

# AGRiVIEW



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## Working Lands Enterprise Board Announces Program Impacts on Vermont's Economy and Communities

*428 New Full-Time Jobs Created and \$18.1 Million in Increased Sales*

By Emma Hanson, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Since its inception in 2012, the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) has invested over \$3.8 million dollars in 129 projects affecting every county of the state, leveraging \$7.4 million in additional funds. Over the last five years, working lands grantees have created 428 new full-time jobs and generated \$18.1 million in new sales. Additionally, 98% of Working Lands grantees report expanding into new markets, 45% report enhanced environmental stewardship, and 30% report increased employee wages as a result of their grant.

On Thursday, January 26, 2017 the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative annual report was



submitted to the Vermont Legislature accompanied by a short presentation and testimony from state leaders and past grantees.

Among those who provided supporting remarks during the presentation were Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts,

*Tangletown Farm of West Glover Vermont (Orleans County) received a 2016 Working Lands Grant for \$15,000 to increase and improve infrastructure for pastured laying hens and egg production.*

Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation Michael Snyder, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Ted Brady, Vermont House Speaker Mitzi Johnson, and Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe. Four past grant recipients also presented overviews of their businesses and working lands projects, and discussed challenges and opportunities facing their sectors, including Jon Blatchford of JK Adams in Bennington County,

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## AGRiVIEW

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

February. I really start to think about Spring. The seed catalogs are stacked up. I start to think about ordering my seeds. What will I try this year? When I walk in the woods, I hear the mating call of the chickadees and the owls are hooting early in the morning. They are in the midst of "making more owls." When I walk to the barn each morning, I wonder if the ewes have had their lambs? Spring is near.

As we think about a new season, we are in the midst of listening and learning from you. Thanks to all those who met with us at the annual farm show in Essex. We did hear a few themes from our farmers. We heard you continue to want our help with issues. Finding qualified labor to do the work on the farm, in the fields and on the road was one consistent concern we heard from those making a living from Agriculture. We heard you value the technical assistance we provide to new and growing businesses as you work your way through federal and state regulations. We heard from our maple industry about "fake" versus "real." Our sugar makers told us some of our big food companies are using the word maple loosely and it's hurting their industry. We will continue to learn more about this important consumer assurance issue.

Keep the feedback coming. We are serious about customer service. We



are also serious about growing the Vermont economy. We are serious about making Vermont more affordable. We are also serious about taking care of those who need our help. The Governor has challenged all of us to be "bold" and break down the silos in state government. Agriculture is talking with the Agency of Commerce. Agriculture is working with the Agency of Transportations. Agriculture is communicating with Labor. Agriculture is staying close to public safety. We can all help each other make Vermont a better place to live and work.

Governor Scott and the legislature are both committed to growing the rural economy. Agriculture will play a large role in that effort, and we will continue to work closely with the Governor's office and the legislature to address the issues that are most important to all of you. Keep the ideas coming. Thanks for your warm welcome and continued leadership.

Now back to those seed catalogs.

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture

### Working Lands Grants

*continued from page 1*

Andy Boutin of Renewable Fuels of Vermont in Windsor County, Myles and Rhonda Goodrich of Molly Brook Farm in Caledonia County, and Calley Hastings of Fat Toad Farm

in Orange County.

Lila Bennett, owner of Tangletown Farm in West Glover received a \$15,000 grant in 2016 to increase and improve their infrastructure for pasture laying hens and egg production. She said, "Receiving a Working Lands Grant enabled us to scale up our hen and egg operation to a sustainable level, as well as improve our infrastructure, increasing efficiency and productivity. Scaling up is expensive and hard for small farms to accomplish quickly. The Working Lands Grant gave us the boost we needed to be truly profitable and successful. Our farm is thriving with happy, healthy hens, in large part thanks to Working Lands."

"Working lands grantees represent some of the best of Vermont. These

businesses and service providers are harnessing our landscape in ways that keep it working and beautiful, while also creating jobs and growing their local communities. I'm very excited to engage with this board and these businesses in the years to come," said Agriculture Secretary,

Anson Tebbetts.

The full Working Lands Enterprise Initiative 2016 Annual Report can be found here: <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/node/763>

For more information about grant recipients in your area, visit: <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/projects>

## AGRIVIEW

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## 2017 AG LISTENING TOUR DATES

Monday, Feb. 27 - 10 a.m. to noon  
Middlebury Parks & Recreation Gym

Thursday, March 2 - 10 a.m. - noon  
St. Albans City Hall Auditorium

Wednesday, March 15 - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier

For complete location details and directions, visit:  
<http://agriculture.vermont.gov/listeningtour2017>

*\*Thanks to all who came to our previous sessions in  
Lyndonville (2/10/17) & Brattleboro (2/17/17)!*

# Weathering Drought on Your Agricultural Operation in Vermont

Vermont NRCS has set aside \$200,000 in 2017 to assist producers with drought mitigation practices. Application deadline for assistance is March 17th.

By Amy Overstreet, NRCS

You can't change the weather, but you can be ready for it. NRCS can help. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help your farm operation become more resilient in the face of drought in future years. Through conservation planning and practices that will improve soil health and water conservation, you can reduce future crop loss due to drought and enhance resiliency to changing climatic conditions.

Financial help for implementing conservation practices may be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program.

For specific questions about how NRCS can help your farm and available practices, contact your local USDA Service Center. Applications are due by March 17, 2017.



Here are general considerations and recommendations to help keep your operation sustainable during drought. Following these tips could lessen the impact of drought conditions on your farm.

## First, Save the Soil

Increasing soil organic matter levels is the key to building healthy soil. Soil organic matter acts like a sponge and holds large quantities of water; soil organic matter can hold 18-20 times its weight in water and recycles nutrients for plants to use. Consequently, soils with large soil organic matter content lose less water to

runoff and evaporation and require less irrigation.

One percent of organic matter in the top six inches of soil can hold approximately 27,000 gallons of water per acre! You can increase your soil organic matter in three to 10 years if you adopt conservation practices such as planting cover crops, residue management, converting to crops that use less water, or mulching.

## Stretch Every Drop

Make every drop of water count by developing an irrigation water management plan with your NRCS conservation planner. Financial assistance may be available to improve your irrigation system to use less water.

## Tips to Minimize the Effects of Drought by Land Type

### PASTURELAND

Protecting pastureland during a drought means balancing the needs of livestock with the capacity of natural resources that have been made more fragile by lack of water. Following are some

of the conservation practices recommended by NRCS:

**Grazing Management Plans** - Developing a grazing management plan helps protect the long-term condition of the pasture by balancing the needs of the livestock with the capacity of the soil and plants.

**Rotational Grazing** - Controlling where and how long livestock are permitted to graze, allows farmers to protect their soil and plants and make use of their remaining forage.

**Livestock Water Systems** - Providing water across the farm with sources such as livestock wells and springs makes it possible to distribute livestock according to the capacity of the soils and plants. Producers should evaluate and improve livestock water systems to increase efficiencies of system delivery.

### FALLOWED LAND

The most commonly prescribed practices for protecting vulnerable farmland fallowed by drought are:

**Tillage & Residue Management** - Leaving residues from the previous crop undisturbed on the soil surface can help reduce wind and water erosion.

**Cover Crops** - Planting or maintaining vegetation, living or dead, will provide cover on the soil surface and reduce erosion. Plants with low water demands like barley are typically used as cover crops during droughts.

**Mulching** - Covering bare

## What Impacts Can Drought Have On Your Operation?

- Increased plant stress
- Decreased water quantity due to limited irrigation supply and reduction in water use
- Soil erosion
- Wind erosion
- Loss of plant cover
- Degraded soil quality
- Degraded air quality due to increased dust from wind and soil erosion
- Increased fire risk
- Reduction in animal food/cover/ shelter
- Increased animal stress
- Reduced stream levels for aquatic habitat

soil with wood chips, straw or other plants material can help to hold the soil in place.

