

AGRiVIEW



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Hemp in Vermont!

By Tim Schmalz, VT Agency of Ag

Secretary Tebbetts and Plant Industry staff recently visited a farm in Middlebury, where they are actively cultivating hemp, to meet the farmer and to tour the operation. Approximately 13 acres of hemp had been planted on the property in early July (hemp prefers soil temperatures above 50 degrees for germination), and at the time of the visit, was almost ready for harvest. This stand consisted of a grain variety developed in France, and appeared to be doing very well in our Champlain Valley climate: the plants were between 6 and 10 feet tall, and had developed healthy flowers and seed heads.

As of October 24, 2017, there have been 95 registrations submitted to the Agency for the 2017 hemp program, and in aggregate, a total of

Anson Tebbetts, VAAFM



575 acres intended for cultivation. This represents the third continuous season of increased interest in hemp in Vermont, measured by both the

number of growers and the number of intended acres to be cultivated. The chart on page 16 shows the steadily increasing trend in both

categories since 2014. 2013 numbers are a little suspect, due in part to over-enthusiastic registrations that year (for example, one applicant indicated he intended to plant 100 acres; that individual has not re-registered since). Hopefully the Vermont hemp industry will continue to grow; we continue to receive regular inquiries on the program and our assessment of possible opportunities, and have even received registration applications for the 2018 growing season (2 new registrants/growers, and they hope to plant up to 5 acres next year).

Potential obstacles to continued growth include uncertainty surrounding Federal policies around cannabis cultivation and commerce, ongoing concerns around sourcing viable seed in sufficient quantities

continued on page 16

AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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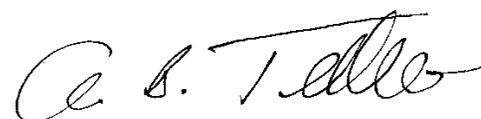
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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

In this job we meet some amazing and inspiring farmers. It could be on a dairy farm in Fairfield, a sugarbush in Island Pond or in this case inspiration on hillside in Colchester. The Agency recently met Janine Ndagijimana. She is a vegetable farmer who grows African Eggplants on land owned by a retired dairy farmer. It's a great partnership that began two years ago. Janine's eggplant is popular. Sales started slowly but with the help of UVM Extension, USDA and the Farm Services Agency Janine now sells her eggplant in 15 states. Originally from Rwanda, Janine leases land from Gene Button a retired dairy farmer who now sells hay to nearby farms. Gene is a key player in Janine's growth. He has served as an instrumental mentor and helper. Gene also provided the plot of land, equipment and emotional support. As we all know farming is challenging but Janine has met those challenges and she wants to do more. She would

like to sell more of her produce in local markets, schools and institutions and her dream one day is to own ten acres of land so she can expand her business. The Agency stands ready to help Janine and any farmer who may need help starting or expanding a business. Please reach out to our Agriculture Development division if you have any questions about technical assistance or programs that might help you start or expand a business. We will keep you posted on Janine's progress. We are confident better things are coming down Janine's path in the Green Mountains.

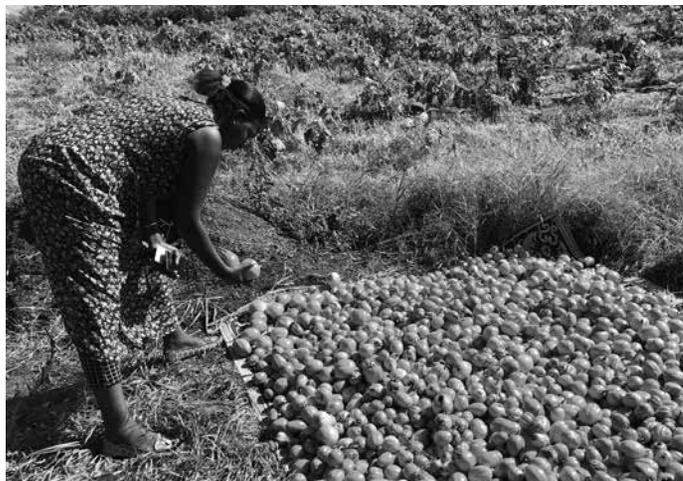


Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture



African Eggplants.

Secretary Anson Tebbetts, VAAFM



Janine Ndagijimana with her crop of African Eggplants.



Editor's Note

This month we decided to add a delicious recipe to welcome the cool weather.

Glazed Cranberry Scones:

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour plus more for hands and work surface
3 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
zest from one or two clementines
1/2 cup butter, cut up
1/2 cup heavy cream or whole milk
1 large egg
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 heaping cup fresh cranberries

For the glaze:

1 cup confectioners' sugar
2-3 Tablespoons fresh clementine juice

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F (204°C). Adjust baking rack to the middle-low position. Line a large baking



sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside. In a large bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, salt, and zest. Add the butter into the flour mixture and combine it with a pastry cutter, a fork, or your fingers until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Set aside. In a small bowl, whisk the cream, egg, sugar, and vanilla together. Drizzle it over the flour mixture and then toss the mixture together with a rubber spatula until everything appears moistened. Slowly and gently fold in the cranberries. Try your best to not overwork the dough at any point.

Dough will be a little wet. Work the dough into a ball with floured hands as best you can and transfer to a floured surface. Press into a neat 8" disc and cut into 8 equal wedges with a very sharp knife. Place scones at least 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until lightly golden and cooked through. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for a few minutes as you make the glaze.

For the glaze, simply whisk the confectioners' sugar and clementine juice together. Add a little more confectioners' sugar to thicken or more juice to thin. Drizzle over scones. Make ahead tip: Scones are best enjoyed right away, though leftover scones keep well at room temperature or in the refrigerator for 2 extra days. Unglazed scones freeze well, up to 3 months. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator then heat up to your liking before glazing and enjoying.

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Farewell to Jeff Comstock

By Linda Boccuzzo,
VT Agency of Ag

Well, we can't say we didn't know it was coming. Early this year, Jeff Comstock, the Agency's long-time groundwater monitoring coordinator, announced his plans to retire in the fall of 2017. Shamelessly, we kept him right up to the final bell on his last day, recording as much of his knowledge as we could from his 3-decade career with the Agency.

Born in Burlington, Vermont, Jeff joined the Navy right after high school. A few years in the engine room at sea taught him that the land was a better place for him. He returned to Vermont and gradu-



Jeff Comstock

ated from the University of Vermont completing studies in Animal Science and Biochemistry. Shortly after, Jeff was hired by the then-Department of Agriculture. When asked what his first day was like, he confessed, "Well, I wore a suit and tie." Being Jeff, he quickly replaced the suit with field

clothes. And ever since then, any chance he got, Jeff was out actively working in the field. It has never been too hot, too cold, too windy, or too rainy for him to venture out. Over his career, he has traversed the state working with and teaching farmers, neighbors, and communities about groundwater move-

ment and ways to prevent contamination. Multiple times over his career Jeff has been recognized as a national leader in improving the science and understanding of groundwater.

