

AGRiVIEW



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Vermont's Dairy Mascot is a Big Hit at Fenway

By Alison Kosakowski,
VT Agency of Ag

August 5th was Vermont Day at Fenway Park, and this year, Vermont Agriculture played a starring role.

Clover Cow, the Agency's mascot, joined Wally the Green Monster, the UVM Catamount, Champ the Lake Monster, and Governor Phil Scott front and center on the field, as more than 37,000 fans cheered. Vermont State Trooper Dan Marcellus threw out the ceremonial first pitch of the game, with his wife, mother, and infant son by his side. It was a special day for the Green Mountain State!

When Vermont's Secretary of Ag, Anson Tebbetts, learned that other

Faith Raymond



Vermont mascots were headed to Fenway for Vermont day, he decided to reach out to the Red Sox and

make a "pitch" for Clover to join them.

"Agriculture is so important

Wally and friends pose for a group photo.

to Vermont, and Clover helps build Vermont's reputation for outstanding dairy products, so it seemed to me that Clover should be there," said Tebbetts.

Fans of all ages cheered as Clover lit up the field with her bovine antics. No wonder fans were impressed —

67% of all the milk produced in New England comes from Vermont!

continued on page 2

AGRiVIEW

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

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Inside This Issue

The View from
116 State Street Page 2

Vermont Celebrates
Clean Water Week . . . Page 3

Data Shows Reduced
Phosphorus Runoff . . . Page 3

Changes to Livestock
Movement Guidelines Page 4

Ways to Support
Grieving Friends Page 5

Ag Mediation Page 6

Rare Flower
Rediscovered Page 7

New Vermont Produce
Program Launched . . . Page 8

Vermont Vegetable
and Berry News Page 10

Classifieds Page 11

Nutrient Management
in Wet Weather Page 14

NEK Focus on
Water Quality Page 15

2017 Big E Page 16



THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

Fair images tell so much about our summer. A blue ribbon is proudly displayed on a jar of honey. A sparkling cow is led into the show ring by a kid in 4-H. Sunflowers brighten up Floral Hall. An old Ford Escort makes its final appearance in the demo derby. You can find these pictures at Vermont's Fair and Field Days. The Agency is proud to participate each year from every corner of the state. Our staff help with animal welfare questions and judging contests. We value this mission.

After walking around fairs, you can learn so much about our state. Fairs are rich in history. Many have displays of how agriculture used to be. The antique barn gives us perspective on how far things have changed. You often leave saying "Wow. That must have been hard."

You can find the rewards in the show ring and floral hall. We witnessed so many animals roaming the barns with their handlers. Often the critter is bigger than the kid. It's a comforting scenario with both working as a team and friends. Bringing an animal on the road does not happen without commitment, training and sacrifice. Thanks to all those who make it possible so the public can get a chance to meet and pet a cow, a bunny or a mini-donkey up close. Getting everyone closer to critters and the land is important.

Vermont has great gardeners. You see it on display at fairs. Floral Hall gives us a chance to reflect on the summer. Yes, we can say "too much



rain in 2017." The vegetables struggled to mature and flourish this summer. But that's part of the challenge making the best of what Mother Nature serves up. Vermonters always meet the challenges before them.

Thanks to the legislature, Governor Scott and the legislature for helping our fairs and field days make improvements. Each year, our budget includes critical dollars for infrastructure projects on the fairgrounds. These are wise investments so future generations can see Vermont agriculture on display each year at our valuable fairs and field days.

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture

Fairs provide young Vermonters with a chance to experience agriculture and develop leadership skills.

Letter from the Editor

It has been a particularly difficult summer for the Vermont agricultural community. In late July, Richard Martin, of Guildhall, a beloved husband and father, lost his life when part of a dump truck he was working on at his farm fell and crushed him. He was an important part of Vermont's farming community, and a Guildhall selectman. He was 73 years old, and will be dearly missed.

In August, Grady Horigan of Fairfield, just seven years old, was taken from this earth far too soon when a tractor he was riding in with his father flipped over. This devastating loss has been felt deeply across the entire Ag community. There are no words for a heartbreaking tragedy like this.

For all of us who live and work on farms, these tragedies are a reminder that, though the rewards of farming are great, so too are the risks.

On yet another sad note, Vermont State Trooper Dan Marcellus, who threw out the first pitch on Vermont Day at Fenway and is noted in our front page story, succumbed to his battle with cancer.

Our hearts go out to the Martin, Horigan, and Marcellus families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones. We are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you to Farm First for the article they submitted this month with guidance for how to support those in grief (page 5). We hope you find this information useful in times of need.

— Alison Kosakowski, Agriview Editor

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Fenway

continued from page 1

"It was fun to see so many fans get excited about Clover," said Tebbetts, as he reflected on the day. "When they think of Vermont, we want them to remember we're first in New England for producing outstanding dairy products!"



photo by Faith Raymond

A young Red Sox fan, enchanted by Clover, Vermont's dairy mascot.