### Conservation Crop

**Rotation** - Switching to crops that require less water can allow a field to remain productive and provide erosion protection.

### IRRIGATED CROPLAND

The most commonly prescribed practices for protecting irrigated cropland from drought are:

**Irrigation System Improvement** - Evaluating irrigation systems, improving management of existing systems, replacing poorly performing components or converting to pressurized irrigation systems will

*continued on page 4*

## NRCS Vermont Offices

Newport Field Office 802-334-6090  
 St. Johnsbury Field Office: 802-748-2641  
 St. Albans Field Office: 802-524-6505  
 Williston Field Office: 802-288-8155  
 Berlin Field Office: 802-828-4493  
 Middlebury Field Office: 802-388-6748  
 Rutland Field Office: 802-775-8034  
 White River Junction Field Office: 802-295-7942  
 Brattleboro Field Office: 802-254-9766  
 Morrisville Field Office: 802-888-4935  
 Follow us on Twitter @VermontNRCS

## VERMONT AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**February**

- **Custom manure applicator trainings**
  - For more info call: (802) 828-2431 or visit: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/custom-applicator>
- **Annual Maple Tree Tapping Event with Governor Scott**– February 28, Randolph Center
  - For more info call: (802) 272-4547 Visit: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/events/month>

**March:**

- **National Weights and Measures Week** – March 1-7
  - For more info call: 802-828-2426 visit: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food\\_safety\\_consumer\\_protection/](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/)
- **Production Efficiency Intensives for Vegetable Farmers Workshop** – March 2, Green Mountain College & March 3 Sterling College
  - For more info visit: <http://www.rutlandfarmandfood.org/efficiency-intensive>
- **National Groundwater Awareness Week**, March 5-11, 2017
  - For more info, visit: <http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/awareness/Pages/default.aspx>
- **NOFA-VT Organic Strawberry School** – March 6, Fairlee
  - For more info visit: <http://nofa-vt.org/events/nofa-vt-organic%20strawberry%20school>
- **Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference** – March 9, Randolph Center.
  - For more info visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/wp-content/uploads/2017vtorganicdairyconferencebrochure.pdf>
- **Information Sessions** regarding \$500,000 in grants available for Economic and Infrastructure Development in Northern Vermont.
  - Friday, March 10 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, 1 National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier

- Monday, March 13 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, 36 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury
- Tuesday, March 14 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, Community Education Room, 738 Route 15 West, Hyde Park
- Thursday, March 16 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Swanton Village offices, 120 First St., Swanton
  - For more info: contact Jared Duval (802) 272-2461; Jared.Duval@Vermont.gov
- **Junior Iron Chef Vermont** – March 18, Essex Junction
  - For more info call: (802) 434-4122 visit: <http://vtfeed.org/jrironchefvt>
- **Vermont Grain Growers Conference**, March 23, Essex.
  - For more info visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/wp-content/uploads/2017-Grains-Conf-Flyer.pdf>

**April**

- **Manure spreading ban ends** April 1
  - For more info: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/>
- **Vermont Maple Festival** – April 28-30, St. Albans
  - For more info call: 802-524-5800, visit: <http://vtmaplefestival.org/>

**For more Vermont agricultural Community Events Visit:**

- **The Vermont 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.vtfarmto-plate.com/events>
- **Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT Events Calendar:** <http://nofavt.org/events>
- **DigIn Vermont Events Calendar:** <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>

## VERMONT AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Specialty Crop Block Grants** Available through Agency of Ag. Application deadline March 15.
    - For more info call: 802-522-7811 visit: <http://bit.ly/scbgpwebinar17>
  - **Drought assistance** available to Vermont farmers, from VT NRCS. Application deadline March 17.
    - For more info visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/vt/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1313495>
  - **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](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports)
  - **Farm First:** Farm First provides confidential help with any personal or work-related issue.
    - For more info call: 1-877-493-6216 anytime day or night! Or visit: [www.farmfirst.org](http://www.farmfirst.org)
  - **Vermont AgrAbility:** A free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families.
    - For 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 resources 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)

**Weathering Drought**

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improve the uniformity of water application. It takes less water to irrigate when the irrigation is uniform.

**Irrigation Scheduling** - Irrigating at the optimum time and applying the

amount the soil can hold minimizes undesirable water loss below the root zone of the crop. Good scheduling or "Irrigation Water Management" helps stretch limited water supplies.

**Vegetative Practices & Mulching** - Growing certain

crops, either interplanted in or in sequence with production crops can increase infiltration and retention of valuable rainfall and reduce evaporation loss from the soil surface. Mulching by covering the soil surface with wood chips, straw or other plant

materials can also reduce water loss to evaporation.

**Tillage & Residue Management** - Modifying tillage to retain residues from a previous crop left on the soil surface can help reduce water loss to evaporation.

**Getting Financial Help:**

NRCS typically has funding to help you lessen the impacts of drought. Vermont NRCS has allocated \$200,000 in 2017 to help assist producers with drought mitigation. Apply by March 17th, 2017. [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov)

## NEWS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

# Consumer Night at the Vermont Farm Show Highlights Venison, “Naturally Beautiful” Produce, and Ag Agency’s Culinary Chops

By Emma Hanson, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Farmers, producers, and localvores from across Vermont converged on Wednesday, February 1st for the 6th annual Consumer Night at the Vermont Farm Show in Essex Junction. Held on the second night of the Farm Show, Consumer Night celebrates the diversity of Vermont agriculture with the Winter Buy Local Market and Capital Cook-Off.

The Winter Buy Local Market featured nearly fifty farmers and producers of local cheese, meat, milk, maple syrup, jams, culinary oils, honey, wine, beer, spirits, wool, and handmade crafts as well as ready-to-eat prepared foods such as Luiza’s Homemade with Love pierogi and ice cream cones from Kingdom Creamery. Over 500 people shopped and grazed their way through the local product booths, and raffle prizes were awarded to four lucky Buy Local Market customers.

The annual Capital Cook-Off was slated to feature its three traditional teams from the Agency of Agriculture, the House Agricultural Committee, and the Senate Agricultural Committee. However, when it became clear that a late floor vote would keep the House team members in Montpelier, an “ad hoc celebrity team” was quickly assembled. The



Left: 2017 Senate Capital Cook-Off Team Members Dick Mazza and John Rodgers browse the pantry before the competition. Right: The 2017 Agency of Ag Capital Cook-off Team: Kristin Haas, Tyler Knapp, Kristen Needham, and Guy Roberts



celebrity team included Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, Joe Buley of Joe’s Kitchen at Screamin’ Ridge Farm, Ryan McLaren from Congressman Welch’s office, and Azur Moulart of Vermont Tortilla Company.

This year’s secret protein was venison, unveiled only moments before the competition began. The meat was donated by Hank Dimuzio of LedgeEnd Farm in Middlebury, one of only two farms in the state raising fallow deer venison. In order to be served in a restaurant or sold at a grocery store, venison must be processed at an inspected facility just like pork, beef, or poultry. This year’s secret ingredient shed light on a delicacy often enjoyed in Vermonter’s homes, but seldom seen on menus.

“Naturally beautiful” vegetables donated by Salvation Farms in Morristown were also available to the competing teams.

“These veggies might be slightly misshapen or otherwise do not conform to market norms, but are still perfectly delicious and nutritious.” Said Theresa Snow, Executive Director of Salvation Farms. “Thousands of tons of these vegetables end up in the compost every year because of their imperfections. We’re trying to change that reality.”