A man of many talents, some of his most important contributions have come from the "other duties as assigned" category in his job description. When things are at their worst, Jeff has always been at his best. After Tropical Storm Irene hit and devastated so many farms, the FDA wanted to condemn any flooded feed. Jeff managed to convince the FDA that he could develop and implement a feed testing plan to demonstrate the feed was safe and did not need to

be condemned. It worked, saving undue losses from some of the most impacted farms. Jeff has also been the Agency's go-to when catastrophe struck and resulted in high numbers of animal mortalities. Jeff worked with the affected farmers to quickly and appropriately handle the mortalities.

A longstanding member of the Green Mountain Club and avid outdoor athlete, Jeff and his wife, Nancy, are looking forward to spending much more time outdoors in their retirement. Look for him on the trails or the slopes. And thank you, Jeff, for your many years of service and friendship.



Jeff Comstock, at a site in East Montpelier, collecting groundwater to be sent off for testing.

Please Participate!

Survey to Assess Internet and Cell Phone Coverage and Needs on Farms

By Ryan Patch, VT Agency of Ag

This past spring, Secretary Tebbetts led a statewide listening tour to gather feedback and ideas about farming in Vermont – two of the main themes which emerged focused on the need to support the next generation of farming in Vermont and to improve communications and farmer's access to information. A modern telecommunications network and consistent statewide coverage is essential to support Vermont farming as the digital age develops in Vermont.

And that's why we need to hear from you – how's the cell-service at your house? Your barn? The back fields? Do you have internet access at your home – is it high speed? We've heard about

numerous telecommunication obstacles farmers have faced in running, expanding or seeking efficiencies in their business. From precision-agricultural technologies which require consistent cellular coverage for functionality to those safety challenges experienced when a farmer has no way to call for help when haying in remote areas.

Please fill-out and drop in the mail the enclosed postage-paid survey. This will help the Department of Public Service draft the 2017 Ten Year Telecom Plan for the State of Vermont. They'd really appreciate any insight you may be able to provide into cell phone and internet coverage, as it relates to your agricultural business and livelihood – and help them outline the challenges and roadmap to deliver a 21st century telecom system to support our rural Vermont farmers.

Farm to Plate Network Progress to Protect and Expand Affordable and Environmentally Sustainable Farmland in Agricultural Production

By Jake Claro, Director,
Farm to Plate Network

Access to affordable and environmentally sustainable farmland is imperative to increase our local food supply and grow our agricultural economy. The Farm to Plate Network (the 350+ organizations working together to implement Vermont's statewide Farm to Plate food system plan) is creating strategic partnerships and tools to address a continuum of farmland access issues including farm succession planning, farmland conservation, and farmland investment, leasing, and matchmaking. The Farm to Plate Network is also working to improve soil and water quality through research, monitoring, information sharing, and training.

Rural Enterprises

As Vermont farms continue to diversify their business operations and create on-farm enterprises such as farm cafes, wedding and event spaces, and value-

added processing, these business activities often fall into a regulatory grey area that can create uncertainty for farmers, community members, and municipal officials. Regulatory issues for rural enterprises have been addressed in resources like the Local Regulatory Context module (<http://bit.ly/LocalRegs>) created by the Farm to Plate

Agricultural Land Use Planning Task Force, and Rural Enterprise Resources (<http://bit.ly/RuralEnterprises>) developed by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, food & Markets, NOFA-VT, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Shelburne Farms, and the Farm-Based Education Network, but there's still more work to be done to either clarify or change regulations and create more certainty for farmers looking to start innovative enterprises on farm. The Farm to Plate Farmland Access and Stewardship Working Group is developing ways to improve outreach on current regulations by inventorying available resources and common questions, with members also exploring how to support passage of statewide rural enterprise legislation that could create greater clarity for farmers and help stimulate more economic activity on farms.

More Farmland Access and Farm Transfer Tools Available to Farmers

The Farm to Plate Farmland Access Task Force completed a redesign to the Vermont Land Link website (www.VermontLandLink.org), the online hub that helps connect farmers with available farmland. The website now allows farm seekers to post profiles of themselves so landowners can find a farmer whose needs match their property. The site is also now responsive for mobile users, and has under-

gone overall improvements to the look and interface of the website. Farmland Access Task Force members will be working with farmers to create model profiles in the coming months that will help landowners better identify prospective matches for their property.

Along with update and redesign of Land Link, The Farm Transfer Network of New England (FTNNE)—which Farmland Access Task Force members participate in—has relaunched their website

FarmTransferNewEngland.org, which provides a place for farmers to get farm succession resources and help from a network of farm service providers in New England. FTNNE also provides technical assistance providers with professional development workshops and trainings about farm transfer and farm tenure, along with technical articles, bulletins and legal analysis to support their work in farm succession and transfer planning.

Learn more at www.VTFarmtoPlate.com.



Vermont Agriculture Community Calendar

Please visit our calendar on our website for details to the following events:
<http://agriculture.vermont.gov/events/month/>

November

- 6th – Maple Systems Operations – VTC
- 7th – 8th – PSA -FSMA Grower Training – VYCC West Monitor Barn
- 8th – Northeast Cover Crops Council – Cornell University, NY
- 8th – 9th – Sausage & Smoking – Mad River Hub
- 9th – Northeast Cover Crops Council – Cornell University, NY
- 13th – 18th – Agricultural Literacy week
- 17th – 19th – 4-H Teen Leadership Weekend – Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee
- 30th – Dec 1st & 2nd – 23rd Annual Dairy Sheep Symposium – Quebec

December

- 1st & 2nd (continued) – 23rd Annual Dairy Sheep Symposium – Quebec
- 6th – Agritourism Workshop: Dairy Tours & Overnight Stays – Liberty Hill Farm
- 19th – Custom Manure Applicator Certification Training – Springfield College, St. Johnsbury
- 20th – Custom Manure Applicator Certification Training – American Legion, St. Albans

For more Vermont agricultural community events visit:

- UVM Extension Events Calendars: http://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT events calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>



Farm to Plate Network Progress to Improve Viability of Farms and Food Businesses

By Jake Claro, Farm to Plate Director at Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

If farms and food businesses are not profitable, Vermont's agricultural economy cannot be sustainable. Cost and scales of production, sales in different market channels, food safety, business management, infrastructure and equipment, distribution, and environmental impacts all play roles in overall business viability. The Farm to Plate Network (the 350+ organizations working together to implement Vermont's statewide Farm to Plate food system plan) addresses these variables by identifying effective business models and building trust

and transparency along entire supply chains (e.g. Vermont's meat industry) to help farmers and producers profitably sell into wholesale, retail, and other markets.

