

# AGRiVIEW



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## Vermont Products and Produce Can Complete Your Holiday Dinners

By Scott Waterman, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Our holiday celebrations may look a little different this year, but will certainly be no less tasty if your table is full of Vermont grown products and produce. While filling out your dinner menu with Vermont products is certainly good for your meal, it's also good for our Vermont farmers and working lands businesses, so we'd like to suggest a few website locations where you can search out local food products near you for your holiday meals!

**Vermont Dairy.com**

<https://www.vermontdairy.com/support-vt-dairy/>

**Vermont Cheese Council**

<https://vtcheese.com/>

**Vermont Specialty Food Association**

<https://vtspecialtyfoods.org/>

**Vermont Retail & Grocers Assoc.**

<https://vtrga.org/>

**Vermont Neighboring Food Co-op Association**

<https://nfca.coop/vt/>

**Vermont Farm to Plate**

<https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/>

**Vermont Brewers Association**

<https://www.vermontbrewers.com/>

**Vermont Maple Association**

<https://vermontmaple.org/>

Another great way to access local food opportunities is with the 2020 Vermont Fresh Network's Local Holiday Meal Guide featuring farms and markets throughout Vermont. You can find local turkeys or other special ingredients for your holiday meal. No matter where you live in



Vermont, you will be able to enjoy a meal brought to you by Vermont farms! Find a market or farm near you and order your local holiday ingredients today—and don't forget

the local beverages. Find all the food items you need using this handy guide at <https://www.diginvt.com/blog/2020-vermont-fresh-networks-local-holiday-meal-guide/>.



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

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

The year 2020. What a year. The pandemic has forced all of us to look closely at our place in the world. Last year at this time, we only saw masks at the dentist or in the operating room. Today, a mask is part of our wardrobe. A year ago, we were shaking hands, hugging and there were no issues with big crowds. Today, we are keeping our distance and limiting the number of people in a group. Last year, the only thing that would close a school was a snowstorm. Today, many learn remotely on the computer and when we do send students to schools it is not the same as we all try to get everyone safe from this virus.

Despite all the challenges and heartache, we have so much to be thankful for. Vermonters stood tall and sacrificed to limit the spread

of the pandemic. Vermont's straight forward scientific based approach has limited large outbreaks and when one occurred Vermonters rallied and limited more illness. Vermonters are doing their best by washing their hands, wearing masks, keeping their distance, and staying home if they are sick.

We are also focused on Vermont's economic health. The pandemic has destroyed business plans and forced some operations to close. Others are doing their best to survive. The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets spent the summer and fall distributing millions of dollars to farmers, producers, slaughterhouses, value added food businesses and those who make their living off the land. We were grateful federal CARES dollars were available to hundreds of agricultural businesses so they might survive and come back stronger in 2021.

As agriculture weathers this



pandemic, Vermonters are doing their best to support them with their pocketbook. During the holidays, shoppers can help their neighbors by Buying Local. You can find a large selection of local meats, cheeses, maple and valued added Vermont products in your

grocery store. You also can thank a farmer by shopping at a farm stand or signing up for local products at a CSA or shop at a Winter's Farmers Market.

Buying from your neighbors is also just a click or two away on the computer. Many businesses have set up new websites to buy their products online. Vermont can be sent around the world or to your home.

The pandemic also means we

have new neighbors. Many have decided to leave the cities for the hills of Vermont. Welcome to our little corner of the world where we are thankful agriculture is part of our daily lives. Vermont is a state where you can really find out where your food comes from. The milk that went into making the cheese could have been produced next door. Or if you cook with maple, it is likely you can visit that sugarhouse and see how the sweetness is made. Again, we are thankful for this opportunity to be so close to our farmers and producers.

We are thankful for those who keeping us safe and healthy and if possible, on a routine which is seems like a luxury under a pandemic. So, as we enter the season of giving thanks, we raise our glasses and toast all those who are sacrificing and supporting our neighbors. We are thankful for those who provide us with fresh local food and those keeping us safe under Covid-19. Thank you.

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary  
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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## Help Available from USDA to Apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

The USDA is committed to helping you complete program and loan applications, environmental reviews, and other paperwork, free of charge. One-on-one support is available at more than 2,300 USDA Service Centers nationwide.

Like all programs, USDA's Farm Service Agency staff can help guide you through the process of applying for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), including preparing and submitting required paperwork. There is no need to hire a paid preparer.

Additionally, translation services



are available in all USDA Service Centers, so one-on-one assistance with a Service Center employee can be translated in real time. To find the nearest USDA Service Center, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

A call center is also available for producers who would like additional support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff to be connected to an over-the-phone translation service.

To find out more about CFAP2, visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

# Make Plans to Hand Cut Your Vermont Christmas Tree This Year

*Vermont Christmas Tree Farms Vital Part of Vermont Working Lands Economy*

By Scott Waterman, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The holidays will be different this year. In 2019 large gatherings and celebrations were the norm because the pandemic was not yet in the United States. Unfortunately in 2020 Covid-19 has become ever-present in our daily lives, but this holiday season we can celebrate our holidays safely and maintain our annual traditions, to include choosing and cutting a Vermont Christmas Tree.

In late November of 2019, Governor Phil Scott and Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts visited the Werner Tree Farm in Middlebury today to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with the help of Vermont's farmers. The trees cut during last year's visit decorated the Pavilion Building in Montpelier, which houses the Governor's Office.

While 2020 remains challenging with the coronavirus pandemic, we encourage you to continue, or start, the tradition of cutting your own Christmas tree this year. All agricultural farms and pick-your-own operations are required to follow health and safety guidelines to protect workers and visitors, including Christmas tree operations.



*Governor Phil Scott chose trees from Werner Tree Farm in Middlebury during a visit in 2019.*

“Even though we enter the holiday season in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, Vermont and its people, including our farmers, offer so many reasons

to be thankful and hopeful,” said Governor Phil Scott. “The holidays will look different this year, but by pulling together – even if we are physically separated – we can unite

around the hope and joy that this season can bring.”

According to the 2017 USDA Census, there are 3,650 acres in Christmas tree production in Vermont across 70 farms. The USDA says the value of the Christmas tree industry in Vermont is more than \$2.6 million.

“Getting a fresh local tree brings us joy and happiness this time of year while also helping our Christmas tree growers by keeping the Green Mountains in agriculture,” said Secretary Tebbetts. “The toughest part is the endless choices we have at Vermont’s ‘cut and choose’ operations in every corner of the state.”

For a full listing of Christmas Tree Growers open to the public visit the Vermont Christmas Tree Association at <http://vtchristmastrees.org/> and the Vermont and New Hampshire Christmas Tree Association at [www.nh-vtchristmastree.org](http://www.nh-vtchristmastree.org).

To view the health and safety guidelines for pick-your-own farm operations, visit the Vermont Agency of Agriculture website at: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/covid-19-information/covid-19-sector-guidance-news/sector-guidance-pick-your-own-restart-plan>



## VERMONT FOOD SYSTEM PLAN PRODUCT BRIEF:

# Agritourism

**Editor's note:** This brief was part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan: 2020 which was presented to the legislature in January of this year. The full report may be found on our website <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/vermont-agriculture-and-food-system-plan-2020>

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**What's at Stake?**

Agritourism is a promising sub-sector of Vermont's agricultural economy, encompassing direct-to-consumer sales of local food (e.g., farm stands, pick-your-own), agricultural education (e.g., school visits and workshops on farms), hospitality (e.g., overnight farm stays), recreation (e.g., hunting, horseback riding), and entertainment (e.g., hayrides, harvest festivals). Agritourism enterprises allow farms to diversify their operations while preserving their core production model and the

working landscape, retaining or creating additional jobs, and maintaining farming traditions. At the same time, the public becomes educated about the importance of agriculture to a community's economic base, quality of life, history, and culture. However, opening a farm to visitors increases liability exposure and require skills beyond food production, such as marketing and customer service.