After opening remarks delivered by Governor Phil Scott, the cook-off was underway in a flurry of white toques and sharp knives. After a demanding hour of cooking expertly narrated by MC Diane Bothfeld, Director of Administrative Services from the Agency of Ag, all three teams demonstrated creativity and culinary skill in turning venison, veggies, and dozens of other local ingredients into delicious meals.

A team of judges—including Mark Bowen of the Vermont Farmer Veteran

Coalition, Ric Cengeri of Vermont Public Radio, Hank Dimuzio of LegEnd Farm, Andrea Gagner of 14th Star Brewery, Brian Roper of Sodexo, Theresa Snow of Salvation Farms, Lyndon Virkler of New England Culinary Institute, and Lt. Governor David Zuckerman—declared the Vermont Agency of Agriculture team the Capital Cook-Off champions for the third year in a row.

The team’s winning dish, “Wild Kaleidoscope au Prancing,” included wild venison sliders braised in cranberry hard cider with oyster mushrooms, herbs and cheese curds, presented on a fresh baguette, with a side of seared kale with bacon and cranberries, and roasted root vegetables with smoked maple syrup and savory herbs, garnished with a garden herb bundle.

All three teams’ scores were close, and everyone appeared to enjoy the friend-

ly competition. At the close of the event, the Agency of Ag team members – Kristin Haas, Tyler Knapp, Kristen Needham, and Guy Roberts - said they were thrilled with their dish, “and proud to have participated in such a fun and exciting event celebrating local foods.”

“Consumer night was a huge hit,” said Agricultural Secretary Anson Tebbetts. “From farmers, to producers, to consumers. This night it what it all is about. It’s bringing the public closer to our agriculture roots. Thanks to all including the Agency of Ag team who worked hard to bring this event together. These fun shows are helping to grow our economy. I can’t wait until next year.”

For more information about Consumer Night, visit VAAF’s Consumer Night page at <http://go.usa.gov/cjU84> and Buy Local Markets page at <http://go.usa.gov/cBC9e>.

## NEWS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

# Agency of Ag Awards Farm to School Grants to 13 Schools, Representing 10 Vermont Counties

*Vermont Students Benefiting by Farm to School Programming Expands to 40,000*

By Hannah Reid, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Students and teachers representing nearly 20 schools from across Vermont crowded into the Statehouse Cafeteria in Montpelier on Wednesday, February 8th, along with legislators, government officials, and Vermont Farm to School Network leaders to celebrate Farm to School Awareness Day and honor 2017 grant winners. Over \$121,000 in grants and technical supports were awarded to 13 schools, representing 10 Vermont counties, for the purpose of growing and developing farm to school programs. This year's Farm to School grants will expand the reach of the Vermont Farm to School Program by 5,000 students, raising the total number of Vermont students with increased access to fresh, healthy, locally grown foods and nutrition education through the grant program to 40,000.

Among those who spoke at the celebratory event were Governor Phil Scott, Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont House Speaker Mitzi Johnson, Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe, Senator Bobby Starr, Betsy Rosenbluth from Vermont



Farm to School Network, students and teachers from BFA Fairfax, and Farm to School Grant Program Manager Ali Zipparo from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM).

"Farm to school programs are incredibly important to Vermont's future, and I am so proud of the progress we have made since Rozo McLaughlin introduced the original Farm to School Bill in 2006," said Representative Mitzi Johnson. "They are making sure our young people are aware of what kinds of foods are good for their bodies and where that food comes from. All of you in this room are making this happen and I am thrilled."

Other event highlights included remarks from Shannon Mahoney and Caitlin Allan, student leaders of the BFA Fairfax Farm to School Club. "Our program started out so small," said Mahoney. "Just a couple of

kids and a few teachers. Now we have over 70 students and teachers in the club and a huge amount of support from our community. It's very exciting."

"We take our farm to school program very seriously," said BFA Fairfax Farm to School Program leader and English teacher Fred Griffin. "It's not just an opportunity to play in the dirt. The educational opportunities are enormous; students learn everything from soil science to food preservation. There are proficiencies available to students across the entire range of disciplines."

The Vermont Farm to School Grant Program, now in its eleventh year, works to improve nutrition among Vermont's children by connecting food producers to their local schools, as well as providing enriched educational experiences and curricula. This year was the first year of the Universal

Meals Grant Program, a new grant within the Farm to School grant program that provides funding for schools to transition to a school meal program that provides breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost.

"Access to high quality nutrition is a key tool closing the achievement gap between children from high and low-income families," said Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe. "Vermont is a national standout in our commitment to bringing the bounty of our local farms to the plates of our children. Vermont knows that if we tolerate poor nutrition for our children, we manufacture inequity at the level of the brain. Because of that, we refuse to allow our children to not have access to good nutrition. We are proudly and profoundly making sure not only that our children have enough to eat, but that what they eat includes the

best our fields can grow."

This year, four Planning grants were awarded, four Implementation grants, and five Universal Meals grants. The grantees include:

#### Implementation Grants:

1. Bellows Free Academy Fairfax
2. Cornwall School
3. Guilford Central School
4. Flood Brook School

#### Planning Grants:

1. Albany Community School
2. Concord School
3. Currier Memorial School
4. Mill River Unified Union School District
5. Lamoille Union High School

#### Universal Meals Grants:

1. Craftsbury Schools
2. Currier Memorial School
3. Poultney Elementary School
4. St. Johnsbury School
5. Windsor State Street School

"Farm-to-School is great for the farmer, schools, students and growing the local economy," said Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts who presented the certificates, along with the Governor and Agriculture's Deputy Secretary Alyson Eastman, to students from each school. "Congratulations to all the grant recipients."

The grant ceremony marked the end of a busy

*continued on next page*

# Agency To Award Approximately \$200,000 In Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Funds In 2017

By Kristina Sweet, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) announces the availability of grant funds for the purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture crops (including honey, hops, and maple syrup), and nursery crops (including Christmas trees and floriculture). These funds are awarded through a competitive review process guided by industry, nonprofit and government stakeholders. Prospective applicants may download the Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) Request for Proposals on the Agency's website at <http://go.usa.gov/3JGBG>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) awards Specialty Crop Block Grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. In Vermont, the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets administers these funds to enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops. VAAFAM plans to award approximately \$200,000 in Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds in 2017. Visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp> for



Ben DeFlorio

*Kale (a specialty crop) growing beautifully on Elmer Farm in Middlebury.*

more information about the SCBGP.

VAAFAM strongly encourages projects proposing innovative partnerships and, in collaboration with statewide specialty crop industry stakeholders, has identified the following funding priorities (eligible project types) for 2017:

- Development of innovative horticultural production practices to

enhance farm viability (including improved efficiency, production, or human resources management) and/or natural resource conservation

- Pest and disease management
- Food safety—including the handling, preparation, transport, and storage of specialty crops in ways that reduce foodborne illness

## Farm to School Grants

*continued from page 6*

day in the Statehouse, during which farm to school stakeholders provided testimony to agriculture and education committees in support of farm to school programming. An update to the Rozo McLaughlin Farm to School Act, (S. 33), has been introduced this session and a full Senate

vote is expected in the next few weeks. Additionally, a resolution, introduced by Representative Partridge, was passed yesterday officially declaring February 8th, Farm to School Awareness Day.

For more information about the Vermont Farm to School Program, visit: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/market\\_access\\_development/farm\\_school](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/market_access_development/farm_school)

- Value chain enhancement—including strengthening relationships between individuals, businesses, and organizations that build specialty crop value from production to consumption
  - Market access (local, regional, national, or international), marketing, branding, and consumer education
  - Producer collaboration—including establishing or strengthening producer associations and cooperatives
- VAAFAM will conduct a webinar to provide an overview of the program, the 2017 application process—including USDA standards

for outcome measures—and VAAFAM's online grants management system. Interested parties may register for the webinar at <http://bit.ly/scbgpwebinar17>.

