

AGRIVIEW



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The Soil Tells A Story: New Pilot Program Will Recognize Outstanding Farmers

Program open to agricultural producers committed to excellence in environmental land management.

By Mike Middleman, VT Agency of Ag

You can tell a lot about a farm by looking closely at the soil. That's why the new, statewide program to recognize Vermont's most environmentally friendly farmers will be based on soil-sampling and monitoring. On July 13th, Governor Phil Scott announced the pilot launch of the new Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP), which will use soil-based analysis to identify farmers who are going above and beyond to protect our natural resources.

Surrounded by state and federal officials at the North Williston Cattle Company, owned by the

Alison Kosakowski, Agency of Ag



Whitcomb family, Governor Scott emphasized the important role farmers play in Vermont communities.

"Vermont farmers are contributing

to our economy and keeping our landscape beautiful and productive," said Governor Phil Scott. "This new, science-based program will use soil health data to help us identify

Lorenzo Whitcomb of the North Williston Cattle Company, and Dany Peet of NRCS, describe the Whitcomb's conservation tillage equipment.

and honor farmers who are going above and beyond the regulations to protect our natural resources."

The 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 Extension.

"We are still accepting VESP applications, and encourage farms of all types and sizes to apply," added Vermont's Ag Secretary, Anson Tebbetts. "We want farmers who are going the extra mile to be recognized and celebrated for their

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AGRIVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

It's not news but mother nature has not been kind to our farmers in 2017. A soggy spring and early summer was just the beginning. The weather got uglier in the middle of the growing season with flash floods leaving many crops under water. As we calculate the losses, it's important that farmers document any losses. Farmers should contact the Farm Services Agency with any crop damages. Call, write or email us at the agency if we can be of any help.



The Blake family of Fairfax



photos by Faith Raymond

The news does not get much better for our dairy farmers when it comes to what they are being paid for their milk. Milk prices remain stagnant and are not where they need to be for our farmers. In simple terms, there is just too much milk being produced. We are seeking solutions. This fall the Agency of Agriculture will convene the Vermont Milk Commission. We will begin looking at the complicated system of what farmers are paid for their milk. We are limited what Vermont can do on its own but we must try to bring new ideas to Washington and beyond so our farmers can have a stable and fair price for their product. We welcome your participation and suggestions. Keep an eye on dates when the commission will meet. Our goal

is to include recommendations that will be brought to policy makers in Washington as they write the 2018 Farm Bill.

We owe a better for future to the Blake family and others milking cows. This summer the Blake family began dairy farming again in Fairfax. We first met Joshua Blake this past winter at our listening tour in St. Albans. Joshua was anxious to farm again but needed help getting past some permit issues. We are delighted Joshua and his family stuck it out and made their dream come true. We were honored to be there as the first cows were brought back to the farm and the first cow was milked. The Blakes built a new barn, milk house and installed a robotic milking system. It was a huge investment for this family who love their animals, land and community. We will do our best to support the Blakes and all farmers who are doing their best to work through some challenging economic times.

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture

Pilot Program

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efforts.”

Tebbetts noted that many partners across the state and federal government came together to create this innovative program.

Following Governor Scott's remarks, farmers Lorenzo and Onan

Whitcomb gave a tour of their farm, including their robotic milker, and discussed some of the conservation practices they employ, including no-til corn, cover-cropping, and buffer strips.

To apply for the VESP Pilot, farmers must be in compliance with all State and Federal environmental regulations, and be actively farming their land.

Applicants for the VESP Pilot will be selected for participation through a competitive application ranking process on a rolling basis; there is no fee to participate. Five to 10 farms will be accepted into the pilot program, which will inform the final parameters of the Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program, launching in 2019. For more information, please visit: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/vesp>

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

Letter from the Editor

There's no shortage of farm fun to be had in Vermont during summertime. Fairs and field days across the state provide fun and entertainment for thousands of Vermonters, and a chance for young agrarians to show their livestock.

Speaking of fun, as this issue goes to press, the Vermont Breakfast on the Farm team is getting ready to host the second and final “BoTF” of the summer at Blue Spruce Farm (July 22), and has just announced that all 1700 tickets for this free event have been reserved. Wow! (More than 1,300 people attended the first breakfast, held in June at Fairmont Farm!) More farm fun is on the way in August with Open Farm Week, Aug. 14-20, when farms across the state will welcome visitors, and of course there are Buy Local Markets planned in Waterbury and Montpelier.

The USDA reports that less than 2% of all Americans work in agriculture, so events like these are very important to connect us all to our agricultural roots. Thank you to all who work hard to organize these programs! You are building agricultural literacy and helping to keep us grounded.

As always, your feedback and suggestions about Agriview are important to us. Email us at AGR.Agriview@Vermont.Gov.

We are also happy to accept submissions.

— Alison Kosakowski, Agriview Editor



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Agency of Ag Welcomes New Dairy Section Chief

The Agency of Agriculture is pleased to announce that E.B. Flory has been hired as the new dairy section chief. A native of Bedford, Virginia, E. B. grew up on her family's dairy farm where she learned the value of selfless hard work and the delight of caring for animals on a daily basis. She received a B. A. in business from Peace College of Raleigh, North Carolina in 2007. After graduating she returned to Bedford, where she continued her passion and



E.B. Flory

interest in agriculture and especially in conservation. She spent the next decade of her life working on her family's dairy farm while also working for her local Soil and Water Conservation

District, Peaks of Otter, where she eventually became the District Manager. In this role, E. B. led her District to the highest conservation workload in Virginia. She led her District to be the state leader in water quality improvement in the agriculture sector. She also was a member of the Virginia

Agricultural Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) leadership program, and continues to have a passion for farming and the future for all sectors of agriculture. Beyond her work life,

E.B. volunteers and serves on the board of directors for the non-profit, The Sunflower Initiative. This non-profit provides scholarships to young women that are attending all women's colleges. E. B. fully

possesses the "dairy bug" and enjoys making alpine cheeses and other dairy products in her spare time with her spouse Abby. Their Number One Taste Tester is their dog, Kentucky.

Pilot Program

continued from page 2

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. More info: www.Agriculture.Vermont.Gov/VESP.

Celebrate Local Food and Farms at the 2017 Buy Local Markets

The Buy Local Market is back by popular demand this summer, now with three dates, in two locations!

Waterbury Buy Local Market

Thurs. 8/3, 3pm - 6:30pm

Waterbury State Complex Horseshoe Lawn and across the street at the Waterbury Farmers' Market

Come on out to the State Complex in Waterbury. Come mix and mingle with local producers, enjoy the BBQ cook-off, hear live music, and enter raffles for great local prizes at the Waterbury Farmers' Market across the street!

Summer Buy Local Market

Wed. 8/9, 3pm - 6:30pm

Vermont State House Lawn, Montpelier

Get ready to shop for your weekly groceries, sample and purchase Vermont cider, mead and spirits, and you don't want to miss special performances by The Hokum Bros and Farm to Ballet!

Fall Foliage Buy Local Market

Wednesday, October 4th 11am-2pm

Vermont State House Lawn, Montpelier

Join us again during foliage season and enjoy all the Buy Local Market has to offer, PLUS watch your colleagues join in friendly competition in fun, farming-inspired challenges on the Vermont State House lawn!!



Judicious Use of Veterinary Medications on Farms – a Wrap-Up

By Dr. Kristin Haas, DVM,
VT Agency of Ag

The Agency of Agriculture is pleased to have been able to provide you with information about this important topic in the last four Agriview issues, and we continue to make progress on this front. With your help, we can continue to lower Vermont's violative residue rate in market cows and bob calves, and we can raise the bar for our entire industry regarding judicious use of veterinary medications in production animals.

Vermont continues to make progress on this initiative! At the end of June, we hosted Wisconsin

colleagues from the Food Armor Foundation for a series of three meetings. Approximately 50 food animal veterinarians were trained in the Food Armor program and are now fully equipped to work directly with their producer-clients to establish best practices on Vermont farms, including written protocols, SOPs, and drug lists, as well as signed V-C-P-R agreements. Take advantage of this enhanced professional knowledge by contacting your herd or flock veterinarian and asking him or her what improvements can be made on your farm! The Wisconsin trainers also worked with four Vermont farmers and their attending veterinarians during a one-day facilitated workshop that



allowed these vet-producer teams to sit down together and customize a veterinary drug use plan for their farms. The Agency of Agriculture paid for the vets' time at the workshop so that the farmers could get this work done at no cost to them. By the end of the workshop, two farms were on their way

to becoming Food Armor-certified; stay tuned for that big announcement!