Viability Indicators and Grass Fed Beef

The Farm to Plate Farm Viability Indicators Task Force is developing financial metrics or "rules of thumb" for different agricultural industries that can be used by technical assistance providers to help farmers assess their financial viability and make business decisions that lead to more profitable outcomes. The task force is also working on a project, led by the Intervale Center, to improve the grass-based beef industry. The project team is



identifying best management practices, creating financial analysis tools for grass-based production models, and providing direct business assistance to farmers interested in utilizing the management and financial tools. The work of the task force will be paired with grass fed beef market research conducted by Rosalie Wilson to help chart a course for grass-based beef industry development.

Slow Money Vermont Connects Farm and Food Enterprises with Investors

Slow Money Vermont--a project of the Farm to Plate Network--is developing lending, investment, convening, and communication opportunities which

and food businesses and also offers networking opportunities for farmers and food businesses to connect with local investors.

Slow Money Vermont invites working lands entrepreneurs to present to investors at an Entrepreneur Showcase this December in Burlington. The deadline to apply is Oct. 25 and more details are at www.facebook.com/SlowMoneyVermont.

Energy as Revenue Generating Business Investment

The energy section of Vermont's Farm to Plate food system plan is informing how growing farms and food businesses can become more profitable and efficient by minimizing the use of fossil fuels and maximizing the opportunities for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation. The Farm to Plate Energy Cross-cutting Team is conducting a series of events with food and energy organizations to explore more mutually beneficial partnerships at the agriculture and energy nexus, and bring attention to successful farm and food energy projects. When viewed as a business investment, rather than a cost, energy improvements can generate revenue and strengthen the bottom line for Vermont farmers.

Learn more or get involved at www.VTFarmtoPlate.com

Vermont Agriculture Community Resources

- Required Agricultural Resources (RAPs) Resources: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>
- Agency of Ag's New Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report now available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit www.vcil.org.

For more agricultural events visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities



Supporting Water Quality and Dairy Farm Improvement Projects Through Grant Programs

By Lindsey Kelley
Vermont Farm & Forest
Viability Program

With sustained low prices in the conventional dairy market and Vermont's new Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) for reducing the impact of agricultural activities on water quality, Vermont farmers need to be creative and resourceful to ensure their businesses remain viable into the future. Jonathan and Mary Ann Connor, who own Providence Dairy in Addison, exemplify this spirit as they transition their dairy to a more pasture-based operation and make use of VHCB grant programs that make costly, long-term investments more financially feasible.

One of the biggest constraints the Connors face is access to land. "I can't expand because the land around here is so valuable"



Jonathan
and
Mary
Ann
Connor

said Jonathan, "so we have to find a way to make what we have profitable." With the help of an array of financial and technical support, the Connors are well on their way to doing just that. Cheryl Cesario at UVM Extension helped the Connors develop a grazing plan designed to transition their 90-cow conventional dairy from a tie-stall to grazing operation. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offered to fund 75% of the project. However,

the remaining cost-share for the farm was not feasible. To help reduce the cost on the business and make the project financially viable, the Connors applied for, and were awarded an \$8,500 Dairy Improvement Grant by the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, cutting their 25% cost-share almost in half. The new grazing plan was designed to meet multiple goals: to improve milk production and animal health and to decrease input costs and environmental impact.

The farm is located in the Lake Champlain basin. Like many farmers, Jonathan and Mary Ann are working to ensure excessive nutrients from the farm are not ending up in the lake. Through their overall grazing plan, the Connors took measures to address water quality concerns in their local watershed and greater Lake Champlain basin. They seeded their fields with plants that have longer roots which can hold more soil together, thereby increasing water infiltration and decreasing run off. The plants also help decrease the erosion of valuable pasture land. In addition to these field improvements, the Connors have installed animal laneways that not only guide the cows to pasture but also protect nearby land and surface water from runoff and erosion.

The Dairy Improvement Grant received by the Connors through the Viability Program was, like

all Dairy Improvement Grants, funded by Ehrmann Commonwealth Dairy, LLC, a greek yogurt manufacturer located in Brattleboro. This grant program is designed to support the construction, renovation, and upgrades to essential farm infrastructure or equipment. This grant program is open to Vermont members of Dairy Farmers of America or St. Albans Cooperative Creamery.

The Viability Program also has a new grant program for farmers, Water Quality Grants. These grants assist with the costs of on-farm capital improvements on any Vermont farm that has a gross income of \$15,000+ and is subject to Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).

There are two upcoming deadlines for both grant programs, November 15, 2017 and February 21, 2018. For information go to <http://www.vhcb.org/viability/> and check out our grant programs fact sheet.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

November 7-8, 2017

West Monitor Barn at VYCC, Richmond

Register Today!

www.agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram

Only \$30 - includes lunch both days & AFDO certificate

This workshop is for produce growers and others who want to learn about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

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)).

Organized 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

Maximizing Manure Storage Capacity

By Clark Parmelee,
VT Agency of Ag

The summer of 2017 has proven to be a very wet year. The amount of rainfall has made it challenging for farmers to get field chores done. When fields are saturated, crops can't be planted or harvested, and manure cannot be applied. Between not having dry enough field conditions to spread manure and an above average amount of rainfall, several farmers have found themselves in the stressful situation of pushing the limits on the storage capacity of their manure pits. Even if there is nothing that can be done to change the weather, there are ways to make the most of on farm liquid manure storage.

When managing a manure pit, it is important to consider the amount of rainwater entering the pit. Every time a 1-inch rain event occurs, an acre of land will receive 27,154 gallons of water. For every 1-inch of snow we receive, an acre of land will receive 2,715 gallons of water. In an average year Vermont receives about 37 inches of precipitation, this means about 1 million gallons of water falls on an acre of land annually.

If a farm has a manure pit with a half-acre of surface area and a quarter acre of other impervious surfaces draining to the pit, the farm will have about 400,000 gallons of rainwater to spread. This