Applicants to the Vermont SCBGP must submit a letter of intent by March 15, 2017. A review committee will invite the top-ranking projects to submit full proposals, which will be due by May 12, 2017.

For more information about Vermont Agency of Agriculture grants, visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses page at [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/funding\\_opportunities](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities).

## For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Ferme Girobrie of Princeville, Quebec to transport goat's milk within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
Dairy Section Office  
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by March 15th, 2017.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

# Veterinary Feed Directive and Livestock Producers – How Does It Affect You?

By Shelley Mehlenbacher,  
DVM, VAAFM

The Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 (ADAA) established a new category of drugs called Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) drugs. A “VFD drug” is a drug intended for use in or on animal feed that is limited to use under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian. With a goal to help ensure safe food and sustainable use of antibiotics for animals and humans, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a revision to the Veterinary Feed Directive in 2015. The revised regulation requires a VFD for all medically important antibiotics (those important in human health) administered in feed, and a veterinary prescription for all medically important antibiotics used in water. The revision, which went into effect January 1, 2017, includes the following changes:

- Ends the use of medically important antimicrobials to enhance livestock performance,
- Transitions many of the feed medications that are currently available “over-the-counter” into the VFD drug category,
- Places the use of VFD animal drugs in or on animal feed under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian, and



- Requires producers to obtain written VFD orders from a licensed veterinarian to purchase and utilize the VFD antimicrobials on or in feed
- What producers and vet-

erinarians are likely already seeing is that many feed-use antimicrobial drugs have transitioned from over-the-counter (OTC) availability to VFD marketing status. Drugs not transitioning from

OTC to VFD include ionophores (monensin, lasalocid), bacitracin, carbadox, anthelmintics (fenbendazole, ivermectin), ractopamine, and coccidiostats.

In order to utilize a medication that is in the VFD category, a producer must work with a licensed veterinarian who can issue a VFD order, which is a written statement authorizing the use of the VFD drug. A veterinarian issues a VFD only in the context of an established veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). VCPRs are defined both state and federally and in the context of issuing a

VFD, Vermont veterinarians must utilize the federally defined VCPR - <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm460406.htm>.

Once a veterinarian has issued a VFD order, producers must then provide the order to a feed manufacturer or supplier to obtain the VFD feed.

Stay tuned for the second article in this series, which will provide more detail on VFD orders themselves, producer and feed mill requirements, recordkeeping, and scenario based examples of VFD uses.

## The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Works with Farmers to Ensure Responsible Use of Veterinary Medications on Farms

By Kristin Haas, DVM State Veterinarian; Director of Food Safety & Consumer Protection

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is committed to assisting Vermont farmers as they strive to implement and maintain best management practices related to judicious use of veterinary drugs on farms. The effective date of the FDA’s Veterinary Feed Directive rule was January 1, 2017, and under this new regulatory landscape, the use of veterinary prescription medications on farms is

under increasing scrutiny. (Read more about what the revised VFD rules means for you above.) Ensuring appropriate use of medications will reduce the incidence of drug residue violations found in bob calves and market livestock at slaughter, protect the Vermont Brand, and will likely lower drug inventory expenses for farmers. It is imperative that farmers work closely with their veterinarians to meet the standards established by the F.A.R.M. program and evolving consumer

expectations.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is partnering with the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association to provide education and technical assistance to dairy farmers regarding judicious use of veterinary medications. Part of this initiative involves implementation of the Food Armor® HACCP for Proper Drug Use program in Vermont. Food Armor® is a multi-part program that provides



NEWS FROM THE FOOD SAFETY & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

the “how-to” for achieving food safety and proper drug use on farms, and approximately 30 Vermont veterinarians are already trained in the program and are prepared to work with their clientele to implement the tenets of the program. This non-regulatory approach ensures a collaborative relationship between the farm’s veterinarian(s), the owner/managers, and the farm employees that work with cows. These are the individuals that make up the Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) team. Each HACCP plan is customized to the individual farm, and the Food Armor® program is designed to empower the local veterinarian and farm personnel as they work together. In addition to Food Armor program implementation, Agency of Agriculture employees are available to provide on-farm technical assistance at the request of the farmer, and the Agency will be developing a password-protected website where farmers may share best practices with one another.

Farmers, through the use of Food Armor®, have the ability to add value to both their own operations and the dairy industry as a whole. Food Armor® program implementation allows the farm to demonstrate and verify food safety and proper drug use on the farm to whomever may be concerned, whether it be their milk processor, a food retailer, or the consumer. It allows the farm to reduce the risk of violative residues in milk and meat, demonstrate commitment to animal welfare through the implementa-

continued on page 15

**2017 Farm Business and Budget Clinics**

Schedule Your Appointment Now at [www.regonline.com/march17clinics](http://www.regonline.com/march17clinics) !

UVM Extension farm business educators (Mark Cannella, Mike Dolce, Kim Kayhart, Tony Kitsos and Betsy Miller) are available to work one-on-one with farmers on their finances. Bring your financial statements, recent records and questions for this 1 ½ hour scheduled private meeting. This might include internal accounting statements, the IRS Schedule F and files on a portable farm computer. Use the time to prepare the statements that will help manage the business. In this session you can expect to develop an accurate balance sheet or a budget for the farm. The session can also be used to review a written business plan or feasibility plan.

Bennington	Berlin	Brattleboro	Middlebury
UVM Extension Office 310 Main Street Bennington VT 05201 1-800-287-1552 x252	UVM Extension Office 327 US Route 302(Berlin) Barre VT 05641 1-866-860-1382	UVM Extension Office 130 Austine Dr., Suite 300 Brattleboro VT 05301 1-800-278-5480	Farm Service Agency 68 Catamount Park Middlebury VT 05753 1-800-956-1125
Monday, March 20 Tuesday, March 21	Tuesday, March 14 Tuesday, March 21	Wednesday, March 22 Thursday, March 23	Thursday, March 30 Friday, March 31
9:00am; 11:00am; 1:00pm	9:00am; 11:00am; 1:00pm	9:00am; 11:00am; 1:00pm	10:00am; 1:00pm
Betsy Miller	Kim Kayhart	Betsy Miller	Mike Dolce
Morrisville	Newport	Randolph	Rutland
UVM Extension Office 29 Sunset Dr., Suite 2 Morrisville VT 05661 1-866-260-5603	Newport Extension Office 316 Main St, Suite 101 Newport VT 05855 1-866-260-5561	VT Tech Enterprise Center 1540 VT Route 66 Randolph VT 05060 802-728-9101	UVM Extension Office 271 N Main St., Suite 110 Rutland VT 05701 1-800-281-6977
Thursday, March 16 Wednesday, March 22	Tuesday, March 14 Thursday, March 16	Thursday, March 23 Friday, March 24	Monday, March 27 Tuesday, March 28
9:00am; 11:00am; 1:00pm	10:00am; 2:00pm	9:00am; 11:00am; 1:00pm	10:00am; 1:00pm
Kim Kayhart	Tony Kitsos	Mark Cannella	Mike Dolce
St. Albans	St. Johnsbury		
UVM Extension Office 278 S Main St, Suite 2 St. Albans VT 05478 1-800-639-2130	UVM Extension Office 374 Emerson Falls Rd St. Johnsbury VT 05819 1-800-545-8920		
Tuesday, March 21 Thursday, March 23	Thursday, March 16 Friday, March 17		
10:00am; 2:00pm	9:00am; 11:00am; 1:00pm		
Tony Kitsos	Mark Cannella		

Registration fee is \$25.00; register online at [www.regonline.com/march17clinics](http://www.regonline.com/march17clinics). Contact Christi Sherlock at [christi.sherlock@uvm.edu](mailto:christi.sherlock@uvm.edu) or 1-866-860-1382, for registration questions or assistance.