The Agency of Agriculture will continue to support this improvement process with grant funding that is available through August of 2018. Through this federal grant, there is funding available to offset

the cost of farm certification and to enhance Vermont's farmers' understanding of the importance of using veterinary drugs wisely and within established guidelines on farms. The Agency will also be rolling out a dairy-only password-protected chat site where farmers can share their best management tips and processes with others in the industry. By working collaboratively, we can ensure that the bar is raised for everyone!

To learn more about the Food Armor program, visit www.foodarmor.org, and to review prior articles in this series, please http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news_media/agriview/archive.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Reimbursement for Organic Certification Fees is Available

By Tori Managan,
VT Agency of Ag

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) is offering funding assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid during October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, not to exceed \$750 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.

Who is eligible?

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. Reimbursement for organic transition is not currently available. If you are an operation that is not currently certified organic, but would like to learn more

about the process, or would like to learn more about the FSA organic certification reimbursement opportunity and resources, please visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/organic

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for your organic certification reimbursement, we encourage you to apply early as reimbursements will be made on a first-come, first serve basis until all funds have been disbursed.

This is a non-competitive financial assistance program to help reimburse the organic certification costs incurred on eligible scopes. Documentation may be required for reimbursement.

To apply for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program, please visit VAAFAM's website: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/node/1548> or contact Tori Managan at Victoria.Managan@vermont.gov. (802) 622-4094.

Produce Program Pilots On-Farm Readiness Reviews

By Emma Hanson
VT Agency of Ag

This June, the Vermont Produce Program Team piloted On-Farm Readiness Reviews on two diversified produce farms. On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR) will provide opportunities for produce growers to assess their readiness to meet Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule standards for on-farm food safety.

The On-Farm Readiness Review approach of technical assistance prior to compliance is being developed in a collaboration spearheaded by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the Federal agency that oversees implementation of FSMA. State agriculture officials from Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, and Vermont are developing the program along with partners from Michigan State University Extension, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and University of Florida Extension. The OFRR development team has piloted this on-farm review process in Michigan, Florida, North Carolina, and New Jersey, prior to coming to Vermont, and will be in Oregon later in July.

The OFRR “process”

refers to the method of delivering an OFRR to a grower, while the “tool” refers to a reference document and series of questions that are used during an on-farm dialogue to help the reviewer and grower together assess the farm’s produce safety readiness.

The Vermont Produce Program team was eager to host a pilot session, to highlight the highly diversified small farms that are common in Vermont’s produce community. Other farms that the tool has been tested on across the country have tended to be much larger and do not raise livestock in addition to produce.

Abbey Willard, Food Systems Section Chief at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, said, “Vermont’s Produce Program wants to ensure that the resources and review processes developed on a national scale have applicability and utility here on Vermont produce farms. We are very committed to the concept of offering this level of on-farm technical assistance prior to conducting any inspections of the produce industry.”

Two local diversified farms agreed to participate in the Vermont pilot and hosted 19 people on their farms from state agencies, FDA, and University Extension programs. Collaborators from as close by as Putney and as far away as Florida, Oregon

and Washington D.C. spent three days visiting farms, engaging in classroom training, and offering feedback on the producer engagement process and value in the draft tools and resources. All this feedback is part of the development process to create the most helpful tools and producer engagement process, before the OFRR approach and trainings will be available nationwide later this fall. Any Vermont-generated feedback will be integrated into the tool, training, and on-farm approach before the next pilot takes place in Oregon.

Once launched, an OFRR will consist of one or two technical assistance providers heading to a farm to talk with the grower or produce safety manager about their produce production practices, share resources, and answer questions about the Produce Safety Rule. The On Farm Readiness Reviews are expected to be conversational in nature; where a reviewer might ask a grower, “Tell me about how you train your employees,” or while observing product being harvested, “Describe what’s happening here, the same

way you might explain it to a new hire.” Open-ended questions are designed to help build relationship between the reviewer and grower plus allow the reviewer to get a sense of how a produce farm works and identify areas for further conversation and potential follow-up assistance.

Reviewers will leave behind a set of resource materials but will not take any farm-specific notes off the farm.

The voluntary and non-regulatory OFRR process is expected to be finalized early this Fall, with training for reviewers occurring over the winter. OFRRs will then become available to Vermont produce growers at the beginning of the 2018 growing season.

To prepare for an OFRR, a grower should make sure that they or another farm manager attend a Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training to begin familiarization with the

Produce Safety Rule standards. The next PSA Grower Training in Vermont is scheduled for November 7th and 8th in Richmond. More details on registration will be available soon at www.agriculture.vermont.com, but for now please mark your calendars!

Vermont produce growers should enroll with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets’ Produce Program to be notified of opportunities to schedule an OFRR, access the full suite of produce-related resources, and become aware of financial assistance opportunity for the produce industry. The Vermont Produce Program enrollment process will be announced early this fall.

Any questions about OFRR’s, the Vermont Produce Program or FSMA’s Produce Safety Rule requirements should be directed to AGR. FSMA@vermont.gov or (802) 522-7811.

SAVE THE DATE

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training
Hosted by the VT Agency of Agriculture & UVM Extension

November 7-8

Richmond, VT

Learn more at <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu> and http://bit.ly/vaafm_produce

Advice for Produce Growers Affected by Flooding

By Abbey Willard,
VT Agency of Ag

Several growers have contacted the Vermont Agency of Agriculture with questions about handling produce and produce fields after the flooding in July. The guidance below represents the Agency's best current recommendations.

Under U.S. law, crops where the edible portion of the plant has come into contact with flood waters is considered adulterated and cannot be sold for human consumption or animal consumption. These crops must be discarded, destroyed, or

tilled into the soil.

Pooled water after rainfall alone is not considered flooding. Flooding occurs when water outside of a grower's control flows into or overflows a field (e.g., overflow water from a surface water stream or pond, plugged and diverted culvert, or flooded road ditch).

Crops not intended for human or animal consumption, such as decorative gourds and jack-o-lantern pumpkins, do not need to be discarded.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) provides the following guidance on the safety of food crops

when flood waters contacted the edible portions of the crops; safety of food crops when flood waters did not contact the edible portions of the crops; assessment of flood-affected fields before replanting; and additional controls to avoid cross-contamination after flooding: <https://go.usa.gov/xN6ek> (case sensitive URL).

While any crop where the edible portion of the plant has contacted flood waters should be discarded, growers may be able to keep crops where the edible portion of the plant has not yet formed, such as immature potatoes, in place. These crops should

be evaluated on a case-by-case basis after reviewing FDA guidance. Growers may choose to uproot a sampling of plants after flood waters have receded to see if the edible portion of the plant has formed.

There is no set waiting period for replanting after flood waters have receded. Growers should use their discretion in this case after reviewing FDA guidance.

For additional questions regarding handling produce after flooding events, please contact Kristina Sweet, Produce Program Manager, at kristina.sweet@vermont.gov or (802) 522-7811.

In addition, the Agency urges farmers to document any crop losses from flooding. It's helpful to take pictures and keep detailed records. This information could be valuable for farmers, state and federal officials as they calculate the economic impact of the wet weather this spring and summer. If you have specific questions about documenting crop loss, please call the Agency of Agriculture at (802) 828-2430 or contact the Farm Service Agency at (802) 658-2803.

We wish you and your farm the best during this challenging growing season.

Eleven Students Across Vermont Receive Land Stewards Award

By Sophia Veltrop,
Vermont Land Trust

Each year, the Vermont Land Trust gives out the Land Stewards Award to qualified junior and senior high school students across the state. The students are nominated by their teachers because of their commitment to agriculture and/or forestry. This year, eleven students received the award and a \$250 cash prize from Vermont Land Trust representatives.

The Land Stewards Award was created twelve years ago in memory of Kathy O'Dell, a Vermont Land Trust employee. Kathy believed in the importance of honoring

the young people who want to take care of the land through agriculture and forestry-related career paths.

