

AGRiVIEW

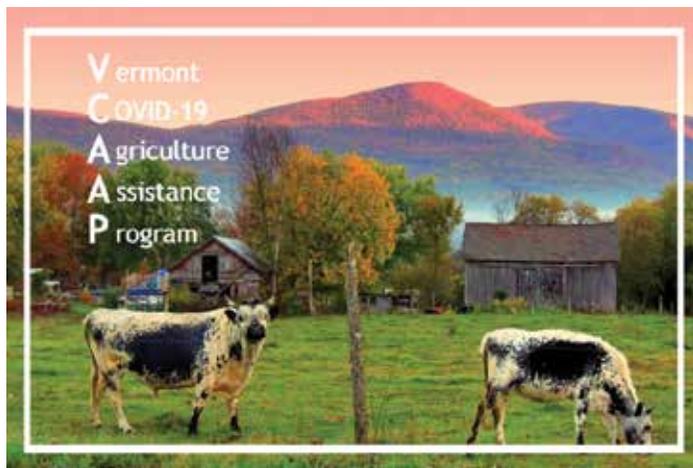


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Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program

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

Vermont Governor Phil Scott and Agency of Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts announced at a July 14 press conference that a new Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program (VCAAP) would open on Friday, July 17th. This first application is directed at dairy producers and processors who have experienced income loss, additional expenses, and market disruption as a result of the Coronavirus, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is poised to distribute \$25 million in federal Coronavirus



Relief Funds to qualified applicants. "Every dairy farmer and processor should look at this grant opportunity," said Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts. "COVID-19 has hit our dairy industry hard. These assistance dollars will help our dairy businesses recover from staggering losses due to this pandemic."

\$21.2 million will be available as direct payments to eligible dairy producers (cow, goat, and sheep's milk) and \$3.8 million is allocated for eligible dairy processors (i.e. bottled milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, ice cream) to cover losses and expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

"The pandemic has taken a toll on our dairy farmers and processors who are the cornerstone of many rural communities," said Governor Scott. "While we know there is still much more to do to help our dairy industry recover, these grants will provide much-needed relief to businesses as we work together to recover and rebuild."

Recipients of State Coronavirus

Relief Funds (CRF) will only be eligible for one State grant award. As a result, if you plan to apply for a dairy grant, you should not apply for other CRF fund grants through ACCD, Tax, or other State programs.

Please also note that although applications will be processed in the order they are received, we expect to have adequate funding for all eligible dairy producers and processors to take advantage of this program. Please be careful and take your time when completing this application to ensure that your information is complete and accurate. Rushed and incomplete applications may result in denials or the need to reapply, which may impact or delay your potential grant payments. That said, **all applications must be received by October 1, 2020.**

continued on page 3



**Vermont Agency of
Agriculture, Food & Markets**
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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

While June's National Dairy Month is an annual tribute, Vermonters recognize this industry has supported our state for 150 years. Unfortunately, this year, July marked our fifth month of COVID-19 response. And although Vermont's farming history has been fraught with challenges, the year 2020 has brought greater challenges to Vermont dairy than any farmer could have imagined throughout the past two centuries.

In the 1840s, sheep dominated Vermont's farming landscape. By 1860, Vermont had lost a quarter of its sheep due to tariff changes and competition from western states. Dairy farming became the alternative to wool production in Vermont by the 1880s, and soon hill farms with cows were established as the leading contributor to the state's economy.

Fast forward 150 years, and Vermont dairy has remained a leader in the state's economy. According to the USDA Agricultural Census, in 2017 Vermont dairy receipts totaled more than a half billion dollars, accounting for 65% of Vermont's total agriculture receipts. Dairy farming keeps Vermont's landscape open and scenic, supporting many other key Vermont industries. To name just a few, working lands as well as Vermont's dairy heritage and culture are catalysts for cheese and maple production, recreation, and year-round tourism.

COVID-19 has had an impact on demand and decimated markets that have otherwise kept Vermont dairy farmers surviving through already difficult times. Challenging pricing structures, political instability,

The sugar and lemon juice are what "set" the jam.

Add peaches and lemon juice to a large saucepan. Bring to boil over medium-high heat, using a spatula or masher to crush the peaches to desired consistency.

Reduce heat to medium. Add

environmental concerns, and competition from large dairy farms were already pushing some to leave dairy production. Now our collective response to COVID has forced 25 Vermont dairies out of business since March, and more are teetering on the brink of devastation.

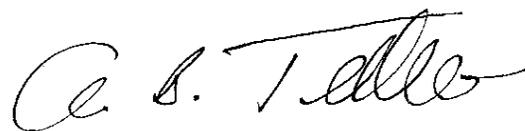
What can we do?

First, farmers would like all Vermonters to learn how our dairy industry supports our rural communities and state economy. Second, seek out and purchase products from our Vermont dairy farmers and producers.

How can you do this you ask? Visit www.VermontDairy.com. Not only can you learn about the important positive impacts of Vermont's dairy industry, but you can show support and purchase Vermont dairy by connecting directly with farms and food in your community. Visit Support Vermont Dairy to discover the farmers and value-added dairy business in your area.

We are Vermonters, we are farmers, and we are also consumers. Any increase in demand will help our farm families and rural communities in their fight to stay viable, and help our state move through COVID-19 and protect the land we all love.

For 150 years our dairy families' work has cultivated and stewarded our Vermont. In their time of need, let us thank them for their service to Vermont. Let us show them that we "Support Vermont Dairy".



Anson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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C O N N E C T

W I T H U S



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This Month's Recipe

Peach Jam

3 ½ pounds peaches

(1 lb = 3 or 4 medium peaches),
peeled, pitted and cut into chunks

2 ½ cups sugar

Juice from one lemon



sugar. Bring peaches back to a boil, stirring frequently.

Continue to boil and stir, until peaches reduce and reach desired

consistency. (Anywhere from 15-25 minutes – the jam should stick to spoon when lifted and turned sideways.)

Let the peach preserves cool, if you find the jam is not at the consistency you desire, bring back to a boil for 10 minutes and cool again.

Place cooled jam into jars, leaving a ½" for head space. You can freeze or place in water bath canner for preservation. Once open, refrigerate and use within three weeks.



Attention Farmers!

Apply Now for Federal COVID-19 Relief

If you have questions about the federal relief options below, contact AGR.CovidResponse@vermont.gov or call 802-828-2430. Please be aware that the receipt of federal COVID-19 relief may impact a future state coronavirus relief grant.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP): Direct Support to Farmers and Ranchers

Financial assistance for producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a 5% or greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant market costs.

How to Apply: Submit your application through your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office.

Application Deadline: August 28th, 2020

Contact: USDA for one-on-one application support at 877-508-8364

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

Agriculture businesses are eligible to apply for the Economic Injury

Emergency Economic Injury Grants

Need a quick influx of cash? Up to \$10,000 in Emergency Economic Injury Grants are available to agricultural businesses that apply for an Economic Injury Loan (EIDL) from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The grant does not need to be repaid, even if a business is subsequently denied a EIDL.

Disaster Loan (EIDL). EIDLs are low interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration of up to \$2 million per organization/businesses with fewer than 500 employees that are experiencing difficulties related to COVID-19.

How to Apply: Online at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

Application Deadline: December 31, 2020

Contact: Vermont SBA District Office at 802-828-4422, or

How to Apply: Online at sba.gov

Application Deadline: December 31, 2020

Contact: Vermont SBA District Office at 802-828-4422 or sba.gov/offices/district/vt/montpelier

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Self-employed producers and farmers are likely eligible to receive unemployment insurance for the duration of the pandemic through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA). PUA benefits are calculated based on a claimant's reported prior earnings. If you do not have reported prior earnings, the state or national average is used, whichever is higher. This can

be received in addition to weekly unemployment compensation. Please note, you do not need to be out-of-business to qualify; closures and cancellations related to your business would likely satisfy your eligibility.

