

AGRiVIEW



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Vermont Day Breaks Attendance Records at The Big E

By Alison Kosakowski,
VT Agency of Ag

The Eastern States Exposition, also known as The Big E, broke an all-time attendance record on Vermont Day, September 23rd. According to Big E officials, 171,897 fairgoers were in attendance – more than any single day in Big E history.

Of course, sunny weather played a role in attracting scores of fairgoers, but there’s no doubt Vermont’s reputation for outstanding food and high-quality products helped lure them in.

Vermont Day and the exhibits inside the Vermont Building provide the state an opportunity to highlight its products, culture and

Tori Managan



heritage for more than 1 million fair attendees each year. This year, the state expanded its offerings beyond products, with the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets teaming up with the Department of

Tourism and Marketing to showcase how Vermont is a great place to live, work and do business.

“Expanding our workforce and growing our working-age population is one of the most critical things

Secretary Tebbetts and Gov. Scott pose with Lynda Chandler and Kathleen Govotski of Halladay's Harvest Barn, of Bellows Falls. Halladay's is one of 30+ companies selling their wares in the Vermont Building

my Administration is working to achieve,” said Gov. Scott, who traveled to West Springfield to take part in the Vermont Day festivities. “The Big E is a great opportunity to showcase Vermont, and the work of our Agency of Agriculture and Departments of Tourism and Labor will certainly show Vermont has a lot to offer – from our products and services to our career opportunities.”

“More than 30 Vermont companies travel down to West Springfield,

continued on page 2

AGRiVIEW

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

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Inside This Issue

The View from
116 State Street Page 2
Farmer Profile Page 3
Putting Produce Safety
into Practice. Page 3
Hunter Access
Seminar. Page 5
Renewable Energy
Workshops. Page 5
Small Farm Inspection
Priority. Page 6
October Gardening
Tips Page 7
Send Us Your
#FarmLeafies! Page 8

Vermont Vegetable
and Berry News Page 10
Classifieds Page 11
Grant Availability. Page 13
Fat Sheep Farm Page 14
Restoring Carmi
Watershed Page 15
Apple Season. Page 16



THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

We should take a moment to thank the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) for three decades of leadership. Recently there was a celebration on the board's 30th anniversary where the early leaders were on hand to see what they created. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has meant so much to Vermont, and has stayed true to Vermont's values.

Thirty years ago, much was at stake. Farmers were faced with difficult and emotional decisions about their future. Could they still stay on their land and remain farming? Many of our farmers would have been forced to take a different path if not for the Housing and Conservation Board.

VHCB gave farmers a choice. They gave them an option. Many farmers took them up on their offer. This meant saving farms and securing food for all of us. Sometimes, we forget farmers feed us. It's because of their love for their land and their livestock, we have a bounty of choices at the supermarket, co-op or that farmers' market.

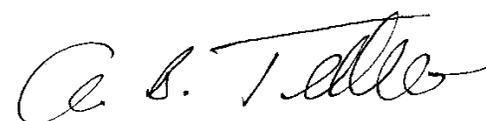
The investments VHCB has made in our rural economy will have a lasting impact for future generations. It means we still have open, productive fields where our food is grown. There will be critters in the

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program offers one-on-one, in-depth business planning, technical assistance and management coaching to Vermont farm, food and forestry enterprises in order to improve the economic viability of Vermont's working landscape.

country. There will be cow paths down to the barn. That barn may also be next to where the cheese is now made. Vermont's world class artisan cheeses were helped by this leadership. There is beer, wine and spirits too.

Thanks to the farm viability program countless dreams were achieved. Without the help of that first business plan—many of our companies never would have got out of the barn, the kitchen or the forest.

As VCHB enters a new critical stage, our team led by Governor Scott are committed to the mission. The millions invested in farming and housing projects is critical to our future. We thank those who led the charge 30 years ago in 1987 from Governor Kunin, to Governor Snelling to Governor Dean to Governor Douglas to Governor Shumlin and now Governor Scott. We say job well done and lets keep focused on the mission where all have a chance to live and work in our little state that thinks big.



Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture

Big E *continued from page 1*

Massachusetts to exhibit in the Vermont Building each year," according to Lauren Masseria, who oversees Business Development at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. "It's an opportunity to share their products and build Vermont's brand in a marketplace that is eager for the authenticity and quality our state represents."

As this issue goes to print, the 2017 Big E is winding down, and

the Vermont vendors are packing up and headed home, after seventeen busy days. In recent years, sales of Vermont products have exceeded \$1.75 million! Although the final sales tally for 2017 is not yet in, by all accounts, it was another tremendously successful year for Vermont companies, and our state!



Clover celebrates Vermont Day at The Big E.



Seed Sheet, a local Vermont company recently featured on the TV show "Shark Tank" was one of many vendors in the Vermont Building this year.

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Editor's Note

For the past six years, I have had the good fortune to serve as the Director of Communications here at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, and in that capacity I have been the editor of *Agriview*. This is a job I have loved, which has allowed me to combine many years of expertise in communications and marketing with a personal passion for agriculture. But the time has come for me to begin a new chapter, with more space and time to focus on my family's farm in Richmond. It's been interesting to be both part of a farm family and an Agency of Ag employee – to see agriculture in Vermont from both points of view. As a farmer, I want you to know that Secretary Tebbetts and his team truly have our interests at heart. They are working very hard here in Montpelier to build our ag economy, protect our precious natural resources, and ensure a bright future for Vermont's farm families. Without a doubt, we are in good hands.

With that, I'll sign off one last time. It sure has been fun. Wishing you and yours a productive, safe harvest season! See you around the farm.

— Alison Kosakowski Conant

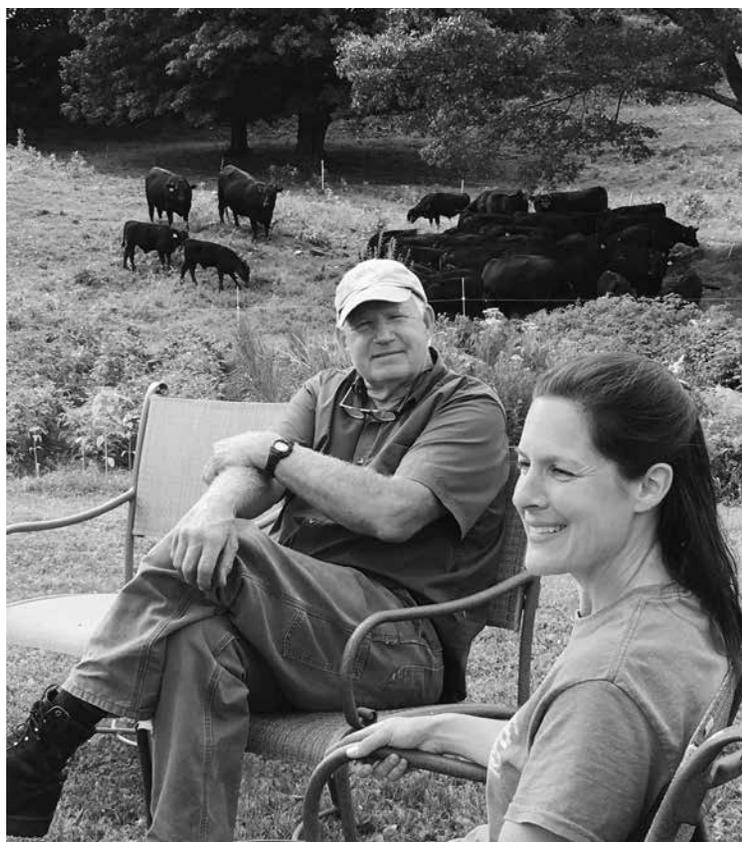


Farmer Profile: Cloudland Farm

By Nina Gage,
VT Agency of Ag

“I remember not knowing what the heck to do. We just had a night pasture and a day pasture,” explains Bill Emmons as he sits atop a hill next to his 1795 farmhouse, the original Meeting House in Pomfret, VT. The farm was originally purchased by Bill’s grandfather in 1908 and was managed for the family as a business investment. They raised cattle, sheep, pigs, and sold butter in addition to producing maple syrup. Bill and his wife Cathy took over management of Cloudland Farm from his father who had run it since 1948. Today, the historically diversified farm continues down a diversified agricultural path.