The recipients of the 2017 Land Stewards Awards were:

- Andrew Boutin (Center for Technology, Essex)
- Austin Turco (River Valley Technical Center, Springfield)
- Brooke Moses (Randolph Technical Career Center)
- Carter Aldrich (Lake Region Union High School, Orleans)
- Curtis Lessard (Woodstock Union High School)
- Destiny Somers (Lyndon Institute)
- Howie Vander Wey (Vergennes Union High

School and Hannaford Career Center)

- Joseph Mitchell (River Bend Career and Technical Center, Bradford)

- Parker Castle (North Country Career Center, Newport)
- Sara Hoadley (Green Mountain Technical Career Center,

Hyde Park)

- Troy Felisko (Windham Regional Career Center, Brattleboro)

VERMONT AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August:

- August 3rd – 6th – Franklin County Fair & Field Days
- August 5th Farm to Ballet – Billings Farm
- August 6th – Farm to Ballet – Studio Hill
- August 7th Produce Safety: Best Practices from Field to Consumer <http://nofavt.org/events/produce-safety-best-practices-field-consumer>

- August 8th – 13th Addison County Fair & Field Days
- August 12th Farm to Ballet – Retreat Farm
- August 13th Farm to Ballet Shelburne Farms
- August 15th -19th – VT State Fair
- August 16th – 20th Orleans County Fair
- August 17th – 20th Deerfield Valley Farmers Day Exhibition

- August 23rd Produce Safety: Best Practices from Field to Consumer <http://nofavt.org/events/produce-safety-best-practices-field-consumer-0>
- August 23rd - 27th Caledonia County Fair
- Aug 23rd – Sept 3rd Champlain Valley Fair
- August 25th – August 27th Bondville Fair

Rooted in Vermont: Uniting All Vermonters Around Local Food

By Rachel Carter, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

The Rooted in Vermont grassroots movement celebrates how all Vermonters acquire and enjoy local food and intends to increase consumer demand so more Vermont food can be available and accessible where most Vermonters shop.

Vermonters were farming, gardening, fishing, and hunting long before there were craft beers and gourmet burgers. Traditions like gardening, hunting, fishing, and foraging are as core to Vermont's local food movement as purchasing local food from farmers, restaurants, schools, and stores. Rooted in Vermont is a grassroots movement that empowers all Vermonters to be a part of the local food movement.

"Vermonters are proud of tradition and our way of life. Local food connects us to the land, to our history, and to our communities. Rooted in Vermont is a movement to help all Vermonters see local food as their own—not because it is a trend, but rather a part of our history and who we are as Vermonters," says Rachel Carter, communications director for the Vermont Farm to Plate Network—a network of over 300 organizations who are nurturing the Rooted in Vermont movement as a component to implementing Vermont's



Farm to Plate food system plan.

Rooted in Vermont Celebrates How Vermonters Acquire and Enjoy Local Food

Growing and foraging; purchasing directly from a farmer or at the store; hunting or fishing; eating at schools, institutions or restaurants serving local food; picking up food at a food shelf; or just sharing Vermont food and drinks with friends and neighbors—these are all examples of being 'Rooted in Vermont' and can be experienced in any Vermont community or online by following or using the hashtag #RootedinVermont.

"Our family has been hunting, making maple syrup, and growing our own veggies for years and that's how we eat local food. I

love that Rooted in Vermont includes these traditions in the local food movement. When more Vermonters can see their own values and traditions being celebrated and recognized, they will be more likely to seek out and purchase local foods—especially when they understand how it will benefit our state," shares Liz Perreault, a Plainfield, Vermont resident who follows Rooted in Vermont on Facebook.

Rooted in Vermont has followers from all over the state on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

What constitutes a Vermonter? "Anyone who lives and works in Vermont," says Carter. "The intention of the Rooted in Vermont movement is to create unity among all people who make their home in the Green Mountains without

judgement about how they acquire and enjoy food—or any judgements for that matter. We are trying to shift the local food narrative on social media and in Vermont communities to be inclusive and invite all Vermonters to share how they are 'Rooted in Vermont'."

Increasing Consumer Demand in Local Food

As more Vermonters engage in the Rooted in Vermont movement, grassroots outreach efforts will encourage ways to demonstrate increased demand in local food.

"Cost, convenience, availability, and different food preferences all come into

play when Vermonters make decisions about food purchases," says Carter. "But a little goes a long way! The power really lies with Vermonters to change the system by demanding more local food where we shop so that we have more in-state control about the food available to us and more economic opportunities for our families."

Increased consumer demand sends a signal to the marketplace for more local food to be produced, distributed, and available to Vermonters. Local food sales currently account for \$6.9% (\$189 million) of total food sales in Vermont.

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wanted



NEW FOR 2017

VERMONT STATE FAIR **IRONWOOD COMPETITION**

DISPLAY YOUR AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY MACHINES, IMPLEMENTS, ATTACHMENTS, IMPROVEMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, JIGS, GADGETS AND GIZMOS THAT DEMONSTRATE YOUR CREATIVITY, INGENUITY, FABRICATING AND MECHANICAL SKILLS

Four categories for premiums and ribbons

Entry forms in the Vermont State Fair Premium Book at www.vermontstatefair.org 802-775-5200

For more information call Jim Philbrook 802-797-8159 james_philbrook@yahoo.com

Agency of Ag Announces RAP Planning Tool for Farms That Manage Floodplains

Fall RAP Floodplain Cover-Cropping and Manure Spreading Requirements Begin October 1–16th

By Laura DiPietro,
VT Agency of Ag

The Agency of Ag has released a Floodplain Planning Tool that will assist farmers with understanding and complying with the State's new requirements for agricultural fields located in a floodplain. These new requirements are detailed in the new Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) which set baseline management requirements for farms of all sizes in Vermont. Compliance for the 2017 and 2018 cropping seasons begins with first understanding where and how the new floodplain RAPs apply on your farm and second, with taking proactive steps to plan to comply and meet the dates outlined in the RAPs.

For the complete floodplain planning packet, visit <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/floodplain>.

The Agency of Ag is here to support you and your farm to understand the rules, assist with planning efforts if requested, and to provide technical and financial assistance directly to your farm to implement new management strategies, which may be required to comply with the rules. If at any time you have questions regarding how these new rules apply to your farm, please call the

Agency of Ag Water Quality Division directly at 802-828-2431

The RAPs for agricultural floodplain management include:

1. An extended winter manure spreading ban on frequently flooded soils: From October 16th – April 14th
2. Any manure applied to floodplains must be injected or otherwise incorporated within 48 hours, unless the field is in no-till, is cover cropped, or is planted to hay, pasture, or other perennial crop.
3. For floodplain fields that grow annual crops (e.g. corn for silage, sweet corn, soybeans, pumpkins), frequently flooded soils on those fields must be planted to cover crop by:
 - a. October 1st if the cover crop is broadcast on the surface
 - b. October 15th if the cover crop is drilled or otherwise incorporated into the soil
 - c. OR maintain 30% cover on the surface of the crop field after harvest (e.g. weeds, post-harvest residue [chaff])

These RAP dates for agricultural management in floodplains are concrete targets established by the Agency of Ag based on the best science and local research available to ensure