How to Apply: Start by submitting an initial unemployment application.

After you apply, you will receive an email regarding your eligibility for PUA. More information is available online at labor.vermont.gov/pua or call 877-660-7782 for assistance.

Timeline: PUA weekly benefits are available retroactively starting with weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the week of March 15, 2020, when Governor Scott's Executive Order went into effect, and ending on or before December 31, 2020

Contact: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Line at 877-660-7782 or labor.vermont.gov/pua

VCAAP

continued from page 1

We recognize that an online application may be challenging for some businesses. Therefore, a select group of Vermont Farm and Forest Viability business advisors are prepared to assist interested dairy farmers and processors in completing applications. To request assistance from a Farm Viability Business Advisor in submitting your application, please complete this intake form surveyMonkey.com/r/8ZG3WFJ, email mariah@vhcb.org or call 802-828-1098. You will need to share your unique identification number with a selected business advisor and ensure that you have all required documentation

available to upload and submit.

- The Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program application will allow you to partially complete an application, save it, and return to the electronic form at a later time to continue working on and/or finish and submit your application.

Non-Dairy Agriculture Assistance Programs

The Agency of Agriculture will also be providing grants through the Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program to other agricultural and working lands producers and processors and to Vermont's agricultural fairs. These additional grant programs for those who experienced economic losses and costs due to the COVID-19

public health emergency will be available soon and many will be administered in partnership with the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA).

Other Vermont Economic Recovery Programs

Vermont's Economic Recovery Grant application is also now available for other areas of our state economy. Full information on the application, who is eligible, FAQs, how to apply, and technical assistance can be found at the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development website.

Applicant Resources

- FAQ - COVID-19 Dairy Application Summary Sheet

- W-9 - If you have not sent a correctly completed W-9 form to the Agency before beginning your application, you will need to complete and upload a W-9 form as part of your application. More information or assistance on filling out a W-9 could be provided by your accountant and or entity that prepares your taxes.
- W-9 Instructions

Looking for an overview? We have recorded webinars for dairy producers and dairy processors. They can be found on the website.

Contact Us

- By phone: 802-828-2430, press 9
- By email: agr.COVIDresponse@vermont.gov

PRODUCE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT GRANT SPOTLIGHT:

Evening Song Farm's Pandemic Pivot

By Gina Clithero, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

When COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020, Kara and Ryan Fitzbeauchamp of Evening Song Farm made radical changes to their business: they canceled their farmers markets for the season, developed an online store, and adjusted their field maps to meet the demands of a larger volume of CSA sales. Fortunately, thanks to proactive investments in on-farm food safety practices, the changes that Kara and Ryan needed to make to their wash/pack processes due to COVID-19 were minimal. Evening Song Farm had just completed their Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant

project on March 1, 2020, weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic was in full swing. For this grant, Evening Song Farm was awarded a \$4,800 Produce Safety Improvement Grant to purchase a new handwashing sink, plastic harvest and storage bins, and stainless steel washing and packing equipment to allow for more effective cleaning and sanitizing.

We connected with Kara over a video conference call to learn about Evening Song Farm's produce safety improvement grant project and how their farm has responded to COVID-19.

Tell us about Evening Song Farm.

We're a certified organic veggie farm, and we grow on 4 to 5 acres south of the Rutland area in Vermont. We

normally serve two farmers markets, one year-round, several wholesale outlets, and a large CSA that goes year-round. We hire six humans to work on our farm, but we have flexible schedules for some folks, including parents, and so we employ the equivalent of about four full-time staff.

Can you describe the steps you take to keep your produce safe?

The basics are washing our hands, keeping all our surfaces clean, tracing how we move product from the field to the consumer, and making sure each step is either done safely or there's a cleaning mechanism at each step. The main key is the training of our employees and having an actual food safety plan. From the get-go, as beginning farmers, we felt like having a

food safety plan legitimized us to the community when we were new faces that people would have to get to know. That was a way to establish ourselves as serious, reliable growers before we were certified organic.

How have some of these practices changed due to COVID-19?

Now, with COVID-19, like many other farms, we've really ramped up our standard practices. All high-touch surfaces are wiped down and disinfected regularly. We used to have a couple pairs of wash gloves for the wash station that people would share. But now, every staff member has their own labeled gloves and they wash their hands before putting on their gloves and after putting their gloves away. All gloves and masks are washed at the end of every day for the next day. We have different ear protection for everyone that uses the machine. We have our own separate harvest knives. All of these things are also getting disinfected, but we find that because there are eight of us who work here, and five of the eight of us live with someone who has a risk that would make a poor outcome for this disease, we all have to take it really seriously not to have this workplace be a place of contamination.

Describe your Produce Safety Improvement Grant project.

The main theme of our project was to increase our capacity to clean and disin-

fect surfaces. We got large, plastic, foldable bulk bins for the veggies we store during the winter. We also got new tomato crates for storing, transporting, and displaying tomatoes. We have enough bins now that we can truly keep our field harvest and storage bins separate, even with our biggest harvests. The other improvement was to get all of our surfaces in the wash station to be stainless steel, including adding a stainless steel handwashing station. Our produce safety project wrapped up just in time to have a situation where we're disinfecting surfaces more frequently.

What produce safety risks did you address?

Predominantly our ability to disinfect surfaces to keep things clean. This grant helped us transition from porous surfaces to non-porous surfaces. We also helped reduce risk of cross-contamination by differentiating supplies and materials for each activity, such as keeping the storage bins separate from the harvest bins.

Beyond food safety, what other benefits resulted from your project?

The biggest benefit we've seen so far is in team morale. It is so much easier to keep spaces clean and organized when you have appropriate equipment. When you have nice, shiny things, people want to do a good job. I did not expect a food safety grant to make our team as happy as it did, but they love



Evening Song Farm employee wearing a mask in the wash station. Photo courtesy of Adam Ford.

it and now it is also a source of pride for them.

How did the grant affect your farm's ability to respond to COVID-19?

This grant helped us pivot everything quickly. We all had to shift very fast—every business, not just farms. Due to COVID-19, we quit our farmers markets and expanded our CSA to about double the sales volume that it was pre-pandemic. We had to spend a lot of time creating a new online store and changing our field maps to become a CSA farm predominantly instead of CSA and market. We didn't have to spend that much time at all coming up with new systems for our wash station safety, it was just like buy a lot more products, buy more gloves and masks, and then print out a new checklist for when all of this new food safety stuff needs to be done, and that was it. The changes that we needed to make in the wash station due to COVID-19 were really minimal.

Why do you care about produce safety?

So many reasons. First of all, prioritizing food safety is the right thing to do. And from a practical perspective,

it keeps you in business. It's also the kind of food that I would want to eat; I have to trust when I get food from some other place that food safety best practices have been followed. Produce safety is also an equity issue. Those of us who are blessed with good health and uncompromised immune systems don't have to worry as much about what we ingest because we have the capacity in our bodies to beat most minor pathogens off. After working with adults living with disabilities and having my own kids, one with a health concern, I understand that it's sloppy to not care about everyone's different bodies' abilities.

Can you briefly share your vision or goals for the future of your farm?

We are always working on staff pay, benefits, and culture. We are working to make our base pay \$15/hour and trying to figure out how everyone can have more time off. Another one of our goals is to be more present for our kids on the weekends. We've felt really grateful to be able to have more of that time now that we've stopped attending farmers markets due to COVID-19. We're

trying to use this opportunity to redesign our business so that we stay predominantly CSA year-round. We all just want to continue to improve our work-life for our employees and ourselves.

What can the State of Vermont do more of to support your business?