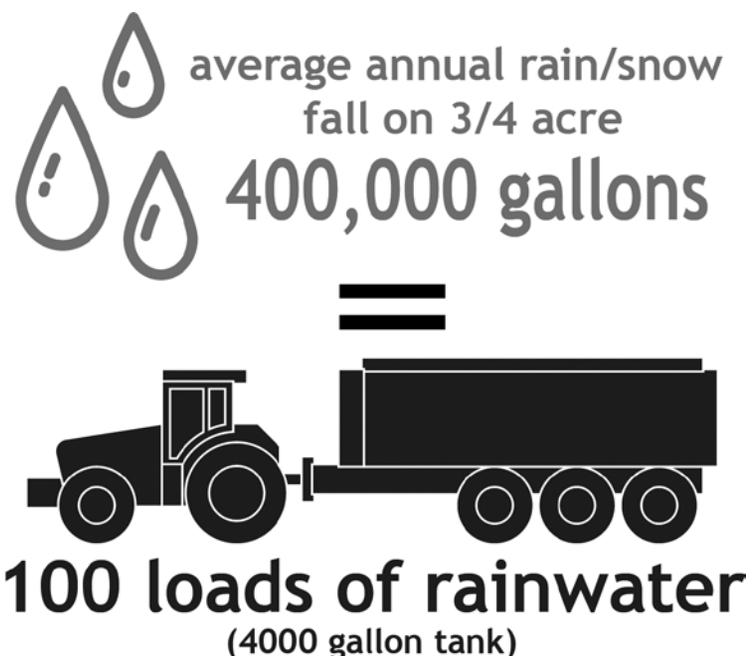


figure takes evaporation into consideration. Evaporation rates tend to be higher in the summer than in the winter though, meaning that a pit will typically contain more water in the spring than in the summer. If a farm is operating a manure pit with a half-acre of surface area and they spread using tanks with a capacity of 4,000 gallons, the farm will haul roughly 100 loads of rainwater on an average year!

It is important to stop any additional clean water from entering the pit. Spreading costs can be lowered for farms if additional water from barn roofs is prevented from entering the pit. It is also important to make sure excess water isn't entering the pit from the barn, whether it is rainwater entering the barn and then the pit, or plate cooler water going down the drain. Through the State's Best Management Practices (BMP) Program, financial assistance is available to help pay for clean water diversion

projects to reduce the amount of water entering manure pits.

Another way to maximize the storage capacity of a manure pit is to consider if some of the manure produced on the farm is capable of being field stacked. Some farms use a dry manure system for groups such as heifers and dry cows, and liquid storage for their milking herd. Any manure that is at least 20% dry matter and is capable of being stacked 4 feet high, can be field stacked. The BMP Program can help farms find appropriate places to field stack, and help pay to install access roads to approved sites.

Hopefully the 2018 growing season will be drier than 2017, but it's hard to say at this point. Though the weather cannot be controlled, it is important that farmers consider all their options in how manure is managed on their farm to prevent manure pits from overflowing.



A creative gutter system installed at Knoxland Farms in Bradford, Vermont. Engineers from the Agency of Agriculture can help design gutters that can withstand Vermont winters.

Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is pleased to announce the first round of a two-round grant opportunity to improve on-farm produce safety with \$74,000 available in each round. Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants will help Vermont produce growers purchase equipment or make infrastructure improvements to prevent or reduce produce safety risks. Applicants must grow, harvest, pack, or hold "covered produce" as defined by the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and have average annual produce sales of greater than \$25,000. Grants will be awarded for eligible proposals on a first-come, first-served basis beginning in November 2017.

Download the Request for Proposals:
<http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram>

Capital Equipment Assistance (CEAP) Funding Announcement

By Nina Gage, VT Agency of Ag

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is pleased to announce \$1,000,000 in funding for the Capital Equipment Assistance Program. Financial assistance is available for new or innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to state waters, improve water quality of state waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure or implement a Nutrient Management Plan

(NMP). Eligible recipients include custom applicators, non-profit organizations, and farmers. Eligible equipment and corresponding funding caps are detailed below:

The grant application opens October 16, 2017 and applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on December 1, 2017. Application includes completion of the CEAP Application as well as a one-page letter of intent. Notification of grant funding will occur by January 2, 2018.

For the CEAP application, program details and additional information visit agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap, call the Agency at (802) 822-2431 or email AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov.

Equipment Type	Examples of Eligible Equipment	Funding Rates:
Phosphorus Removal Technology or Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical or chemical removal methods or technologies 	90% cost-share up to \$300,000
Precision Agricultural Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manure Application Record Keeping Units* Scales 	90% cost-share up to \$25,000
Conservation Tillage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-Till Corn Planter Ridge-Till 	90% cost-share up to \$10,000
Cover Crop Management and Field Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No-Till Grain Drill Roller Crimper 	90% cost-share up to \$40,000
Manure and Silage Management Equipment (manure management equipment requires purchase of Manure Application Record Keeping Unit*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dragline system Injectors Irrigation Baling equipment (eligible only as an alternative leachate management, requires a referral visit from a VAAFM engineer to ensure eligibility) 	90% cost-share up to \$50,000

**Equipment listed is only eligible for funding when purchased as a complete unit. Single items may be purchased to complete a unit with proof of a complete, operational system. Disabling of a flow meter, display, modules or GPS technology would cause this grant to be cancelled.*



Dragline system in operation at the farm at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center.



Critical Lake Carmi Water Improvement Project Underway

By Ryan Patch,
VT Agency of Ag

A major water quality improvement project near Lake Carmi in Franklin has been talked about for years but now is nearing completion.

Recently, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (AAFM) announced a series of plans on protecting and restoring the Lake Carmi watershed. The Agencies are pleased to announce that one of the projects identified in the roadmap is nearing completion thanks to funding from the Vermont Clean Water Fund.

Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts says this clean-up project is important, “We are getting work done on the ground. This project signifies how our team wakes up every morning trying to make our environment better. We will not let up on our efforts to improve Lake Carmi and all our waterways in Vermont.”

Water quality specialist John Roberts added “I’d also like to thank the farmer who helped us to implement this fix as well as the staff at UVM Extension who oversaw the design and construction phases of the project. This is a team effort in the Lake Carmi community.”

The goal of this project is aimed at decreasing the phosphorus loading to acceptable levels through removal of

legacy phosphorus that is bound to sediment collected at the bottom of a man-made pond on the property.

Surface water monitoring of tributaries to Lake Carmi identified this pond as releasing elevated concentrations of phosphorus. The elevated testing results spurred the Agency to engage further with the local farmer who was interested in implementing a fix. This project – and all conservation practices implemented by AAFM and ANR – will be tracked and surface water monitoring at this site will continue to assess the impacts the imple-

mented projects are having on tributary phosphorus contributions. The results of these surface water sampling efforts are all available at <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/monitor/larosa>.

This project is a collaboration of work between AAFM and UVM Extension. The team has worked together to make sure the project focused on phosphorus removal in a manner that was cost effective and improved water quality. All soils and materials were, and have been, sampled for nutrient content so appro-

priate risk assessment tools could be run to ensure that the land application of the organics extracted from the bottom of the pond would not have a negative impact on Lake Carmi.

“The critical piece of this project was to remove the settled materials from direct contact with water and incorporate it into agricultural soils that will be able to use this material to grow vigorous crops that will mine the phosphorus out of the soil and, once harvested, be removed out of the watershed,” said Laura DiPietro of the Agency of Ag. DiPietro

continued, “The Agency of Ag will continue to work with the agricultural land owners and partners to identify opportunities for projects that improve water quality. Our team is focused on getting to a better place for all those who live and work around Lake Carmi.”