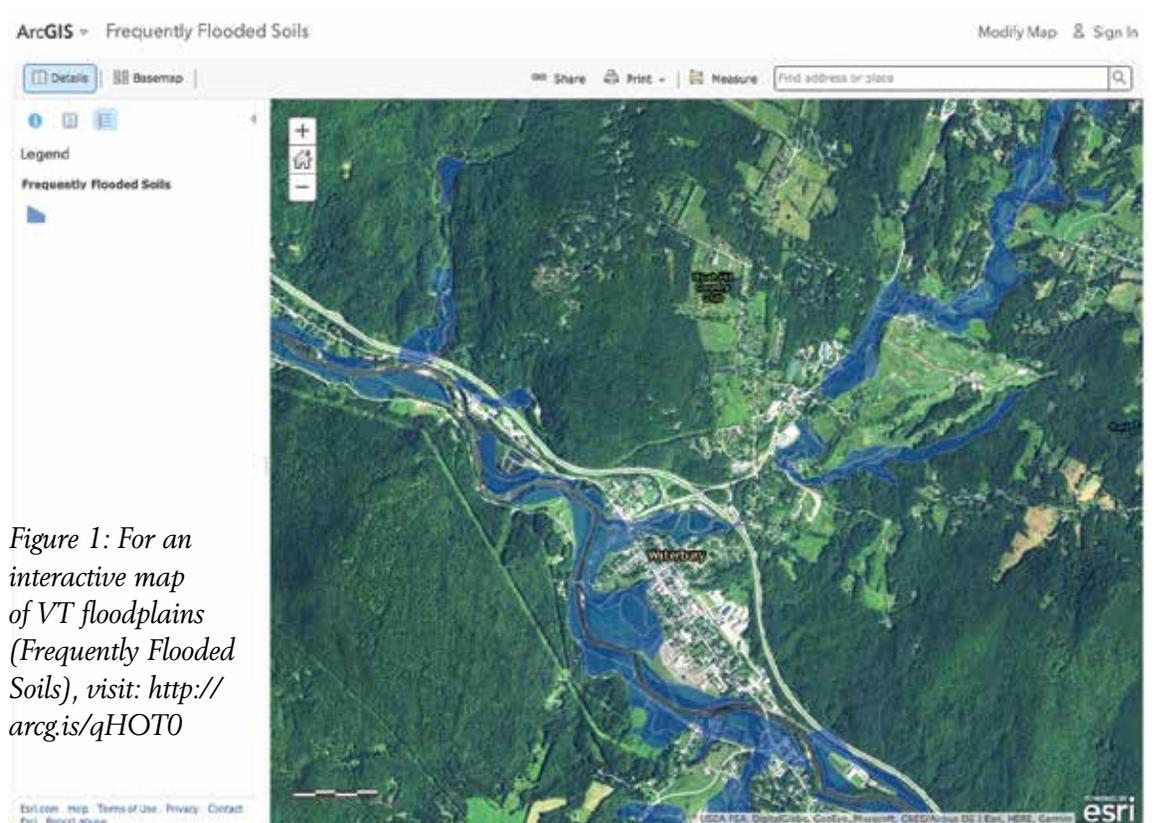


Figure 1: For an interactive map of VT floodplains (Frequently Flooded Soils), visit: <http://arcgis/qHOTO>

protection of the state's water quality, while providing enough flexibility and accommodation for farmers to manage their most productive soils and fields in ways that work for their farm and desired crop timing. Farmers will be held accountable to meet these target dates, or will need to demonstrate that their level of field management exceeds the minimum standards in the RAPs outside of the specific dates, or meets the intent of the RAPs and be granted a variance to manage floodplains using dates and management practices different from those proposed in the rules.

The Required Agricultural

Practices floodplain management requirements will affect all farms differently. Some farms may have no floodplain fields, others may have all of their fields in the floodplain. Some farms may already be cover cropping all of their fields and only spreading spring manure – others may just be exploring cover cropping options for their farm. Recognizing that there are different management strategies in place on farms throughout Vermont, the Agency of Ag is committed to engaging in a collaborative planning process with farmers to ensure a smooth transition to the new regulatory paradigm.

Further, this spring has already proven to be incredibly difficult to manage for many farms throughout the state. Many farmers have already communicated with the Agency of Ag how even with their new shorter-day-length corn, they are going to be challenged to meet the new October manure spreading ban. The Agency of Ag takes this feedback very seriously and wants to acknowledge all of the proactive work many farmers are engaged in to ensure successful implementation of the RAPs.

Compliance for the 2017 – 2018 field season will attempt to balance the lim-

QUALITY

ited time farmers have for planning in the middle of the growing season, the extremely wet spring which has delayed many farmer's nutrient application and planting timings, as well as the need ensure farm managers are putting pen to paper to demonstrate how they intend to meet RAP floodplain dates

for 2017 and 2018.

To balance all of these competing demands, the Agency of Ag has released a Floodplain Planning Tool that will serve as the planning template and variance request process to ensure compliance by farmers throughout the state with new floodplain requirements

for the 2017 and 2018 cropping seasons.

Instructions for the FPT are included in the informational packet on our website, however, suffice it to say, forthright and clear communication between farmers and the Agency of Ag will be essential so both parties can plan and learn how the

new requirements will affect different farms in different parts of the state.

If you have questions regarding how these new rules apply to your farm, would like to request a hard-copy of the packet be mailed to your farm, or have any additional questions about the RAPs, call the Agency of

Ag Water Quality Division directly at 802-828-2431.

Contacts & Resources:

Phone: 802-828-2431

E-mail: AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov

Website: <http://Agriculture.Vermont.gov/floodplain>

Floodplain Maps: <http://arcgis/qHOTO>

Required Agricultural Practice Development Committee Update

Working with Agency of Agriculture to Develop Variances Processes

By Ryan Patch,
VT Agency of Ag

The Required Agricultural Practice (RAP) Development Committee, a group comprised of farmers representing various farm sizes and locations throughout the State, has been working with the Agency of Agriculture to develop variance processes

that will accompany the RAPs. Farmer groups represented in the Committee are: The Connecticut River Watershed Farmer Alliance, Franklin and Grand Isle Farmer's Watershed Alliance, Vermont Farm Bureau, Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA VT), Rural Vermont, and Vermont

Dairy Producers Alliance. The Committee has thus far provided input on the compilation of the Certified Small Farm Operation Annual Certification Form, Stacking and Burial Variance Requests, Surface vs. Ditch discussions and feedback on the Channel Integrated Assessment Tool (to help determine appropriate buffer widths on fields), and

creation of the Floodplain Planning Tool, for farms with fields located in a floodplain. The input of the Committee has been integral in the development of these variances, and will continue to be as such, as the Agency and the Committee continue to discuss the remaining variances established in the RAPs.

Apply Now for Cover Crop Funding!

Applications are now being accepted for the Agency of AG's Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program. Winter cover crop applications are due by September 15. For an application, visit: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/FAP>

For additional information, contact Clark Parmelee at (802) 661-8241 or Clark.Parmelee@vermont.gov



Danny Peet from NRCS uses a rainfall simulator to demonstrate the importance of cover crops.



Lorenzo Whitcomb of North Williston Cattle Company and UVM's Kirsten Workman discuss soil conservation practices with Gov. Scott.

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

Reports From The Field

(Charlotte) We are seeing SWD in our red raspberries, but have seen no damage in the blueberries or saw any damage with the strawberries. Strawberries ended fast due to the rain making the fruit rotten, but before the rain we had great berries! Blueberries are a week behind, but look great, and we just started picking. Saw and treated for blueberry maggot this year. All the pests are coming early. Black raspberry crop is great and ready on time. We are just able to get into some of the fields to start planning for next season, but the forecast is for more rain. I hope it won't be too much.

(Orwell) Clay soil seems impossible with all this rain, and even though summer is quickly ticking by, we are just getting a handle on overgrown grass and weeds. Sidedressing crops that look stressed for nitrogen has been very effective this year after so many inches of rain. They green up quickly with a little boost and a little sunshine. Our strawberry crop came on strong and beautiful

but crashed quickly after several heavy rains; we couldn't keep up with pulling all the moldy berries off. Thankfully, crops under cover are doing well; so far, they are remarkably disease free. Learned from past mistakes to keep them chugging along by fertigating, rather than realizing all too late that they ran out of juice around mid-July.

Update From The Plant Diagnostic Clinic

Ann Hazelrigg,
UVM Extension

Tomato-leaf spots (*Alternaria* and *Septoria*) are starting to show up now on lower leaves of field tomatoes. Depending on the rain/wetting periods the disease will move upward in the plant as the season goes on. If you are going to apply fungicides (either organic or conventional) now is the time to start. If we get over an inch of rain after spraying, consider the application lost and reapply. Although we have had great late blight weather, the pathogen has not been found near New England. See map for current occurrences: <http://www.usablight.org/?q=map>. Still, be on the lookout if you (or your neighbors) have saved potato seed since the pathogen could show up on previously infected tubers/foilage.

Potato-leaf hoppers are here. If you see leaf edge dieback on potato, beans and other crops, look for the little nymphs and adults. They seem to go for the early potatoes first. Some black leg showing up on potato stems. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/potato-blackleg>

Cucurbits-Some reports of bacterial wilt causing sud-

den collapse in high tunnel and field cukes. Controlling cucumber beetle is the best strategy. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/cucurbits-bacterial-wilt>

Collapse in squashes may be a result of squash vine borer feeding/tunneling. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/squash-vine-borer>

Downy mildew has been diagnosed in Ontario and western NY. See map for the current locations: <http://cdm.ipmPIPE.org/>

Crucifers- Swede midge causing damage in kale and other brassicas. Watch for deformed or rotting growing points and scarring of stems. <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-007.htm>

Boron deficiency diagnosed in broccoli/ cauliflower. If your soil test says levels are low, it makes sense to apply some B (1 lb actual per acre or so) where you are growing brassicas or beets, see: <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/boron-deficiency>

Onions/garlic-Lots of onion leek moth in garlic scapes. <http://web.entomology.cornell.edu/shelton/leek-moth/damage.html>

Clip and destroy. Another caterpillar in this crop can be the salt marsh caterpillar but it feeds on the outside and is much hairier. http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/saltmarsh_caterpillar.htm

A fungal disease in garlic called **Colletotrichum leaf spot** is being reported in western New York state and Maine. It may cause curling, twisting and dieback. Orange spores eventually develop. Let me know if you see it.