Vermont Celebrates Clean Water Week

By Alison Kosakowski,
VT Agency of Ag

Governor Philip B. Scott issued a proclamation declaring the week of August 20th the first ever “Clean Water Week” for the State of Vermont. Vermont businesses, organizations, communities and individuals across the state took part in the celebration of Vermont’s waters, and joining the call for action to restore and protect this vital resource.



Emily Boedecker, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, explained, “[Clean Water week gave] Vermont the opportunity to take stock of

the intrinsic value of our rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands to our economy, our communities and our way of life. While we face difficult challenges to restore clean water in some parts

of the state, we are also celebrating this declaration, which demonstrates our resolve to work together for clean water.”

Over 90 businesses and organizations signed on as sponsors of Clean Water Week, offering close to 60 public Clean Water events to celebrate, educate and engage. Events included farm visits, paddling and ecology walks, wastewater and water supply plant tours, rain garden tours and workshops for homeowners, tours by bicy-

cle, and even a few art and cultural heritage events.

“The Vermont Agency of Ag was proud to participate in Clean Water Week, and to help highlight the work farmers are doing to protect water quality,” said Ryan Patch, who oversees outreach for the Agency’s Ag Resource Management Division. “This was an important opportunity to recognize their contributions, and help chart the course for the strides we need to make, in the future!”

New Data Indicates Reduced Farm Phosphorus Runoff into Lake Champlain, Thanks to Efforts by Farmers

By Vicky M. Drew,
NRCS State Conservationist

Lake Champlain is a valuable and treasured resource in Vermont. It provides drinking water, recreational opportunities, and of course, spectacular scenery. Through voluntary conservation, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked hand-in-hand with local producers to plan and improve soil and water management practices throughout its adjacent watersheds.

Although NRCS is just one of the many entities working in close partnership with farmers to ensure the future health of Lake

Champlain, I am pleased to report that recent analysis utilizing models indicates a reduction of phosphorus runoff into the lake as a result of these effective efforts.

This is encouraging, especially during this time of the year, when we see the impacts of polluted runoff in the form of blue-green algae blooms, which can be harmful to pets and people. This data is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the farmers in the Basin. I applaud each and every one of you for going above and beyond to ensure that your farming practices are helping improve soil and water quality.

In 2015, NRCS devel-

oped a *Strategic Watershed Planning Approach*. This five year plan targets the most impaired watersheds—those known to contribute higher



Vicky Drew is Vermont’s state conservationist.

concentrations of agricultural phosphorus runoff to the lake. Over the past two years, we have targeted financial and technical resources to

St. Albans Bay, Pike River, and Rock River in Franklin County, and McKenzie Brook in Addison County. We worked closely with our state and local conservation partners to help farmers install conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, including practices such as reduced tillage, nutrient management, cover crops, permanent seeding, buffers, and prescribed grazing. I am thrilled we are able to use these early estimates to let farmers know

their efforts are making a difference in the health of Lake Champlain. And I urge farmers in these four target areas to visit with their local NRCS office to explore the assistance available to them.

We have estimated total phosphorus reductions for the first year of the five year project, and you can see these encouraging results at <http://bit.ly/VTwatersheds>.

We remain committed to working with Vermont’s farmers, in the Basin and beyond, who are doing their part to ensure our state’s natural resources are protected. And, the recent rollout of the Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP) is an ideal way to reward and recognize Vermont’s conservation farmers. This unique program is a partnership effort between the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, USDA-NRCS, the Vermont Association

continued on page 5

Changes to Livestock Movement Guidelines

By Dr. Shelley Mehlenbacher,
VT Agency of Ag

During the 2017 legislative session, state lawmakers modernized Vermont laws that regulate livestock movement in the State. The information in this article will inform you of these regulatory changes and provide you with contact information and other resources necessary to effectively implement the new requirements. As with any new law or rule, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture (VAAFM) will spend considerable time educating and providing technical assistance to farmers and licensed dealers/transporters regarding these statutory updates, which became effective on July 1, 2017, prior to taking any enforcement action against violators of the new language.

These statutory changes are contained in Act 30, which can be viewed at the following link: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/ACTS/ACT030/ACT030%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

What are the requirements?

- Act 30 requires all livestock being transported within the State to satisfy the requirements for official identification for interstate movement under the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Disease Traceability rule, 9 C.F.R. part 86 prior to leaving the property of origin, regardless of the reason for movement or duration of absence from the property. Livestock include dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and camels. Examples of livestock movement within the state that this requirement applies to include transport from the farm of origin to a slaughter facility, movement to a new farm location, and transport to a fair or exhibit.

- There is already an existing requirement for animals to be officially identified for movement between states. Animal disease traceability, or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when, is very important to ensure a rapid response when animal disease events occur. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.