This is just a one of series of Lake Carmi projects identified by the Agency of Agriculture and Agency of Natural Resources.

For more information on AAFM’s Water Quality Program visit <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality>.



Photo of the newly cleaned pond with legacy phosphorus sediment removed, applied and incorporated in a nearby crop field.

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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Upcoming Events

- Nov. 7-8. Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. VYCC West Monitor Barn, Richmond, VT. <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=2032920>
- Nov. 7. Growing Better Brassicas. 9:30-3. Saratoga NY. <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=832>
- Farm-Scale Decision Making Workshop: Evaluating a major change to your business model. Nov. 16- Rutland, Nov. 20- Barre, Nov. 30- Richmond, Dec. 6- Lebanon, NH. <http://www.sevendaystickets.com/events/48709767/farm-scale-decision-making-workshop-series>
- Dec. 12-14. New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show. Manchester NH. <https://newenglandvfc.org/>. Rooms in main hotel already sold out, nearby hotels are available.
- Jan. 22, 2018. VVBGA Annual Meeting, Fairlee VT. Mark your calendars.

Feb. 18-20, 2018. NOFA-VT Winter Conference, Burlington VT. <https://nofavt.org/35th-annual-winter-conference>

Reports From The Field

(Charlotte) With the temperatures being warm, harvesting blackberries and fall raspberries has been great. We have seen SWD in the raspberries and around the blackberries, but we have been able to pick the berries when they are ripe and the cooler temperatures have greatly lessened the numbers. Our spaghetti squash soared along with the pumpkins this year. We will have to plan on how to market these crops for next year.

(Rochester) Twenty-eight degrees the other night has probably brought the fall raspberry season to an end. The crop was very late this year, presumably due to the cool summer we think, so a lot of potential fruit was left in the field. But one shouldn't complain about a first frost as late as October 17. We have had a satisfactory season overall and look forward to taking care of other tasks now, and getting a little more rest.

(Northfield) I just wanted to add myself to the list of folks who found squash vine borer in their squash fruits. What a drag!

(Westminster West) The other day, I wore a T-shirt and was sweating, today, it's a winter coat and wool hat and I'm cold all day! Still straight out busy with harvesting and marketing, interviewing for next season's crew already and plan-

ning the training sessions. Yields do seem off this year, especially on winter squash. But comparing yields, when different soils and seasons are involved, make it difficult to know why. Off-hand I'd say the late spring and colder temps really did hurt. Finished seeding the last cover crop today and starting garlic planting tomorrow

(S. Burlington) Harvesting herbal leaves and flowers. Herbal root harvest was a little later due to warm and dry weather. Ashwagandha's fruit ripened very late (in the Solana family), and most of the fruit didn't ripen at all before root harvest. Roots seem smaller than last year's harvest, but overall bountiful. Still harvesting third and fourth cuttings of aerial plants with only a frost nip on the tulsi, lemon balm and basil. Oct. 16 was the first major frost. I am looking forward to seeing all the shriveled plants marking the end of the harvest season. On to garlic planting. Concerned that warm weather will cause seed to sprout; not sure how long to wait this year! Noticing a crazy flush of box elder bugs throughout the city...wondering if that's normal. Very tick heavy fall, as well! Counting my blessings and my dried flowers, leaves and roots.

(Argyle NY) Pleasant Valley Farm. We have never had a year that we had to set up the irrigation transfer pump in late September, nor irrigated so much all fall, which we continue to do. The warm weather has been great for maturing the fall crops and increasing yields. The sweet potatoes are nice with great size and little damage from wire worms

(compared to much damage last year in the same general area). The fall carrots are nice, great size and *Alternaria* was mostly on the late summer purple carrots. Onions are smaller but nice (they were in heavy soil that was too wet in early summer).

Our 3 high tunnels are all planted for winter: one with salad mix, salanova, mustards and arugula), one with spinach (all came up perfect with new seed we just hot water treated) and one with transplanted kale, chard and Asian Greens and some parsley. We continue to use peat moss to amend each fall for organic matter which seems to work well, and this year was first time we experimented with steaming the beds in 2 if the tunnels. We calculated the fuel usage at 100 gallons per tunnel for 8 beds vs. cost of hours to weed, and the steaming won. We will report on that as the winter progresses. We will be watching for Spinach Downy Mildew but so far all is good. Turnips, winter radishes, kohlrabi and rutabagas are being harvested now and put in the root cellar. Busy days but beautiful weather!

From The UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic

Ann Hazelrigg

Tomatoes: Found the first incidence of late blight in high tunnel tomatoes in Windham County. Grower still had lots of fruit in the house so was going to try to protect the rest until harvest. The incidence was reported on the USA Blight website and sent to Cornell to be genotyped. Check out this link if you need to familiarize yourself again with the disease: [\[to/tomato-late-blight/\]\(http://tomato-late-blight/\)](http://blogs.cornell.edu/livepath/gallery/toma-</p>
</div>
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When in doubt, just send in a sample, we can check quickly for the pathogen. Also, it is helpful to know if you have it on your farm so drop us an email. Quite a few growers continued to battle powdery mildew that did not respond to Milstop on high tunnel tomatoes. We found only the genus/species *Oidium lycopersici*. A different powdery mildew fungus, *Leveillula taurica*, occurs in other areas (California and observed twice in Long Island on peppers) and produces spores only on the leaf undersides. Since the PM showed up early in the season on some transplants, I wonder if the disease pressure just became too heavy to control successfully with the Milstop.

Blueberries: Had a lot of calls from home gardeners and commercial growers regarding their berries going soft too quickly. This was most likely due to spotted wing drosophila infestation. They showed up early this year and in high numbers. Still getting calls/samples of mummy berry infections. This seemed to be a perfect year for this disease with all the early wet weather. This link has a lot of good pictures of what infected berries (mummies) look like. <http://www.goodfruit.com/managing-mummy-berry/>

Also, Vern's factsheet describes the disease and management: <https://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/mummyberry.html>

If you saw a lot of the disease, be sure you are ready with a good layer of mulch before the spring to smother any infected overwintering berries that will produce new spores. Also, be sure your

continued on page 12

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Egg Prices

September 18, 2017

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

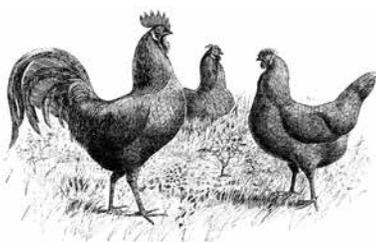
Vermont Egg Prices:

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, October 16, 2017

	Cattle	Calves
This Week:	87	181
Last Week:	70	179

Compared to last sale, Slaughter cows sold steady on good demand. Cattle supply included 73 cows and 10 feeders, 1 steer and 3 bulls. All prices quoted per cwt.