Most of the 1,000-acre farm is forested and sustainably harvested, while the rest hosts pastures of



Bill and Cathy Emmons in Pomfret, VT at Cloudland Farm.

lush green grass and clover where Black Angus beef cattle roam. Cloudland Farm also raises turkeys, chickens, and pigs. Bill and

Cathy Emmons will tell you that they were not always the farmers they are now, nor were their farm finances as profitable as they are today. The barns have burned twice since 1908, and Cathy explains that “financially, times were tougher before we got into retail.” Cloudland Farm now hosts Farm-to-Table dinners three nights a week, the on-farm Cloudland Farm Market — a favorite stop for Appalachian Trail Hikers, and their own natural Angus beef label. With assistance through a Farm Viability Working Grant, a United States Department of Agriculture Value-Added Producer Grant, a Rural Development Feasibility Study, as well as immense amounts of hard work, Bill and Cathy seem content

atop their hillside in Central Vermont. Meanwhile, Bill Emmons has made sure to learn everything he can from everyone he meets.

The Emmonses raised Herefords until Bill met a nutritionist from Tufts University who was raising Angus cows, and was inspired to transition his beef herd. “We started buying used equipment, got involved with various associations,” said Bill. They took a course to learn artificial insemination. “I was curious and I wanted to see improvement,” Bill continued. He completed the University of Vermont, Nutrient Management Planning course and currently uses goCrop™, an integrated web and mobile application for nutrient management planning, to manage the

farm’s nutrients, pastures, and hay land production. Cloudland Farm is an active member of the New England Angus Association and the Vermont Beef Producers Association; Bill is now the vice chair of the Connecticut River Valley Watershed Alliance and chair of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission.

Over time, Bill and Cathy have developed watering systems for every single pasture on the farm except one, all of which are gravity fed from a pond. The Emmonses have worked to fence their animals out of most of the streams and brooks located on the property. Bill explains how he tends to use brooks as natural land divisions when fencing his pastures. When the livestock are not

continued on page 15

With a heavy heart, we must report that the Vermont farming community has suffered two more tragic losses.

Jim Foster, of Foster Brothers Farm in Middlebury, passed away after a tragic farm accident on Thursday, September 21 at the age of 47. Jim was the president of Addison County Field Days, and an owner of Vermont Natural Ag Products. Jim was well-known and admired throughout the Vermont ag community, and was a beloved father and husband.

Paul Boivin, a lifelong farmer in Addison County, a husband, a father, and an innovator in the renewable energy industry, was killed in a motorcycle accident Sunday, September 24. He was 64 years old. Paul and his brother Mark were partners in Vermont Golden Harvest Biofuel, a company that turns corn into biofuel to heat homes and greenhouses.

We send our deepest condolences to the Foster and Boivin families.



Congratulations to the 2017 Vermont Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductees: Rupert and Muriel Chamberlin, former dairy farmers and well-known Jersey breeders; Ray and Pam Allen, apple growers and agritourism leaders; and Claude Bourbeau, a former dairy farmer and leader in dairy issues.

Putting Produce Safety into Practice

By Trevor Audet,
Vermont Agency of Ag

“**R**egulation doesn’t have to be a bad word.” That’s what Hans Estrin, a produce safety educator at UVM Extension, wants farmers to know about a voluntary program aimed at reducing food safety risks.

President Obama signed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) into law in 2011, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized the FSMA Produce Safety Rule in 2015. The Produce Safety Rule sets national standards for growing, harvesting, packing and holding produce for the first time. Amid these new standards, adoption of on-farm food safety practices will be crucial to Vermont growers who wish to increase market access and maintain market integrity.

So how can Vermont’s small to medium size produce farms maintain market credibility? With the



Hans Estrin training the VAAFM Produce Safety Team at Maple Wind Farm in Huntington.

help of funding and sponsors, the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association (VVBGA) organized a program called the Community Accreditation for Produce Safety (CAPS). A group of farmers and service providers have established 18 required produce safety practices for participating farmers to follow.

Hans is the CAPS Coordinator. “Empowering growers to take the lead, owning their regulatory process is essential ... overall the impact is much greater

when farmers are taking the lead,” said Hans.

To gain accreditation, local farms have developed and documented safety plans that fit their operations. The plans are then reviewed by peers and a CAPS certificate is awarded. In 2016, 61 farms successfully completed CAPS. To maintain approval in 2017, farms completed a revised plan. This year, CAPS launched an optional on-farm verification audit, known as CAPS+. Hannaford Supermarkets has agreed to accept CAPS accreditation for farms

that successfully complete a CAPS+ audit in lieu of USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification.

In collaboration with UVM Extension, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM) produce safety team members will conduct the audits. Hans says working with VAAFM produce staff has been helpful in meeting the needs of an increasing number of farms seeking accreditation. In 2017, CAPS participation increased by 44 percent with 91 farms signing up.

In August, Hans lead the produce safety team on a training day at Maple Wind Farm, a medium sized produce farm located in Huntington. Following the audit guidelines, the day was grouped into four basic steps.

Step 1. A review of Maple Wind Farm’s CAPS produce safety plan.

Step 2: After arriving on the farm, Hans and VAAFM staff met with the farm manager to tour the farm

and go over their produce safety plan. Staff collected key documents and assessed each CAPS requirement.

Step 3: VAAFM staff conducted an interview with a farm employee. They asked questions about farm procedures works, health and hygiene policies and accessibility to first aid kits.

Step 4: A review of any non-compliance issues with the farm manager. If a farm is not doing what’s laid out in their plan, then that specific requirement is labeled “non-compliant.” The score sheet is sent to Hans, who will facilitate resolution of any issues found during the audit.

The last step is where Hans would say there’s been “a major culture change.” By stepping foot on these farms and taking time to explain the issues with farmers face-to-face, more and more farmers are starting to buy in.

“You can really feel the impact, and a lot of it’s positive,” said Hans.

**Produce Safety Alliance
Grower Training**

November 7-8, 2017
Monitor Barn at VYCC, Richmond

Register Now!

www.agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram

\$50 - Includes lunch, coffee & AFDO certificate

Training will include presentations as well as hands-on workshops.

The Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training fulfills the FSMA Produce Safety requirement for covered farms that “at least one supervisor or responsible party” completes food safety training “recognized as adequate” by FDA (§112.22(c)).

A joint effort by UVM Extension and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture

SIGN UP TODAY!

**VERMONT PRODUCE
PROGRAM PORTAL**

www.agriculture.vermont.gov/produceportal

- Receive timely updates to your inbox on FSMA and other policy changes
- Access grant funds to help pay for food safety improvements on your farm
- Request an On-Farm Readiness Review with a Produce Safety Rule expert

Join Vermont Fish & Wildlife for Bird Banding Week in Addison

By Tom Rogers, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Bird lovers are invited to join the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at the new Dead Creek Visitor Center in Addison to learn more about bird banding and conservation. The department is partnering with Otter Creek Audubon to host Bird Banding Week with hands-on bird banding demonstrations.

Songbird banding will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on October 16, 17, and 21. Owl banding will take place from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday, October 20.

Bird bander Rodney Olson of Vergennes will lead the banding workshop.



Members of the public will help identify the birds, observe the banding process, and can even help release the birds after they are banded.

"Birds are currently on a massive migration headed

southward, and many people aren't even aware of it," said Olson. "Dead Creek is a great location to witness this migration because Dead Creek is actually alive - it's teeming with life. I encourage

people to come learn more about the conservation work that goes on at Dead Creek and other wildlife management areas every day."

Bird banding is a conservation tool that helps biologists

track the health of bird populations in the wild. It can also help biologists better understand bird movements in order to target high priority habitats for conservation efforts.

There will be several other stations set up to allow people to participate and learn more, including a station to identify birds using binoculars, a hunter education station to learn about waterfowl blinds and decoys, and a station with stuffed bird mounts.

Interested school groups may contact Corey Hart at corey.hart@vermont.gov.

The new Dead Creek Visitor Center is located at 966 Vermont Route 17, Addison, Vermont.

Renewable Energy Workshops Will Connect Farmers with New Opportunities

By Alex DePillis, VT Agency of Ag

Are you a farmer who is interested in learning more about renewable energy? If so, read on! The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, in partnership with the US EPA, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, invites you to join us at either of two

half-day renewable energy "matchmaker" events. We will provide unbiased information on manure digesters, nutrient extraction options, and how farms can accept food waste for use on crops. Vendors will be on hand, and will be available for questions as panelists during the program, and during breaks. Lunch is included in the registration.