**Current Conditions:**

Consumer demand for local food and experiences on farms has led to rapid increases in agritourism around the world. The global agritourism market was estimated at \$5.7 billion in 2018 with projected annual growth of 12% through 2025. Vermont is at the forefront of this movement, with over 2,000 farms in Vermont benefitting from \$52 million of agritourism income in 2017, including direct sales, agricultural education, hospitality, recreation, and entertainment.

Agritourism is a way for Vermont farms to differentiate themselves through authentic experiences that strengthen the Vermont brand and increase product sales. Several organizations are working together to establish beneficial partnerships for marketing and technical assistance to support food, beverage, and farm tourism. However, bridging the divides between agriculture,

education, and tourism comes with challenges. Farmers must acquire different skills than those used for producing food, and new facilities may be needed to accommodate visitors. Innovative enterprises test the boundaries of policy and regulation, which led to the passage of Act 143 in 2018, related to accessory on-farm businesses. A multi-state research project led by the University of Vermont is underway to address critical success factors for agritourism, but substantially more research and outreach is needed to fully understand the scale and scope of this sub-sector and the best ways to support farmers, their communities, and the local food system.

**Bottlenecks & Gaps**

- Agritourism may require new skills for farmers, such as marketing and customer service.
- Farmers often have questions about zoning, regulations, and permitting at the municipal, state, and federal levels; and creative enterprises may test boundaries. Answers can be difficult to find and vary from town to town.
- Concerns about liability and safety discourage some farms from allowing visitors on their property.
- The languages of tourism and education are different than the language of agriculture, creating barriers for collaboration.
- There is not a current,

comprehensive database of all types of agritourism businesses to advise tourism operators and media.

**Opportunities**

- Many people, both within and outside of Vermont, are interested in experiencing agritourism and are looking for ways to identify specific experiences.
- Best practice standards for high quality, educational, authentic agritourism experiences were initially developed by Vermont Farms Association and have been updated.
- Municipal and county officials regularly participate in training and professional development programs.
- Separate training and networking events take place annually for Vermonters working in agriculture, education, and tourism.
- Research methods from other states have been developed to measure the size and scope of agritourism as well as food and farm tourism in a broad sense.

**Recommendations**

- Organize training and networking events that bring together farmers, educators, and tourism professionals, contribute to the development of a statewide agritourism strategy, and help service providers support agritourism. Priority topics

include marketing and communications, liability and safety, and group tours (ranging from school field trips to media tours).

- Develop and promote best practice standards for agritourism that enhance the Vermont brand and reputation for high-quality, authentic products and experiences. As agritourism is rapidly expanding, standards are needed that allow for innovation while also protecting farmers, consumers, and neighbors.
- Conduct market research to develop a narrative toolkit for practitioners and consumer-facing digital content. Consolidate databases and share lists to facilitate communication internally and contribute to research that measures the size and scope of agritourism.
- Explore legislation around the opportunity of expanding agritourism in a way that supports the ability of farms offering agritourism experiences to secure limited liability insurance.
- To demystify zoning and regulations, develop decision trees that detail procedures for addressing issues related to zoning, regulations, and permitting at the municipal, state, and federal levels. Help farmers strengthen relationships with municipal and county officials to create a more supportive environment for agritourism.

## VERMONT FOOD SYSTEM PLAN PRODUCT BRIEF:

# Farm Succession

**Editor's note:** This brief was part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan: 2020 which was presented to the legislature in January of this year.

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**What's at Stake?**

At a time when Vermont farms are facing downturns in prices and markets — and most are challenged to be profitable — farms are also set to transfer to new ownership at an unprecedented rate. The majority of Vermont farmers do not have a succession plan in place, and many do not have an identified successor. Of Vermont farmers 65 and older, 92% have no one under 45 working under them, and relatively few incoming farmers are interested in or prepared to assume responsibility for large-scale operations. This may lead to a change in the agricultural landscape that has not been seen for many generations, including a significant decrease in the amount of land in active agricultural

use, land lying fallow for years or developed for other uses, and a setback in the amount of food produced in the state.

**Current Conditions**

Vermont farmer retirement and succession are occurring at a rapidly increasing pace year to year. Many soon-to-be retiring farmers are not prepared to make decisions that will keep their land in farming, provide farming opportunities to family or unrelated producers, and maintain their farm business into the future.

It is much more difficult to successfully transition farmland and farm businesses when the businesses on the land are not currently profitable. In many instances, the retiring generation may profitably operate farmland with low debt, but future owners may not reach profitability because they will be servicing the debt load of the land purchase and/or investing in new farm infrastructure. In addition, new farm businesses tend to be significantly smaller farm operations in terms of acreage in active production than existing farm businesses, and this poses a challenge to successful land transfers to new and beginning farmers.

Vermont and the Northeast have services and tools available to support retirement and succession, as well as finding a buyer or successor, but the current

funding, personnel, and promotion of these services do not match the high need (see Business and Technical Assistance brief). Although 21.6% of Vermont's agricultural land is conserved, we must confront the possibility that much of Vermont's agricultural land may be underutilized or at risk of being lost, potentially permanently, to development or alternative land uses in the near future. Additional human and financial capital are needed to accelerate the rate at which farms move through the succession process.

**Bottlenecks & Gaps**

- The cost of farmland (for lease or purchase) is high relative to the profitability of business models on that land base given current market conditions.
- Old infrastructure is often a liability for successful farm transition (e.g., run-down barns), as is marginal production land, particularly when those lands or outdated infrastructure have created water quality issues.
- In many cases, there is not enough capital left in farming businesses (e.g., equity, retained earnings, net-positive cash flow) given current market conditions, to enable successful transfers.
- Retiring farmers struggle to have sufficient retirement income and housing options.

**Opportunities**

- Multi-stakeholder farming opportunities exist for utilizing larger farm parcels.
- Some established farms continue to have the ability to purchase land and grow, and will purchase a farm from retiring owners.
- Retiring farmers without successors are willing to transfer their farms to unrelated farmer-owners.
- Vermont has a strong foundation of existing programs and farmland access tools, such as the sale of development rights, to enable initial access to affordable farmland for farmers at all stages of their business development.
- Developing new market opportunities in Vermont and the Northeast metropolitan region could be a way to create predictable, scaled-up markets for existing and beginning farms.

**Recommendations**

- Increase state resources for conservation efforts that support farmland access and succession planning. (see *Supporting Future Farmers* brief)
- Consider options to encourage multiple tenants/owners on larger conserved farms, including policy incentives. Public funds and/or easement permissions may be critical to repurpose, remove, or add infrastructure to support

- new businesses and new business models.
- Increase availability of business assistance for farmers looking at options for farm transfer and succession, as well as legal and tax capacity and support. In particular, double the number of service providers of succession assistance (see Business and Technical Assistance brief). Cost: \$400,000 per year for four additional FTE.
- Invest in sample business plans, market analyses, and financial benchmarking tools for emerging business models such as grass-fed beef, hemp/CBD, pork, and value-added dairy products. Cost: \$250,000 over three years.
- Develop additional low-cost and flexible financing programs for farm buyers. The Vermont Land Trust (VLT) is currently raising \$15 million for their Farmland Future Fund that will enable them to provide low-cost financing for farm buyers to make infrastructure changes and improvements.
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, VLT and members of the Clean Water Partnership should assess and quantify the funding gap and identify sources of funding needed for farmland conservation. Then make public funds available to resolve older infrastructure that can have water quality issues.