As always, send a picture or samples to us in the PDC,

Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT 05405. ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu

Sidedressing Nitrogen

Becky Maden,
UVM Extension

With a wet and cool start to the summer, many transplants had barely established their root systems before bursts of heat arrive. In a year like this, it is important to make sure your plants have adequate fertility when the heat finally hits. Rainy conditions can leach away early season fertility even if it is from compost, cover crops, or other organic sources. Furthermore, a little extra nitrogen can help your plants outgrow early season problems like seed corn maggots, which hit initial plantings of Brassica and onion crops hard, state-wide. If you see plants showing signs of nitrogen deficiency after excess rain, like yellowing lower leaves, you are especially likely benefit from sidedressing.

A good sidedress option for organic growers is Chilean nitrate (now formulated as 15-0-2, cost is ~\$6/lb N), which will provide crops with immediately available nitrogen. Blood meal is more expensive (~\$11/lb N) but also pretty quick release. North Country Organics Pro-booster (10-0-0) is another option. If you sidedress with whatever N amendment you have on hand be aware that some products such as composted chicken manure may add excess phosphorus and it, like seed meals, will release N more slowly than products containing Chilean.

Some vegetable growers are using Pre-sidedress Nitrate Tests (PSNT) to

determine what soil nitrate levels before amending. For more information on sidedressing and using PSNTs, visit <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/pre-sidedress-nitrate-test>

Swede Midge Management

Rachel Schattman,
UVM Extension

Swede midge (SM) a pest of cole crops, is present in Ontario, Quebec, MA, NJ, NY, and northwest VT. It is moving southward. It typically has four generations, often overlapping, between May and October, with 3-6 weeks per generation. Females lay eggs in young plant tissue, where larvae feed, damaging the growing point. Symptoms include galls on transplants, irregular branching in broccoli plants, multiple heads in cabbage, and other malformations. Damage is not as severe in radishes and mustards but these crops can provide habitat for the pest, which can live in the soil for two years or more. Managing SM requires multiple strategies.

The first step is to monitor for SM on your farm. For guidance on setting up a trap with pheromone lure, see Cornell's SM information site: <http://web.entomology.cornell.edu/shelton/swede-midge/monitoringtraps.html>

A few sources of traps and lures (in Canada, as canola growers appear to be the main market)

<http://shop.agritrend.com/41-swede-midge>
<http://solida.quebec/index.php/cultures-maraicheres/?lang=en>

If you have SM, use a combination of greenhouse and field sanitation, rotat-

continued on page 13

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Egg Prices

June 19, 2017

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

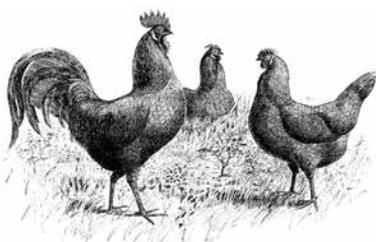
Vermont Egg Prices:

Extra Large . . . \$1.23-1.29
 Large \$1.13-1.19
 Medium \$.76-.86

You can find more reports online at

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

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



Vermont Agency of Agriculture - USDA Market News

Addison County Commission Sales — East Middlebury, VT

Livestock Auction Report for Monday, June 5, 2017

	Cattle	Calves
This Week:	122	171
Last Week:	125	135

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold steady on good demand. Slaughter cattle supply included 120 cows and 2 bulls. All prices quoted per cwt.

SLAUGHTER COWS:

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	—	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	65.00-72.00	73.00-75.50	60.00-62.00	—
Boners	80-85	65.00-68.00	—	59.50-64.50	—
Lean	85-90	61.50-68.00	76.50	55.00-60.00	45.00-54.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 1490-1815 lbs 97.00-99.00. All prices per cwt.

CALVES: Holstein bull calves sold 10.00-20.00 higher on moderate demand.

HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:

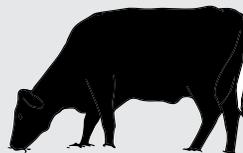
Number 1: 80-120 lbs 152.50-200.00.

Number 2: 80-120 lbs 120.00-170.00.

Number 3: 70-120 lbs 75.00-130.00.

Utility: 60-120 lbs 30.00-80.00.

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 101lbs 180.00



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

SOURCE:

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

Darryl Kuehne
 Market Reporter
 Cell: 802-793-5348

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Cattle

Butterworks Farm Organic Jersey Heifers for sale. Call Collin 802-323-9304 for details.

Purebred Polled Hereford Bull (three years old) asking \$1,500 or OBO (802) 356-1402

Angus bulls and heifers for sale, good quality, please call for more info. (802) 558-8196

Employment

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

Dairy Farmer needed – North Williston Cattle Co. a 240 cow family dairy farm, is seeking an employee. Hours are M-F Noon to 6pm and alternate holidays and weekends. Duties include some: herd health, maternity work, calf care, servicing robotic milkers, day to day barn chores. Must enjoy

working with animals and learning new skills and be able to work independently as well as with others. Attitude is more important than experience. 802-238-5781 (no housing available)

Equipment

3960 John Deere chopper with 5 foot hay head and two row corn head. Many improvements made. Very good condition. 5000 dollars. A Gail pinwheel rake. Good condition. 1200 dollars. Contact Brad Thomas of Orwell. 802-988-0793.

L9000 Ford Platform Dump, heavy duty -Diesel, good tires. \$4,000.00 802-333-4840 Steve Stocking

Agtech 2004 100 gallon, 3 point hitch air blast sprayer. You can contact me at: 802-483-6147 or bill@mountaincider.com

International 815 Diesel Combine, 843 4 row narrow Cornhead, 820-13 Grainhead; 3250 Reel Auggie Mixer on gas 1995 Ford 450 2wd; used parts for Badger silo unloader. Call for prices. 802-770-0959

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

4450 John Deere 4-Wheel Drive Tractor with dual wheels. In excellent condition, always stored inside. Call or email for more information: jjacksonvt@gmail.com or 802-989-2958

4200 Case Combo Mulch Tiller-14 foot. Call or email for more information: jjacksonvt@gmail.com or 802-989-2958

Windpower PTO 80-40 Generator. Call or email for more information: jjacksonvt@gmail.com or 802-989-2958

Two Clay Single Chain Conveyers-20 foot long. Call or email for more information: jjacksonvt@gmail.com or 802-989-2958

Hay tools: MF 124 baler with kicker. shed kept, good shape

\$2250. New Idea 5209. used this year, maintained. kept under cover. all there. \$4500. call 802-766-2690 or 802-673-2555

1950 Farmall A – with 6 ft. mower. Runs great \$2700. OBO 603-543-3616

24ft Hay elevator on wheels. 30ft hay elevator, 92 ft root trap elevator, a scraper for manure on skid steer. 802-895-4683

Fence posts: 6 ft barbed wire \$2.50, 6ft electric \$2.25. 5ft \$2.25. 10ft \$6, posts fir high tensil fence 8ft 5-6in \$9 802-754-8855

Pettibone Super 10 Cary-Lift loader \$5000. Two 12-24 Tractor tires \$150 for the pair. Three Fordson Dexta Tractor 2 run \$4500 for the three Ferguson TE20 tractor \$2500 runs good Int \$1800 Dump truck good body \$1500 2 trailer axles \$50 55 gal wooden cider barrel with stand \$250. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166

Farm & Farmland

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

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

General

Homestead items, feeder for chickens, pigs, calf, bottles, pails, fly catchers, fence supplies, charger, small elevator, small square bales (2017 crop) 802-759-2421.

Hay, Feed & Forage

2017 4X4 wrapped baleage. Certified organic. \$40 per bale. Will load. 802-254-2164 2017 Canadian Hay for sale 1st cut, big squares, round bales, wrapped hay, tractor trailer loads only. call Richard at 802-323-3275

Butterworks Farm 1st and 2nd cut 2016 wrapped round bales for sale \$30- \$40 each. Call Collin 802-323-9304

ADDISON COUNTY

Hay for sale large square bales for sale in Addison, Vt.