Any exceptions to the intrastate identification requirement?

- Livestock transported from the property of origin for purposes of receiving veterinary care

at a hospital in Vermont are exempt from the ID requirements, provided that the livestock are returned to the property of origin immediately following the conclusion of veterinary care.

What is official identification?

- The definition of official identification does not include back tags.
- Official identification is defined as a nationally unique number that is permanently associated with an animal or group of animals and that adheres to one of the following systems:

- 1) National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES). NUES ear tags are generally metal and begin with an official state number followed by three letters and

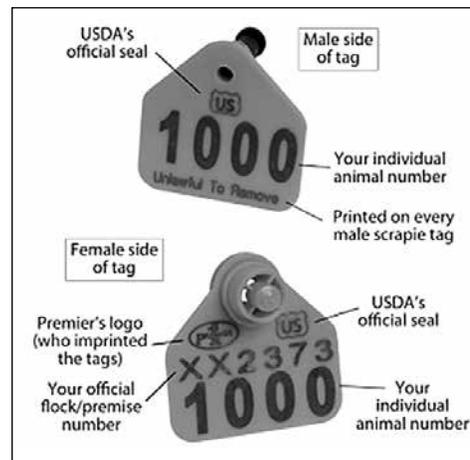


then four numbers. The official state number for Vermont is '13'.

- (2) Animal Identification Number (AIN). AIN ear tags begin with

an official country code followed by an additional 12 digit for 15 digits in total. The official U.S. country code is '840'.

- (3) Location-based number system.



- (4) Flock-based number system.

- An educational handout illustrating the different types of official identification can be found at <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/node/1371>

What official identification methods are used in Vermont and how do I obtain official ear tags?

- Metal ear tags (NUES tags) and 840 ear tags (AIN tags) are commonly used in Vermont by livestock owners. For many years, VAAFM has provided metal NUES tags at no charge to farmers,

veterinarians, and livestock dealers. Please call the Animal Health Section at (802) 828-2421 to request tags.

- AIN 840 tags may be purchased from most ear tag distributors.

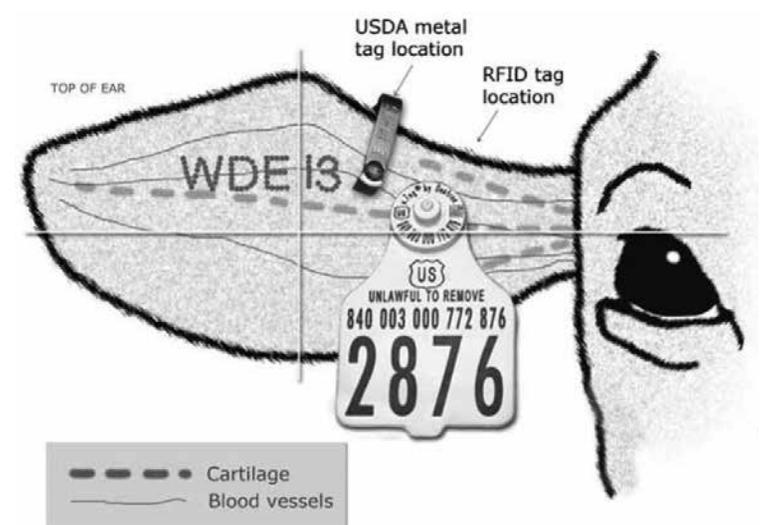
What are the next steps?

- VAAFM strongly encourages all livestock farmers, dealers, transporters, market personnel and other industry partners to review Act 30 and contact the VAAFM Animal Health Office with any questions.
- VAAFM Animal Health staff will be working with affected businesses and farms to ensure proper implementation of these new ID requirements for intrastate livestock movement.
- VAAFM staff can assist farmers with obtaining ear tags and answer questions about the requirements and official identification.

What resources are available?

- Animal Health Office – (802) 828-2421
- Official tag illustration - <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/node/1371>

continued on page 6



Practical Ways to Support our Grieving Friends Following Loss

Written by
Farm First
with the help
of Cruse
Bereavement
Care



Vermont's farming community has recently experienced tragic loss due to several accidental deaths. We are all extremely saddened by this and are holding their families in our hearts. Elsewhere, too, in our lives and in the world, tragedy strikes unannounced. We are sometimes caught in our own grief response because we know and care about those affected or the tragedy touches us personally in some way. We can feel paralyzed as to how to help. Here are some ways that we can offer practical help to the recently bereaved.

What can help

- Be there. Call and arrange to visit, e-mail, write a letter, and follow through. Your contact matters. Grief can be isolating and scary.
- Short phone calls are better than long ones. A grieving person's brain is often working over-time to process their loss.
- Saying "I'm sorry" is enough if you can't think of anything else.
- Those who are grieving may want to talk about the person who has died. Simply listening can be one of the most helpful things you can do. Your memories of the person

who has died will be most welcome, too, as once someone has died, there are no new memories unless someone shares theirs with you.