# Winter Spreading Ban Starts December 15

by Sonia Howlett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The winter manure spreading ban, first enacted in 1995, begins on Tuesday, December 15 and lasts until April 1 — a full 107 days. This ban on spreading manure or other agricultural waste through the winter months is designed to protect water quality — spreading manure in the winter and on frozen or snow-covered ground can lead to runoff from agricultural fields because manure that is spread under these conditions tends to flow towards waterways when it melts, rather than infiltrating into the ground.

The Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) also prohibit manure spreading on frozen and snow-covered ground before December 15th or after April 1st — an emergency exemption issued by the Secretary of Agriculture is required to apply manure on either frozen or snow-covered ground during this time.



Farmers need to ensure their manure storage is drawn down enough for the duration of the winter spreading ban or they must be able to stack solid manure in a way that will not lead to water quality impacts. Medium and Large Farm Operations are required by rule to have 180 days of waste storage capacity.

Manure stacking of solid manure is an acceptable option for winter manure management. The Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) outline specific standards and setbacks for manure stacking locations, such as 200 feet from the top of bank of surface water or

a public or private water supply and 100 feet from any ditch or property boundary. When deciding where the best place to stack manure, remember that manure cannot be stacked in an area that experiences annual flooding or on exposed bedrock. If you need assistance in finding an appropriate site for manure stacking don't hesitate to reach out to the Agency for technical assistance at (802)-828-2431.

The Agency can also support farmers with planning for the winter spreading ban, ensuring sufficient manure storage capacity, or strategizing other options, through

our Best Management Practices (BMP) program, call 802-828-2431 for more information.

We'd like to thank the

many farmers who have already been proactively planning their waste storage needs and preparing for the December 15 – April 1 spreading ban. Exemptions for winter manure spreading during the ban, or on frozen or snow covered ground, may be considered for emergency situations, such as structural failure of a waste storage facility. If a farmer anticipates having an issue before or during the ban, please contact Ryan Patch for assistance with planning winter manure management at (802)-272-0321.

## For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/events/month>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: [http://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension\\_event\\_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 Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Required Agricultural Resources (RAPs) Resources: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about\\_us/budgets\\_reports](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](http://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](mailto:info@vcil.org) or visit: [www.vcil.org](http://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](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities)

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# Annual Certifications for Certified Small Farm Operations Due January 31

By Sonia Howlett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Small Farms that meet the criteria of a Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO) need to certify their operation on an annual basis by January 31 of each year. Any farm that has 50 acres or more of annual crops, houses 50 or more mature dairy cows, or 75 cattle, heifers, veal calves, cow/calf pairs, or youngstock, or 40 horses, or a combination of animals with a total live weight that equals more than 90,000 pounds meets the threshold of a CSFO. For complete CSFO criteria visit

[www.agriculture.vermont.gov/csfo](http://www.agriculture.vermont.gov/csfo)

The goal of the CSFO program is to support farmers to ensure their clear understanding of the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) while providing assistance to assess, plan and implement any necessary conservation and management practices that might be necessary to meet water quality goals. Certifying as a CSFO ensures that farms have access to all the financial and technical resources available to them, and allows for staff to contact the farm operators and help ensure that operators have understanding of applicable



regulations and assistance programs.

As part of certification, farms commit to developing a USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service 590 Nutrient Management Plan, receiving four water quality educational credits every five years, and receiving a

farm inspection to assess compliance with the RAPs at least once every seven years.

All CSFOs need to complete their one-page Annual Certification Form by January 31, 2021 for the 2021 calendar year. Forms can be completed online at

[www.agriculture.vermont.gov/csfo](http://www.agriculture.vermont.gov/csfo). Farms that have certified in 2019 or 2020 should have received an email or letter reminding them to re-certify.

If you have not yet submitted a CSFO Certification Form, are unsure if you are required to certify, or would like to request a paper form, please do not hesitate to call the Agency at (802) 828-2431 or reach out to one of our small farm coordinators: [katie.gehr@vermont.gov](mailto:katie.gehr@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-461-5991; [sylvia.jensen@vermont.gov](mailto:sylvia.jensen@vermont.gov) or 802-782-3388; or [trevor.lewis@vermont.gov](mailto:trevor.lewis@vermont.gov) or 802-585-5092.

## Stay Safe, Vermont: How to Weigh the COVID-19 Risks in Any Situation

By Vermont Department of Health

As life picks up this fall and winter, Vermonters should get in the habit of weighing the COVID-19 risks in different situations and settings before making plans or going out. We suggest this formula for safety: Six-Foot Spaces, Masks on Faces and Uncrowded Places. Adding any or all of these measures makes an event or situation instantly safer and less risky.

Curious how to do this? When making plans and before leaving your home,



get in the habit of asking yourself:

- Can I easily keep six feet from others?
- Will people wear masks?
- Will it be uncrowded

with enough space for people to spread out?

Every YES answer leads to a lower risk of getting or spreading COVID-19. The more of these you see in any

situation, the better—and having any one of these prevention measures in place is better than nothing at all.

It's also important to think about what level of risk you're comfortable with and know that it might be different for others. That's okay! Some people feel comfortable taking on a moderate amount of risk in their lives and others may not want to take on any risk. When planning outings or considering social gatherings, think about the potential COVID-19 risks and determine what you

need to feel safe. If your plans involve other people, talk to them ahead of time and make sure you're on the same page when it comes to safety measures. It's also okay to decline invitations or leave situations that feel too risky. You should never have to feel bad or apologize for prioritizing your safety.

Remember, you can still live your life while minimizing the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19. For more COVID-19 safety tips, visit <https://HealthVermont.gov/StaySafeVT>.

# Local Food Markets as a Placemaking Tool

by Alissa Matthews, VT  
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets direct markets programming supports small rural businesses using a range of market outlets including farm stands, CSAs, farmers markets, independently owned retail stores, co-ops and grocers, restaurants, and agritourism related businesses. Place-based efforts are focused on improving and expanding in-state market access for specialty crops through direct-to-consumer market promotion and sustainable food system development. This community-oriented approach to food access and market development fosters projects and events that increase exposure to local products and specialty crops, to an expanded consumer base. Community-driven placemaking and health-promoting activities can build social capital through effective partnerships to help ensure that local food markets can thrive in the long term.

## Local Food in Your Community Grants

In 2019 the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets began working with the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, the Vermont Department of Health, and other State and non-government partners to envision a



*A new look for safe shopping at the Capital City Farmers Market.*

collaborative program that could foster place-based economic development by enabling Vermonters to deploy grassroots, quick-build, placemaking projects to improve the livability and vibrancy of their communities.

In response to the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, priorities of various funding opportunities had to shift alongside the many changes that were being made by the businesses and communities they support. While that larger collaborative initiative continues to develop as the Better Places Program, the Agency initiated a new grant program using a similar community-oriented approach. The Local Food in Your Community Grant Program is focused on projects that increase points of access and exposure to fresh fruits and vegetables and other local products, while supporting

producers' efforts to adapt their operations and mitigate financial shock in response to the current public health crisis.