CLASSIFIEDS



Stored undercover. Contact S.L. Moore at 802-463-3875.

flock. \$225. 802-233-2640 or katherineknox11@gmail.com

Hay for sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales, 1st and 2nd cut. Stored undercover in Addison. Contact S.L. Moore @802-463-3875.

Registered 2017 Romney lambs. White and natural colored with excellent, champion genetics and award winning fleeces.

Sheep

Ewes - Dorset 3yr and 4 yr olds. Good mothers, good parasite resistance, 100% grass fed. Ram - Black. 4 yr old. Tunis/Suffolk/Romney cross \$100 each (802) 522-6729

Halter trained and handled frequently. Perfect for show, pets or an addition to a spinner's flock. \$225; 802-233-2640; katherineknox11@gmail.com

Swine

Heritage Tamworth sow for sale. Uncertified organic, pasture raised, trained to electric fence. Last litter was 15 piglets. Also 15 mo old Tamworth x Berkshire sow available. \$750. Newfane, 365-0251.

Black or white Border Leicester ewes \$100 each. Marilyn Magnus 802-592-3320

Registered white Border Leicester March lambs for sale. Excellent, champion genetics and award winning fleeces. Halter trained and handled frequently. Great for pets or show or for anyone looking to add to a spinner's

Wanted

Wisconsin motor 2 cycle baler type, starter type, leave message 603-826-3246



Engaging minds that change the world

Ag Business Program Specialist

UVM Extension is seeking a part-time (18.75 hours to 22.5 hours per week) Program Specialist to join our growing Agricultural Business Education and Research team. We are seeking a motivated individual with a passion for agriculture and a commitment to quality. The specialist will manage essential administrative processes including grants management, financial planning and program development. An undergraduate degree and at least 3 years of program or non-profit management is required. The position is located in Berlin, Vermont. The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

For further information or to apply, search for posting #S1158PO at our website www.uvmjobs.com. Applicants must submit an application, cover letter, and resume to be considered for the position.

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Applications, from women, veterans, individuals with disabilities and people from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

Vermont Farmers' Market Report

July 9, 2017

	Produce					
	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
Beet Greens	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Beets	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.44	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$2.79
Bok Choi	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$3.13	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$3.25
Cabbage	\$1.50	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.25
Carrots	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.74	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.25
Chard (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$3.22	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$3.19
Cucumbers (each)	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.33	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$2.50
Herbs (per bunch)	\$1.00	\$2.25	\$1.83	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.29
Kale (per bunch)	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$2.92	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$3.17
Kohlrabi (per bunch)	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$3.33	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$3.83
Lettuce (per head)	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.08	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$3.21
Mixed Greens: Arugula (bag)	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.38	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.80
Onions (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$2.75
Radish (per bunch)	\$0.75	\$3.00	\$2.54	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$2.92
Scallions (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.32	\$2.25	\$3.50	\$2.90
Scapes (per bunch)	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.13	\$-	\$-	\$-
Spinach (per bag)	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.17	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.63
Summer Squash	\$1.75	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$-	\$-	\$-
Tomatoes	\$4.50	\$4.75	\$4.58	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75
Tomatoes: cherry/pear/grape (per basket)	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.20	\$5.00	\$5.50	\$5.33
Zucchini (each)	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$0.80	\$0.75	\$1.50	\$1.00

	Meats/Proteins					
	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
Goat (all cuts)	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$-	\$-	\$-
Rack of Lamb	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$15.20	\$-	\$-	\$-
Leg of Lamb	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$12.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Ground Lamb	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$9.67	\$-	\$-	\$-
Ground Beef	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$6.48	\$8.00	\$9.25	\$8.58
Ribeye	\$12.60	\$16.00	\$14.03	\$15.00	\$24.50	\$19.13
Sirloin	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$9.66	\$10.50	\$16.00	\$13.38
Round Roast	\$7.00	\$10.75	\$8.56	\$10.75	\$11.00	\$10.88
Chuck Roast	\$8.00	\$10.75	\$8.65	\$10.75	\$11.00	\$10.88
Strip Steak	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$12.90	\$15.00	\$23.00	\$18.67
Skirt Steak	\$7.00	\$12.00	\$9.27	\$9.50	\$18.00	\$14.50
Tenderloin	\$16.00	\$20.65	\$18.16	\$21.00	\$29.50	\$24.83
Beef Stew	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$6.40	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$8.00
Short Ribs	\$4.50	\$8.00	\$5.99	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$7.00
Eggs (per dozen)	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.38	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.67
Whole Chickens	\$4.15	\$5.50	\$4.83	\$5.00	\$6.25	\$5.69
Ground Pork	\$7.95	\$8.00	\$7.99	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$7.75
Pork Chops	\$7.00	\$13.00	\$9.47	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$10.50
Pork Tenderloin	\$13.50	\$20.00	\$15.83	\$-	\$-	\$-
Shoulder Roast	\$5.00	\$13.00	\$8.48	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$8.25
Ham	\$4.50	\$9.00	\$6.70	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Sausage	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$9.50
Bacon	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$10.40	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$11.50

Market Comments

SEASONALITY:

Early tomatoes are started to pop up at a few markets across the state.

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

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Despite wet weather, customer attendance was reported good/average at most markets this week.

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

VENDOR COMMENTS:

N/A



Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

ing cole crops long distances (0.5-2 km, ideally with hedgerows in between) avoiding the most susceptible crops, and adjusting planting and harvest schedules to avoid peak pressure. Row cover and/or insect netting during critical growth periods is another strategy to minimize damage.

Very little research has been done on insecticides for this pest in vegetables. One study had some success applying Assail 30SG to transplants prior to planting out. Always check product labels. Assail is not approved for greenhouse use, so transplants must be brought outside prior to application. There are currently no sprays approved to control SM on organic crops. If you think you may have swede midge on your farm, the UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic can help confirm, see <http://pss.uvm.edu/pd/pdc/> or contact ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu.

For more info see this Ontario Ministry of Agriculture fact sheet: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-007.htm>

Dr. Yolanda Chen at UVM studies SM. She and her grad students post updates about their research at: <http://blog.uvm.edu/yfanslow/our-work-on-swede-midge/>

A presentation on swede midge in Vermont by Andy Jones, Intervale Community Farm, and Dr. Chen is at: <https://www.uvm.edu/vtvegand-berry/VVBGAMeeting2013/ChenSwedeMidge.pdf>

Summer Cover Crops

Becky Maden,
UVM Extension

Even though vegetable crops may be behind sched-

ule with the cool, wet start to the year, you still have time to get summer cover crops into your crop rotation this season. Summer covers can help improve soil health as a niche between early spring crops and later fall crops, or as a second-half of season 'fallow.' Here's a summary of a few key summer cover crops.

Buckwheat is a good choice if weed suppression is your main goal. It establishes, blooms and reaches maturity in just 70 to 90 days, and the residue breaks down rapidly after incorporation. Drilled at 50 lbs/A or broadcast at 70 lbs/A.

Sorghum-Sudangrass (*Sorghum bicolor* x *S. sudanense*) is a top choice for adding organic matter and building soil. Sorghum sudangrass can reach 5-12 ft. tall with 3-4 tons of biomass addition per acre. Drill 35-40 lbs/A or 40-50 lbs/A broadcast.

Sunhemp (*Crotalaria juncea*) Sunhemp has produced high amounts of biomass (3-4 tons/A in Massachusetts). It is a high nitrogen-fixing legume and can contribute over 100 lbs N/A to a following crop. Allow sunhemp is to grow 1-3 feet tall, then mow it and let it regrow again. Drill 20-30 lbs/A.

Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) is a good choice for a short-term summer cover or seeded between plastic rows to reduce splash, weeds, and erosion. Shade tolerance makes this cover crop a good choice for mixes. Depending on coverage, it can fix 70-150 lbs N/A. Drill 10-20 lbs/A, and broadcast at 12-24 lbs/A.

Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) also known as blue or purple tansy is a good cover crop for use in rotation on

vegetable farms because it is not related to many crop families. This fast growing cover crop prefers mid-summer seeding. Drill 11lb/A and broadcast 3 lb/A.