SLAUGHTER COWS:

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	—	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	57.00-61.00	—	53.00-56.00	—
Boners	80-85	53.50-60.50	—	50.00-53.50	—
Lean	85-90	50.00-56.50	—	45.00-51.50	30.00-40.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: : Yield Grade 1 735-1390 lbs. High dress individual 90.00; Very Low Dress 51.50-54.00.

CALVES: Compared to last week: Holstein bull calves sold steady on moderate demand.

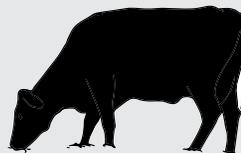
HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:

Number 1: 90-120 lbs 80.00-100.00.

Number 2: 80-120 lbs 60.00-80.00.

Number 3: 70-100 lbs 50.00-65.00.

Utility: 60-110 lbs 30.00-55.00.



HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 94-112 lbs: 52.00-100.00.

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

Great grazing genetics!

Butterworks Farm Certified organic 100% Grass Fed Jersey heifers and cows of all ages for sale. Call Collin to inquire. 802.323.9304

Free stall heifer boarding available in Weybridge, VT, for heifers 400lb and up. Breeding services offered. Prices start at @ \$2.25/heifer/day. For info contact Dan at 802-545-2688.

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/ cows 1 strand

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

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 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 Dairy Plant is looking for someone to do pasteurization, processing and cleaning. Call 802.744.6023 or email orders@butterworksfarm.com for an application or download from our website butterworksfarm.com

For spring 2018 seeking experienced farm and field work equipment operator and maintenance/repair person. Download application from butterworksfarm.com, email orders@butterworksfarm.com or call 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

International 843 4 row narrow Cornhead; 3250 Reel Auggie Mixer on gas 1995 Ford 450 2wd; used parts for Badger silo unloader. Call for prices. 802-770-0959

75 gal. gas water heater never used; Delaval 50 cow 2" stainless steel pipeline complete with vacuum pump; IH Cyclo 400 4 row narrow dry fertilizer, disk openers; 32 Agway water bowls. Call for prices. 802-770-0959

Seat assembly, from JD5075 cab tractor. Adjustable suspension, operator sensor and arm rests.

Woven brown cloth finish. Like

new condition. \$200.00 obo. Call Mark 802-879-0391. Westford

Logo sol m7 sawmill without powerhead \$1600, with power \$2400 with steel base \$2600. Franklin model 32 winch off a franklin 170 802-885-6450

Walk through gate – tubular, 1 10' gate – bent a little. 1 10' gate flat aluminum. 2 12' gate flat aluminum. 1 14' gate flat aluminum. 1 16' gate flat aluminum. \$5 - \$15 6 feed tubs (4 sm – 2 lg). 802-295-2910

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

CLASSIFIEDS

425 4547 or 704 699 4001

Sydell Sheep Fenceline Feeder with Galvanized Pans, 1- 8 footer 2- 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.hill@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 Lease in Williston. 101 acres in Williston for Lease. 40 woods rest pasture. Great location for Farm to table venue. or CSA. Close to Taft's corner. Please call 802-373-9206.

Farm for Sale Williamstown, VT - 255 acres - includes 110 acres tillable & 30 pasture; house, barn, shed. Land protected by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. \$395,000. (802) 533-7705 or www.vlt.org/storrs

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

2016 wrapped round bales for sale at very reasonable prices. Call Collin 802.323.9304 to inquire.

Quality Canadian Hay for sale, big/small squares, round bales, wrapped square bales, 1st, 2nd, 3rd cut available. Switch grass and straw also available Call Richard at 802-323-3275

2017 First cut hay from limed and fertilized fields, square bales asking \$4.00 per bale. 603-256-8422

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.

Doelings for sale. 13 Alpine and Saanan doelings, a few have some Nubian in them. Well grown and healthy. All are from the Lynn and Martha Rockwell farm. Born in April and May and currently weigh 45 to 60 pounds. Buy the entire group for \$135 ea. If you prefer to pick individual

doelings the price will be \$125 to \$170 ea. Craftsbury. 802-586-2239 louiseh. calderwood@gmail.com

Wethers for sale. 19 Alpine and Sanaan wethers. Well grown and healthy. All are from the Lynn and Martha Rockwell farm. Born in April and May and currently weigh 45 to 55 pounds. Buy the entire group for \$115 ea. If you prefer to pick individual wethers the price is \$2.30 per pound liveweight. Craftsbury 802-586-2239 louiseh. calderwood@gmail.com

Boar Goats 2017 kids, does, bucks, and wethers. 802-885-6450

Sheep

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

Swine

2 female piglets born 4/17 asking \$80.00 each. 603 2568422

Wanted

2 female piglets. 603 2568422

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

Vegetable & Berry News
continued from page 10

bushes are well pruned this winter so the foliage dries quickly and if you apply fungicides, you get good penetration. I remember hearing something about being able to "throw a cat through the bushes" as a rule of thumb.

Brassicas: Black rot bacteria causing leaf edge yellowing in kale. Seed had not been hot-watered treated. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/brassicas-black-rot>

Carrots: Heavy infections of Alternaria leafspot blighting leaves in late plantings of carrots. In addition to cutting down on photosynthesis, the blighted tops make it hard to harvest carrots. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/>

[fact-sheets/carrot-alternaria-leaf-blight](#). We also found powdery mildew on the carrot foliage which I had not seen before. http://vegetablemendonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Carrot_Powdery.html

Celeriac: Heart rot suspected on celeriac caused by a calcium deficiency. Celery plants grown in hot weather can frequently develop a calcium deficiency in the center of the crown causing it to not develop. Soft-rotting bacteria frequently enter and cause a wet slimy rot. Control is difficult, but efforts to water the plant more regularly and use of mulch may reduce the incidence of heart rot. <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2823&q=377614>

continued on page 13

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 12

Cucurbits: Oedema (raised crusty bumps caused by wet/humid conditions) found on acorn squash. It was spread throughout the field and may have been more concentrated on the side of the squash that was in contact with the soil.

VVBGA Loses A Friend And Colleague

*David Marchant,
River Berry Farm*

Paul Boivin died in a motorcycle accident in late September. I met Paul when we worked with UVM Extension to install a pellet corn boiler for our green-

house. Paul was a dealer of the Maxim boilers that a number of growers installed to provide heat for greenhouses. Paul was great to work with. He really helped us out in determining how to try and heat greenhouses with biofuel. He was always willing to come help with problems or repairs on the units, or to deliver corn for

fuel. Along with being a boiler dealer he was a very innovative farmer, doing lots with ridge tillage, and conservation practices. He was quite involved with helping the immigrant farm labor groups. He will be certainly missed by me and the VVBGA community Here is Paul's obituary: www.legacy.com/obituaries/bur-

[lingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?pid=186784808](http://www.lingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?pid=186784808)

Technical Tips: Crop Storage Resources

See Chris Callahan's blog page loaded with links to storage information resources: <http://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/crop-storage-resources/>

Cabot Supports Business Adviser for Salvation Farms

Cabot Creamery Co-operative is supporting Salvation Farms' engagement of a University of Vermont's Sustainable Entrepreneurship MBA (SEMBA) graduate, Diane Abruzzini. Diane will aid the nonprofit in the revision and expansion of their business plan for the Vermont Commodity Program. The Vermont Commodity Program operates Vermont's first surplus-crop food hub in Winooski through a workforce development program. The food hub cleans, quality assesses, processes, and packs surplus crops.