The two events

will feature the same information. One will be held in the Middlebury area, and one in Franklin County. Venues are to be decided. One event will be held on the 1st of November, and one on the 2nd.

To get on the mailing list or for questions, please contact Alex.DePillis@Vermont.gov or call (802) 505-3067.

Help Wanted

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (A Fair Opportunity Employer) needs two Supervisory Enumerators to oversee agricultural survey data collection in Vermont. There would be one supervisor for Northern Vermont and one for Southern Vermont.

The job consists of supervising a field staff of five to ten people who collect agricultural data by personal and telephone interviews of farmers and agri-businesses. This is a part-time position. Excellent organizational skills and agricultural background a plus.

Applicants must be able to operator a computer/iPad, walk a quarter mile, have a valid driver's license, copy of their driving record, proof of auto insurance and provide own transportation. Starting salary is \$14.78 per hour plus 53.5 cents per mile for travel. After a 6 month probationary period, the salary increases to \$15.16. Interested persons should respond by October 30, 2017. Please send name, address, telephone number (home and /or mobile), and email address to:

Sherry Deane
53 Pleasant St. Rm 3450
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-224-9639
Email: sherry_deane@nass.usda.gov

Small Farm Program Inspection Priority

By Nina Gage, VAAFM

As the leaves begin to change and the nights grow colder, Vermonters are reminded how change shapes every aspect of the agricultural community; changing of the seasons, market prices, climactic changes, regulatory changes, and environmental changes. Farmers have been and continue to take great responsibility in initiating and participating in positive changes for water quality across the state. The agricultural community is making great strides to continue managing farms as stewards of clean water, and there is immense support to ensure that agriculture is a significant part of the solution in the reduction of nutrient runoff through conservation practices and project implementation.

The Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) became effective in December of 2016, establishing practices and management strategies to which all types of farms must be managed to reduce the impact of agricultural activities to water quality. Small Farms that meet the criteria of a Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO) will need to annually certify their operation which includes developing

a USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service 590 Nutrient Management Plan, receiving four water quality education credits every five years, and receiving a farm inspection to assess compliance with the RAPs at least once every seven years. CSFOs are farms with 50 or more dairy cows, 75 or more heifers or cattle or cow/calf pairs, or 50 or more acres of annual crops or vegetables

(for complete CSFO criteria visit: www.agriculture.vermont.gov/sfo).

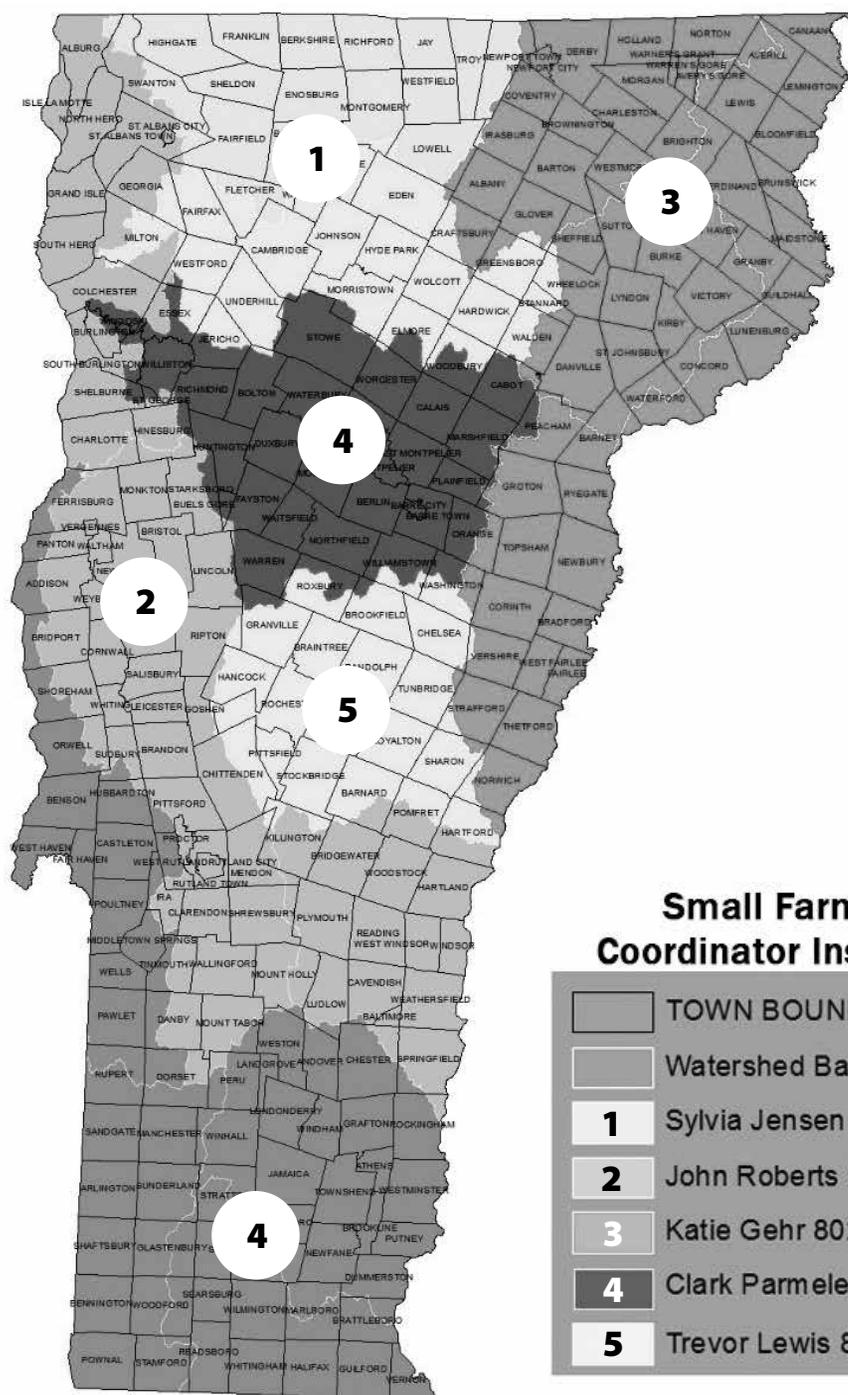
Small Farm or Certified Small Farm operators who are seeking technical or financial assistance should reach out to their regional Small Farm Coordinator or other Agency staff (see map). Regional Small Farm Coordinators can answer technical assistance questions related to water qual-

ity and nutrient and waste storage, assist in finding appropriate cost-share programs, match farms with appropriate regional partners or associations, and do on-farm technical assistance and educational visits. The Small Farm Program also performs water quality inspections once every seven years for CSFOs, comparable to the current three-year inspection cycle for Medium Farm Operations, and annual inspection cycle for Large Farm Operations.

Through continued water quality monitoring, data and analytics, in addition to collaboration with local partners and basin planners, the Agency of Agriculture has established the following priority areas for Small Farm Inspections. Farming operations that are located within impaired or threatened watersheds or watersheds that have an established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will be the first CSFOs visited by

their regional Small Farm Coordinators. A TMDL is essentially a nutrient budget for a water body. In areas where too many nutrients are going into water bodies, the TMDL provides a diet plan – a way to reduce nutrient inputs. The goal of this program is to support farmers to ensure their clear understanding of new statewide agricultural management rules – the RAPs, while providing assistance to assess, plan and implement any necessary conservation and management practices that might be necessary to meet water quality goals. Regardless of a farm's certification status, initial farm visits will occur based on farm location within impaired watersheds and will entail an initial 'meet and greet' visit to better get to know the farm and the farm operator, and to allow for Inspectors to answer questions and explain the new rules in detail.

Curious what an inspection will be like? Please go to <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/SFO-Video> to watch a video about a small farm inspection. If you are still unsure if you are required to certify, don't hesitate to call the agency at (802) 828-2431. CSFOs will need to complete their one-page Annual Certification Form by January 31, 2018 which can be completed online at www.agriculture.vermont.gov/sfo, or by calling the Agency at (802) 828-2431 to request the mailing of a paper form.