Forage-type Pearl Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) or **Japanese Millet** (*Echinochloa*

spp.) have similar functions as a summer cover crop: they grow rapidly but can be more easily managed than sorghum sudangrass though with less biomass (4-6 feet tall). Drill 12-15 lbs/A or broadcast 15-20 lbs/A.

Cowpea (*Vigna unguicu-*

lata) is fast growing with peak biomass around 60 days and tolerates drought and heat. Cowpeas can fix up to 100 lbs N/A with biomass of 3000-4000 lbs/A. Drill at 40-50 lbs/A and broadcast at 70-100lbs/A.

Beef Report

For the month of June 2017

Est. Volume: 12,451 lbs • Last Month: 5,680 lbs

Report reflects beef sold direct to consumer on a whole carcass basis and on a retail basis. All beef products are considered local to Vermont

Reported volume of beef trade was average this month. Carcass and retail sales volume is starting to increase moving into summer. YTD and 3-month rolling averages were adjusted to account for sales on the carcass trades.

Average Hot Carcass Weight: 764.19 lbs.

Last Month's Average Hot Carcass Weight: 805.64 lbs.

Last Month's Estimated Total Volume: 9,463 lbs

Dressed Beef Carcass Value

Dressed Basis Steers/Heifers: \$350.00-610.00/cwt

Year to Date Weight Average Carcass Price: \$441.71/cwt

3 Month Rolling Average Carcass Price: \$393.83/cwt

Above values reflect whole, half, or quarter carcass. Processing fees are not included in the dressed beef carcass value. All dressed values are quoted as price per hundred pounds, unless otherwise noted.

Direct To Consumer Grass Fed Beef Retail Prices

	Price Range (\$/lb)		Avg (\$/lb)
Tenderloin	\$16.00	\$24.50	\$ 19.60
Boneless Ribeye/Delmonico	\$12.95	\$19.00	\$ 15.49
Bone-in Ribeye Steak	\$12.00	\$17.00	\$ 13.53
NY Strip	\$11.00	\$20.00	\$ 14.80
Porterhouse	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$ 15.81
T-Bone	\$12.00	\$17.50	\$ 14.67
Sirloin	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$ 10.90
Flank Steak	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$ 9.36
Skirt Steak	\$7.00	\$12.50	\$ 9.21
London Broil	\$7.00	\$12.00	\$ 8.90
Short Ribs	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$ 6.89
Rib Roast	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$ 12.88
Sirloin Tip Roast	\$6.75	\$14.00	\$ 9.92
Top Round Roast	\$6.75	\$12.00	\$ 9.28
Bottom Round Roast	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$ 7.73
Chuck Roast	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$ 8.15
Brisket	\$6.75	\$10.00	\$ 8.30
Hamburger	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$ 6.38
Beef Stew	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$ 6.72
Heart	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$ 4.30
Tongue	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$ 4.30
Liver	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$ 3.80

Source: VT Agency of Ag - USDA Market News Service, Montpelier, VT
Levi Geyer 717-354-2391 / NewHollandPALSMN@ams.usda.gov
Alissa Matthews, Market Reporter 802-828-5824

www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ln_lo100.txt • www.ams.usda.gov/LPSMarketNewsPag

How the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture Works Regionally to Help Vermont's Farmers and Landowners

By Cheryl Herrick,
UVM Extension

In Vermont and across New England, prime farmland is both scarce and expensive. Many farmers are at or approaching retirement age. Young farmers face daunting challenges as they try to establish their agricultural enterprises.

One critical, and complicated, part of these challenges is finding ways to successfully transfer farmland from those who own it to those who seek to farm on it. Ben Waterman of the UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture serves as Land Access Coordinator, and in that capacity, helps to support both farm-seekers and landowners in Vermont.

He's based at UVM to serve Vermont's farming community, but he and his colleagues in New England Farm Link Collaborative are working together as part of a three year "Land Access Project" across the region. Serving Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, the group is comprised of each state's "farm link" programs that work to connect those seeking farmland in order to begin or grow their farming operation with landowners with farmland to lease or to sell.

"A regional approach makes sense," says



Waterman. "Farmers will move across state lines to access the right property. Knowing that, we did this to make it easy for farmers to get a look at what's available throughout New England, and also to direct farmers and landowners to the whole array of services and resources to help them make that successful match."

This is important because there's much more to a successful arrangement than just helping farmers and landowners find each other, says Waterman. "Every situation is different and can require different expertise and advice than every other one, but partners in the Collaborative have the right accumulated experience and knowledge. Our purpose is to facilitate good communication between the farmer and the other support services. We can help bankers understand a farm business plan. We can help lawyers understand the agricultural provisions of a farm lease

arrangement. We can help real estate agents to understand the specific information that a prospective buyer or tenant needs to determine whether a land is suitable for their goals. We can help everyone navigate USDA resources and requirements. Farm link programs are the hub."

A significant focus of the Collaborative has been the creation and improvement of the New England Farmland Finder website (found at <http://newenglandfarmlandfinder.org/>). The site provides detailed and regularly updated farm property postings, as well as information and guidance about farmland transactions, such as land assessment worksheets and fact sheets on lease rates.

"We're excited about the way the website can get more listings in front of people, but it's equally important to us to get all of the site's visitors connected with the staff and resources from local programs to help access

land and use it productively," says Waterman. "

Andrew Smith, a new vegetable farmer who is now raising vegetables on leased land in Rhode Island, used NEFF so that he could see as much as possible of what was available. He says, "I was searching for that dream opportunity. We were new, and were looking for land to farm all over New England." He made contact with the owners of properties across the region, but ended up leasing property near where his family home in Newport is, an unexpected but happy outcome of his search.

Sue Lanpher of Maine Farmland Trust recalls her recent work with Eric and Alison Rector, Maine landowners and homesteaders who were seeking to bring young farmers onto their land as they prepared for retirement. "The Rectors were wonderful to work with. As farmers themselves, they knew what would work for the farm, and what would fit in their succession plan, so they were mindful in their screenings with interested Seekers. They had set a lot of things in motion already for the farm's future and I think that aided them in their positive link with the young farmers now on their land," Lanpher said.

The Land Access Project is supported by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture through its Beginning Farmer and Rancher

Development Program, #2015-70017-23900. The collaboration is one outcome from Land For Good's Land Access Project, funded by the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. The New England Farm Link Collaborative includes Connecticut Farm Link, Maine Farm Link, Land For Good and Vermont Land Link. Each member provides a range of services all aimed at one common goal: to help New England's farm seekers and landowners connect.

About UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Land Access is one program of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Established in 1994, the Center provides timely information to Vermont communities and the UVM campus. Center staff conduct innovative research, support the development of promising practices, cultivate partnership, and inform policy to advance sustainable food and farming systems

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Salvation Farms Gathers Food System Colleagues for Day-Long Surplus Crop Forum

By Theresa Snow,
Salvation Farms

Salvation Farms, in collaboration with Vermont Farm to Plate, hosted nearly 40 regional food system colleagues in May to strategize the first statewide conversation on moving more of Vermont's surplus crops into institutional meal programs.

The surplus crop forum is one component of Salvation Farms' long-term vision to build a statewide surplus crop management plan. The nonprofit estimates that 14.3 million pounds of vegetables and berries are lost on Vermont farms per year, yet few avenues exist to incorporate these surplus crops into the 19 million meals that Vermont institutions serve annually. The forum focused on the risks and opportunities of developing a new market for surplus crops that could compensate farmers while helping fill institutional demand for affordable, fresh, local produce.

Farmers from four Vermont counties attended, as well as representatives from Vermont institutional meal programs ranging from prisons to hospitals to senior care centers. Individuals representing Vermont state agencies, the Vermont Foodbank, charitable meal sites, and farm-to-school organizations also participated. Emerging themes included the benefit of developing marketing and education campaigns to ease the use of "nonstandard"



Attendees at Vermont's first Surplus Crop Forum participate in a "World Café" dialogue.

crops, the need to further explore minimally processing, and the need to identify a broker to coordinate available surplus crops with diverse needs of institutions.

Out of this day, Salvation Farms, with the Farm to Plate Network, will form a stakeholder group to advise the development of a Vermont Surplus Crop

Management Plan.

"If we can move lost product off the farms to a demanding market – that is no doubt a success," stated Alyson Eastman, Deputy Secretary of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, who opened the forum. "These concepts are aligned with the Governor and our Agency priorities: to

serve the most vulnerable, strengthen our local economy, and make Vermont more affordable."