Community-driven placemaking and health-

promoting activities can build social capital through effective partnerships to help ensure that local food markets can thrive in the long term. In recognition of this the

Vermont Department of Health teamed up with the Agency to leverage federal funding, including \$25k of USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funding and an additional \$50K from VDH's Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant Program. Among many other community and economic development benefits, these types of projects support obesity prevention and Healthy Community Design, improving Vermonter's access to healthy food and places to be physically active. Awarded projects include initiatives that implement sustainable practices, support financially viable businesses, highlight collaborative efforts, and foster meaningful community connections through healthy local food.



*Community Garlic Harvest Party at Luna Bleu Farm in South Royalton.*

John Snell

Megan Fuerst



# Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program

By Kaitlin Hayes, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

One of the many programs offered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (the Agency) providing funding to farm operations in Vermont to make water quality improvements on their farmsteads, is the Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program. The PSWF Program has been carried out by the Agency, and the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension's Center For Sustainable Agriculture Pasture & Livestock Program, and other UVM Extension pasture and grazing experts over the past several years.

The PSWF Program focuses on pastureland that poses a water quality concern, and where water quality will benefit from implementation of improved pasture management and eligible and/or necessary conservation practices. Farm operators must have ownership or land control for the term of the agreement, 10 years.

The PSWF Program can provide pasture management technical assistance as well as up to 90% cost share financial assistance to implement improved pasture management, which may include the following eligible practices:

- Fence



Before (left) and after (right) of an Animal Trail and Walkway funded through the PSWF.

- Pipeline
- Water Source Development
- Water Tanks
- Improved Permanent Water Area
- Stream Crossings
- Electric Fence Chargers

In the previous fiscal year, there were 19 executed PSWF grants that allocated over \$325,000.00 for the

installation of a combination of practices, such as exclusion fencing, animal trails and walkways, pipeline, water tanks, and stream crossings.

If you have questions

or believe you are a good candidate for the program please contact Kaitlin Hayes via email [kaitlin.hayes@vermont.gov](mailto:kaitlin.hayes@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-622-4112.

## Local Food Resiliency in Vermont

By Emily Wanzer, Intern VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets & Vermont Sustainability Jobs Fund

Communities all around Vermont are creating, discovering and revisiting strategies for building a more secure, accessible and resilient local food system. The Farm to Plate Network and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have partnered on a collaborative project to create a collection of these community-based food access initiatives, showcased on the project website at <https://tinyurl.com/VermontLFYC>.

The website functions as a library of profiles with strategies and successes com-

ing from thoughtful planning and community connection, rooted in place-based thinking. The first round of profiles on the website highlight several initiatives that were underway prior to the coronavirus pandemic, and some that have made adjustments, or have been reimagined, in response

to the current public health emergency. The second round will feature the recipients of the Local Food in Your Community grants that were funded through the partnership between the Agency and Vermont Department of Health. We invite you to draw on these ideas and collective wisdom as you plan around food, accessibility, and justice where you are.



Randolph Community Orchard

## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,  
University of Vermont  
Extension  
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or  
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu  
[http://www.uvm.edu/  
vtvegandberry/](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/)

## 2020 Vermont Vegetable And Berry Grower Webinars

Wednesdays from noon to  
1:00 p.m. For details of  
upcoming topics and links  
to past webinar slides and  
video recordings see: [http://  
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/  
Webinars2020.html](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/Webinars2020.html)

**December 2** Bags, Liners,  
Containers: So Many  
Options – Chris Callahan  
**December 9** Adding Tree  
Fruit to a Diversified Farm  
– Terry Bradshaw

## Reports From The Field

(Guildhall) Potato harvest finished Nov. 24. Though it dragged out over 3 weeks, we only spent about 9 days actually digging between the rain. 7.25" of rain from Oct. 2 to 24. Potato yields are down by one-third to two-thirds depending on variety. Coupled with strong early sales, we don't have what we'd like to see in the barn, but considering how little it rained this summer, I'm happy to have a crop at all. Potato barn renovations continue, and we've started washing, grading, sizing and bagging in the new packing

space, though it's not finished yet.

(Westminster) Our fall harvest is going very well; all our root crops will be in storage by the end of the week. We have plenty of radishes! Watermelon and black radishes, and purple daikon by the binful. We are cutting our last planting of lettuce. There is plenty of kale left in the fields to pick; the warming temperatures this week will keep that going, although we probably won't break our record of the latest date to pick kale in the field: Dec. 28, 2004.

The pandemic affected our southern markets considerably this year, making them more volatile and less reliable. So, I think we will reconsider our crop mix for next season, growing less lettuce and more root crops. Our new packing line will make that strategy more attractive, too. And the new line will help us work toward our goal of expanding into more grocery chains in Vermont and New England and shipping less produce out of the region.

(Shrewsbury) Our farm dropped our one winter market and two summer markets back in March and increased our summer CSA from about 100 members to nearly 250. It took a little adjusting to our crop plan and weekly farm routines, but we have managed to keep our CSA free-choice and got very positive feedback from our customers this summer. It's really sweet to see how much it means to people to be connected to their vegetable farm.

About two-thirds of our members pick up from a new display cooler

in our barn, and we pack and deliver bags for the remaining folks using a google form generated spreadsheet that members use to choose what they'd like. We've really enjoyed the efficiency gains from consolidating our marketing and are conscious to try to make the experience as valuable as possible for our members to maintain a high retention rate.

I'm looking forward next year to planting some pick your own flower gardens for our members and growing some more fun crops that we haven't done before like melons and fall-plug planted strawberries.

(Elmore) Working to get all potted plants back into the ground before it dips to 15 degrees tonight, Oct. 30. Too cold too early, never enough time to get the farm work done. Sold our last "Vern's brown turkey" fig tree yesterday for indoor growing, of course, outdoors in the summer only. So many people wanted fruit and nut trees and berry plants this year. We are working hard expand our supply. We set up a new drip irrigation system for blueberry plant growing, which has them looking the best in years.

We are keeping better track of sales, going from gut to excel spreadsheets



to help us see and not just feel how to proceed. Have a dedicated crew I am grateful for, working in early snows and cold and all during the virus time. I feel next season will be even busier with more demand, so we are working to prepare. The good thing about growing perennial plants is that they get more valuable from year to year as they get larger. However, our harvested fruit and nut sales are way down as we are having a hard time finding new markets for our produce since three of the main stores/breweries we sell to either laid off most of their crew or closed this year. Most frustrating are the ones that do not return calls or emails or get back to you after you visit.

(E. Montpelier) Crappy potato yield. Too dry. Also had excessive deer browsing. We actually never saw the potatoes flower due to canopy browsing. This was the year that seals the decision, I plan to set up a single line drip system on spuds next year. I kept holding off, part lazy and part not wanting my hobby farm to dry our home well/water system.

(Winchester NH) Our growing season ended definitively last Saturday morning, when the temperature dipped to 18 degrees. Have 0.7 acres of carrots still to harvest, along with some parsnips, turnips, cabbage, spinach, and more greens if they pull through. Last week there was time to clean and disinfect seedling trays and trellising stakes, while we wait for cooler space to free up.

Happy to have nearly pulled through such an

uncertain year. CSA and wholesale sales have been strong; irrigation has been key. Covid logistics have been scary, but health has been good. Finally achieved a broccoli harvest without hollow stem -- I think I'd been spraying Solubor on the crops when they were too young, rather than just before heading up. Just about to test out a new high tunnel soil steamer that was purchased by the Cheshire County Conservation District. Soon the steamer will be part of their equipment rentals service.