These grants are amazing. If there's funding for farms to have this type of support, and maybe even more than once, that would help. We're looking ahead to the coming seasons and noticing that we're going to be in some version of this pandemic for a while. We've set up a safe situation at the entrance of our farm for our CSA customers, but this only works now because of the weather. Our CSA is year-round, and I can't put peoples' food outside when it's like 10 below. So we're scratching our heads about COVID-19 preparedness in



Evening Song Farm fields. Photo courtesy of Adam Ford.

the coming months. We're experiencing a higher cost of production because of all the cleaning and sanitary supplies we're using. The cleaning, gloves we go through, how often we're doing the laundry, all the new products we're buying, how fast we're going through disinfecting products. Also our costs have skyrocketed with the cost of

doing things online, taking all payments online. I have to hire people for more hours because we're packing our orders in ways we've never done before. Farms are experiencing more costs. I don't know how the state could help besides providing microgrants for sanitary products, that could be helpful.

Payment Available for Beef Producers Reporting Monthly Sales

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is looking for beef producers to submit their monthly sales. Producers will be eligible for payment per submission.

All data will remain anonymous and will be aggregated into a monthly report on Vermont beef sales submitted to the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Market News Reports, which is incorporated into regional and national beef reports. It will be also published on the Agency's website.

For more information, contact by email kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov or by phone 802.585.4571

Celebrate Six Years of Local Food and Farms During Vermont Open Farm Week 2020!

Open Farm Week is a celebration of our Vermont farms and farmers, inviting the community to get outdoors for a behind the scenes look at where our food comes from and a chance to build relationships with local farmers and Vermont's working landscape. Some of the farms that participate are only open to the public during Open Farm Week, meaning visitors will get authentic and unique experiences. To ensure public health, participating farms have planned activities that people can enjoy while everyone stays safe, including small group tours, on-farm picnics, blueberry picking, and more highlighting the diversity of Vermont's agricultural community.

Many events are free, and some require pre-registration. Not all farms are open every day, so be sure to visit DigInVT.com to explore the diverse event schedule and plan a visit. Everyone is invited to join the Open Farm Week conversation on social media using the hashtag #VTOpenFarm.

To learn more about Open Farm Week visit <https://www.diginvt.com/events-in-vermont/open-farm-week/>



The Organics Lab at VAEL

By Rebecca Harvey, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In May, we shared some of the water quality monitoring work that occurs in the Inorganic Chemistry section of Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory (VAEL). Although the Inorganic section of the lab processes the largest number of samples coming through the door, we would be remiss to say that it is the busiest. In fact, our Organic Chemistry section is under the greatest demand and we regularly receive requests for new analyses. Work done in this division supports the Agency's Public Health

and Agriculture Resource Management (PHARM) and Hemp Program as well as Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Air Quality and Climate Division.

Using high-end analytical equipment, our chemists analyze hundreds of samples each year, including routine samples to confirm pesticides are properly prepared and applied and samples collected in response to reports of pesticide misuse. Together with the PHARM division of the Agency, VAEL organic chemists ensure the safe use of pesticides in Vermont.

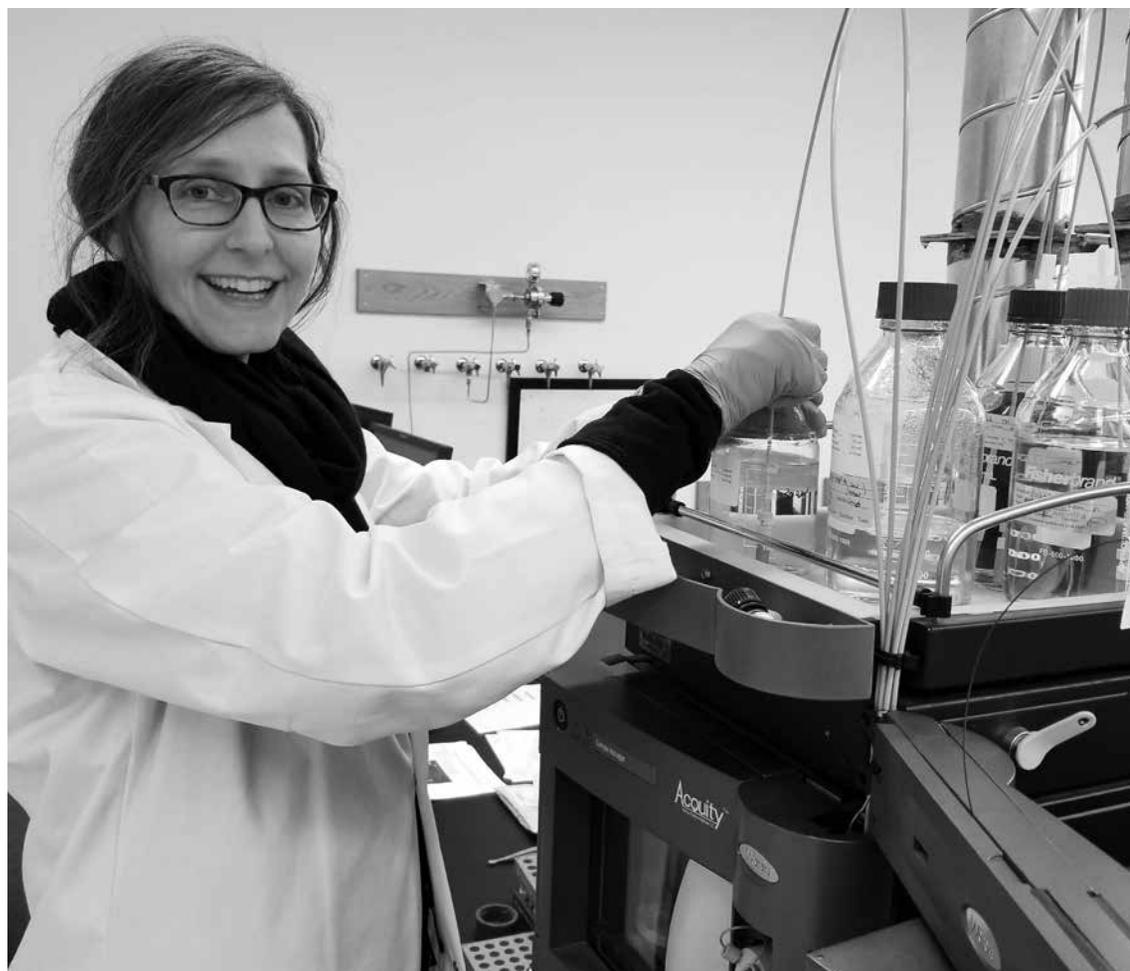
VAEL's organic laboratory also supports Vermont

DEC's Air Quality and Climate Division by analyzing ambient air samples for 55 different EPA-regulated hazardous air pollutants. The advanced technology we use allows VAEL to report these toxic compounds at the part-per-trillion level. Our analysts consistently contribute high-quality data to EPA's national air quality database.