- Use the person's name to your friend. Ask about them; learn who they were. Sharing memories of their loved one keeps the person alive and present in the moment.
- Send regular notes to check in and see how they're doing. Connection can be helpful.
- In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, mourners are often unable to eat or deal with the smallest tasks. Offer to help with administrative tasks such as opening mail or making small meals.
- Similar bereavement stories can be helpful; don't be afraid to share them if you, too, have experienced such a loss. In the early days of grief, it's important to know that it's survivable, that you will laugh again, that all happiness has not gone from your life – someone who's been through it can be a lifeline.
- The first year following the loss has many "firsts" without the loved one there. These days are particularly raw: the first time signing a card alone, the first birthday, the first holidays. Reach out on these special anniversaries and check in.
- Create an environment in which the bereaved person can be themselves and



When someone experiences a tragic loss, the support of friends and neighbors can help sustain them through their grief. Courtesy photo

show their feelings rather than having to put on a front.

- It's OK to be silent while someone sobs; you can give them a reassuring, gentle touch to let them know you are there. Tears are useful to rid the body of stress hormones. It's also OK if someone doesn't cry – everyone processes grief differently.
- Offer and provide specific, practical help such as shoveling the path to the barn, taking a chore off their hands, making a meal, watching the kids or feeding the calves.
- Know that grief doesn't have a time limit.
- Know that everyone grieves in their own way; there is no 'normal' way.
- Don't be afraid to make the bereaved person laugh. Tell them about your day or "silly things" (once you've checked in on them) – the minutiae of other people's lives can be really comforting and

momentarily distracting.

- You won't make the grieving person cry when you mention the person they've lost. The tears were probably there anyway. Don't let fear of this hold you back.

What does NOT help

- Avoiding someone who is bereaved. It's confusing and hurtful.
- Saying you're sorry, and then never mentioning the death again (unless the bereaved person has asked you expressly to do this).
- Using clichés such as They're in a better place now; They were a good age, though; I understand how you feel; You'll get over it; Time heals.
- Saying it's time to move on, they should be over it. How long a person needs to grieve is entirely individual.

- Being alarmed if the bereaved person doesn't want to talk or demonstrates anger.
- Comparing their loss to how you felt when you lost your pet.
- Never tell someone how they are feeling. Grief is individual.

Bereavement Counseling

Many people don't consider bereavement counseling right after a death, but it can be very helpful months or even years later. Farm First offers professional, free and confidential counseling for Vermont farmers: 1-877-493-6216. Farm First can send you materials to share with your friend if he or she wants to see materials before calling. The website is www.farmfirst.org (password: farm).

Farm Phosphorus Runoff

continued from page 3

of Conservation Districts, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and the University of Vermont Cooperative Extension. I believe that farmers who are going above and beyond to protect and improve the natural resources on and around their farming operations should be publically recognized for their stewardship. You can learn more about the new program at <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/vesp>.

Our ultimate goal is to show measurable water quality improvement as a result of targeted conservation efforts, and we will continue to monitor our progress and share the impacts of conservation within the Basin. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on additional target watersheds. There is much more work to be done, but I am confident that the dedication and perseverance of Vermont's farmers will help the state reach its goals, and that collectively, we can protect our beloved Lake Champlain.

VT Ag Mediation Program (VTAMP) Celebrates Ten Years of Service to the Ag Community

By Matt Strassberg,
VT Ag Mediation Program

Farmers need to be self-reliant to stay in business. You can't hire someone to fix every problem that arises on the farm. But not all problems are the same and some require outside expertise. VTAMP is part of the support structure for producers, their creditors as well as the USDA agencies. VTAMP's services strengthen the agricultural community and, in the vast majority of cases, are offered free of charge.

For the past ten years VTAMP has been providing free mediation services to the agricultural community in Vermont. VTAMP is certified by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and USDA. Since 2007 VTAMP has helped hundreds of farms resolve challenging problems with lenders, creditors, and USDA agencies.

A common scenario that VTAMP works on involves a dairy farmer facing financial challenges because the



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

price of milk is at or below their actual cost of production. According to VTAMP's director Matt Strassberg, "VTAMP recognizes that the last thing a farmer facing financial challenges needs to hear is how much it is going to cost them for us to help. As a non-profit organization, it's in our DNA to help for free if we can."

While most people may think of mediation as a way to resolve a dispute, VTAMP has a different approach. VTAMP recognizes that in many situations there is no "dispute" because the farmer and loan officer or creditor may agree on the facts and usually get along just fine. Yet, financial challenges still arise, payments may be tough or impossible for a farmer to make, refinancing may be difficult to achieve due to unsecured outstanding accounts. The lender might be unable to offer assistance until the balance sheet is returned to healthy margins. As a result, while everyone is getting along personally, the financial issues are still problematic and need to be addressed, especially since interest is accruing and it gets harder and

harder to catch up.