## Tech Tips From The UVM Extension Ag Engineering Team *Giving a Dairy Barn New Life at New Leaf Organics (Postharvest Case Study)*

Jill Kopel owns and operates New Leaf Organics in Bristol, Vermont and has over 19 years of farming experience. After many years of growing crops and growing the business she made the decision to invest significantly in her wash/pack space to improve many aspects of the farm. [https://  
go.uvm.edu/newleaf](https://go.uvm.edu/newleaf)

## Project Planning for Postharvest Efficiency, Profitability, and Food Safety *(Free 8-Part Packshed Webinar)*

A video series focused on postharvest upgrades for your farm. Whether your project is organizing a relatively simple outside wash station or building a full packshed from scratch, we share the principles and practice with examples to help you make the most of it. [http://go.uvm.edu/  
phwebinar](http://go.uvm.edu/phwebinar)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**For Sale:****BEES AND QUEENS****McFarline Apiaries***Untreated bee breeding*

VT 5 frame Nucs and deep singles

\$200-\$300, Available May-June

MCF Queens \$30: June to end of July

tmcfarline2@yahoo.com

[www.mcfarlineapiaries.com](http://www.mcfarlineapiaries.com)**802-537-3294***Call or email now for details***Cattle**

In Westford, VT: 2 Jersey Heifers. One due end of June. One due 1st of July. \$750 each. 802-338-0684.

350+ cow and 200+ young stock barn/farm facility available for rent. Complete dairy farm with modern double 10 Boumatic parlor. No livestock included. All buildings have slatted floor, no alley scraping needed. Headlocks in all livestock barns, mattresses, curtains, 2 bulk milk tanks. 700 acres of feed for purchase. Rent, buy or will consider raising young stock for other farmers. Let's discuss the possibilities. 802-533-2984

Purebred Polled Hereford yearling heifers. Lull Brook Farm call: Alden Dana 802-436-2068 or email adana77@comcast.net.

2 Registered Guernsey cows: Certified A2A2, milking 75-80lbs, both sired by Welcome JT - \$1200 each. 1 registered Guernsey bred heifer due late August A2A2 certified, sired by Latimer; dam is EX90 \$1500. 802-222-4047.

Yearling beef steers and heifers \$500 to \$600 each. Beef going up and with good pasture possible to double money by fall, also beef cow calf combination \$1000. 802-728-3760

22 Jersey cows 2 bred heifers. 4 fresh Jan, 2 Feb, 3 due Mar, 4 Apr, 1 May, 2 Jun. Can be reg. Feed grain hay pasture. 802-775-3846

3 breeding age bulls- one Hereford, 2 angus for breeding or beef. Asking \$850 each or will consider trading for Hereford heifers. 802-586-2857

Angus Bulls for sale good genetics, calving ease bulls. Please call 802 533 9804. Greensboro, VT 05841

Registered Angus Cow calf pairs, bred cows starting at \$1,500. 18 years of select sire artificial breeding. Call Richard Dickinson, 802-782-9970 or rdickinson@dbdentalcarevt.com

Scotch Highland/Belted Galloway crosses for sale. 2 year old bulls, yearling bulls, cow calf pairs, heifers. call for prices. 802-353-7313

Cattle- Hereford, Angus, Holstein bulls for sale. All ages. They're respectful of electric fence. Call 802-735-4725 or email louise.resendes@uvmhealth.org

Black Angus heifers and bulls for sale. Good genetics. Call for more info 802-558-8196

**Employment**

Larson Farm and Creamery, 30-cow organic grass-fed Jersey dairy farm and creamery seeks dairy herd manager who is passionate about sustainable dairy production. Responsibilities include milking, feeding, pasture management, herd health, calf and barn chores. Must be able to handle animals calmly, have basic tractor skills. Cleanliness and

good organizational skills a must. 802-645-0865

**Equipment**

375 gal full tank \$100. CMT bale wrapper \$250. 2 bottom plow \$75. 802-426-3339

3000 gallon mueller bulk tank with 2-5 horsepower compressor. 802-487-4467

Mueller 500 gallon bulk tank with compressor in good condition \$800 OBO. Pequea model 250 3 pt hitch tractor saw with 30" blade - like new- \$1000 OBO. 3 pt hitch - 4 ft hydraulic log splitter \$1800 OBO 802-893-2262

Red cedar posts. 7ft \$5.00. Sharp \$5.50. 8ft \$6.00. Haylage 35/ton. 802-265-4566

2955 John Deere Tractor 4WD, platform with 740 loader, bucket, forks, bale grabber and rock bucket. 4450 John Deere Tractor 4WD, cab, 925 Mower conditioner with impellers. 802-236-4716

Used farm equipment, harrows, rakes, Tedder, all over 20 years old \$20 each. 1 Kaufman trailer 2001 \$150. Call 802-457-2613.

Gestation tabulator by Willard Bates & Son with 100 pins. Make an offer. Snap test kit used twice. Make an offer. Dari Kool 150 gallon bulk tank, \$500. Acorn 17 foot conveyor, \$450. Call 802-933-4159. Leave message, will return your call.

Irrigation pipe. Tico aluminum pipe. 2"x30'. approx 100 pieces available. \$15 each. 5"x30' 30 pieces available. \$30 each. Fittings and sprinklers available. Email for photos or questions chris@lincolnpeakvineyard.com Lincoln Peak Vineyard, New Haven. 802-388-7368

Grain equipment for sale - 2 gravity box wagons in good condition, one with auger, \$1500 each, Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center, 802-431-8530.

Loftness snow blower 7 foot. Double auger. Three point mounting. Hydraulic operated shoot. Great condition. Ready to use. Cat

2 or Cat 3 hitch. 100 hp or more to run. \$3,000. New these are \$8,500. Looking to move it. It's a terrific deal. Shaftsbury, VT. 781-307-6801.

IN 843 combine cornhead; IN 7ft windrow head for 881; Gehl 350 spreader; 5 ton grain bin; 25 ton grain bin; case 580 backhoe and 850 dozer for parts; call 802-770-0959.

IH 1486 tractor new tires good AC \$11,9000. IH 1086 tractor rice & cane tires runs good \$7800. JD 3 point hitch 6ft finish mower \$200. Full set of 10 weights and weight bar for IH magnum 1st generation tractors \$700. Pair of 20.8-38 duals with snap on rims \$800. IH 2350 loader \$200. 802-537-2435

8'x17' tandem trailer, all new wood. Great for moving round bales, \$850. 802-586-2857

Master-Bilt 34.5 cubic foot 2-section ice cream hardening and holding cabinet. \$4,500. Please call 802-436-2948 or e-mail Cobbhillfrozenyogurt@gmail.com

Gehl haylage head Model HA1110 very good running shape \$1100.00 Fits most all Gehls 333-4840

2015 Houle manure spreader 5350 gallons 2005 NH FP230 chopper 4 steel wagons 20 feet 2016 Gehl skid steer 165 1 round baie wagon all steel 20 feet tandem krone rake and tedder everything is in excellent shape have sell cows for health reasons. Phone 802-895-2945.

Case International 8340 mower conditioner, stored inside, in good condition. Running, was used last year during first cut. \$2500 obo. 802-518-2155.

15 Ton brock grain bin 5 yrs old. 6.9 ton brock grain bin - excellent shape. 90ft hay elevator - good shape. John Deere baler. 11.5 wide MoGoo John Deere Disc Mower. 9ft 535 Disc mower - like new. 802-624-0143/802-895-4683

For sale FMC pto air blast sprayer High pressure pump 300 gal tank 36" fan, works good got new sprayer \$2,100 obo 802-344-013

New Holland 479 hay combine runs good, \$500. 430-4378.