Salvation Farms is a Morrisville-based nonprofit with a mission to

build increased resilience in Vermont's food system through agricultural surplus management. Visit www.salvationfarms.org for more information.



Rooted in Vermont
continued from page 7

If 10% of the food purchased in Vermont was locally produced, it would equate to \$300 million staying in the Vermont economy. Purchasing local products keeps more money here in Vermont, in turn creating jobs, supporting the in-state supply chain, protecting our family farms, and making local food more accessible to more Vermonters.

Join the Rooted in Vermont Grassroots Movement

- Follow the Rooted in Vermont social channels on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Share your Vermont Food roots and tag us in your posts on Facebook; use the hashtag #RootedinVermont on Twitter and Instagram.
- Like, share, comment,

retweet, and repost our content with your friends and followers.

- Participate in local food activities and purchase local food—then share with us on social media.
- Businesses, organizations, and Vermont communities can get involved too. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/>

The Rooted in Vermont movement is being nurtured by the Vermont Farm to Plate Network as a strategic effort to help implement Vermont's Farm to Plate food system plan to increase economic development and jobs in Vermont's farm and food sector and improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters. Farm to Plate is a program of the Vermont Legislature, administered by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, a nonprofit organization based in Montpelier, Vermont. www.VTFarmtoPlate.com.

Hunter Ed Courses Now Being Held

By Alison Thomas, Department of Fish & Wildlife

Vermont Fish & Wildlife says anyone interested in taking a hunter education course should consider doing so this summer, because fewer courses will be available in October and November.

"Invariably many people are disappointed when they can't find a hunter education course being given in the fall," said Fish & Wildlife's Nicole Meier who oversees Vermont's Hunter Education Program. "We actually have more courses available now because many of our certified volunteer instructors have more time to give the courses before hunting seasons begin."

Completion of a free course is required prior to purchasing a person's first Vermont hunting, bow hunting or trapping license.

Upcoming courses and information are listed on the VT Fish & Wildlife website (vtfishandwildlife.com). For more information about hunter education in Vermont, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hd2ubzg> or call 802-828-1193.

Farm to Ballet's Third Summer is Underway

By Amy M. Overstreet
Media Liaison,
Farm to Ballet Project

Farms, food, community, connection, live music, and the graceful art of ballet. This is what Vermont's Farm to Ballet is all about, and the unique project starts a third summer season in a few weeks. The lead role of the dancing farmer will be performed by Vermont native and homesteader Avi Waring, an accomplished dancer and dance educator. She is co-founder of Ballet Wolcott and the Montpelier Movement Collective. She lives on seventeen acres in Wolcott where she raises goats, chickens, and has a garden with her partner Kee and son Jas who joins the cast this year as a dancing goat.

Farm to Ballet is the brainchild of former professional dancer and Vermont native Chatch Pregger who dreamed up the project after teaching adult ballet classes in an outdoor setting. He says his interest in local food production is what motivated him to take on this project. "I am a ballet dancer—not a farmer—but I think healthy food production is crucial to a healthy society."

The show takes place without the traditional staging, lights, or backdrop of a theater-based performance. Audiences will enjoy the pastoral setting of the farm, animals, equipment, live music, and learn more about what is involved in operating a sustainable farming operation.

The ballet has gained local and national attention. In the

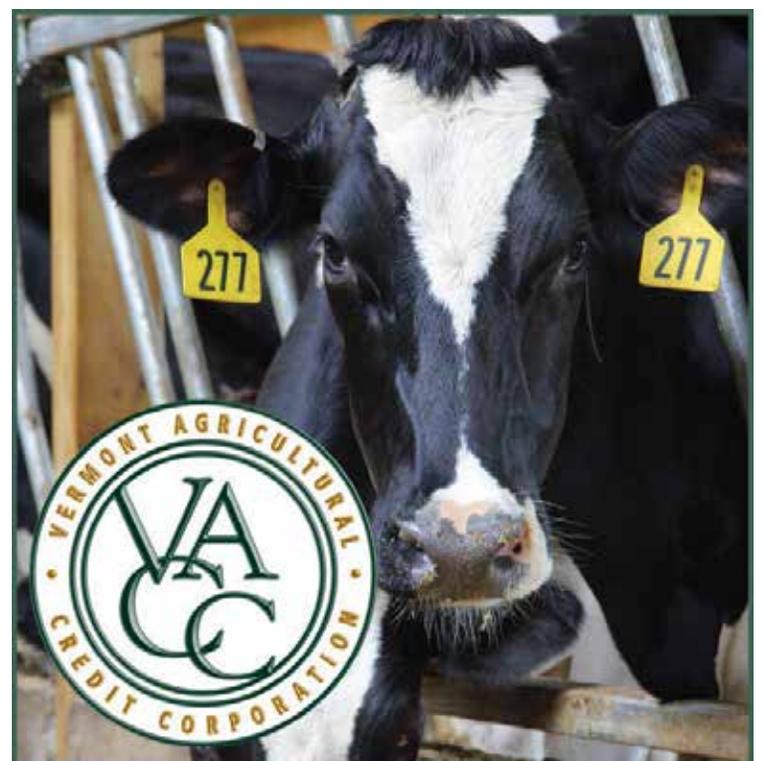
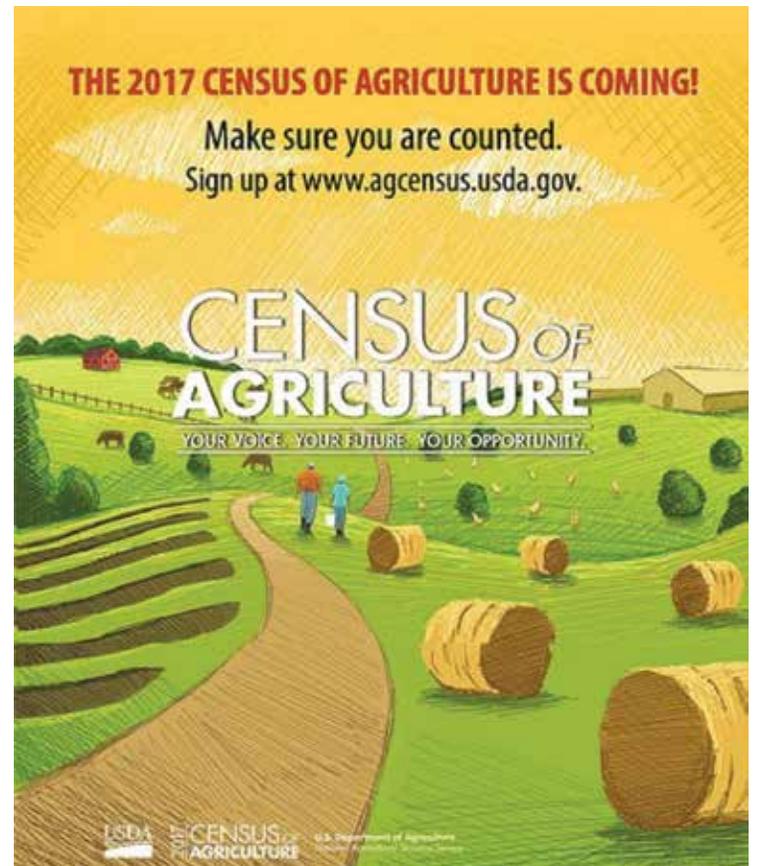


past few years, Farm to Ballet has inspired articles and stories in the *Boston Globe*, on National Public Radio, and on the USDA blog. Most recently, Vermont PBS and Velocity Media produced a documentary about the making of the project.

Set to music including Vivaldi and Swan Lake, the ballet tells the story of a Vermont farming operation from spring to fall. The performances serve as fundraisers to support and honor the work of local farmers and conservation organizations. Last year, the project raised over \$23,000. The production is presented at eight farms throughout Vermont

and includes a new farm this year in the Northeast Kingdom. Venues include Moonrise Farms in Essex, Heartwood Farm in South Albany, Golden Well Farm and Apiaries in New Haven, Billings Farm in Woodstock, Studio Hill in Shaftsbury, Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, and two performances at Shelburne Farms.

Farm to Ballet is a production of Ballet Vermont. You can learn more at their website balletvermont.org and visit farmtoballet.org to purchase tickets for performances which run July through August. Stay in touch with Farm to Ballet via Facebook and Instagram.



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