VTAMP works with the farmer, lender, and creditors to figure out mutually agreeable solutions. VTAMP Associate Director Julie Hoyt has worked on dozens of complex mediations involving multiple lenders and creditors. While every case is different, Julie notes these mediations are challenging because there are many moving pieces and settlements need to be tailored to the farm's ability to pay and the bank or creditor's willingness to extend the payments over time or accept a lump sum payment in exchange for a reduced payment amount.

Although the majority of VTAMP's work involves banks, creditors, and USDA agencies, VTAMP is often asked to work on other issues such as family farm transitions, leases, and farmer/neighbor conflicts. Currently, these issues are outside the USDA mediation program but VTAMP can mediate these issues based on a sliding scale to keep it affordable. VTAMP is working with Senator Leahy's office to add these and other issues to the USDA mediation program when Congress drafts

the Farm Bill in 2018.

VTAMP's slogan is We Grow Solutions. VTAMP's mediators work with all parties to develop the best realistic and feasible solution to enable a farm to succeed

and make the necessary payments to its lenders and creditors. If your farm is facing financial challenges, whether you produce dairy, beef, fruit, vegetables, or maple, contact VTAMP.

Register Now for the 2017 Online Vermont Master Composter Course!

By Beret Halverson,
UVM Extension



Are you interested in learning how to recycle your organic material back to the soil in a usable form? Would you like to volunteer in your local community to teach others about composting?

The Master Composter program is a six-week course that runs from September 26 – October 31. It includes seven online modules completed on your own schedule each week. It also uses a combination of lecture videos, discussion forums, weekly activities, and live Q&A Sessions with instructors (Tuesday evenings, 6-7pm, September 26-October 17).

Composting is practical, convenient, inexpensive and will soon be required by Act 148. Join us this fall and learn to compost from industry experts!

The cost is \$50 for Vermont residents and \$150 for out of state residents.

To learn more and to register by September 15th, please visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/master-composter/?Page=course.html>



Photo courtesy of UVM Extension

Master Gardeners growing fun and friendships in the greenhouse.

Changes to Livestock Movement Guidelines

continued from page 4

- Act 30 - <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/ACTS/ACT030/ACT030%20As%20Enacted.pdf>
- Federal interstate movement requirements - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_Traceability

Botanists Rediscover Rare Flower in Vermont

'Winged Loosestrife' previously thought to be extinct in the state

By Tom Rogers,
Department of Fish & Wildlife

A Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department botanist and his wife were out for a weekend hike at Raven Ridge Natural Area in Monkton recently when they discovered a flowering plant that has not been seen in Vermont in decades and was thought to be extirpated, or locally extinct. Everett Marshall was hiking with his wife, Deb Parrella, when she noticed the small purple flowers of winged loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum*) while crossing a boardwalk through a wet meadow. Parrella is also a trained botanist.

The native winged loosestrife is closely related to purple loosestrife, which is native to Europe and Asia and is invasive in Vermont. A small number of winged loosestrife plants were last observed by a botanist in Middlebury in 1979. Prior to that there were only eight records of the plant in the state, the most recent occurring in 1933.

"Deb noticed a plant that was clearly a loosestrife, but I didn't think we had the



A comparison of the delicate winged loosestrife (right) and the more robust and purple loosestrife (left).

native winged loosestrife in Vermont so we had to go home and use a guidebook to confirm the identification," said Marshall. "It's exciting to see this plant once again recorded in Vermont, and demonstrates why we're con-

tinually working alongside our partners and members of the public to document the diversity of species in the state."

Marshall's job with the Fish & Wildlife Department is to maintain the state's

Natural Heritage Inventory, which keeps track of all the known locations of Vermont's rare, threatened, or endangered species and significant natural communities.

After the sighting, Marshall returned with biologist Dan Farrell from The Nature Conservancy in Vermont to document the extent of the plant's robust population for the Inventory. Raven Ridge Natural Area is a diverse 365-acre property that is owned by The Nature Conservancy. It is known for housing federally-endangered

Indiana bats, along with bobcats and ravens, which thrive on the ridge's rocky outcroppings. The plant was found in a wet, marshy meadow that was previously wet pastureland.

"We are thrilled that Everett and Deb found this plant," said Rose Paul of The Nature Conservancy. "This highlights the importance of conserving land for biodiversity, and also the value of many people accessing our natural areas throughout the year. You never know what the next exciting discovery might be!"

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Vermont Agency of Ag Launches New Vermont Produce Program

Seeks Input and Participation from Vermont Produce Growers

By: Kristina Sweet,
VT Agency of Ag

Vermont is home to a robust produce industry with a regional reputation for quality, integrity and excellence. Comprised of roughly 1000 farms growing produce with over 4,000 acres in production, Vermont's vegetables, fruits and crops generate over \$34.8 million in sales annually according to the most recent Census of Agriculture. As consumer demand for quality produce continues to grow, so do the opportunities for increased market share for Vermont produce growers. In an effort to advance these opportunities, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) is excited to announce the launch of a new Vermont Produce Program designed to support the growth of the Vermont produce industry while they grow safe produce.