Individuals requesting a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program should contact Christi Sherlock at 1-866-860-1382, at least two weeks before your appointment.

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UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work.



## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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

### Renew Your VVBGA Membership Today – Or Pay \$10 More

2017 Vermont Vegetable and Berry Grower Association member dues for 2017 are \$35 per farm, increasing to \$45 after January 31. Non-members will soon get removed from the listserv.

Join and/or donate to support research and extension at <https://2017vvbga.eventbrite.com>

## Reports From The Field

(Starksboro) Field report from a young farmer! The biggest excitement around here has been the recent hire of our first full time employee, who will bring us up to 1.5 employees for the 2017 season. This is our first winter growing in unheated tunnels (32' x 96'), which has had quite the learning curve. We lost our lettuce to a couple different mildews early on, we have accidentally cooked and frozen the plants a few too many times, and we've been waging a battle against voles in the spinach beds. The voles took out a whole bed of spinach in a couple of

days, so we bought every type of trap the local hardware store had to offer and baited them with everything we could think of. Best method has been placing an upside-down 2' length of rain gutter at their hole entries, then putting one of those black plastic "easy set" mouse traps inside the gutter. Best bait has been raspberries. 20-something voles later we are at least a little bit ahead of them and are planning a gravel perimeter around the tunnels for next year. We have also been super happy with switching our AC-cooled/Coolbot walk-in over to a heated space for the winter. We used the thermostat that Coolbot recommends and a tiny space heater and it has held tight at 36F all winter. There has been a good amount of interest in fresh produce this time of year, so I'm looking forward to tackling winter greens again next season.

(Shrewsbury) Evening Song Farm. Still have plenty of roots and cabbage in storage, but greens production has slowed down, bringing with it the seasonal dip in sales through farmer's market and local restaurants/co-ops. Looking to learn more about how to boost greens production for January/February to be able to provide more winter work for employees and hopefully retain employees for longer stretches of time. We're considering ground heat, low hoops or other simple structures to extend late fall harvest and stockpile more greens for longer in the tunnels, and shifting winter greens production towards more profitable greens. I'd love to put up another tunnel, but we've seen a dramatic increase in runoff on our sloping fields with every structure we've put up: an inch of rain on one of our 30' x 148' tunnels sheds over 2,500 gallons of water!

(Westminster West) Up and running again, what happened to down time! First tomato seedlings for grafting are ready to prick out and early seeded strawberries ready as well. Still putting finishing touches on this year's master plan and trimming our offerings in order to focus on the bet-

ter and more profitable crops. Trying to line up additional staff to fill out the crews. Getting harder and harder to get staff; labor pool dried up, hard to know what's going on. Continuing attending seminars and workshops while we still have time and look forward to the winter NOFA conference later in Feb. I'm starting Spanish lessons because, hey you never know!

(Dummerston) High tunnel greens are hanging on despite having lost some outer leaves during the cold snaps and suffered a little vole damage lately. I decided not to use row covers in the tunnel at all this year because it's not always practical for me to get out there and put them on and remove them at the right times. So far it seems to be working out. Some lost foliage due to cold is balanced out by less disease and bolting due to condensation and warmth under covers when the sun is out. I'm still harvesting a little kale and bok choy for the winter market; I appreciate Jon Cohen telling me to raise prices. And I'm waiting for spinach and mustards to grow back. What little winter squash I had left has suddenly all turned moldy. But carrots and parsnips are storing well in the root cellar. I'm not sure I'll be able to sell all the carrots by spring though. So I've added a new product for the market: carrot juice.

(Plainfield NH) Breaking down seed orders, sorting out inventory, taking vegetative cuttings, seeding ornamentals and tomatoes for grafting are the things we are attended to this time of the year. A lot of meetings to be crammed in, both on farm as well as off farm. Repairing and looking at small machines that were neglected during the fall packout and harvest. We are trying to cover for each other in order to get vacations in amongst the full timers. Should it continue to stay seasonally warm, we will try to take advantage of the small snowpack and start pruning blues. Quite a lot of little things to attend to before we really take off end of February.

(Westfield) There is only spinach left in the high tunnel. There is no disease so far, but it is hard to keep the humidity down with the swinging temperatures. On a warm day we keep cleaning and preparing the greenhouses for the next crops, but we are not in a rush yet. We are mostly doing our fire wood and planning for this coming season.

(Fairfax) Root crop sales are very strong. Most crops are holding up well in storage. Nectar (a Nantes variety) is holding very well in storage. A very uniform carrot with excellent flavor.

(Durham CT) I've taken a 'later in life' approach to winter growing. There are so many greens that will do well if you take care of them by covering and recovering like kale, lettuce, and mustard, however, this winter's approach is working well for me: late plantings and no cover. Mostly spinach and claytonia, but on the side, a late planting of curly kale that has done well uncovered in the house all winter. I wish there was more of that right now, it looks great. Without row cover, growth is slower, but there is no moisture to promote spinach downy mildew. I'm growing Gazelle, which is downy mildew resistant. After planting late (in late October) crops grew very slowly -and I mean slowly! Since we've reached the magic period of 10 hours of daylight, they've really taken off. Some of the rows harvested in Mid-December were culled and reculled for chickweed and they are now almost ready to be harvested again. It isn't a lot of variety, compared to all the crops I used to grow, but it's beautiful and extra tasty. Not having to put row cover on and off every day suits my new way of being just 'a tad older'.

(Argyle NY) Pleasant Valley Farm. These past couple of weeks have been so warm it's been like a vacation! No row covers in our three high tunnels on the winter greens till tonight. Regrowth is on its way

*continued on page 15*

MARKET REPORT

**Wholesale Prices**

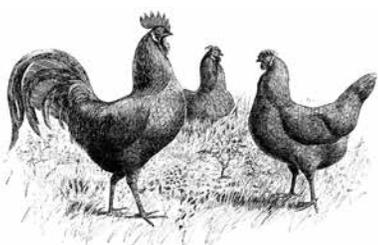
October 2016

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

**Vermont Egg Prices:**

Jumbo . . . . .	\$1.57
X-Large . . . . .	\$1.09
Large . . . . .	\$0.99
Medium . . . . .	\$0.61

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 January 30, 2017

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Calves</b>
This Week:	123	215
Last Week:	152	216

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold steady with good demand. Slaughter cattle supply included 123 cows. All prices quoted per cwt.

**SLAUGHTER COWS:**

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	66.50	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	61.00-63.00	—	55.00-60.00	—
Boners	80-85	57.50-63.50	62.00-68.00	52.00-57.00	—
Lean	85-90	52.00-55.50	56.50-63.50	48.00-53.50	40.00-48.00

**SLAUGHTER BULLS:** not tested

**CALVES:** When compared to last sale holstein bull calves sold steady with light demand. All prices per cwt.

**HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:**

**Number 1:** 100-120lbs: 75.00-91.00; 90-100 lbs 75.00-85.00; 80-90 lb not tested; 70-80lbs not tested.

**Number 2:** 100-120lbs: 70.00-78.00; 90-100 lbs 70.00-76.00; 80-90 lbs 50.00-62.00; 70-80lbs not tested.

**Number 3:** 100-120lbs: 60.00-72.00; 90-100lbs 50.00-70.00; 80-90lbs 50.00-62.00; 70-80lbs 35.00-37.00.

**Utility:** 100-120lbs: 48.00-50.00; 90-100lbs 40.00-50.00; 80-90lbs 40.00-45.00; 70-80 lbs

**HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES:** 76-95lbs: 40.00-80.00

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.