Abruzzini will work with Salvation Farms for up to six months, working three days a week out of a satellite office in Richmond. Her role at Salvation Farms is to assist the Vermont Commodity Program with financial modeling, business strategy, and stakeholder relations. It is only with the help of Cabot Creamery that Salvation Farms is able to engage Ms. Abruzzini.

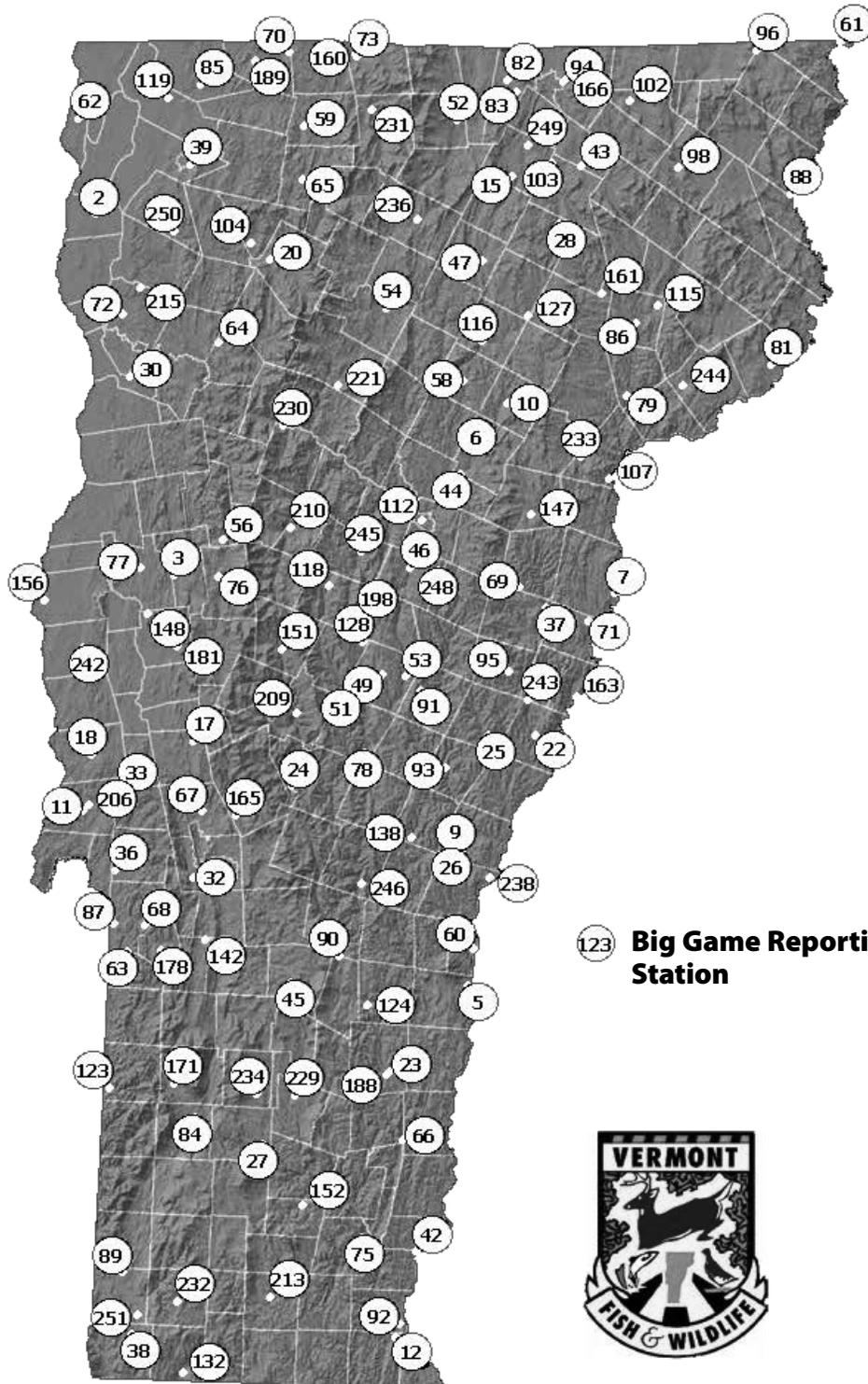
"The 1,100 farm families who own Cabot Creamery are committed to supporting programs that not only bring more food to those in need, but also increase farm sustainability, while being replicable throughout the region," said Cabot Creamery CEO Ed Townley. "Salvation Farms has a strong vision; we hope that by utilizing the unique set of skills Diane brings from her UVM SEMBA and work experience, their vision will be strengthened."

Abruzzini comes to Salvation Farms with experience working with sustainable agricultural business models. She has started multiple small businesses, including an edible landscaping firm and a farm to table bakery. "I have spent most of my career focusing on innovative ways to increase population access to local food, both the supply and demand side of the equation," she said. "Salvation Farms is creating a unique opportunity to assist both sides at once: increase farmer revenue and facilitate new markets."

For more information on Salvation Farms and the Vermont Commodity Program, visit salvationfarms.org.

Vermont Big Game Reporting Stations

Vermont hunters who take deer, bear or turkeys must bring them to a reporting station within 48 hours. Find a reporting station near you at: http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/big_game_reporting_stations/



Vermont Governor Proclaims October Farm to School Month, New Grant Opportunities Released

By Trevor Audet,
VT Agency of Ag

On Monday, October 2, Governor Phil Scott signed a proclamation designating October 2017 Farm to School Month in Vermont.

"I'd like to recognize how important the Farm to School program is to Vermont. Farm to school has always been a source of pride for our state, and that pride grows from the program as it gets stronger," said Gov. Scott.

"We have \$200,000, that's the most money we have ever had in this program...we continue to lead the nation in this program. Schools and childcare centers should reach out to us to apply for potential



Governor signs Farm to School bill.

money." said Secretary Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

This year, with the help of the Vermont Agency of Education and the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

is pleased to announce the release of two new Farm to School grant opportunities for 2018. New this year, both Farm to School grant opportunities are available to childcare providers as well as schools! Click on the links below for the Requests for

Applications.