The goals of the Vermont Produce Program are to:

- Support Vermont produce growers in improving the safety and efficiency of fruit and vegetable production processes
- Help Vermont produce growers to understand, navigate, and comply with the U.S. Food & Drug



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VERMONT PRODUCE PROGRAM PORTAL

www.agriculture.vermont.gov/produceportal

- Receive timely updates to your inbox on FSMA and other policy changes
- Access grant funds to help pay for food safety improvements on your farm
- Request an On-Farm Readiness Review with a Produce Safety Rule expert

- Administration (FDA) Produce Safety Rule
- Expand market access for Vermont produce growers
 - Strengthen and grow Vermont's produce industry and its reputation for excellence
 - Strengthen and grow the Vermont brand and food economy

"Fruit and vegetable growers are an essential part of Vermont's agricultural economy," said Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts. "The new Vermont Produce

Program is an excellent resource for growers—I hope we can all work together to develop and utilize this program to its fullest potential."

The near-term focus of the Vermont Produce Program will be to help growers understand and navigate the changing landscape of on-farm food safety. Produce safety innovations are being implemented across the country, driven, in some cases, by consumer demand, and in other cases by federal regulations. The Food &

Drug Administration's (FDA) Produce Safety Rule, a component of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) signed into law in 2011, establishes, for the first time, science-based minimum food safety standards for the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. This rule will affect farms that grow, harvest, pack, or hold fresh produce. Larger growers will need to comply with the rule in January 2018.

Smaller growers will have additional time to adopt on-farm produce safety measures and comply with the rule. To learn more about FDA's Produce Safety Rule and how it may affect your business, visit <https://www.fda.gov/FSMA> and select Final Rule for Produce Safety.

Over the next several months, the VAAFAM Produce Program Team will work closely with growers, grower associations, and partner organizations including Vermont Farm

Bureau, University of Vermont Extension, other state agencies and NOFA-VT to:

- Understand the landscape of produce farming in Vermont and establish a database of Vermont produce farms
- Develop a strategy for outreach, education, and technical assistance to all Vermont farms that grow produce
- Develop a comprehensive compliance program for farms that must comply with the rule, including routine inspections

Produce Portal

The Vermont Produce Program Team encourages all Vermont produce growers to sign up for the Produce Portal to help build a full picture of produce farming in Vermont and gain access to resources. Access the portal at www.agriculture.vermont.gov/produceportal.

“The more we know about our Vermont produce growers and their businesses, the more effective we will be in developing an innovative produce program to deliver the right supports and services to meet the specific needs of our growers,” says Program Director Abbey Willard. “Grower input is critical to building a successful program – a big thanks to all of our growers who have already provided information and feedback through our portal.”

Since 2011, representatives from VAAFM have worked closely with the FDA to ensure that the new Produce Safety Rule can also be realistically and successfully implemented by



diversified and small-scale producers, like many of the farms throughout Vermont and New England. Former Ag Secretary Chuck Ross played a key role in the development of the final rule and FDA's approach to educating before and while regulating.

On-Farm Readiness Reviews

In the spirit of education before regulation, The Agency of Agriculture will offer On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR). On Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR) are a voluntary, non-regulatory visit to help growers prepare for a real inspection. A Produce Safety Rule expert will visit farms to help identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. VAAFM will offer this technical assistance to all interested produce farms and aims to do so before starting any regulatory inspections. Most Vermont growers will likely find that they are already largely in

compliance with Produce Safety Rule requirements, especially if they are CAPS accredited or USDA GAP certified, but there may be additional opportunities to improve practices to align with the new federal rule requirements. Growers interested in having an OFRR must first enroll in the Produce Portal and check the box expressing interest in being contacted about an OFRR when the reviews are available.

Capital Infrastructure Grant Program

To help offset potential costs related to coming into compliance with the PSR, the Vermont Legislature has set aside \$150,000 to be distributed to produce growers over two years in the form of grants. VAAFM is working on developing the grant program now and applications should be available in late October. The funds will be used to help fund investments such as hand washing stations,

plastic harvest crates, and other improvements that have been proven to reduce risk around produce safety. More details will be available next month in *Agriview* and online.

Program Funding

Since fall 2016, Vermont has been awarded \$1.225 million from FDA to develop a state safety program. FDA has committed a total of \$3.625 million to Vermont to support produce safety programming through 2021, subject to congressional allocations. Vermont is joined by at least 42 other states to build state-level produce safety programs which



will implement outreach, education, and regulatory compliance around FSMA's Produce Safety Rule.

Resources

For more information about the Vermont Produce Program, FSMA, and the FDA's Produce Safety Rule, please visit <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram>.