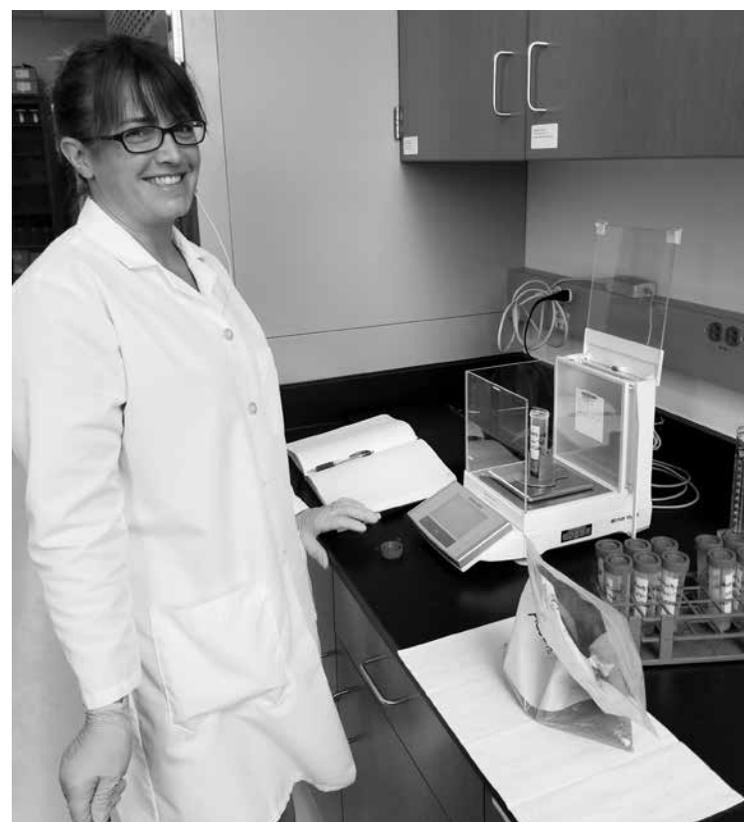
VAEL's organic chemistry lab is highly adaptive to the Agency's growing needs. With the recent boom in the Vermont hemp industry, VAEL's organic chemists have quickly developed this new line of testing. During the 2019 growing season, VAEL processed and analyzed nearly 100 hemp

samples and CBD products to support the Agency's Hemp Program. As this budding industry continues

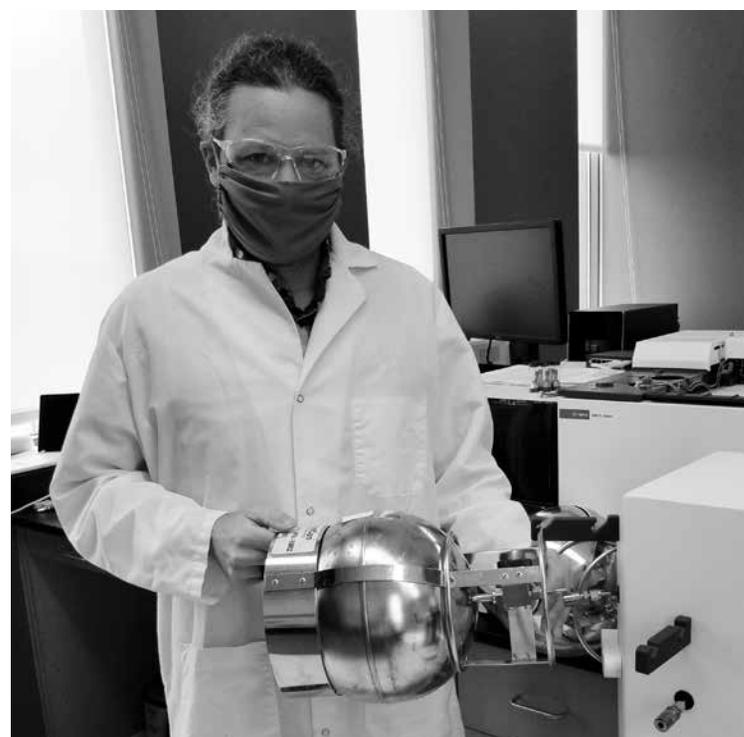
to grow, VAEL will continue to provide support to Vermont's hemp farmers.



VAEL Organic Chemist Jen Hubbard preps the LC MS/MS to run pesticide samples.



VAEL Organic Chemist Candace Barber processing soil samples for insecticides.



Organic Chemist and QA Officer Dave Crosby loading canisters of ambient air onto the GCMS. This sample will be analyzed for more than 50 different toxic compounds.

Hemp: An Overview of Compliance Practices During Harvest Season

By Mike DiTomasso, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

For the hemp growing community in Vermont, it is already time to start preparing for harvest, again. The most important step in preparing for harvest is pre-harvest sampling. Pre-harvest sampling is a required practice for all registered hemp growers, and although pre-harvest sampling sounds

like a straightforward process, there are a few key terms, required records and sampling procedures to be aware of before jumping in. Growers can be proactive to educate themselves on the requirements for recordkeeping and testing as it relates to pre-harvest sampling in the Vermont Hemp Rules (VHR), and the sampling steps in the Pre-harvest Sampling Protocol. This guide will help growers remain compliant

throughout the process.

Out of all the definitions associated with this process, the most important is “harvest lot”, defined in the VHR as “a grower’s harvested hemp produced during a single growing season in a contiguous area containing the same cultivar or variety”. As an example of what a grower should document associated with harvest lot designations are the location within an operation [field A], the acreage [2 acres], and the cultivar [Cherry wine]. The designation of a harvest lot dictates how a hemp crop will be sampled and is linked to a certificate of analysis, which is important for traceability and consumer safety. A grower can designate multiple harvest lots, but they must be sampled correctly and tested separately.

To aid growers in sampling their crops, the Agency developed a Pre-harvest Sampling Protocol (Protocol) which prescribes methods, materials, and documentation



necessary to take a compliant pre-harvest sample. The Protocol is detailed and is an essential read, but here are some major takeaways:

- growers must take their pre-harvest sample within 28 days of harvest. For some growers, this is now,
- the Protocol prescribes an X-shaped sampling pattern, which ensures that the sample is a homogeneous representation of the designated harvest lot,
- based on the size of the harvest lot, the Protocol dictates how many “cuts” of hemp material are required for a compliant sample, and
- growers must fill out a hemp pre-harvest sam-

pling form while sampling, to document the process, which includes a map that shows the location of the harvest lot.

There are additional procedures in the Protocol that growers will need to follow. Please join the Agency for an in-depth exploration of the process on August 13th, at noon, <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/conferences-events-current-and-past>

The pre-harvest sampling protocol is also available at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/PHARM/hemp/Hemp%20Pre-Harvest%20SOP%202020.pdf>

If you have any questions about pre-harvest sampling, inspections, or registering with the hemp program, you can contact Mike DiTomasso, Hemp Inspector for the hemp program by email Michael.ditomasso@vermont.gov or by phone (802) 505-3726.

For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/events/month>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: http://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Required Agricultural Resources (RAPs) Resources: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>
- Agency of Ag’s Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org.

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

DAIRY GRAZING APPRENTICESHIP

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VT DGA Education Coordinator
Maryellen.franklin@uvm.edu
P: 802-254-2228

Want to farm? Check us out...
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Growing Works of Art Contest Winners

Submitted by Lisa Halvorsen,
UVM Extension

Growing Works of Art is an arts and writing contest for students in grades 1-8. This contest is hosted in partnership with UVM Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation.

This month, we are sharing the drawings and essays for grades 3 (a tie) and 4.

The 2020 Contest Theme was Trees are superheroes: share your tree story of why we need trees!