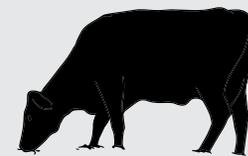
**SOURCE:**  
VT Agency of Ag-USDA  
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA

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](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

**Advertising in Agriview**

**Classified Ads:** *Free to subscribers only.* Limited to two ads per issue, ads will run for two issues. **Must include subscriber number with ad request** (number appears at the top of the mailing label)

**Deadline For Ads:** 10 days prior to the publication date.

**Display Ads:** Information available upon request

**Classified advertisements must be sent:**

- *By mail:* (see address on page 2)
- *By e-mail:* (to Agr-agriview@state.vt.us)
- *Online at:* <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/Agriview/agriviewclassified.html>
- **We do not accept ads over the phone.**

Only items of an agricultural nature will be listed. The only real estate which will be listed are tracts of Vermont land two to five acres or more which are being used or can be used for agricultural purposes. All Feed, Hay and Forage ads must have county, town, and phone number, **and must be renewed each month.**

The Secretary reserves the right to make a final decision on the eligibility of items listed. The editor reserves the right to censor and edit ads. **The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets assumes no responsibility for transactions resulting through advertising in Agriview.** Advertisers are cautioned that it is **against the law** to misrepresent any product or service offered in a public notice or an advertisement carried in any publication delivered by the U.S. Mail.

**Ads must be limited to 40 words or less.**

**Agriview Subscribers can Now Submit Classifieds Online**

*Agriview* subscribers now have the ability to submit their classified ads online.

Subscribers can log on to [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news\\_media/agriview](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news_media/agriview) and submit their ad using the online form.

Classified ads are free to all subscribers — limit two ads per issue. Ads must be 40 words or less. You must include your subscriber number when submitting your ad.

Please take advantage of this service, which will help streamline the classifieds process. For those who are unable to access the Internet, we will still accept classifieds by mail.

If you have questions about classified ads, please contact Faith Raymond at 802-828-1619 or [Faith.Raymond@vermont.gov](mailto:Faith.Raymond@vermont.gov).

**Cattle**

Holstein X Jersey Heifer for sale. Bred due April 2017. \$800 obo Delivery Available call 802-779-5490 (2/17)

One Gomer Steer/bull 2.5 yrs old \$1658 OBO. 4 Guernset heifers open, breeding size, \$1200 each, \$4000 all. OBO 802-763-8104 (2/17)

Jersey heifer's yearlings 22 to choose from. Out of DHI herd 802-524-9453 (2/17)

Angus Bulls 18 months old. Good dispositions. From registered herd. \$1,800.

Angus cows bred and registered. Due April 2017 several to choose from Greensboro, VT. 802 533 9804 (2/17)

Boarding for dairy replacement heifers, 400 lbs. and up. Breeding service offered. Mixed ration feed. Price dependent on quantity. Weybridge, VT. Contact Dan Kehoe at 802-545-2688. (2/17)

Scottish Highland heifer 7 months old \$550. SHxWF heifer 5 mons. old. \$450

(2/17)

**Employment**

Hannaford Career Center Diesel Technology Program in Middlebury seeks diesel repair projects. Accepting donations of diesel equipment, offering very low-cost preventative maintenance and minor repairs of farm and over-the-road diesel trucks and tractors. Call for more details, Len 802-382-1005f (2/17)

**Equipment**

International 815 Diesel

## CLASSIFIEDS

Combine, 843 4 row narrow Cornhead, 820-13 Grainhead; 3250 Reel Auggie Mixer on gas 1995 Ford 450 2wd. New Holland 166 hay merger with turchute. Call for prices. 802-770-0959 (2/17)

75 gal. gas water heater never used; Delaval 50 cow 2" stainless steel pipeline complete with vacuum pump; 600 gal. Mueller bulk tank; 32 Agway water bowls. Call for prices. 802-770-0959 (2/17)

J&L Haysaver round bale feeders for sale. Cone-style. Heavy-duty, significantly reduce hay waste, Amish-made. Low-profile feeders also available for weanlings and smaller animals. Horse feeders also available. Call or e-mail for more information. vtangus@gmail.com or 457-1520 (2/17)

Pulling Hames 2 pair Wallingford model WH8 aluminum pulling hames 21 inch excellent condition \$200 Livewater Farm. Putney, Vt. 802-387-4412 (2/17)

Tire chains heavy duty studded 50% worn size 14:00x24 will fit others \$400 obo. 250 gallon fuel tank with pump and hose, good shape \$150 802-223-2813 (3/17)

7.5 ft min mount plow fits 93-up GMC or Chevy. Complete \$400. New Holland side spreader mo #304, 1000 gallons works but needs repair \$800 as is. New Holland parts hay bind (#489-488) BO 802-899-3102 (3/17)

**General**

Kiln dried Eastern White Pine shavings available in bulk quantity. Pick up or delivery. Call Cyr Lumber in Milton, VT for pricing. (802) 893-4448 (2/17)

New Holland Model 144 Windrow Inverter \$1500. Gehl 980 forage box factory roof 3 geaters 6'x7'x18' mounted on Pequea 1268 tandem axel chassis \$1600. Model 165 Massey ferguson tractor \$9500, OBO. Liquid Nitrogen tank for AI semen \$100 OBO. 802-763-8104 (2/17)

Tires 18-4-34, 13-6-38 like new. 18 ton brock grain bin very good shape. 791 New Holland spreader. 2 - 5hp motor. 1-9hp motor. 90 feet roof top elevator. 802-895-4683 (2/17)

High Tunnel Hoopouse Assembly & Maintenance: Rimol Ledgewood, & Harnois. Complete Assembly, End Wall Construction, Poly Installation, Repairs, etc. Experienced, Professional, Affordable Service! Contact Mike Feiner at (802) 498-8031, feinervt@gmail.com, www.vineripe.net (3/17)

334 feet Bodco barn cleaner chain 18 inch paddles counter clock wise. 300 feet stainless steel milk line 2 inch

Bou-Matic Receiver jar (glass) 2 inch, milk pump and water trap. Bender washing system. Dairy-Kool deco Matic 3 bulk tank washer. 6 Bio milker claw and shells. 7 stimopals C Westfalia pulsators. Call 563-2715 (3/17)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Canadian Western Alfalfa for sale, Hay for sale, round bales, big and small bales also available. Call Richard at 802-323-3275 for more information (2/17)

Corn silage - 1st crop grass silage and 1st & 2nd crop dry 4 ft round bales. 802-424-6110 or 802-748-9868 (2/17)

Western Canadian Alfalfa for sale large square bales, also hay big/small squares, round bales, and straw for sale. Tractor trailer loads only. Call Richard for more info at 802-323-3275 (2/17)

**ADDISON COUNTY**

Hay For Sale Addison: VT Large square bales, 1st and 2nd cut. Under cover in Addison. Contact S.L.Moore @802-463-3875 or Alden@802-989-0479. (3/17)

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**

Top quality square bales, certified organic 40+lb ave. 1st cut \$4.50 bale, 2nd cut \$5.50 bale. Volume discount possible. No delivering. 802-592-3088 (3/17)

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Good quality 1st and 2nd cut hay & organic. Straw & hay large or small square bales. Whole or process. Buy bales at farm will load or direct deliver. 802-849-6266 (3/17)

Early cut dry round bales organic but not certified 802-524-9453 (2/17)

**Goats**

Nubian X Alpine doelings for sale from small organic herd. Born spring 2016. Handsome, healthy, horned, and bred to reg. purebred Nubian buck. Top milkers on both sides. Contact Penelope at

poneggfarm@hotmail.com or (802) 723-4014. (2/17)