Caretree 501B tree spade. New in 2001, I am the second owner. Digs a 28" ball, truncated blades. Despite its age, the unit has been used very little. Always under cover, no hydraulic leaks. Original owner's manual. Currently configured to SSQA with valve body on roof of machine. Comes with bracket to attach valves for use by assistant standing on the ground, and three legs to allow digging smaller balls. Also included is a small supply of wire baskets and burlap socks. \$3000.00 obo. Call Russell @ 802-492-3323. I return all messages. Prefer email russreay@vermontel.net

DS Livestock steel feeders 8' long #F1330 list price \$590 (220lbs) plus shipping and 4' long #F1310 list price \$390 (110lbs) plus shipping. 8' price \$200 - 4' price \$100. bearmountainfarmVT@gmail.com 802-394-7852

FP 230 New Holland chopper. 3 steel 20 feet hay wagons. krone 10 feet 802 323 811080 disc mower mimt. 4 feeder steel wagons excellent 20 feet. gehl skid steer with 2000 hrs. brock grain bin 20 tons. cattle trailer. Andre Morin 802-895-2945, cell 802-323-8110

NDE sawdust/shavings spreader. Can be mounted on three point hitch or skid steer. Benson. Pictures on request. Best offer. 770-8060.

Vacuum pump and replacement motor: 1hp, 115v Lisson vacuum pump and never used replacement motor. The vacuum pump has been used to run a milking machine. In good to excellent condition. \$500. for both Pioneer Forecart: Rubber tires, fenders, in excellent condition. \$800. Contact Lynn at: 802-563-2999 or email at: juneiris@fairpoint.net

## CLASSIFIEDS

John Deere 440B Log Skidder for sale. \$10,000. Call Henry 802-276-3096

JD 350 Dozer. New treads, many new undercarriage parts. Winch. Runs well. \$15,000. Thistle Hill Farm (info@ThistleHillFarm.com or 802-457-9349)

**Farm & Farmland**

For Lease: 10 acres of organic meadow in Brandon, currently in alfalfa. Producing roughly 12-15 tons per year in dry hay. Three-year lease available, price negotiable, but approximately \$600/yr 802-247-8459

Private Horse Farm. 17+ acres. Covered small arena. Large sand ring. Insulated stable with 3 oversize stalls, attached paddocks, feed/tack room, hay storage, grass pastures with board fencing. Vermont country open concept farmhouse. 3 bedrooms, office, sun room. Solar, cell phone reception, internet. Workshop, chicken house, orchard, stream trails, woods, views. Close to Dartmouth College and DH Medical Center. Equipment and supplies extra. \$549,999. Call 802-785-4410.

**General**

High Tunnel Greenhouse Assembly & Maintenance: Ledge wood, Harnois, Rimol and more. Complete Assembly, End Wall Construction, Poly Installation, Renovation, and Repairs. Experienced and Professional. Plan Ahead! Get in touch now to get on the 2020 schedule. Contact Mike Feiner at feinervt@gmail.com, www.vinripe.net, (802) 498-8031.

255 gallon pails with handles. One dollar each. Negotiable for volume purchase. 802-999-4644

Boumatic pipeline - \$2500 +/-230ft / 2inch / 46 Stalls stainless steel milk line including vacuum line, wash sink, 3 units, control box, and receiver jar is \$2500. \$4000 with vacuum pump. Call (802) 446-2791 Wallingford. Ask for Jerry.

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Short on feed? Board your heifers with us and we will feed and care for them! We are retired dairy farmers with excellent facilities, including headlocks, slatted floors and more. Don't buy feed and pay for trucking...Send those heifers here. References available upon request. Call 802-533-2984 and let's talk about your options.

Good quality certified organic haylage stored in Ag Bags and large round bales 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cut. Delivery available. 802-988-2959 or 802-274-2832

Quality Canadian hay for sale, big/small squares wrapped, or unwrapped, round bales wrapped or unwrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd cuts available. Switch grass and straw available, call Richard at 802-323-3275

2019 1st cut Timothy and clover hay \$ 5.00 a bale plus delivery fee. 603-256-8422

1000 tons corn silage, processed in Colchester. 50 @ ton 802-272-3478 or 802-223-1370 or email sethgardner@hotmail.com

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request.

2019 1st Cut 4X4 Wrapped Round Bales for Sale \$40/Bale, 2019 2nd Cut 4x4 Wrapped Round Bales for Sale \$45/Bale, South Pomfret, call Tom at 802-457-5834

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435

4x4 round balage mixed grains cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566.

1st, 2nd & 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call Peter Gebbie 802-533-2984, leave a message.

June 15th cut mixed hay, great quality, will load, 4x4 round



bales, \$40/bale, quantity discount/cash prices available. Westford, 802-355-2930

2020 Organic certified 4x4 wrapped hay bales. 1st cut early June 45.00 2nd and 3rd 50.00. 802-793-7526 or 802-433-6127

Certified Organic First Cut Wrapped Round Bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt 802-558-3879.

80 4x5 dry 1st cut bales available on Hollow Rd Brandon Vt in Rutland County. Assistance in loading. Please call and leave a message at 802-247-6076 or 802-236-0144.

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers. Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176

**ADDISON COUNTY**

Large squares available in Addison, Vt. Hay is stored under cover. Looks like a long winter ahead of us. Call now and make sure you have enough. Contact S.L. Moore at 802-463-3875.

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166

Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/

bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities. 802-989-0781 for inquiries.

Hay for Sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales and small squares. \$50-60 for Large, \$3.50-4.50 for Small. Delivery Available. Call Jack 802-989-8968

Hay for sale. \$3.25 bale. 802-377-5455

73 1st cut 5ft diameter round bales. \$30-\$35. Orwell 802-948-2211

Straw for sale - \$7/bale for 50 or more. \$8/bale for less than 50, \$6/bale for all in the barn, approx. 350. from our winter rye harvest in August. certified organic. Thornhill Farm, Greensboro Bend, 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802.441.3176

**BENNINGTON COUNTY**

Corn Silage 1000 ton plus. Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**

Square baled hay- Top quality, VOF certified organic, generous sized. 1st cut \$4.50/bale, 2nd cut \$5.50/bale at the barn in Barnet. 802-592-3088

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

Round bales for horses. Clean first cut timothy mixed grass, quality net wrapped 4' X 5' bales. Never wet. \$45. each. 802- 879-0391 Westford.

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed

grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 ea. call 899-4126 or e-mail

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Good Quality Hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard & orchard sweet grass 18 to 20% plus protein large bales & organic by trailer loads. Large or small square bales of straw whole or processed at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. Mountain View Dairy Farm 802-849-6266

**LAMOILLE COUNTY**

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/bale. Certified organic. Valley Dream Farm, Cambridge, Vt. 802-644-6598 or valleydream@myfairpoint.net.

**ORANGE COUNTY**

2019 first cut square hay bales for sale. \$4.00 per bale. Delivery available. Bonnie Kennedy, Chelsea, VT. 802-685-2292.

Approximately 375 ton of high quality grass and clover first and second cut, cut extremely early in 2018. First finished May 22, second finished July 2nd. Tests high in energy and protein. 45% harvested "hay in a day" \$50 per ton. Chris 802-522-9485

**ORLEANS COUNTY**

Pure alfalfa for sale and also 1st, 2nd and 3rd cut big/small squares, round bales, wrapped or unwrapped, straw and switch grass. Call Richard at 802-323-3275.

Organic Certified Silage for Sale: We will deliver from our farm or you can come and pick up. Call for prices and delivery charge. 1-802-744-2444 or 802-274-4934 or 802-744-6553.

**RUTLAND COUNTY**

Good quality 1st and 2nd round bales available, wrapped and dried. Please call 802-446-2435.