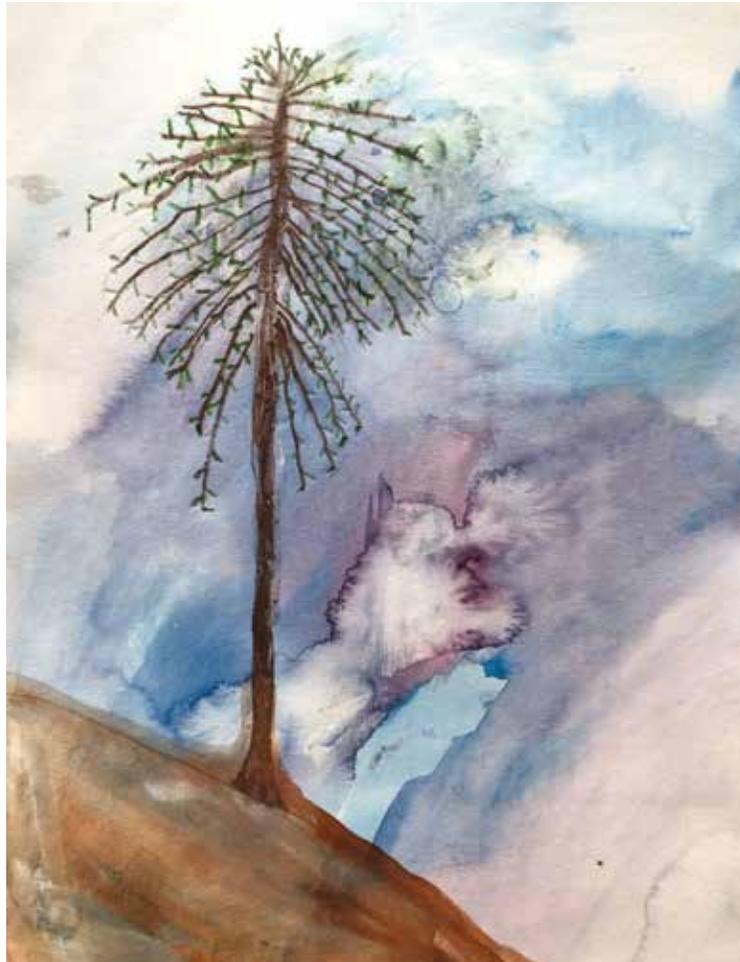
Thank you to the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program for the images.

Leo Maiello is a 3rd grader from The Mountain School at Winhall in Bondville

My name is Leo. I live in Townsend. This story is about how a dog was chasing me but luckily there was a tree to save me. The end! No, I'm just joking. There's still another paragraph if you want to read it.

Once there was a day as normal as this one. But this day just happened to have my friends from Iowa and friends from down the road. We all went down to the common in town. We played at the playground and climbed the tree.

We were still playing until we heard a creek from the red brick house. This dog came out of the red brick house. The dog kept barking really loudly and then started chasing me and all my friends. When I went around the common about



Rowan Lawrence

eight times. Then I realized there was a great climbing tree. It was a large maple. I climbed up the tree with all my friends. The dog couldn't climb up the tree and that's the time the tree was a superhero!

Rowan Lawrence is a third grade homeschool student from Tunbridge.

It was my sister's first birthday. We went to a nursery to get her a willow tree. Her name is Willow. We brought it home, got it out of the trunk and took it to a wet, sandy place. We broke up the roots, and planted it. My whole family held hands around the tree and sang "Happy Birthday." My sister was happy.



Porter McDonnell

Porter McDonnell is the grade 4 winner from Rochester School in Rochester

I love the maple trees. I am writing about how maple trees are my superheroes. Maple trees in the fall stand gleaming in the woods and it calms by body. Red, yellow, orange, and brown sitting up, up, up in the crown. Wind whistling through the trees, goodbye, goodbye now it is time to leave.



Leo Maiello



FAP Cover Crop Deadline Extended to August 7

By Nina Gage, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Agency's Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program invests state funds in soil-based agronomic practices to improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and surface runoff from agricultural fields.

The deadline for applications for cover crop assistance have been extended to August 7th. Please note

that an application does not guarantee funding, and that applications will be reviewed in order of receipt for funding on a first come first serve basis.

The FAP program can provide funding for the following agronomic practices: conservation tillage (reduced tillage or no-till), cover cropping, conservation crop rotation with or without a nurse crop, manure injection, and rotational grazing. The payment rates vary by practice

type and applications are due for each practice at least 30 days prior to implementation. There is a maximum of \$8,000 available per farm operation from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Farm operations that meet the

threshold for the Required Agricultural Practices are eligible to apply; operations must be in good standing (do not owe the any funds, and are not in final order in enforcement) with water quality regulations in order

to receive financial assistance. Cover crop payments for 2020 and recommended planting dates and seeding rates are detailed below.

The Agency advises farmers to plan ahead as best as *continued on page 15*

Cover Crop Method	Payment Rate	Planting Date	Seeding Rate*
Broadcast or Interseeded	\$30 / acre	Plant by October 1	100 lbs per acre for Winter Rye
Drilled or Otherwise Incorporated	\$45 / acre	Plant by October 15	75 lbs per acre for Winter Rye
Helicopter Seeded	\$35 / acre	Plant by October 1	100 lbs per acre for Winter Rye

**The recommended seeding rate will vary for alternative cover crop species and mixes. You should contact your local agronomist or crop consultant for comparable cover crop soil coverage rates when planting cover crops with a mixture of species and varieties.*

Governor Scott Urges Statewide Barn Painting Effort

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

In 2018, Governor Phil Scott visited a barn in West Danville to see a special project: the painting of an historic barn by state correctional inmates. The visit recognized the success of the program in helping inmates acquire skills and education to move back into their communities, but also recognized the basic idea that our historic barns need help.

Not only are these barns representative of our working lands, cultural heritage and a symbol of our people, they are also beautiful to look at and a marvel of architecture and construction. But many of our barns have seen better days...not only are many slowly falling back to the earth that they helped

till, but their beautiful red glow of paint has long since dimmed. In collaboration with the Pizzagalli Foundation, the Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC), Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Sherwin Williams, many barns have been restored since 2010 with a fresh coat of red paint and other repairs. Correctional teams have utilized their time and skills to benefit Vermonters and our landscape, while learning new skills to apply when they return to the public workplace.

Today, Governor Scott has encouraged the expansion of this program to include the Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Youth Conservation Corp, ReSource and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. Applications for the 2020 painting season have closed, but this program is looking

towards 2021 as well. You can apply for future seasons at <https://vermontworkinglands.wufoo.com/forms/vermont-barn-painting-project-application/>.

The Mooreland Farm

barn in Peacham is the latest example of this program's positive impact on our landscape, while working to preserve our heritage and cultural identity. We encourage you to travel

our dirt roads and rural communities to view some of Vermont's architectural wonders and cultural icons, while we endeavor to preserve it for future generations.



Mooreland Farm Barn

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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

Reports From The Field

(S. Royalton) And... the pumps fall silent for the first time in 7 weeks. Damage done by not having a big enough system to move water to everything fast enough. Having said that, is it worth a bigger system given that I have never seen a dry period like this in 26 seasons? Most things look good considering. Issues: small spuds with some yellowing leaves at bottom from stress, poor germ rate with some greens and one batch of corn, mysterious virus killing a handful of random cukes and melons. Issues not worth 10 of thousands of \$ like a bigger irrigation system.

(Monkton) I was going to give a glowing report on our strawberry season but we just got 3 inches of rain today and I'm not sure what the field will look like in the morning. The season may come to an early end. But I can say that our experience running PYO under the Agency of Ag Covid-prevention guidelines has been seamless. We are enormously grateful first

of all to our unflappable crew and then to all the customers who made (and kept) PYO appointments to limit crowding, wore masks, bought new containers, washed hands, and refrained from eating berries in the field. Even little kids seemed to just accept the "New Rules" as a minor trade-off for getting yummy organic berries to take home. Most people expressed relief that our structure and organization allowed them to relax and enjoy a cherished outdoor activity that felt almost "normal." We did raise our price to partially cover the increased labor and supplies but got no complaints.

(Brookline/Newfane) We have an over-supply of ripe strawberries. A heavy thunderstorm will hurt us, but we are thankful it has rained. Pick your own is restricted this year. Customers must wear face masks. A 10-pound minimum per couple in car. Also no large groups. We may be annoying some folks, but others are happy with the control. Our employees feel safer and we are still living. It's always busy this time of year. Our weeds are growing well.

(Charlotte) The blueberries and black raspberries are coming along well and should be ready in a couple of weeks. The crew for the farm stand and picking are getting Covid19 training before starting this week. We are having multiple shifts so the crew will be able to stagger lunches and breaks. We decided to have only two berries that will be PYO and the others will be pre-picked

or commercial only because it will be too hard to keep social distancing in those other fields.