Small Farm Program Coordinator Inspection Areas

	TOWN BOUNDARIES
	Watershed Basins
	1 Sylvia Jensen 802-782-3388
	2 John Roberts 802-272-9636
	3 Katie Gehr 802-461-5991
	4 Clark Parmelee 802-661-8284
	5 Trevor Lewis 802-585-5092

Planting Garlic and Other October Gardening Tips

By *Charlie Nardozi, Horticulturist National Gardening Association, and Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor University of Vermont*

Getting evergreens ready for winter, planting garlic, harvesting brussel sprouts, and bulb planting, are some of the garden activities for this month.

Make sure evergreens have a good deep watering before the ground freezes. They should receive at least an inch of water a week, preferably more. During winter they may “respire” or lose water on warmer days. Since the ground is frozen, they can’t take up water from roots to replace what they

lose. The result is browned or “scorched” leaves.

Protect young evergreens from wind damage during winter by wrapping them now in burlap. If you use wooden shields as protectors, it’s not too soon to bring them out.

Plant garlic now for harvest next summer. Purchase garlic sold specifically for planting, or buy organic garlic. Commercial, non-organic, supermarket garlic may have been treated to inhibit sprouting. Break the garlic head into individual cloves, keeping the largest ones for planting. Use the small cloves for cooking. Plant cloves about 3 inches apart with the pointed side up. Try some different varieties to see which you prefer. Mulch



the bed well with straw.

If you haven’t done so, it’s time to start harvesting brussel sprouts before the sprouts split. Starting from the bottom of the stem, snap off the round “mini-cabbages” that have formed. To encourage more production, top off the plant so it sends more energy into forming sprouts and less into growing leaves.

If you have only a small area for spring-flowering bulbs, consider planting them in layers. Dig up an area about nine to ten inches deep and plant the large bulbs, such as daffodils, first. Cover them with a layer of soil and plant the next largest diameter bulbs, such as tulips, on top. Cover them and plant crocuses and other small bulbs. Cover them with soil and mulch.

Daffodils are favorite bulbs of many gardeners, not only for their early spring

show, but because almost no animals will eat them! Tulips on the other hand are one of the favorites, either for animals such as chipmunks and squirrels and skunks to dig up, or deer to eat the tops in the spring. One way to protect individual bulbs is to place some crushed rocks or shells in the holes when planting them. These now can be purchased in bags at complete garden stores, just for this purpose.

If planting a whole bed of bulbs such as tulips, you may wish to use poultry wire or something similar. Dig the bed out completely, line it with the wire mesh, then replant the bulbs. You may wish to cover the top as well until the bulbs emerge in spring.

If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting in spring.

Some amendments take time to break down and become available to plants. Soil test kits are available through the University of Vermont Extension (802-656-3030 or www.uvm.edu/pss/ag_testing/), local Extension offices, and many full-service garden stores.

Most plants prefer a slightly acidic soil with a pH of 6.5 to 6.8 (a pH of 7 is neutral). New England soils tend to be acidic and frequently require the addition of lime. But your soil can vary from location to location in your yard. If you notice different characteristics of the soil in different beds, test them separately.

Other activities for this month include harvesting pumpkins when they are completely orange, protecting pumpkins from frosts, raking leaves promptly from lawns, and visiting an apple orchard.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Green Mountain Transportation, LLC. from Enosburg Falls, Vermont to transport milk and milk products within 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 October 15th, 2017.

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.

Send us your #FarmLeafies for a Chance to Win a Cheese Shopping Spree

Agriculture is part of the beauty of our state, and there's perhaps no time of year when Vermont is more gorgeous than fall. That's why the Agency of Agriculture is hosting the #FarmLeafies fall farm photo contest – to showcase the beautiful barns, animals, orchards, foliage, and farm views that make Vermont so scenic.

To enter, post your best fall farm photos to the Agency's Facebook page with the hashtag #FarmLeafies.

You can also email your photos to [AGR. Media@Vermont.gov](mailto:Media@Vermont.gov) with #farmleafies in the subject. Submissions should include the photographer's name and the location where the photo was taken.

The winning photographer will be treated to a \$100 shopping spree at the new Mad River Taste Place in Waitsfield, courtesy of the Vermont Cheese Council. Voting is open to the public via the Agency of Ag's Facebook page.

Rules:

1. Photos should include some type of element about farming or agriculture related to Vermont's fall and harvest season.
2. All submissions will be posted in a #FarmLeafies album on Facebook
3. You can grab more "Likes" for your photo by sharing the #FarmLeafies album

where fans can vote for their favorite photos with "Likes." The photo with the most "Likes" at the end of the campaign will win the prize.

with friends. Only "Likes" on photos that are in album will be counted as votes.

See the Agency website for full rules and details. http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news_media/fallphotos



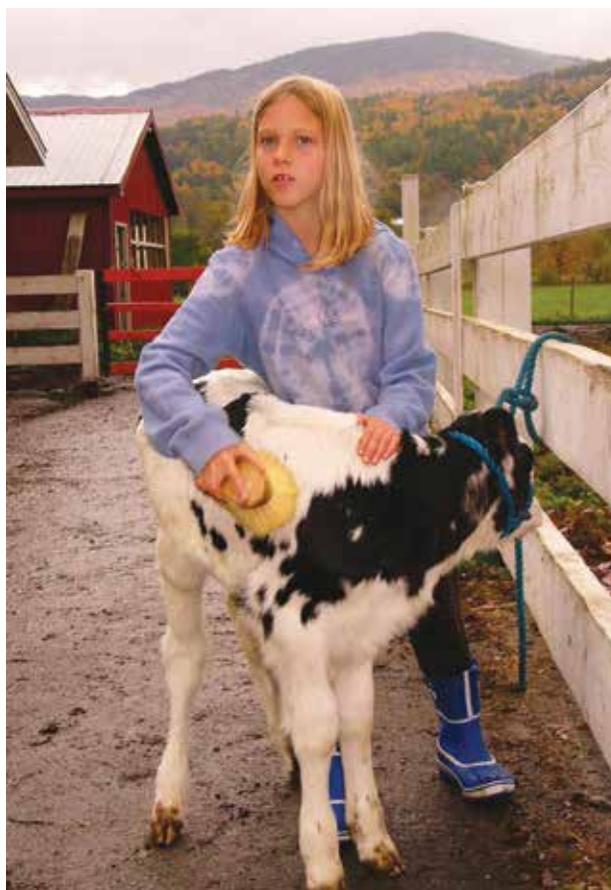
Beth Ellingwood/Lemington



Kathi McGrath/New Haven



Jinny Purrier Rainville/Montgomery Center



Jen Ryan Peterson



John Joachim/Williston



Oliver Manning



Biologists Seek Input on Snake Sightings

Fall is a Great Time to Spot Snakes

By Tom Rogers, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Biologists are asking the public to report snake sightings this fall to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas to help document the extent of the state's eleven snake species.

"Fall is an ideal time to see snakes as they move to their winter den sites," said Jim Andrews, coordinator of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. "Vermont's snakes can be identified by their wide variety of patterns and markings, which can be quite beautiful."

The first hard frost each fall signals to snakes that it's time to move to their winter denning sites. On the first warm day after a frost when



Jim Andrews of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas is seeking reports of snakes as they migrate to winter denning sites this fall.

temperatures approach the 60s and the sun is out, many species of snakes will warm up enough to start moving uphill. They are especially

easy to spot on quiet back roads that separate overgrown wet fields or beaver meadows from a dry rocky hardwood forest.

"Vermont's snakes are generally harmless, and they play an important role in the ecosystem in addition to directly benefitting people," said Doug Blodgett, wildlife biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "Larger snakes eat rodents like mice or voles, which carry the ticks that spread Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, while some of our smaller snakes eat slugs and snails."

Cooler mountainous areas of the state and the Northeast Kingdom only have three known species of snakes – the common gartersnake, red-bellied snake, and ring-necked snake. Warmer lowland areas have a wider variety of species including milksnakes,

DeKay's brownsnakes, and common watersnakes. Timber rattlesnakes are Vermont's one venomous species. They are found only in isolated pockets of western Rutland County, and are generally secretive and docile.

"Sadly, many snakes get hit while crossing the road or sunning themselves on the road during this fall migration," said Andrews. "If you find a crossing area, please photograph each species crossing and report them, making sure to be careful of traffic as you do."

Snakes and other reptiles and amphibians can be reported via VtHerpAtlas.org or directly to Jim Andrews at jandrews@middlebury.edu.