4 x 4 wrapped bales for sale. Please call either 802-247-6076 or 802-236-0144

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

200 - 4x4 round wrapped bales 1st \$45. 802-229-9871

**WINDHAM COUNTY**

2020 4X4 wrapped baleage.  
June cut. Certified organic,  
never wet. 802-254-6982

1st cut hay. Good horse hay.  
\$4.50 bale 802-254-5069

**WINDSOR COUNTY**

Hay for sale-400 square bales,  
Reading, Windsor County Vt.  
\$3.50 per bale at the barn.  
Call 802-484-7240

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00  
delivery available. 802-457-  
1376

Rolling Meadows Farm: square  
bales in the field or barn, \$4.  
Delivery can be arranged at  
\$5.50. Very nice hay from  
fertilized fields in the South  
Woodstock and Reading  
area. Call 802-484-5540 or  
goodfarmvt@gmail.com. Ask  
for David.

1st. cut dry round bales for sale.  
Never been rained on, stored  
under cover. \$50. @ 1st. cut  
haylage bales for sale. \$45.  
Rte. 5 Weathersfield Bow  
802 -546-4340.

Dry round horse hay, \$50/bale.  
200 Bales left. 802-356-5030.

**Sheep**

Sheep Feeders - DS Livestock:  
8' long, 4' long and two  
hexagonal. 20 years old -

all steel frames. Cost new  
without shipping \$1,420.  
Package price \$475.  
bearmountainfarmVT@  
gmail.com 802-394-7852.

A purebred (w/papers) Romney  
Ram 3 years old, 1 pure bred  
(w/papers) Shetland ram for  
sale. 4 icelandic/romney ewes  
for sale various ages/colors  
(certified organic) 422-4704,  
leave message

Buying Lambs- 40 lb and up  
\$1.75/ lb live weight. Call  
802-674-2417. Pick up  
available.

**Wanted**

Looking for several 4 spoked 4  
ft. diameter pin wheels for an  
old Farmhand rake. The 90  
degree rod hole holding the  
pin wheel on is 2 1/4 inches  
in diameter. Call 802-457-  
2218.

**This Month's Recipe****Fluffy Strata Recipe***(Overnight Breakfast Casserole)*

**Overnight  
Breakfast  
Strata:** This  
easy make-  
ahead holiday  
breakfast is  
super quick  
to prep, then  
pop in the  
oven the next  
morning!

**Ingredients**

- 12 large eggs
- 3 cups whole milk (or half & half)
- 3 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup chopped ham
- 1 cup chopped scallions
- 3/4 cup chopped roasted red pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 12 ounce loaf french bread

**Instructions**

1. Set out a large mixing bowl and a 9x13-inch (3 quart) baking dish. Grease the baking dish. Chop all necessary ingredients.
2. In the mixing bowl, add the eggs, milk, salt, ground mustard, and garlic powder. Whisk well to break up all the yolks. Then stir in the cheeses, ham, scallions, and roasted red pepper.
3. Tear the bread loaf into 1-2 inch chunks and place them in the baking dish.
4. Pour the egg mixture over the top of the

bread. Use a spatula to fold the bread over, gently, to make sure the ingredients are evenly distributed. Cover and chill until ready to bake.

5. Let the strata recipe rest for at least one hour, so the bread soaks up all the eggs. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. (Or make it the night before! It may take a bit longer to bake.)
6. Bake, uncovered, for 50-60 minutes, until the top is golden-brown and puffy in the center. Insert a sharp knife into the center to check that the eggs are set. If not, bake another 5-10 minutes. Then cool for 5 minutes before cutting. Serve warm!

*Feel free to experiment with your favorite add-ins. Here are some ideas:*

- **Meat:** Ham, cooked bacon (mmm...bacon), turkey bacon, Italian sausage, cooked breakfast sausage, prosciutto, pancetta, or chorizo.
- **Cheese:** Cheddar, gouda, muenster, swiss, fontina, pecorino, pepper jack, feta, chevre, or even cream cheese.
- **Veggies:** Scallions, roasted red peppers, sautéed mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, caramelized onions, roast garlic, asparagus tips, spinach, or kale. (Just make sure whatever you add will not add extra moisture into the Strata.)
- **Herbs and spices:** Ground mustard, garlic powder, onion powder, celery salt, cracked black pepper, ground cumin, paprika, chili powder, cayenne pepper, thyme, rosemary, or basil.

**Communications Trainings Available for Farmers**

*By Laura Hardie, New England Dairy*

This year New England Dairy helped over 120 dairy farmers and industry professionals improve their communications skills through one-hour trainings. The topics of the trainings included: how to have productive conversations with reporters, dairy nutrition 101, and how to grow your following on social media.

The recorded one-hour trainings can be viewed at [www.bit.ly/farmertrainings](http://www.bit.ly/farmertrainings). Or, by visiting [www.NewEnglandDairy.com](http://www.NewEnglandDairy.com) and navigating to the "For Farmers" page and the "Trainings and Events" section.

If you're interested in a live training or aren't able to access the recorded trainings email Laura Hardie at [LHardie@NewEnglandDairy.com](mailto:LHardie@NewEnglandDairy.com) for more information.



# Organic Certification Cost Share Program – Deadline Extended!

By Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) offers funding assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified for specific scopes under the National Organic Program (NOP) are eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 50% of their direct certification costs paid between October 1 and September 30 annually, not to exceed \$500 per certification scope.

There are up to four eligible certification scopes (crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling), which must be individually inspected for organic certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

Allowable costs include application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, user fees/sale assessments, and postage.

To learn more and apply, please visit: [agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare)

The application deadline is December 15, 2020. Reimbursement is available on a first come, first served

basis.

Contact Terry Smith at [terry.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:terry.smith@vermont.gov) or (802) 828-5667.

## Custom Applicator Renewals Due January 31st

By Sonia Howlett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

A custom applicator is a person who is engaged in the business of applying manure or nutrients to land and who charges or collects other consideration for the service. All owner/operators or full-time custom applicators must be certified with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to operate within the state of Vermont. To become certified, custom applicators must pass the Custom Manure Applicator Exam administered by the Agency. Certification lasts for five years but must be renewed annually.

An Annual Certification Fee of \$30.00 per Certified

Applicator is due to The Vermont Agency of Agriculture by January 31, 2021 to renew certification for the 2021 spreading season. If you are currently certified, a letter will be mailed to your place of employment requesting your renewal fee. Once your fee has been received, a Certified Custom Manure



Applicator operator card will be mailed to you.

Seasonal, part time, or other staff must also be trained in methods or techniques to minimize runoff to surface water when spreading manure. In-person trainings are currently limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Alternatively, training is available online through the Vermont Custom Manure Applicator Online Training course. Go to <https://campus.extension.org/> to create your free account and take the online course.

If you have any questions about your renewal, are looking for events to attend for educational credit, or if you are an applicator that needs to be certified in Vermont, please contact the Agency at 802-828-2431.

## Remembering Samuel Cutting III

Lt. Col. Samuel Cutting III (USAF Ret.), age 88, of Ferrisburgh died peacefully on October 22, 2020 at the Vermont Veteran's Home in Bennington, Vermont.

A sugarmaker, businessman, farmer, outdoorsman and devoted family man, Sam was deeply involved in the Vermont maple industry for more than fifty years. His primary focus was to "raise the bar" on the quality standards of pure Vermont maple syrup so that it would continue to earn the reputation as the "World's Best Maple Syrup".