(Cabot) We lost king berries in the strawberries with the late frost June 5th and also most of our blueberries, which had looked great in flower. We could use some rain for the remaining strawberries. Also have mole damage in the Cabots, but strawberries are doing OK considering.

U Pick customers are happy, even with Covid 19 restrictions! Increased amounts of plantings, and our new plug planter is working fantastic! Got everything in in record time!

(Grand Isle) Got our insect exclusion netting up after hearing reports of SWD. Monitoring for cherry and cranberry fruit worm. Have found both moths in our traps. Lots of green berries, watering a lot. For the first time not opening for u-pick because of COVID-19. We will pick and sell or donate to food shelves.

(Plainfield) I experimented with using a surfactant (Dawn dish soap) on the 2nd stage (shoot strike) of the blueberry mummyberry disease. That hits the leaves later in May, when the buds are opening, and makes a white sweet "powder" that attracts the pollinators that then spread the mummyberry fungal disease. The first stage little fawn deer size "turd" mushrooms (that we physically disturbed) come in early May when the forsythia blooms. A surfactant seems to have definitely knocked it back (that and the warm, overly dry weather). I am also

interested in trying hydrogen peroxide mixed in as well. I will let you know how it works when the berries ripen. So far the crop looks bountiful! Here is hoping! Last year I had a half crop due to mummyberry loss (and a little drosophila loss as well). I see some new leaf growth on my blueberries, despite the record drought.

(Westminster) The bad news: since May 15 we have had less than an inch of rain, so "dry" doesn't begin to describe it. Our biggest problem is that we're running out of irrigatable land on which to plant fall crops. We've also had difficulty germinating some root crops.

(Westminster West) We are experiencing quite severe dry weather here with hardly any decent rains since early May! Years of preparation for extreme conditions is paying off. All crops are on plastic with multiple drip lines, soil between the beds is covered with ground cover which minimizes moisture loss.

Report From The UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic

by Ann Hazelrigg,
UVM Extension

There are not a lot of disease issues out there due to the hot, dry weather. I suspect this will change in the next week or so since the state received so many showers. In general, look for scorch symptoms on leaf edges of plants and watch for increased populations of onion thrips, spider mites and other pests that would thrive in the hot dry conditions. When weather is warm, insects with multi-

generations may reproduce quicker.

Leafhoppers are here in full force causing hopper burn in beans, potatoes, raspberries, etc. For good images see: <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/potato-leafhoppers>

Lots of four lined plant bug injury on mints, basil, mums, oregano and one home garden tomato leaf. Damage looks like angular leaf spots. More info <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/four-lined-plant-bug/>

Tomato: have seen some Botrytis/gray mold and Sclerotinia white mold (canker with fluffy white mycelium) in high tunnels where humidity was high. No leaf spot diseases yet in the field that I have seen. Blossom end rot common on some cultivars. Had an interesting sample with vascular browning and cankers on stems like that seen with bacterial canker but sent it to UMaine to be genetic tested. They found an "unknown" bacteria, not the one involved with the canker or pith necrosis. Weird. The grower reports the plants are growing out of the damage which is good.

Another grower had a problem with corky root rot earlier in the season on one tomato rootstock. We thought it might be a total loss, but the grower reports the plants are improving, although not perfect and still stunted, but with a harvestable crop. The only thing I can figure is that enough new roots are coming out to 'outrun' the corky root rot. Have seen pictures of suspected Rhizoctonia crown rot at the soil line, most likely a result of earlier cold weather along with wet conditions under the plastic in a high tunnel.

continued on page 13

CLASSIFIEDS

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

VT 5 frame Nucs and deep singles

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

MCF Queens \$30: June to end of July

tmcfarline2@yahoo.com

www.mcfarlineapiaries.com**802-537-3294***Call or email now for details***Cattle**

4-year-old black angus proven bull for sale. Good bloodlines. Excellent temperament. 2500\$ delivered price. Call 802-558-8196 or 802-265-3078 for more info.

12 - 2-month-old Holstein heifer calves. \$200 each or make an offer on all. We milk 200 cows and have too many. 802-375-5795

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employment

Vegetable Farm, excellent soils, location & irrigation. Transition to new owner. Go to: www.LewisCreekFarm.com/ManagetoOwn.htm

Dairy Farmer Needed: North Williston Cattle Company, a 240-cow family farm milking with 4 Lely robots, is seeking a reliable, detail-oriented team player for approximately 40 hrs per week. Hours are M-F noon until 6 p.m. and alternating weekends and holidays. Must be primarily interested in working with cattle and calves and have the ability to be trained for a variety of jobs: servicing robots, hoof trimming, operating equipment, A.I.,

etc. Ag. education and/or experience preferred. Attitude most important quality. Competitive salary based on skill sets. Housing is not provided. For more information please email us at NWCC11@gmail.com or call 802-238-5781 after 6 pm.

Equipment

Hay elevator - 15 ft, by Snowco, GE motor S-line; 11 (eleven) Utility GAtes by Tractor Supply (50" high - 4 at 8 ft, 5 at 4 ft, 1 at 6 ft, 1- 10 ft). One 16 gal heated tub, a 4.5 gal Fortex bucket, and various stock tanks. Call 802-694-1602 or email bonnefagenfarm@gmail.com.

2 Gehl forage boxes 970 and 980 on heavy running gear, 2 manure spreaders: NI 3932 and Kuhn tandem, Uebler 810 feed cart. I can be reached at 802-230-8525

International 843 4-row narrow combine cornhead; 3250 Reel Auggie Mixer on gas 1995 Ford 450; Used Agway water bowls. Call for prices 802-770-0959.

Free old tires, good for farm use only. Call 603-256-8422.

3 pt hitch wood splitter, Farming wench, Empyre Pro Outdoor Wood Furnace, two 550 gal fuel tanks and two 275 gal fuel tanks. 802-746-8979

John Deere 4420 4wd combine, 2800 hours, two heads in good shape. \$15,000 ph (802) 442-5353.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Deere 5510 tractor Four wheel drive, new tires. 3,453 hrs. Includes two extra rear tires with rim wheel weights \$19,000, without loader. Kubota 5400 DT-N Dual Traction narrow orchard tractor, AWD 1,800+ hours \$9,000. 802-485-8428

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

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

Loftness snow blower 7 foot. Double auger. Three point mounting. Hydraulic operated shoot. Great condition. Ready to use. Cat 2 or Cat 3 hitch. 100 hp or more to run. \$3,000. New these are \$8,500. Looking to move it. It's a terrific deal. Shaftsbury, VT. 781-307-6801.

Reel Auggie Mixer on F-450 with scales; IH 843 Combine cornhead; IH 8817 Windrow head; Gehl 350 Spreader; Case 580 backhoe; 850 Dozer for parts. Call 802-770-0959

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

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

John Deere 336 bailer very good condition always under cover \$2995; Kuhn GRS24 tedder \$955; Kuhn GA 3200GT Gyrorake very good condition \$1695; trail behind bale basket \$895; H&S 175 manure spreader with hydraulic gate, new bed liner and not rusted out \$2750; Behlan Country 8 ft diameter heavy duty stock tank \$195; round bale feeder \$175; 5-5gal glass carboys good for making hard cider \$25 ea. Call 802-234-5653 email wsthaven@aol.com

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

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

Krone EC400 13' disc mower, 540 pto. New, never used. Stored under cover. \$13,500. Craftsbury Common. 802-586-2516, rshold@gmail.com

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Farm & Farmland

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

Horse Training Farm NEW PRICE. 17 plus acres with X-C obstacles, galloping track, stadium jumps, full size ring, covered small arena, trails. 3 stall stable with paddocks, tack/feed room, hay storage. 4 pastures have board fencing. Open concept cape farmhouse has 3 bedrooms, office, sun room, deck, fiber optic internet, solar, cell reception, 2 car detached garage. Workshop, equipment storage, chicken house, gardens, orchard, stream, woods, views. Convenient to Dartmouth College and DH Medical Center. Comes "turn key, as is" - \$650,000. 802-785-4410.