Doreen Morris



Kathi McGrath/New Haven



Patti Plew/Mount Holly



Rita Maranda Brown/Warren



Beth Ellingwood/Lemington

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernongrubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

Upcoming Events

Oct. 12. Cover crop workshop featuring inter-seeding. River Berry Farm, Fairfax, 3-5 pm.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cover-cropping-management-on-a-vegetable-farm-tickets-37970548934>

Nov. 7-8. Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. VYCC West Monitor Barn, Richmond, VT
<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=2032920>

Dec. 12-14. New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show. Manchester NH. Mark your calendars.
<https://newenglandvfc.org/>

Jan. 22, 2018. VVBGA Annual Meeting, Fairlee VT. Mark your calendars.

Reports From The Field

(Shelburne/South Burlington) Like everyone else, this heat is proving to have some good things and bad. Our summer crops have had a second life like never

before, especially the tomatoes. The winter crops are more stressed than ever as most are still in the cells and growing more quickly than usual, so we are balancing the pros and cons.

Our veggie production has primarily been in hoophouses, with a focus on winter production. This year we put in our first outdoor garden and made raised beds, right on top of our Vergennes clay, and set up a no-till situation. It was a grand experiment that has worked very well, especially given the early wet and coolness of the summer. The high organic matter, raised beds performed really well in both early wet/cool, and then later dry summer. We experimented with living mulches, ground covered undersowed in the brassicas, and just a bunch of different crops, we also learned a lot! Look forward to expanding these gardens.

(Orwell) Extended summer warmth is a boon to our later tomatoes, and most of the plants are remarkably disease free. Keeping the evening dew out even on warm nights seems to help lessen disease pressure, although at this point, we are ready to move on to winter greens and get lazy with opening and closing religiously. One big disappointment this season has been that the canning facility we've used for the past several years is changing ownership, and the cost and time of processing (not to mention matching their level of quality) is daunting.

On the field side of things, seeding cover crops with adequate moisture is tricky with this heat and extended dry. Hoping for a squirt of rain in the next few days to

get things to pop as the time window for good establishment quickly closes.

(Fairfax) What Weather. I thought I should have my head examined as I aimlessly kept transplanting into early September, when there was a lot of cold weather after a touch of frost in late August. As I was continuing to plant I remembered a conversation with Dr. Fred Magdoff of UVM. I am fortunate to live near him and we often talk of the weather. He mentioned a discussion with a climatologist at the Miner Institute in NY who stated that whatever the weather has been like for the last 2 or 3 weeks it will likely be the opposite of that for the coming few weeks. Most seasons average out both in temperature and precipitation, though there can be the odd year that strays far from the average.

This heat has really helped us out. Were now cutting some of our nicest lettuce of the season, and looks like cabbage that didn't have a prayer to size up is going to make it. I guess I got lucky and the weather started to average out!

(East Charlotte) Adam's Berry Farm. The heat has caused the fall raspberries to ripen as we pick and it has been hard to stay on top of the harvest. Our crew is burnt out from picking raspberries for 6 hours every day. SWD has also been relentless with the heat in the one raspberry house that we did not use insect netting on. The netting on our other houses has proved to effective for keeping SWD under control.

We are still harvesting blueberries, probably for

another week. Day neutral strawberries are steady. We have not been wowed by them and we are certainly not making an extra \$20,000 as one grower reported to us. That said, they have been a nice addition for Farmers' Market sales, drawing customers in. Fall projects in motion; 2 new hoophouses to replace Haygroves, prepping new strawberry fields for better rotations, and this year we finally got fall cover crops on by our target date and the stands look like nice.

(Elmore) Very hot and dry. All fruit ripened about 3 weeks earlier than usual and was smaller than usual. This included pears, apples, grapes, plums, gooseberries and elderberries. Nice hazelbert harvest and great drying weather. No yellow jackets at cider pressing time was a bonus but wondering why they are not here.

Saw two Monarch butterflies so far, on the native Aster and Joe Pye weed. Keeping sections of our fields in wildflowers so native pollinators will have a place to go and be nourished. Many are feasting on hydrangea blossoms this week. We need rain, but a gentle all night kind. Excellent tree fruit quality this year with zero sprays. This only happens once in a while and we are grateful.

(Westminster West) I would never have guessed that I would be irrigating fall crops at the end of Sept. but here it is, a very dry and hot end to the season. This is actually the type of season I was hoping for as some of my fall crops went in late and still just sizing up. Carrots are about ready, Bolero of course. Gilfeather

turnips still a month away but they grow almost under any condition so im sure they can make it along with its cousin the rutabaga.

Just finished bringing in the Red Wing onions, late as always! I prefer Cabernet, it's much earlier, and will discontinue Red Wing next year. Funny thing, though I didn't have an onion thrips problem this year, after we finished harvesting the main crop, apparently onion thrips jumped over to the leek crop, as they were suddenly covered with them and much leaf damage occurred. That's never happened to my leeks before. A later crop of leeks in a distant field are fine.

Sweet potato harvesting tomorrow, crop looks awesome and virtually no weeds thanks to the ground covers between the beds. Sales are much ahead of last year, but so are labor expenses but I won't complain as I have adequate fall help to get the work done, and that's getting harder to come by. Tunnel raspberries are doing fine, sell out as many as we can pick.

Black garlic sales are very strong and starting to ship out of state to expand sales area.

I have some seed garlic available for sale but most of my production will now go into the fermenter!

Test Your Seed Garlic For Nematodes

I am seeing the results of testing from Vermont farms and while most garlic is "clean" some is highly infested with garlic bloat nematode. It is good practice to test your garlic seed for nematodes before planting, and especially before selling garlic to other growers! We

continued on page 13

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Egg Prices

September 18, 2017

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

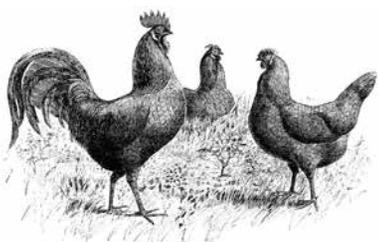
Vermont Egg Prices:

Extra Large . . . \$1.64-1.68
Large \$1.57-1.59
Medium \$1.02

You can find more reports online at

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

This is the web source for **USDA Market News**



Vermont Agency of Agriculture - USDA Market News

Addison County Commission Sales — East Middlebury, VT

Livestock Auction Report for Monday, September 11, 2017

	Cattle	Calves
This Week:	99	230
Last Week:	74	194

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold 2.00-3.00 lower on good demand. Cattle supply included 85 cows, 6 heifers, 3 steers, 5 bulls and 3 goats. All prices quoted per cwt.

SLAUGHTER COWS:

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	—	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	60.00-65.00	—	53.00-57.00	—
Boners	80-85	58.00-64.00	—	51.50-58.00	—
Lean	85-90	54.00-59.50	—	45.00-54.00	36.00-37.50

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 1465-2240lbs Avg Dress 84.00-88.00. All prices per cwt.

CALVES: Holstein bull calves sold 10.00-20.00 lower with moderate demand.

HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:

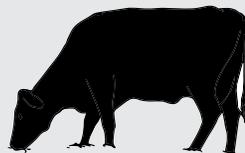
Number 1: 80-120 lbs 93.00-105.00.

Number 2: 80-120 lbs 71.00-95.00.

Number 3: 70-120 lbs 50.00-71.00.

Utility: 60-120 lbs 20.00-56.00.

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 70-89lbs 40.00-70.00.



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

SOURCE:

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

Darryl Kuehne
Market Reporter
Cell: 802-793-5348

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

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/MP_LS141.txt

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Cattle

2 year old red angus bull. Proven sire. Reason for selling; we do not want to inbreed. Asking \$1800. Black Angus bull 1 year old. Ready to breed. Asking \$1200. 802-586-2857

Hereford Bull 16 months on pasture w/ cows1 strand electric fence available Sept. 20 \$1,000 802-342-0465

Beef cow for sale, 2 yr. old maiden heifer 1000 plus pounds. \$950 Call 802-287-9170 or email netker2003@yahoo.com Also a second ad 1987 Shoop horse trailer, thoroughbred size, new tires, good condition. \$2800 call 802-287-9302 leave message

Middletown Springs, VT 8 grassfed beef cows. Various

REGISTERED Angus
1-3 YEAR OLD BULLS
BRED & OPEN HEIFERS
BRED COWS
COW CALF PAIRS
FEEDER CALVES
DNA TESTED
VACCINATED
518-436-1050-James Frueh
Registered Angus
SGF

ages. Bred for April, good mothers \$1100 Also 4 year old white face bull. Good disposition \$1300 Call 802-287-9170 or email netker2003@yahoo.com

Simmental /Angus, Cow / Calf's \$1400.00. Angus / Cow / Calf's \$1400.00. Good Quality, Large Herd to select from: Call 802 263-5548

Registered Guernsey Bull PA:+44m +16F +7P. Born 5/2/2012 +134 cm\$ +120NM\$. Sire Spring hill judgement A2A2. Dam: Royal Terrace Grumpy Fay USDA +198m +10F +14P +128 NM\$ 147CM\$. 802-763 8104.