In 1960, Sam and Joan purchased a 120-acre working farm with a small roadside stand on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh. This stand was called the Dakin Farm Maple Market and this was the beginning of Dakin Farm. First, Sam learned how to tap trees and make maple syrup, then how to smoke ham and bacon using corn cobs. He used old Vermont recipes that date back to the early settlers like Timothy Dakin, a Quaker who settled the Cutting's farm in 1792. These were the humble beginnings of a business that would grow into a well know tourist attraction and e-commerce business.

In his community, Sam served as a member of the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department for more than twenty years. He also served as a judge at countless maple contests and loved teaching Vermont children about their proud maple heritage.

In recognition of his many years of service to the Vermont maple industry, Sam was awarded "The Sugar Maker of the Year Award," "The Maple Person of the Year Award," and the Vermont maple industry's highest award, "The Sumner Hill Williams Memorial Cup" for lifetime achievement. Sam was also inducted into the International Maple Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Vermont Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2013.

For a full obituary, please go to <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?n=samuel-cutting&pid=197001325>



## VT Land Trust Awarded \$2M to Advance Innovation in Agriculture

*Federal delegation lauds collaborative effort that will help 25 farms*

A \$2 million grant from the USDA National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has been awarded to the Vermont Land Trust to help farmers implement practices that enhance the health of their soils. The Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Program and the On-Farm Trials of NRCS stimulate the adoption and evolution of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with farmers.

The Vermont Land Trust, Biological Capital, and the University of Vermont Extension, will work with approximately 25 farms, both conserved or not conserved, to create, implement, and evaluate practices that enhance the health of soil,

including its ability to store carbon. This is the only Vermont-based project to receive CIG funding.

“Time and again, Vermont has proven itself to be a leader in innovation, particularly in the agricultural sector where our commitment to farmland protection, local food systems, and environmental stewardship sets us apart,” said Nick Richardson, President & CEO of the Vermont Land Trust. “This grant helps us pilot new approaches to building soil health that are good for the farmer and our farmland.”

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) said: “Vermonters have long known that stewardship and conservation of our farmland is a public good, and our farmers have

led the way in finding innovative ways to improve the sustainability of their operations and our communities’ resilience to climate change. As a lead negotiator of the 2018 Farm Bill, I was pleased to support the creation of these new On-Farm Trials, because putting the tools and resources into the farmers’ hands is the best way to push these important practices forward. I applaud the Vermont Land Trust and its partners for seizing this opportunity.”

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said: “I commend the Vermont Land Trust for investing in research to grow healthy soil. Farmers are at the forefront of climate change and deal with more extreme weather every day. We need research like this to

improve farmers’ livelihoods and the quality of soil for generations to come. These on-farm trials will enable more farmers to adopt the practices needed to save our soils and build a more resilient agricultural system.”

Representative Peter Welch (D-Vt.) said: “Farming is an integral part of Vermont’s identity and economy, and this grant advances cutting-edge conservation techniques on our farms. This grant is a win-win for farms and the environment. I applaud the work of the Vermont Land Trust and their efforts to keep land accessible.”

The NRCS awarded over \$25 million in grants to support 14 projects.

“On-Farm Trials help producers improve the health of

their operations while also helping NRCS build data to show the benefit of innovative conservation systems and practices applied on the land,” said VT NRCS State Conservationist Vicky Drew.

The Vermont Land Trust will provide project oversight, work directly with farmers, and manage the technical service providers. Biological Capital and University of Vermont will lead the data collection and analysis to test the efficacy of different approaches, including those that minimize soil disturbance while maximizing soil cover and biodiversity. Outcomes will be evaluated against five control sites and used to create a predictive model. The results will be available in 2025.

## The 2020 Fish & Wildlife Calendar Available Now

Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s colorful 2020 calendar is now available.

The calendar is filled with stunning photos of Vermont wildlife, including white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, great blue heron, red fox, brown trout, common loon, black bear, porcupine, great gray owl, and snow geese. It includes photos by many well-known Vermont photographers including Roger Irwin, Daniel Berna, Kurt Budliger, Josh Blouin, Bryan Pfeiffer, and Ian Clark.

‘100 Wildlife Manage-



ment Areas (WMAs) in 100 Years’ is the calendar theme celebrating 2020 as

the 100-year anniversary of when the Fish and Wildlife Department purchased its

first state wildlife area – the Sandbar Waterfowl Refuge in Milton,” said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. “The department has purchased close to 100 WMAs over the years, totaling more than 130,000 acres, that provide valuable habitats for wildlife and unique opportunities for the public to enjoy Vermont’s fish and wildlife resources through hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife watching.”

The purchase and management of WMAs has been primarily funded through the sale of hunting and trapping licenses, as well as federal taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. The department uses this money, with other funding, including the Vermont Duck

Stamp fund and support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to acquire land for wildlife habitat management and public access.

In recent years, public support of the voluntary Habitat Stamp has also helped fund habitat restoration and management on WMAs.

The calendar includes hunting, fishing and trapping season dates for each month, along with beautiful photography, and it makes the perfect gift for any outdoor recreationist.

The calendar is available for \$15 at Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department offices – and with a printable free-shipping order form on their website [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

# Gift Certificates from Department of Fish & Wildlife

Get the perfect gift for anyone who hunts or fishes. It's a gift that keeps giving all year long and guaranteed to fit!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Gift Certificates must be redeemed online toward the purchase of eligible hunting and fishing licenses. Gift Certificates ARE transferrable.

Purchase and redeem your gift certificates securely online. Be sure to select

"Apply a Gift Certificate" button at the payment step.

Please note:

- If a purchase exceeds your gift certificate balance, the remaining amount must be paid with another payment method.
- A maximum of two gift certificates may be used on the same purchase.
- Do not lose your redemption code. VT Fish & Wildlife is not responsible if any gift

certificate is lost, stolen, or destroyed, or if your balance is used without your permission.

- Gift certificate balances are not returnable or refundable for cash, except to the extent required by law.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call our Licensing Office at 802-828-1190 during business hours. You may also use our online contact form.



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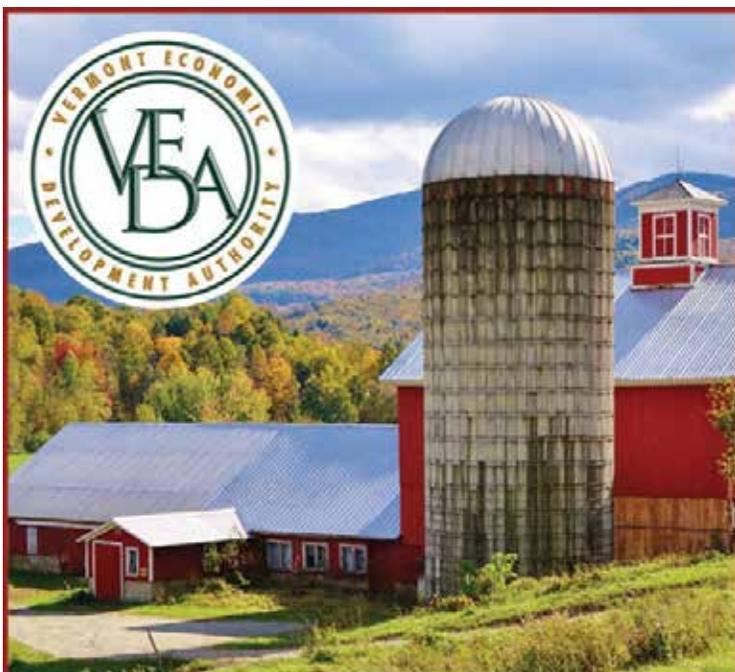
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