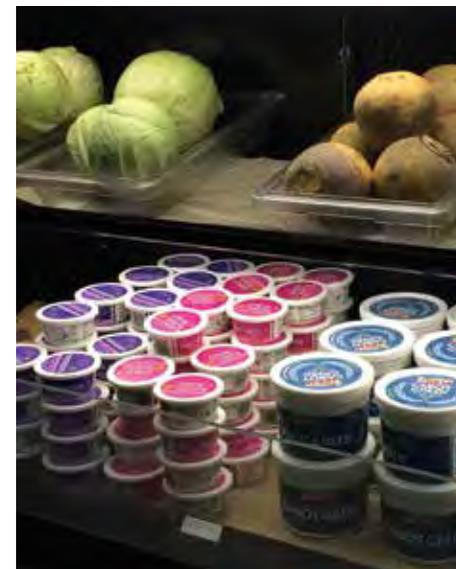
In April 2013, the Foodbank piloted the School Food Pantry To - Go at JFK Elementary School in Winooski. In an effort to ensure that more children in need have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, the Foodbank is able to distribute 7,000 pounds of fresh produce twice a month on school grounds, providing a more readily accessible source of food assistance to low income students and their families.

Shelf stable product donations are becoming less common at the Vermont Foodbank. Store pick-up programs at grocery stores are decreasing while donations from farms are increasing. While increased donations from farms represent a

positive change, the decrease in store pick-up programs has contributed to an 8% decrease in donated foods to the Vermont Foodbank over the past year, which translates into a 700,000 pound reduction in perishable food. Because of the generous support of 68 farms, nearly 300,000 pounds of Vermont fresh produce was made available through the Vermont Foodbank in 2013.

In the future, the Vermont Foodbank looks to increase their produce purchases, establish expanded cold storage capacity, install bulk food repackaging infrastructure, and partner with the 'Feeding America' network to support brokering relationships. One specific approach the Foodbank will take is around the development of a 'Nutritional Policy' to establish rules around accepting donations.

Secretary Ross suggested opportunities to expand local producer relationships with the Vermont Foodbank. One possibility incorporated scaling up production on farms - including college farms - to meet the growing food access needs of Vermont's population. "The Vermont Foodbank is making positive food procurement changes within their organization, in response to a growing need and evolving supply of donated food and available surplus. I am proud to be Secretary of Agriculture in a state where growers,



organizations and local businesses are so passionately committed to supporting our community's access to healthy food. The Agency of Agriculture looks to collaborate with the Vermont Foodbank and others to create a strong long-lasting partnership within the charitable food system," said Ross.

**USDA Census Data**

*continued from page 1*

other jobs - only 51% of Vermont farm operators say farming is their primary occupation. This is an increase from 2007, when less than half (49.5%) of farm operators reported farming as their primary occupation.

The USDA is expected to release the full report later this spring.



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*caption*