Employment

Butterworks Farm is looking for someone to work 30-50 hours a week on field work and other farm jobs. Experience is a plus. Download from butterworksfarm.com, email cmlazor@butterworksfarm.com for an application or call us at 802.744.6023

Dairy Farmer needed – North Williston Cattle Co. a 240

cow family dairy farm, is seeking an employee. Hours are M-F Noon to 6pm and alternate holidays and weekends. Duties include some: herd health, maternity work, calf care, servicing robotic milkers, day to day barn chores. Must enjoy working with animals and learning new skills and be able to work independently as well as with others. Attitude is more important than experience. 802-238-5781 (no housing available)

Fulltime/parttime on 40 cow Dairy Jersey herd tie stall and rotational grazed. Duties include daily milking barn shore routine and outside related work for proper care of herd and farmstead. Located in Bennington county. Housing and weekly salary. 802-353-1223

Equipment

Cary lift loader \$5000. Two 12-24 tractor tires \$150 for the pair. Three Fordson Dexta tractors 2 run \$4500 for the three. Ferguson TE 20 tractor \$2500 runs good. Int \$1800 dump truck good body \$1500. 2 trl axles \$50.

55 gal wooden cider barrels with stand \$250. 802- 558-0166

4000 Watt Gen.Gas. New and Used log Chains 12/14 ft. Many hand power tools. Bench Saw / Radial Arm Saw. Sleeve and piston kit for TO 30. Chain Saws. Call 802 425 4547 or 704 699 4001

Sydell Sheep Fenceline Feeder with Galvanized Pans, 1- 8 footer2- 16 footers (can be broken down to 8 foot sections), 2- 4 footers (add ons), 3- 8 foot sections of new pans. Asking \$175 / 8 foot, \$100 / 4 foot, and \$100 for all new pans. Sydell Adjustable Creep Gate, 1- 4 foot section, 1- 3 foot section. Asking \$125 for the 4 foot and \$75 for the 3 foot. Sydell Metal Fencing, 1- 10 footer, 2- 5 footers, 2- 3.5 footers, 1- 12 footer. Asking \$350 for all. Sydell Sectional Feeder with Poly Tub, 4 complete sets. Asking \$100 per set. Sydell Poly Troughs, 5- 3 footers, 1- 2 footer. Asking \$20 per trough. (802) 492-3527 or email at noudderfarm@hotmail.com

Trailer ramp for landscaping trailer, 62" X 83" new - never used \$400.00. Bradford 802.222.5123 or shady.hilll@myfairpoint.net

(8) 12 ft. Heavy Duty 2 in. Corral Panels \$70.00 each Must buy all eight. 3-Point hitch - 6 ft. Land Pride Rake \$200.00. Bulldozer electric fencer \$25.00. Pair of large draft horse halters "NEW" \$30.00 for the pair. Complete set of oxen shoes (used for one month on 3200 cattle) \$50.00. 603-542-7626.

International dump truck DT466 motor with 19 ft silage box, 223,000 miles \$5800 OBO. Bou Matic parabone parlor, with ATO. Ten on a side complete \$25000 OBO Milks 80 cows per hour. 802-537-2435

4 row John Deere corn planter good shape \$850.00. Hay Elevator 24ft Sanco good shape. 12 ton grain bins. Other grain bin sizes. 802-624- 0143 or 802- 895-4683

Farm & Farmland

Farm for Sale in West Haven, VT - 48 acres - includes

CLASSIFIEDS

16 acres tillable & 4.5 pasture; two houses, barns, sheds. Land protected by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks buyers who will farm commercially. \$200,000. Call (802) 533-7705 or www.vlt.org/purpleburdock

Small farm for sale in Topsham: Ideal homestead, small farm, or home base for a larger leased land farm business. 8.5 acres with farmhouse, 2 barns, garage. Bounded on the west by the Tabor Branch of the Waits River. Gorgeous organic vegetable garden, 5+ acres lush valley bottom pasture, hi-tensile fence, watering system. Perfect for grazing beef and lamb, pastured pork and poultry, horses. Rustic wood-fired Sauna, garden shed. Farmhouse: mudroom, workshop, 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, wood and oil heat. All the major infrastructure is ready and waiting for you to move in and get to work on your farm dream. Check us out at: springchickenfarm.strikingly.com Or call Nick or Betsy: 802-439-6077.

General

BEDDING-Bulk Dairy or Dairy & Equine bagged shavings. Made in VT from locally sourced softwood logs. Heat dried. Organic approved. Call Richford Wood Products @ 802-848-7000.

German Extra Hardy seed garlic for sale. No pesticides or commercial fertilizers used. \$10/lb for 2.25 inch minimum diameter. Smaller garlic \$8/lb. Delivery available within a 60-mile radius for larger volumes. References available. Gorham Farm 802-438-2243

Hay, Feed & Forage

2017 corn silage for sale 60 -70 acres, truck out of the field at harvest \$1.10/point dry matter. Call 802-291-2363

First Cut 4x4 wrapped round bales \$40. First cut square bales \$4. Delivery available. Meadowdale Farm Putney Call/text 802-380-1014

2017 1st, 2nd and 3rd cut haylage available as well as non-GMO corn silage. Contact Peter Gebbie 802-533-2984 and leave a message.

HAY FOR SALE-400 Square Bales, Reading, Windsor County VT. \$4.00 per bale at the barn. Call 802.484.7240

Organic Haylage 1st cut \$25 per ton. 802-537-2435

ADDISON COUNTY

Hay for sale: large square bales, 1st cut. Stored under cover in Addison. Contact S.L.Moore at 802-463-3875. Lots of hay to sell!

Goats

2 year old Nubian buck. Reg. Very good natured. Proven. 802-457-2283.

AlpineGlo Farm has a variety of alpine goats for sale this fall. Two 2016 does, a few milkers retiring from commercial production, but still good as home milkers, and a selection of 2017 bucklings. All animals can be or are ADGA registered, are disbudded, vaccinated, and come from commercial cheesemaking herd. Follow us on Facebook, visit www.alpineglofarm.com, or call 802-463-2018 for more details.

Sheep

Black or white border Leicester ewes. \$100 each. 802-592-3320

Wanted

3pt hitch sickle bar mower in good working order, contact Dan at 802 482-2047

Vermont Farmers' Market Report

September 17, 2017

Produce

	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
Apples (Macintosh)	\$0.60	\$2.25	\$1.32	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Beets (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.53	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$2.95
Broccoli	\$2.20	\$4.00	\$2.99	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$3.31
Cabbage	\$0.50	\$2.25	\$1.33	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.00
Carrots	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.77	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.46
Cauliflower	\$1.50	\$4.00	\$3.05	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$3.50
Celery (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$3.17	\$3.50	\$4.60	\$3.90
Chard (per bunch)	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.26	\$2.00	\$3.25	\$2.82
Cucumbers (each)	\$0.20	\$2.00	\$0.64	\$0.50	\$2.00	\$1.05
Eggplant	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$3.40	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
Garlic	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$9.72	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$11.00
Herbs (per bunch)	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$1.61	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.36
Kale (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.33	\$2.75	\$3.50	\$3.04
Lettuce (per head)	\$2.00	\$3.25	\$2.65	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$2.58
Mixed Greens - Arugula (per bag)	\$4.00	\$7.00	\$5.13	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.67
Onions (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.14	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.33
Peas (basket)	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$3.17	\$3.50	\$6.00	\$4.50
Peppers, hot (each)	\$0.20	\$0.50	\$0.28	\$0.25	\$0.65	\$0.46
Peppers, sweet (each)	\$0.25	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$0.75
Potatoes, all varieties	\$0.60	\$1.50	\$1.04	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$1.70
Potatoes, fingerlings (basket)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$3.50
Radish (per bunch)	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.17	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$2.63
Scallions (per bunch)	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.85	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25
Spinach (per bag)	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$4.75	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$4.88
Summer Squash	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$1.59	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.06
Sweet Potatoes	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$1.95	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$2.63
Tomatoes	\$1.00	\$4.50	\$3.36	\$3.50	\$5.50	\$4.17
Tomatoes: cherry/pear/grape (per basket)	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$3.33	\$4.00	\$5.50	\$4.42
Zucchini	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.15	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$2.50