1. Vermont Farm to School & Child Nutrition Grant:

The VAAFM Farm to School Team is seeking applications from eligible Vermont-based childcare providers and schools to expand and improve food programs and/or to create or expand farm to school programs by integrating the classroom, cafeteria, and community (the 3 C's of farm to school). Up to six applications will be awarded at \$15,000 each, made possible by legislative appropriation and a financial investment of a dedicated partner. The anticipated grant period will be January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

2. Vermont Farm to School & Farm to Childcare Equipment Grant: The

VAAFM Farm to School Team is seeking applications from eligible Vermont-based childcare providers and schools to purchase equipment that will improve their food programs and/or farm to school/farm to childcare programs. Up to 23 grants will be awarded at \$1,000 each to reimburse schools and childcare providers for these purchases. Equipment purchases must be made by February 28, 2018.

NOTE: All Farm to School Grant applications MUST be submitted online through WebGrants. Paper applications will NOT be accepted. Instructions for using WebGrants can be found in an appendix in the Request for Applications.

Buy Local Markets Bring Farmers and Foodies to the Workplace to Share Healthy Food with State Employees

By Alissa Matthews,
VT Agency of Ag

Originally envisioned to increase state employees' access to local food, the Buy Local Market has evolved to become an exciting event for the whole community to celebrate local food and farm businesses and highlight Vermont entrepreneurs' amazing products from all around the State. After two successful years

on the Statehouse lawn in Montpelier, this was the first year the market expanded to include an event in Waterbury in front of the State Complex, along with an additional event held on October 4th on the State House Lawn in Montpelier.

Each event featured approximately 45 vendors from many different sectors of Vermont's agricultural landscape including local dairy, meats, ciders, beer and spirits, prepared foods, fruit

preserves, crafts, wood, and fiber products. The markets also included local nonprofits and other organizations promoting agricultural literacy and sharing information on recycling, composting, and the wide array of programs that support agricultural producers.

If you would like to learn more about the Buy Local Market opportunities for 2018, contact Alissa Matthews at Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov.



Celebrating Vermont's Farm to School Grant Program

By Trevor Audet,
VT Agency of Ag

Governor Phil Scott, Ag Secretary Anson Tebbetts and other farm to school partners joined students from Fairfield Center School to celebrate Vermont's robust presence in farm to school at the Sweet Farm in Fletcher.

Vermont was the first state in the nation to implement a farm to school grant program and the USDA has modeled their program after it.

"I can't emphasize enough how important farm to school is in Vermont. It's always been a source of pride for our state, and that pride grows as our grant program continues to get stronger,"

said Gov. Scott.

Surrounded by curious cows and intrigued students, the Governor shared his enthusiasm for Vermont's highly effective model of farm to school and its unique ability to bring real-life learning to the classroom, while also supporting the economy and student health.

With help from the Agency of Education, the Department of Health and other partners, more than 40,000 Vermont students have become more connected to local food, farms and their community through the Farm to School Grant Program.

"Through the Agency's grant program, more than \$1M has been invested in 138 Vermont schools. It's

really connecting people to the land, the animals and giving them lifelong skills that are so valuable to all of us," said Sec. Tebbetts.

The visit highlighted the many benefits of the farm to school model:

- Every \$1 spent on local food in Vermont schools contributes an additional 60 cents to the local economy.
- According to 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students whose schools have a Farm-to-School program are more likely to eat at least two fruits and three vegetables a day.
- Last school year Vermont schools served 46,000 meals a day, thanks to the farm to school program these meals are becoming

more nutritious, helping kids eat and learn better.

The students were at Sweet Farm as part of their Dairy in the Classroom program, which is made possible with funding from our dairy farmers, through the dairy check off program. A special partnership between The Agency, New England Dairy and Food Council and Shelburne Farms allows this program to flourish.

The event also served to

highlight what's new with the Vermont Farm to School Grant Program. This year, Vermont-based childcare providers are now able to receive funding to help improve their food programs. The program is currently accepting applications, until November 14th. Visit agriculture.vermont.gov and search "Farm to School" to apply or contact Ali Zipparo at Alexandra.zipparo@vermont.gov or call 802-505-1822.

Rufus Remembered

By Tom Rogers, VT Fish & Wildlife

Warden Rob Sterling laid his K9 partner Rufus to rest last week. Rufus was an incredible asset to Sterling, from locating a missing elderly woman, to finding a pair of pants in a swamp that were ditched by a suspected shooter and car-jacker with \$4,000 cash in the pocket. He was crucial in finding shell casings in multiple poaching arrests, and he once led Sterling from an illegal deer straight to the suspect's back door.

Sterling said of his partner, "I know he's a dog, but he was my tight partner on some really tough calls over the years. Rufus has made this job for me even better and more incredible than I could have ever imagined."

Thank you, Rufus, for a lifetime of service to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, and to the people of Vermont.



Gov. Phil Scott talks dairy with 3rd graders from Fairfield Central School.

Hemp

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to plant larger acreages, development of non-therapeutic hemp markets, and ramping up regional processing facilities and supply chain and consumer demand. Therapeutic hemp (non-psychoactive, CBD-rich strains) remains a strong area of interest, and continues to be a primary topic in market-development efforts and a hot topic in hemp conversations across the state and around the United States.



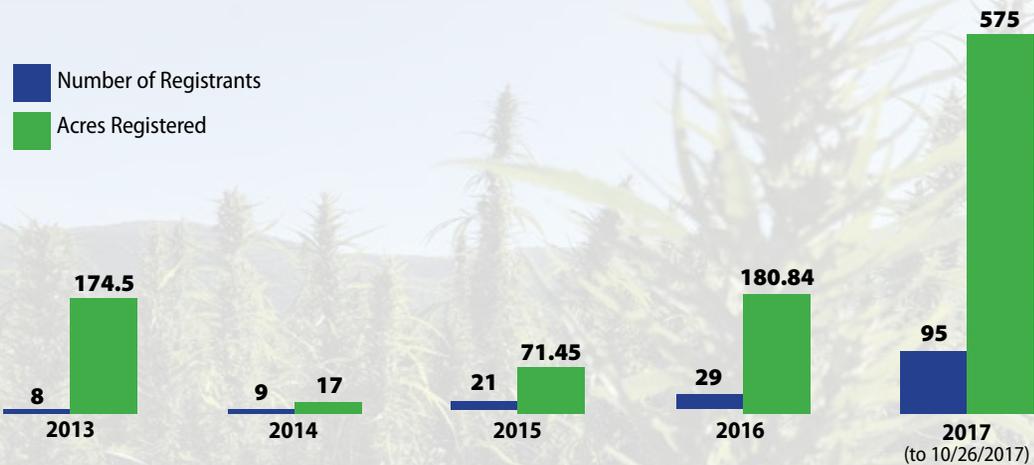
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