Lazy Lady Farm is now taking orders for the 2017 March/April kidding season. Over 25 years of breeding fine milking does. 2300 lb herd average. DHIA tested. CAE & CL free herd and tested annually. Discounts for group purchases of 10 or more. Award winning cheese operation. Please visit our website for listings and prices. www.lazyladyfarm.com. Call Laini 802-744-6365. laini@lazyladyfarm.com, Westfield, Vt (3/17)

**Horse Equipment**

Work harness for sale for large pony/small horse, 14 hands max. Collar and reins included. \$250. Art Krueger in Shrewsbury. 802-492-3653. (2/17)

English saddles 17.5' Wintec Dressage with girth. Good shape except panel vinder stirrups straps - \$100. 16" Blue Ridge - excellent condition with pad, girth and safety stirrups \$175. 2 bridles with snaffle bit \$40 each. 802-592-3088 (3/17)

**Sheep**

18 good quality, healthy North Country Cheviot/Dorset cross ewes for sale \$2,000. Andover VT (1/17)

Sheep and goat equipment including feeders and panels. All wood construction. My 12 opening six sided feeder is \$150 picked up at the farm in Rockingham Vt. Some delivery is available. 802-376-5474 (2/17)

**Wanted**

Dairy cattle, heifers, beef cows, feeders, bulls, steers, sheep, and goats. 413-441-3085 (2/17)

6 ft disc harrows, preferably with a 3-point hitch. 802-438-5068. (2/17)

John Deere 2630 tractor, Gale 1309 slinger manure spreader. 802-695-2286 (2/17)

Looking for 1941 "AGR" farm license plate for a farm plate collection. Any condition. 802-885-5405 (3/17)

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**Multidisciplined engineering and environmental services for:**

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Contact: Andy Hoak, PE, PG  
802-728-3376  
ahoak@dubois-king.com

**DuBois & King** inc.

Randolph, Brandon, South Burlington, Springfield

**For Immediate Release**

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Mountain Mozzarella, LLC. DBA MapleBrook Farm to package and transport cheese within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
Dairy Section Office  
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by March 15th, 2017.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

**Vegetable & Berry News***continued from page 10*

and we got a watering in with our drip and overhead systems. Spinach is still too small for much harvesting due to seeding 7 days later than normal (Oct. 7) and we are watching for downy mildew infection. Of the 15 spinach varieties we are growing only 5 do not have the disease: Space, Escalade, Whale, Spargo, Carmel and Emperor, most of which are no longer available. We think it is race 14 and hopefully lab testing will determine that. We are using Double Nickel on it and will report its effectiveness. With this January thaw, the frost in the ground is gone, so on to digging parsnips for markets, for the first time ever in January I think. It was a great VVBGA conference in Lake Morey, and we just finished a conference in Michigan, visiting some inspirational farms there as well. We continue to seed in the greenhouse as we replace tunnel greens. A great new system for us is to seed the salad mix, mustards, etc. into the strip trays, grow them in the GH for a few weeks, then transplant the whole strips in rows in the tunnel. They mature much earlier and you are guaranteed a nice stand. Winter farmers' markets have been busy due to other farmers not having any winter greens. We're anxious for spring but also want snow to ski on!

**Slide Shows Posted From VVBGA Annual Meeting And Cover Crop Conference**

Scroll to bottom of:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/?Page=proceedingslinks.html>

**Boost Your Labor Management Skills**

Join one or all four workshops in January and February to build farmers' skills in managing their labor force. Topics include hiring, motivating and training, employment law and leadership. This series will be offered in two locations: West Lebanon, NH and Portsmouth, NH. Co-sponsored by NOFA-VT & UNH Extension. More info and register at: <http://nofavt.org/blog/farm-labor-management-developing-leadership-and-human-resource-management-skills>

**Update To Worker Protection Standards**

The 1992 WPS regulation covers all agricultural establishments that apply pesticides, conventional and organic. The WPS has been revised; changes are outlined in the How to Comply manual at: <http://pesticideresources.org/wps/htc/>. A major change is that VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) staff can no longer provide one-on-one farm worker training as in the past. Only Certified Applicators (Private or Commercial) can train pesticide handlers and agricultural workers. Thus, farmers that apply any pesticides and employ any farm workers must now obtain Private Applicator Certification in order to train their own employees, as required. Resources are available to assist with such trainings, see: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/pesticide\\_regulation/applicator\\_dealer\\_resources](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/pesticide_regulation/applicator_dealer_resources)

To become a Certified Private Applicator, you must pass an exam. Exams are held every Wednesday

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vermont  
environmental  
stewardship  
PROGRAM

## Providing Recognition and Support to Farmers Who Strive for Environmental Excellence

*Working lands for a better Vermont*

**About the Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program**

Conceptualized in 2016 in response to statewide water-quality and environmental challenges, the Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP) is a voluntary program that encourages and supports local agricultural producers to achieve environmental and agricultural excellence. VESP's goal is to accelerate water-quality improvements through additional voluntary implementation efforts, and to honor farmers who have already embraced a high level of land stewardship.

Using a combination of on-farm natural resource assessments and Cornell soil health tests, VESP applicants will be evaluated by a team of conservation planners and technical service providers to ascertain current land-use practices. The resulting data is used to set customized environmental goals for the farm, and to enact a long-range plan encompassing a full range of regenerative farming practices.

To be certified under this new program, applicants must meet high environmental standards regarding nutrient management, sediment and erosion control, soil health, greenhouse-gas emissions and carbon sequestration, and pasture health. If the applicant meets the standards in each category, he or she will be awarded with a 5-year certification, an on-farm sign designating the farm as meeting high levels of environmental stewardship, and other recognition-based incentives.

If the farmer does not meet the standards designated under the VESP program, he or she can elect to work with VESP technicians on a conservation plan to implement best-management practices to achieve those standards. While working toward certification, the applicant may be eligible for additional financial and technical assistance to help achieve VESP standards. Once approved, VESP-certified farms are eligible to re-certify after five years, and will have periodic verification assessments to ensure continued land stewardship throughout the duration of the five-year period.

The Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program is a partner effort by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and the University of Vermont Cooperative Extension.

Mike Middleman, VESP Coordinator

802-505-5190 • [agr.vesp@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.vesp@vermont.gov) • [www.agriculture.vermont.gov/vesp](http://www.agriculture.vermont.gov/vesp)



## NEWS FROM THE FOOD SAFETY &amp; CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

## Vermont Recognizes National Weights and Measures Week: March 1-7, 2017

By Marc Paquette, VAAFM  
Weights and Measures  
Specialist, Consumer  
Protection

**M**arch 1-7 is National Weights and Measures Week, a time to recognize the important role of weights and measures inspectors across the country.

The date of this year's Weights and Measures Week is significant as it marks the signing of the first Weights and Measures law by John Adams on March 2, 1799. Throughout the country, thousands of weights and measures inspectors work diligently to enforce laws designed to not only pro-

tect consumers but to also develop a level playing field in commerce wherever a weight or measure is involved.

Vermont's Weights and Measures program is located in the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Market's Consumer Protection Section. Many consumers are surprised to learn that weights and measures programs are part of many agencies of agriculture nationwide. This is true of Vermont, where much of the state's early economy was based on agricultural products produced on tens of thousands of farms. Historically, commodities produced in Vermont like

milk, meat, grains, feed, corn, and maple were sold by weight or measure, therefore the inspection program was placed in the Agency of Agriculture.

Vermont's program consists of a Chief, Weights and Measures Specialist/Metrologist, and six field inspectors, many of whom are cross trained to conduct other types of inspection work as well.

The Metrologist manages the metrology lab, which maintains the state's weights and measures standards, conducts calibrations on weighing and measuring artifacts, and advises both the program staff and private industry in regard to weights and mea-

asures laws, regulations, and best practices. Each year the laboratory tests thousands of hydrometers utilized by the maple industry, weights ranging in size from 1,000 lbs. to 0.001 lb. and numerous test measures used in the inspection and calibration of thousands of fuel pumps.