General

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

250 Five gallon pails with handles. \$1.75 each. 802-999-4644

Hay, Feed & Forage

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



available, call Richard at 802-323-3275

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADDISON COUNTY

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

at 802-463-3875.

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

Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities. 802-989-0781 for inquiries.

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

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

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

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

BENNINGTON COUNTY

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

CALEDONIA COUNTY

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

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

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

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 each. Call 899-4126.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

LAMOILLE COUNTY

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

ORANGE COUNTY

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

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

ORLEANS COUNTY

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

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

RUTLAND COUNTY

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

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

WINDHAM COUNTY

2018 4X4 wrapped baleage. June cut. Certified organic, never wet. \$40.00 per bale, quantity discount. 802-254-6982

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

WINDSOR COUNTY

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

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

Rolling Meadows Farm: square bales in the field or barn \$4.00. Delivery can be arranged at \$5.50. Very nice hay from fertilized fields in the South Woodstock and Reading area. Call 802-484-5540 or goodfarmvt@gmail.com. Ask for David.

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

Dry Round Horse Hay, \$50/Bale. 200 Bales left. Call 802-356-5030.

Wanted

Kuhn FC350GMower or will sell mine for parts 802-728-3760



Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

Cucurbits: George Hamilton UNH reports lots of squash vine borer captures this past week. He suspects the curve of the one generation/year pest will be steep

and shorter than usual as result of hot weather. Scott Lewins, UVM, reported seeing the colorful adult clearwing moth laying LOTS of eggs at a farm in Barre.

Diagnosed angular leaf spot on cucumbers in one high tunnel. Spots are lim-

ited by veins and can “weep.” Disease is seed borne: <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/factsheets/cucurbits-leaf-spots>

The Plant Diagnostic Clinic is open for any commercial grower issue. Just contact me first (ann.hazlerigg@uvm.edu) before send-

ing samples since I am not in the lab every day. <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/pdc>

SWD Alert

Spotted Wing Drosophila appears to have arrived early this year, as it is being caught in traps in nearby states. If

you missed the June 2020 SWD Update shared on the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association listserv, it is posted here, with other information resources: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/SWDInfo.html>

Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Report Released

By Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

The State of Vermont committed to track clean water efforts in the Lake Carmi watershed and report on investments and results annually as part of the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan. The Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Report details clean water projects and investments from SFY 2016 to 2019.

State and federal watershed investments reduced an estimated 251 kilograms (kg) of phosphorus loading in SFY 2019, which is estimated to be approximately 41% of the phosphorus reduction required to meet the Lake Carmi Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load. Nearly all of the quantifiable phosphorus reductions in the Lake Carmi watershed have been associated with the agricultural sector. This is a result of hard work and commitment from watershed farmers. Thank you for your investments in farm improvements, for your commitment to improved crop and field management techniques, and for your willingness to stay committed to water quality. Thank you also to the agricultural service providers and extension staff who assisted farmers in

making and sustaining these changes.

Phosphorus reductions are estimated using environmental modeling. It is not an exact science, but it is the best method we have available to evaluate results from clean water projects within complex systems. We don't expect to see direct and immediate changes in the water quality of the lake itself, as the presence of high phosphorus levels is a result of decades of phosphorus runoff, and all of the phosphorus that previously existed has not been removed or eradicated. There is still phosphorus runoff entering the lake from all and use sectors. Alternatively, the data we have gathered and the modeling results shows that there have been significant efforts to reduce nutrient runoff entering the lake, that this progress must continue, and these efforts must endure annually in order to expand on the progress we have been able to accomplish to date.

In addition to contributions by the Town of Franklin, private landowners, farmers, and other partners, the state has invested over \$1.4 million dollars in clean water projects within Lake Carmi and its watershed from state fiscal year (SFY)



The UVM Extension Veenhuis Grassland Shallow Slot Manure Injector, funded through AAFM Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program, for use in the Lake Carmi and surrounding watersheds at Borderview Research Farm after arrival in Vermont in the fall of 2019.

2016 to SFY 2019. 28% of all funding from SFY 2016 to 2019 has been invested in reducing external loading and pollution from the Lake Carmi watershed, which includes the implementation of agricultural, wastewater, and road pollution reduction projects.

Internal phosphorus loading (the release of phosphorus from bottom sediments under low oxygen conditions) is also a significant source of phosphorus contributing to cyanobacteria blooms in Lake Carmi. To address internal phosphorus loading, 72% of investments have supported the design and implementation of an

in-lake aeration system to mitigate internal phosphorus loading from bottom sediments. The aeration system was operational during the summer of 2019 and successfully limited internal phosphorus loading from the bottom sediments. Cyanobacteria blooms still occurred in Lake Carmi during 2019 but limiting internal phosphorus loading should help reduce the frequency and duration of cyanobacteria blooms over the long-term.

A few of the agricultural clean water efforts in Lake Carmi from SFY 2016 - 2019 include the following:

- 153 acres of agricultural

lands have been treated by state-funded equipment and conservation practices

- 11 acres of barnyard and production area were determined to be compliant with Required Agricultural Practices by AAFM inspectors in the Lake Carmi watershed
 - Multiple barnyard and production area management practices, including waste transfer and facility closure, were also installed to contain agricultural waste within production areas
 - Based on data gathered by UVM Extension and the results of state and federal financial assistance programs, 75% of the annual cropland within Lake Carmi was cover cropped in 2018
 - UVM Extension has acquired and developed a system in collaboration with Lake Carmi farmers for Grassland Shallow Slot Manure Injection, a piece of equipment available for farms to use in the Lake Carmi watershed with funding through the Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program
- The phosphorus load reductions estimated to date were the result of many col-

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WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE FUND SUCCESS STORY

Gagnon Lumber: Extending Three Phase Power to Sawmill

By Lynn Ellen Schimoler, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In the Spring of 2019, Gagnon Lumber of Pittsford received \$120,000 in Working Lands funding for extending three-phase power to the Gagnon sawmill, which will thereby replace diesel generation with grid power. This upgrade will stabilize energy costs and secure the long-term viability of the mill. The Three Phase

electric power to sawmill was completed in December 2019.

This Vermont wood products business has evolved from a part-time saw mill on a family farm in 1958 to a modern, year-round lumber operation that manufactures Northern Hardwoods on a wholesale basis, as well as Eastern White Pine and Hemlock for both wholesale and retail trade. Gagnon Lumber always ensures their customers are happy with

their flexibility in fulfilling custom orders. The Gagnon family owns and manages extensive woodlands in central Vermont and is committed to responsible forestry practices. They recognize that Vermont's woodlands are a precious part of both its ecology and economy.

With the help of Working Lands funding, Gagnon Lumber will be able to produce over 2.1 million board feet of Vermont hardwoods and softwoods,

as well as over 6,000 tons of wood chips each year for papermaking and heating Vermont schools. The grant enabled the business to expand and diversify its woodchip production and pursue the development of other products. Another goal for Gagnon Lumber was to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and expand modern wood heating opportunities in Vermont. They have successfully reduced diesel fuel consumption by

18,000 gallons annually and produce 10,000 tons of wood chips for heating fuel. In addition to the Working Lands Enterprise Fund grant, Green Mountain Power and Gagnon Lumber investments also made this project possible.

To learn more about the Working Lands Enterprise Fund, visit workinglands.vermont.gov

Next month, we will visit about a project with Agricola Meats.