Meats/Proteins

	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
Goat (all cuts)	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$7.83	\$-	\$-	\$-
Rack of Lamb	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$12.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Leg of Lamb	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$12.36	\$-	\$-	\$-
Ground Lamb	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$8.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Ground Beef	\$5.00	\$9.25	\$6.55	\$7.00	\$8.50	\$8.00
Ribeye	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$13.38	\$16.00	\$19.00	\$17.33
Sirloin	\$8.50	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$14.50
Round Roast	\$6.00	\$10.75	\$8.46	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$8.50
Chuck Roast	\$6.00	\$10.75	\$8.21	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$8.33
Strip Steak	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$14.25	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$16.50
Skirt Steak	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$8.13	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$15.00
Tenderloin	\$15.10	\$19.50	\$17.65	\$18.00	\$24.50	\$21.25
Beef Stew	\$5.00	\$6.25	\$5.75	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$8.33
Short Ribs	\$4.50	\$8.00	\$6.24	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$8.00
Eggs (per dozen)	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$4.83
Whole Chickens	\$4.10	\$5.00	\$4.53	\$5.00	\$6.25	\$5.65
Ground Pork	\$6.00	\$8.50	\$7.17	\$-	\$-	\$-
Pork Chops	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$8.83	\$-	\$-	\$-
Pork Tenderloin	\$13.50	\$14.00	\$13.75	\$-	\$-	\$-
Shoulder Roast	\$4.25	\$8.45	\$5.68	\$-	\$-	\$-
Ham	\$4.50	\$8.80	\$5.93	\$-	\$-	\$-
Sausage	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$7.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Bacon	\$8.75	\$12.00	\$10.35	\$-	\$-	\$-

Market Comments**SEASONALITY:**

Wide variety at market this week.

Source: VT Agency of Ag - USDA
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA
Alissa Matthews, Market Reporter
802-828-5824
E.Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Humid, hot weather and low attendance was reported at markets this week.

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

VENDOR COMMENTS:

N/A



bred for:
DURABILITY & FEED EFFICIENCY
Choose **WAGYU** for Improved
• MARBLING • BEEF QUALITY
• FAT PROFILE
all animals are
• VACCINATED
• DNA TESTED
Breeding stock & feeder calves
802-376-6729 ~ Mary Beth
Fullblood & Crossbred **WAGYU**
Tischer Farms

Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

do not want to spread this pest around.

One lab that specializes in nematode testing and is low cost is at the University of Arkansas. I worked with them several years ago when they tested samples from several Vermont farms (and again, we found nematodes present, especially on garlic that looked "bad" i.e. had brown areas.)

The cost for each sample is \$25, and each sample must be mailed with a completed submission form and the APHIS permit they have for interstate shipping if plants. I have both of these forms and will email them to you on request.

You should submit 10 bulbs for each sample to be tested. Ideally you will test what you plant/sell (good looking bulbs) but to really know if you have GBN, also send 10 funky looking bulbs with basal browning. Of course you'll have to pay for two samples to do that.

More info on GBN: https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/factsheets/pdf/garlic_bloat_nematode_vegetable_fact_sheet.pdf

Look Out For Squash Vine Borer In Fruit

Maybe it's related to the late warm weather, we have had two unusual reports of squash vine borer attacking mature winter squash/pumpkin fruits. If you, too, find this occurring on your farm please let me know. Though preferring vines, the pest will invade fruit. It has a large, dark head and small angled marks on the 'shield' of their head. They can overwinter in Vermont so try to destroy all infested fruit so the larvae do

not survive to re-infest next year.

Additional info: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/squash-vine-borer>

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/squash_vine_borer.htm
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/squash-vine-borers/>

Are You Covered For Crop Losses?

The excessive wet weather this year proved challenging for Vermont farmers. Some farmers were unable to plant at the start of the season, and many face reduced crop yields and/or lower quality. Producers with coverage through the RMA-administered federal crop insurance program will be paid for covered losses. Some growers with non-insurable crops may have signed up for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) program through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). This is one of their disaster protection and recovery options. Please note: crop insurance is not the same as NAP coverage.

Every farmer has to plan ahead to determine how he or she will manage potential risks. Crop insurance, like other types of insurance, has to be purchased in advance. Unless you have coverage in place when disaster strikes, crop insurance won't provide any assistance. To get more information and to locate a USDA-licensed crop insurance agent, email jake.jacobs@uvm.edu, Crop Insurance Education Coordinator, or call her at 802-656-7356, or visit <https://www.rma.usda.gov/> for information about managing risk for your farm business.

Agency of Ag Announces Grant Availability

By Noelle Sevoian,
VT Agency of Ag

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

The Working Lands Enterprise Board is pleased to announce the availability of over \$750,000 in grant funds for the fiscal 2018 program year. The application period for Vermont agriculture and forest sector businesses opens October 3, 2017. The application period for Service providers opens on October 31st this year, and will contain two separate investment categories.

The investment areas are:

1. Business Investments

Projects may include, but are not limited to: Infrastructure (project-specific planning, permitting, and/or engineering/architectural plans; and/or building and equipment costs); Marketing (accessing new markets and securing new customers); Research and Development (testing new systems or technologies or developing innovative solutions). Projects focused on scaling up to meet new market opportunities are encouraged. Working capital is an eligible use of funds.

2. Service Provider Investments

This year the Service Provider Investments will contain two categories: a smaller funding pool for regional groups, research and development, and/or pilot programs; and a larger, multi-year funding pool for fundamental working lands services. Types of services pro-

vided may include: Business Assistance and Capital Readiness; Intergenerational Transfer and Land Access; Beginning Farmer Training; Wholesale Readiness and Scaling up; Nonprofit Governance, Systems Improvement and Capacity Building; Capital Resource Advising and Coordination; and Market development, marketing plans, and/or sales.

Informational videos will be posted online for 24/7 viewing at <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/apply/rfp>.

For additional information contact: Noelle Sevoian at working.lands@vermont.gov or 802-585-9072 or visit vermontworkinglands.com

Tradeshow Assistance Grants

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is pleased to announce the availability of a third year of funding for Trade Show Assistance Grants to assist Vermont producers in connecting with new markets and buyers. The application period for the FY2018 Trade Show Assistance Grants will open November 1st and funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis until funds are depleted. Funding for this program has been made available by the Working Lands Enterprise Board, and all grantees will be expected to contribute a 1:1 match. This year's grants will be available to out-of-state trade show exhibitors and requests will be granted for \$1,000-\$2,500. Funds may be used to assist with the cost of marketing

assets, booth design, freight, registration as well as others. Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to, Vermont based agriculture and forestry businesses attending out-of-state trade shows. To date, AAFM has made grants to over 60 businesses to attend 21 different trade shows in 14 different states with grantees projecting more than \$2 million in total annual sales attributable to exhibiting at these trade shows.

For additional information contact Lauren Masseria at lauren.masseria@vermont.gov or 802-505-5413 or visit: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/domestic_export/trade_show_grant_application

Farm to School Grant Program

The Vermont Farm to School Grant Program will release the Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2018 grant round on October 2, 2017. \$213,000 will be available for schools to invest in a farm to school program. The Vermont Farm to School Grant Program works to improve nutrition among Vermont's children by connecting food producers to their local schools, as well as providing enriched educational experiences and curricula. The grant enables Vermont schools to engage students in their local food system by incorporating local food and farm education into their cafeterias, classrooms and communities.

On October 11th from 3:00-4:30pm, the Vermont

continued on page 14

Fat Sheep Farm and On-site Mitigation of Prime Soils

By Ari Rockland-Miller,
VT Agency of Ag

Up a winding, wooded dirt road in Hartland, tucked among rolling hills and pastures, one finds an eye-catching sign that reads “Fat Sheep Farm & Cabins.” Turn up the driveway and the trees open to reveal a historic farmstead with sweeping views of the bucolic central Vermont landscape, complete with a small flock of friendly ruminants, vegetable crops, and five newly constructed cabins for guests.