What should produce growers do now?

- Enroll online in the Vermont Produce Program Portal.
- Find out if your farm is covered by the FSMA Produce Safety Rule: www.fda.gov/fsma > Final Rule for Produce Safety or contact Kristina Sweet at Kristina.Sweet@vermont.gov or 802-522-7811
- If your farm is exempt, keep supporting documentation.
- Attend a Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training, November 7-8 in Richmond, VT.

Upcoming Dates

- Produce Program Portal Launch – September 1, 2017
- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training – November 7-8, 2017

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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

Reports From The Field

(Benson) Things are chugging along pretty well for late summer. The rain has been mostly helpful and we haven't minded not having to drag irrigation pipes around. Winter kale is seeded in the propagation house and fall turnips and radishes are in process for direct seedings. Weeds are thriving but we are spending an hour a day keeping them in check with hand weeding. I am very glad to have three cultivating tractors set up with different tools on each.

I have an alert for farmers growing parsnips. My crew of five people weeded parsnips a couple of weeks ago and every one of them came up with severe blistering on their arms. I feel fortunate to have lost only 20 hours or so of labor with doctor visits. This is apparently a rare thing to happen, but with the right conditions - hot and sunny - the burns can be as bad as with wild parsnip. We will be sure to use gloves and long sleeves in the future with parsnip weeding.

(S. Strafford) Morrill Mountain Fruit Farm is

having bumper crops of blueberries, currants and raspberries. The rains encouraged many berries. Regalia spraying minimized molds and other humidity-related diseases. The bushes have been heavy to the point of breaking from the weight of berries. This is a good problem that would be better if I had a field crew to help harvest. Sadly, my wonderful teen workers have grown and gone on to other things and I have been unsuccessful replacing them. With the help of family and friends we've muddled through, but lost a small percent just being unable to pick in time.

(E. Dorset) Our U-Pick blueberry farm had some challenges this year. In the end our season ended about one week earlier than normal. Still a good year with lots of good picking and lots of pickers but off about 15% in our crop. Mostly due to mummy berry and perhaps some SWD at the end. In the spring we treated for Phomopsis and mummy berry. The lime sulfur phomopsis treatment seemed to work. We will have to refocus our mummy berry efforts as that was a challenge in several fields. We did not spray at all for SWD. We

might need to look at that next year as well. All in all, another good year.

(W. Dummerston) Ugh! What a depressing mess! The SWD found us even earlier this year and came on fast and furious. Bushes were laden -- and are laden still -- but we lost all but the earliest variety to mush. We had about 2 weeks of good picking and then closed the field to U-pickers. I am resolved to spray next year and will be curious to hear of other's successes with organic sprays.

(Proctorsville) We've think we have late blight on our potatoes and have been trying preventative sprays on the tomatoes for the past 2 weeks They are in two different fields and yet it looks like our heirloom tomatoes may have contracted it. (Editor's note: if you suspect late blight please send samples to the UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic for a positive ID! We have not had any late blight confirmed in VT so far this year.)

There are beetle larva wreaking havoc on our string bean plants, eating the leaves and making ugly marks on the beans. We've harvested all of our garlic and it is happily drying in the tunnel that

houses our peppers. Overall, our crops are about 2 weeks behind where they "should" be, yet we are grateful for the rain when compared to last year's droughty experience. Our bees are happy and so are our brassicas.

(Brookfield) We depend on fall crops at our small stand and farm. This year we will have potatoes but our pumpkins (usually 600 to 800) will not mature, and squashes the same. Not enough growing season left.

(Ange-Gardien, Quebec) Nice summer to work outside, not too hot and quite windy here. Temperature has been pretty unstable and working windows were pretty narrow. You had to be ready at the right time. That being said melon crop looks good although lots of foliar diseases especially Botrytis and Sclerotinia. Crows are always a problem on canary melons. Could not get one yet even with early morning hunt.

Garlic has sized up compared to last year when then suffered drought. No problem at drying. Did forget some pollinator in part of triploid watermelon field. Absolutely no triploid in that part of the field. We tried growing winter rye for

grain (12ha). Main issue was quackgrass. In future I will try to sow after Sept 15 that will leave time to control more quackgrass. Seeding density will also need to be worked. Trying to physically prepare for melon harvest and hoping for dry fall.

(Newburyport MA) Exceptionally strong farmers' markets sales this summer. This is the first week we will have adequate tomato harvest to keep up with demand. Still no sign of tomato disease of any type--amazing in this year of damp weather with long leaf wetness periods. Irrigating frequently now to prep land for fall crop seeding, which is running behind. So busy with sales that weed control is slipping. Sales of pork sausage very strong this grilling season and we don't have enough pigs on feed to keep up. Fall crop brambles looking nice. After a tough start, it's beginning to look like a good year.