The inspections conducted by field staff provide equity in the marketplace and consumer protection by testing and inspecting commercial devices used in trade. Each year the Vermont program inspects over 6,000 gas pumps, 425 fuel oil truck

meters, 225 propane truck meters, thousands of scales and packages. Inspectors conduct hundreds of price verification inspections, testing the accuracy of laser scanning systems in retail outlets.

A top priority of the section is responding to consumer concerns. During the last year, many concerns have been addressed such as: short measure on gas pumps, oil truck meters, beer, and firewood, as well as issues regarding retail pricing accuracy and fuel quality.



### THE 2017 THE MAPLE SEASON IS UPON US!

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT AND AG SECRETARY, ANSON TEBBETTS, WILL CEREMONIALLY KICK OFF THE 2017 MAPLE SEASON AT SILLOWAY MAPLE IN RANDOLPH CENTER ON FEB. 28TH FROM 10AM TO 2PM.

THE SILLOWAY FAMILY WILL WELCOME ONE AND ALL TO THEIR SUGARHOUSE FOR THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION, TO HONOR THE IMPORTANCE OF VERMONT'S MAPLE INDUSTRY.

EPICURES ARE INVITED TO ENTER THE MAPLE SPECIALTY FOOD COOKING CONTEST, WHICH WILL BE JUDGED BY NECI STUDENTS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SILLOWAYMAPLE.COM](http://WWW.SILLOWAYMAPLE.COM)

Today, quantities are determined in all business sectors using the latest technology. Gasoline stations and supermarkets employ state of the art weighing and measuring equipment. Inspectors need to have an understanding of software in the documentation, inspection, and investigation process. Some challenges that many jurisdictions, including Vermont, will be facing is that of alternative fuels. Evolving fuel and energy sources such as ethanol, biodiesel, bio butanol, natural gas, hydrogen, and electrical recharging for motor vehicles and developing inspection processes for these fuels will require new testing methods and added training.

Weights and Measures Week serves as a reminder of the great value consumers receive from weights and measures inspection programs. The Consumer Protection Section works to both regulate and educate the businesses they inspect. When violations are found, appropriate enforcement action is taken. Repeated violations may result in penalties being issued. A list

of findings can now be found on the Vermont Agency of Agriculture website at: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food\\_safety\\_consumer\\_](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/consumer_protection/violations)

### Veterinary Medications on Farms

*continued from page 9*

tion of protocols/SOPs for managing disabled cows and humane euthanasia, develop a consistent plan for the medical management of sick or disabled cows, and make improved treatment decisions with their veterinarian. Food Armor® program use also benefits the dairy industry as a whole by having a single set of standards to meaningfully achieve proper drug use, a valid VCPR, and residue prevention. It elevates consumer confidence and trust in dairy producers by having a verifiable drug use quality assurance plan, demonstrates that dairy producers are committed to continual improvement, may offer a general reduction in antibiotic use on dairy farms, possibly mitigating risks of antibiotic resistance, and helps to limit the possibility

[protection/consumer\\_protection/violations](#)

For more information about the Agency of Agriculture's Weights and

Measures program, contact Marc Paquette, Weights and Measures Specialist, Consumer Protection at 802-828-2426 Marc

Paquette, VAAFM Weights and Measures Specialist, or email: [marc.paquette@vermont.gov](mailto:marc.paquette@vermont.gov)

of future regulation pertaining to medication use on farms.

In upcoming issues of *Agriview*, the Agency will be sharing additional

information about the six component parts of Food Armor program, along with other information related to responsible on-farm use of veterinary medications. In

the meantime, questions or requests for technical assistance may be directed to Dr. Kristin Haas at [Kristin.haas@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristin.haas@vermont.gov) or by calling (802) 828-2421.

### Vegetable & Berry News

*continued from page 13*

in Montpelier, and once a month at six other locations statewide. See the link above for details. You should purchase and study the appropriate Core Manual ahead of time, see: <https://store.cornell.edu/pdf/order-form-pmep-manuals.pdf> and/or attend one of two day-long Pesticide Applicator Initial Certification and Trainings. The first training will take place in White River Junction VFW on Tuesday April 4th, with a second training in Burlington at the Robert Miller Community Center Wednesday on April 5th. The morning will be a

review of the Core Manual, after which students take the exam to obtain their Private Applicators certificate. There will be a \$30.00 Registration fee, \$40 after March 21st, plus the \$25.00 private applicator certification fee. Stay tuned for on line registration links. VAAFM is also willing to offer specific Private Applicator Certification Training to large groups of growers, should sufficient interest exist. Please make Mimi Arnstein [mimiarnstein@gmail.com](mailto:mimiarnstein@gmail.com) aware of your interest and your location.

Family farms that only employ immediate family members, as defined in the *How to Comply* manual,

are exempt from the WPS handler/worker training requirements. Though this exemption applies to many farms in Vermont, other aspects of the WPS will still apply. Please contact Annie Macmillan at the VAAFM [anne.macmillan@vermont.gov](mailto:anne.macmillan@vermont.gov) or 828-3479 for more information or clarification about which core manual to purchase.

### Mark Your Calendars

For details go to: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/?Page=meetlist.html>

**Feb. 15.** VT Tree Fruit Growers, Middlebury.

**Feb. 18-19.** NOFA-VT Winter Conference, Burlington.

**March 2 or 3.** Vegetable Farm Efficiency Intensive, Poultney or Craftsbury

**March 6.** Organic Strawberry Growers Scho

## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

*Editor's note: in this new feature, we will share news and updates from across state government, to keep you informed of important events in the community.*

### Field Station Commander Promotions

Effective January 22, 2017, Sergeant Roger Farmer, Patrol Commander at the Middlesex Field Station is promoted to Lieutenant, Station Commander at the Royalton Field Station.

Lieutenant Farmer has served the people of Vermont for 12 years, graduating from the Vermont Police Academy in 2005. He began his career as a trooper at the Royalton station and then promoted to Sergeant/Patrol Commander at the Middlesex station in 2012. Lieutenant Farmer has also served as a member of the Vermont State Police Search &



Sergeant Roger Farmer

Rescue team.

The Royalton Field Station patrols 284 miles of interstate and state roads within Windsor, Orange, and Addison counties, and covers the major junction of Interstates 91 and 89, and many miles along both interstates. Lieutenant Farmer takes command of the Royalton Field Station from Lieutenant William Jenkins, who recently retired after serving the state of Vermont for 28 years.

Effective December 25, 2016, Sergeant Anthony French, Patrol Commander at the Royalton Barracks is promoted to Lieutenant, Station Commander at the Westminster Field Station.

Lieutenant French has served the people of Vermont for 18 years, graduating from the Vermont Police Academy in 1998. He began his career as a trooper at the Shaftsbury station and then transferred to the Rockingham station in 1999. He was



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**Promotions**

*continued from page 2*

promoted to Sergeant in 2005, serving at the Rockingham and Royalton stations until his recent promotion to Lieutenant. Lieutenant French has also served as a member of the



Sergeant Anthony French

Vermont State Police Search & Rescue team. He replaces Lieutenant Timothy Oliver, who is retiring after 28 years of service.

The commander of a Vermont State Police Field Station is responsible for overseeing delivery of

law enforcement services to the communities served by that station. The field station commander is the local representative of the Vermont State Police to the community it serves, and works with

local officials and citizens to address public safety and law enforcement concerns in their service area.

Lieutenant French takes over a field station recently consolidated from the former

Brattleboro and Rockingham Field Stations. It is also home to the Westminster Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), which handles 911 calls and dispatching for much of southern Vermont.



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