Fat Sheep Farm went through Vermont’s Act 250 permitting process last year after Todd Heyman and Suzy Kaplan purchased the property and proposed constructing the five new rental cabins to diversify income streams and provide a retreat for vacationers in the Upper Valley region. Because the parcel contains mapped primary agricultural soils, the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets reviewed the impacts of the proposed cabins under Act 250’s Criterion 9(B) and provided comments to the District #4 Environmental Commission regarding suitable mitigation.

The Agency worked with the applicant to arrive at a plan for suitable on-site mitigation to offset impacts to primary agricultural soils from the cabin construction, and to ensure the development maintained the potential of Vermont’s valuable farming soils. The applicant



was able to satisfy Criterion 9(B) and receive its Act 250 permit for the cabins, now completed, by permanently conserving four acres of primary agricultural soils of statewide importance on the property. While on-site mitigation land must be available for farming in perpetuity, there is no requirement that it be actively farmed at any given time.

The Agency, on its visit to Fat Sheep Farm & Cabins, observed that Todd and Suzy had put the on-site mitigation land to good use, using it as one of their farm fields and growing a variety of regionally suitable crops while fostering soil health and productivity. A large portion of the set aside on-site mitigation land was used this summer to grow a bumper crop of shishito peppers, a specialty crop in demand from Upper Valley locavore restaurants. Shishito peppers go down smoothly with your favorite Vermont beverage, but watch out – their silky sweet flavor is punctuated by the occasional sizzling hot specimen!

Vermont has a long tradition of fostering creative and innovative ways to glean the best of our working agricultural landscape while keep-

ing an eye towards both the past and future. Fat Sheep Farm’s new, permitted cabins are already much in demand by vacationers, who are able to participate in farm chores (if desired) and eat farm ingredients including eggs fresh from the chicken coop. By diversifying and combining agricultural use, including farming of on-site mitigation farmland, with lodging and rural enterprise, Fat Sheep Farm & Cabins is finding a way to live their passion and to find self reliance while building (and feeding) community.

Grant Availability *continued from page 13*

Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets will host a webinar for all potential Vermont Farm to School Grant applicants. The webinar will cover the basics of the request for applications. There will be time to ask questions, during this interactive webinar. If you are interested in joining in on the webinar, a registration link will be included in the RFA. The webinar will be also recorded and posted on the Vermont Farm to School Program webpage.

For additional informa-



tion contact Ali Zipparo at alexandra.zipparo@vermont.gov or 802-505-1822 or visit http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities/vaafm_funding/farm_to_school

Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to announce the first of a two-round grant opportunity, providing over \$74,000 in each round, for produce safety improvements that help prevent or

reduce produce safety risks on Vermont farms growing “covered produce,” as defined by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR), with average annual produce sales of greater than \$25,000. The application period for the first round of funding will take place in mid-November, 2017, and will be announced on the Vermont Produce Program webpages <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram>.

For additional information contact Tucker Diego at AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov or 802-828-2433.

State Announces Continued Commitment and Resources for Clean Water in Carmi Watershed

New Rules and Programming to Support On-the-Ground Implementation in 2017 and Beyond

By Penny Percival, VT Agency of Natural Resources

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (AAFM) have announced a suite of projects aimed at protecting and restoring the Lake Carmi watershed. The Lake Carmi Implementation Team will lead the coordination of these projects and provide regular updates to the community.

“Historically, the Lake Carmi watershed has faced some of the most significant challenges of any area in the state,” said Julie Moore, Vermont’s Secretary of Natural Resources. “As an administration, we are committed to addressing these issues, to ensure a better future for Lake Carmi.”

The Agencies are working closely with farmers and landowners in the area to increase conservation efforts aimed at improving the health of the watershed. They have ramped up technical and financial assistance, education and outreach, and inspections in the watershed, to ensure adherence to Vermont’s Clean Water Act.

“Act 64 of 2015 – Vermont’s Clean Water Act – has accelerated change, statewide, in the effort to achieve clean water,” Moore continued. “Many new resources have been brought to bear thanks to Governor Scott’s and the Legislature’s

commitment of significant, additional funding for the Clean Water Fund. This will enable the state to support and invest in numerous clean water projects, including improved stormwater management, lake shore protections to improve habitat and water quality, continued assistance with on-site wastewater treatment, and expanded agricultural stewardship in the Lake Carmi watershed.”

Specifically, ANR has secured permission from key landowners to undertake a wetland restoration project near Marsh Brook that will help reduce the amount of phosphorus reaching the stream. In addition, new projects planned for the coming year by ANR include implementation of best management practices on municipal and private roads which drain to the lake, the design of a pilot aeration project in the northeastern lobe of the lake, and technical assistance to shore land property owners implementing lake-friendly practices. This fall, ANR will also implement enhancements to the wastewater treatment system it owns and operates at Lake Carmi State Park.

“We have to do better. Our entire water quality team from technical assistance to inspectors will be focused on this watershed. Farmers are engaged and have told us they want to help. Important projects are underway and more

will happen in the coming months.” said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont’s Secretary of Agriculture.

New Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) became effective in December 2016 and will result in expanded conservation practice implementation throughout Vermont. A combination of AAFM farm inspections and partner education and outreach services will ensure adoption of new requirements included in the rule such as: tighter erosion standards for annual crop fields, required vegetated buffer strips and manure spreading restrictions alongside ditches, and wider buffers on steep cropland fields.

“We are nearing the end of the first growing season under the RAPs, and we are already seeing significant improvements,” said Tebbetts. “Our staff is working closely with farmers to identify solutions, and provide technical assistance. We want to ensure farmers are heard, and their efforts documented. We are here to provide the support and resources they need to go above and beyond the baseline regulations.”

In the Lake Carmi watershed, AAFM has secured significant funding for two major agricultural water quality improvement projects that are on-track to be implemented this fall. Surface water monitoring is being conducted to assess phosphorus reductions from these BMP practices.

The Lake Carmi Implementation Team, a volunteer group that formed in October 2015 to coordinate phosphorus management strategies across the Lake Carmi watershed, is co-sponsored by the Franklin Watershed Committee and ANR, includes representatives from AAFM, Lake Carmi Campers’ Association,

Town of Franklin Select Board, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Farmer’s Watershed Alliance, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, and Toxics Action Center.

For more information visit <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed> or <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality>



Cloudland Farm *continued from page 3*

in the pastures and during the winter months, they are fed hay from Cloudland’s fields and neighboring farms and youngstock are supplemented with non-GMO grains. Cloudland’s restaurant employs several part time employees and one full-time chef. Bill and Cathy are also livestock equipment dealers for J&L Haysaver Feeders and Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment. Their most recent equipment recommendation is the J&L Haysaver cones for bale feeding, designed by

the Amish.

Needless to say, Cloudland Farm has come a long way since Bill and Cathy took over with the investment of time and creativity, an eagerness to listen and learn from others, as well as a willingness to make management and business changes. Bill and Cathy Emmons are pleased to produce happy, pasture raised animals, to protect water quality in Vermont, and to continue Cloudland’s diversified story. They look forward to the future their children will create for Cloudland Farm.

Apple Season Has Arrived in Vermont – Get Picking!

By Alison Kosakowski,
VT Agency of Ag

Autumn is here. Kids are back in school, the days are cooler, and Vermont’s apple orchards are brimming with fresh, juicy apples, just waiting to be picked. Now is the time to make plans to visit your local orchard with friends and family!

According to the Vermont Tree Fruit Growers, our state produces around 1,000,000 bushels of apples annually – that’s about 40 million pounds! Over 50% of those apples are McIntosh, but there are more than 150 varieties grown here in our state.

Donuts, cider, sauce, and pies await you at orchards and farm stands across the Vermont. To find a pick-your-own location, or a farm

stand near you, visit the Vermont Tree Fruit grower’s website, where you can search by county <http://www.vermontapples.org/vermont-orchard-listing/>

“Apples have always been an important part of Vermont’s agricultural economy and working landscape,” said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont’s Secretary of Agriculture. “We

are seeing a lot of growth in the hard cider category, and of course apples play a big role in attracting tourists to the state this time of year. We appreciate all our apple growers do to create opportunity in our rural communities.”

To learn more about Vermont’s apple industry, visit <http://www.vermontapples.org>



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