Composting 101

By Dr. Leonard Perry, University of Vermont

Effective July 1 organic food scraps are banned from landfills. Although many recycling centers and trash haulers will accept food waste, your best option may be to start a backyard compost pile.

Compost improves

garden soil by increasing its organic matter. This, in turn, improves soil drainage. Organic matter is especially beneficial in heavy clay or light, sandy soils as it reduces soil crusting and helps soil hold water and nutrients.

Microorganisms decompose materials to make compost. To do their work they

need carbon sources for food and nitrogen for proteins. They are most effective when the carbon to nitrogen ratio is an average of 30 to one by weight.

You do not need to weigh what you add to the compost pile. Just be aware of approximate amounts that you are adding. Generally, two to three parts (by volume) of brown to one part green materials works well.

In general, coarse woody materials (sawdust, leaves), which composters refer to as "browns," are high in carbon. Moist, dense materials (grass clippings, manure, food, and non-meat kitchen scraps) are high in nitrogen. These are the "greens."

Too much carbon material, and the compost

pile will decompose slowly. Too much nitrogen and you may smell ammonia gas.

Plant materials and products that are easy to compost, and which generally decompose most rapidly, include egg shells, coffee grounds, pine needles, fruit peels and rinds, shredded paper, sawdust, straw (not hay, which often contains weed seeds), vegetables, tea bags, leaves, wood ashes and wood shavings.

Materials that are slow to decompose and may take two years to break down include coarse wood chips, branches, corncobs, corn stalks and nut shells. Breaking these materials into smaller pieces and adding high-nitrogen materials will speed up their composting.

You can use any plant

material that is not diseased, does not contain mature weed seeds and hasn't been treated with pesticides or herbicides. In addition, you can compost non-meat kitchen scraps but skip any meats, animal fats or milk products as these will attract pests.

Some gardeners also add an "activator" to help the microorganisms, which provide a source of protein and nitrogen. You can buy this commercially or use alfalfa meal from garden or feed stores.

Several types of compost bins or tumblers are available for purchase, or you may make your own from wooden pallets stood on end and tied together. Or just make a pile.



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Vermont Drought Monitoring and Agricultural Resources

Yes, it really is dry out there. The summer of 2020 is providing many challenges with COVID-19. Now we can add heat and water concerns to that list of challenges. As a service to our agricultural community, the State of Vermont has compiled an initial list of Vermont businesses that provide water hauling services. Additionally, if you are a Vermont business we missed who provides these services and would like to be included on this list, please contact the Agency at agr.helpdesk@vermont.gov. The Agency wishes to compile as comprehensive a list as possible.

One way we can all stay in touch with current drought conditions and predictions is with the Northeast Drought Early Warning System, or DEWS. The Northeast DEWS is a collaborative federal, regional, state, and local interagency effort to improve drought early warning capacity and build long-term drought resilience throughout New England and New York. The Northeast also frequently experiences "flash" droughts - short-term intense dry periods that can follow a period of normal to above-normal precipitation. While these flash droughts may last only 2-4 months, they can have profound impacts on a local region resulting in shortages in public water supplies and very low streamflows. Visit the DEWS website today to see more.

Vermont Water Haulers and Water Sources

Fresh Water Hauler

(Steve Wright)
Underhill, VT
802-658-2223 pager
802-355-4321 cell
www.freshwaterhaulers.com

Capacity: 4600 gal, 4500 gal, 4200 gal, 2500 gal

Water Source:
Stowe Water District

Potable: Yes

Minimum Quantity:
Negotiable

P and P Water Supply

Williston, VT
1-800-281-4100
dispatch@pandpseptic.com
www.pandpseptic.com

Capacity: 4500 gal

Water Source:
Champlain Water District

Potable: Yes

Minimum Quantity:
Negotiable

Pristine Mountain Springs

(Ron Colton)
Stockbridge, VT
802-746-8186 business
802-236-3989 cell
802-742-4627 pager

Capacity: 8000 gal x 4,
750 Tank, 1000 gal portable tank

Water Source:
Colton Springs Water Supply
Stockbridge

Potable: Yes

Minimum Quantity:
750 gal

A-1 Water Delivery

(Gary Wright)
Georgia, VT
802-355-4892 Primary
gwright@surfglobal.net
802-524-9361 Alternate
wrightfamilyfarm37@gmail.com

Capacity: 4250 gal, 4000
Trailer 4250 gallons
(\$300 per day)

Water Source:
Purchase from Municipality

Potable: Yes

Minimum Quantity:
Negotiable

Dalton Water Company

(Joe Dalton)
Braintree, MA
1-781-843-0529
1151-A Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184
www.daltonwater.com

Capacity: 9000, 8100 gal,
6600 gal

Water Source:
Stockbridge, VT
Braintree, MA

Potable: Yes

Minimum Quantity:
N/A

H2O Express Transport, LLC

(Dale Cox)
1-518-791-2484
238 Starks Knob Road
Skylerville, NY 12871
h2oexpress@yahoo.com
www.h2oexpress.co

Capacity: 6200 gal, 1000 gal

Water Source:
City of Troy, Queensbury, NY,
Hudson Falls, NY,
Schodack, NY

Potable: Yes

FAP Cover Crop Deadline

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possible for implementation of agronomic practices, especially when seeking financial assistance. Any applications that request funding for a specific practice are only eligible for funding as detailed on their application and grant agreement.

Additional financial assistance for conservation practices are available through the federal USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Any applicant seeking assistance through FAP will be ineligible for financial assistance if the applicant is receiving financial compensation for the same practice under another state or federal agreement.

For more information on the FAP program, the payment rates for each practice type, and to apply online, go to <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap> or call 802-828-2431. Due to COVID-19, we highly recommend applicants to apply online on our website.

If you have specific questions about practice eligibility, or how the FAP program works, you can contact Clark Parmelee at 802-661-8284.



Broadcasted winter rye cover crop from the fall of 2019.

Lake Carmi

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laborative efforts and the strong engagement of Lake Carmi stakeholders and farmers, and continued community engagement in clean water efforts is necessary to achieve Lake Carmi's clean water goals. While Lake Carmi's water quality is the ultimate indicator of progress, it will take time to realize the full benefits of these projects as measured by in-

lake data. Additionally, other variables, such as climate and land use change, may affect phosphorus loading to Lake Carmi and Lake Carmi's water quality.

The complete Lake Carmi Clean Water Progress Report is available online. State efforts to restore Lake Carmi including resources and reports, monitoring data, and watershed planning resources are also available on the ANR DEC website.

Composting 101

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To make compost, add five to eight inches of browns, two to three inches of greens and then a layer of soil or composted manure one to two inches deep. Moisten each layer. Repeat these layers until your pile is high enough or your bin is full.

Turn the pile weekly, adding moisture during prolonged dry periods. Turning the compost helps to aerate and improve air circulation in the pile,

which in turn helps reduce acidity (pH).

The microorganisms that break down materials prefer a neutral to slightly acid environment. Many materials you add to compost are acidic, so a sprinkling of lime will help raise the pH, or in other words, reduce acidity. Just do not add too much lime (or wood ashes, which serve the same purpose).

The ideal temperature in the interior of a compost pile is about 120 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. You can measure the

temperature with a compost thermometer--basically a dial on a long rod--available at garden supply stores or online.

Compost piles are simple to make, but it does take time for the process to work. Be patient. In cooler climates and with small piles or bins as in most home gardens, it may take up to a year for compost to be ready.

But your soil will benefit in the end. And you will be recycling all those great organic materials into your garden rather than into a landfill.

Vermont Beef Producers Association

Educating producers
Building cattle markets
Supporting Vermont's beef industry
Representing members statewide



Standard Offer Program May 1, 2020

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Land Wanted to Lease

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Small Wind Workshop Saturdays 10:00



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