(Little Compton RI) Claus Martins, of Lake View Organics, once gave a talk where he said that an old time farmer taught him that early cultivation should be slow and tight to the plant but late or last cultivation should be quite open and just the right speed and depth to kick the soil in and underneath the crop canopy. We have always failed at the latter until now. We bought a rear 3pt cultivator from I&J Manufacturing in PA that is doing a great job for the last time through. We got the center coulter, which keeps it from drifting in heavier or wet ground, and some extra S tines and shoes to cover the tire tracks thoroughly.

continued on page 13



MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Egg Prices

August 7, 2017

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

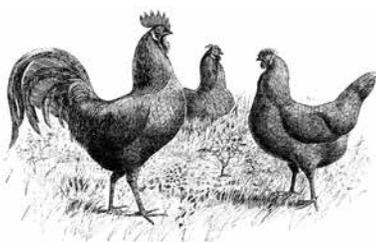
Vermont Egg Prices:

Extra Large . . . \$1.48-1.49
 Large \$1.43-1.44
 Medium \$.85-.91

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 Tuesday, August 1, 2017

	Cattle	Calves
This Week:	205	257
Last Week:	249	295

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold steady with good demand. Cattle supplies included 159 cows, 22 feeders, 5 bulls, 6 steers, 13 maiden heifers, and 3 goats. All prices quoted per cwt.

SLAUGHTER COWS:

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	—	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	68.00-74.00	—	60.00-66.00	—
Boners	80-85	65.00-74.50	—	60.00-65.00	—
Lean	85-90	63.50-70.00	76.50	54.50-63.00	42.00-54.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 740-2000 lbs. 71.00-99.00. All prices per cwt.

CALVES: Holstein bull calves sold 10.00-20.00 lower with moderate demand.

HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:

Number 1: 80-125 lbs 110.00-160.00.

Number 2: 80-110 lbs 85.00-110.00.

Number 3: 70-110 lbs 50.00-85.00.

Utility: 60-110 lbs 25.00-50.00.

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 86-92 lbs 115.00-190.00.



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

4 yr old cow, Scottish highland/black angus cross. 18 month old heifer, Scottish highland/black angus/jersey cross. Polled. Both open. \$1300 for pair or B.O. Call Gary at 802-635-9550.

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)

Fulltime/parttime on 40 cow Dairy Jersey herd tie stall and rotational grazed. Duties include daily milking barn shore routine and outside related work for proper care of herd and farmstead. Located in Bennington county. Housing and weekly salary. 802-353-1223

Equipment

DeLaval 1500 gal bulk tank with two 3hp compressors \$6500 . 3 surge trutest milk meters, work in stanchion barn or parlor \$35 ea .call 802-325-3478 or email woodfarm@vermontel.net

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

SMALL FARM FOR SALE in Topsham: Ideal homestead, small farm, or home base for a larger leased land farm business. 8.5 acres with farmhouse, 2 barns, garage. Bounded on the west by the Tabor Branch of the Waits River. Gorgeous organic vegetable garden, 5+ acres lush valley bottom pasture, hi-tensile fence, watering system. Perfect for grazing beef and lamb, pastured pork and poultry, horses. Rustic wood-fired Sauna, garden shed. Farmhouse: mudroom, workshop, 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, wood and oil heat. All the major infrastructure is ready and waiting for you to move



in and get to work on your farm dream. Check us out at: springchickenfarm.strikingly.com Or call Nick or Betsy: 802-439-6077.

General

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

Hay 4x4 dry round bales 1st cut/,\$30/bale. 4x4 silage bales 1st cut/,\$35/bale. Call 802-325-3478 woodfarm@vermontel.net

CLASSIFIEDS



Hay for sale good quality square bales cut June 2017 never wet 2.50 each at the barn 802-293-5492

Planer shavings/sawdust: mostly kiln dried pine with some hardwoods mixed in. Can load your truck or you-bag-it yourself. \$25/cubic yard loaded, \$4/contractor bag that you fill. Ongoing supply in East Montpelier. Call Andy at 802.229.7770 or email winterwoodtimber@gmail.com

ADDISON COUNTY

Hay for sale in Addison. Large square bales, 1st and 2nd cut. Stored undercover in addison. We can load you. Contact S. L. Moore at 802-463-3875.

Horses & Other Equine

Belgian gelding 22yo 16hh easy keeper, great disposition. Perfect companion animal. Free to a good home. Windsor, VT jhaas7@gmail.com 845-242-1281

Sheep

Nubian X Alpine goats 4 sale together or not: gentle, reg purebred Nubian buck (-2yrs old/ 2017 second breeding season), two X-bred milking does w two April doelings, all w horns & handsome markings, organically raised, great milking lines, never sick. Penelope in E. Charleston, VT 802-723-4014

2 yr old Nubian buck registered very good natured. 802-457-2283

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.

Wanted

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

Vermont Farmers' Market Report

July 30, 2017

Produce

	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
Beets (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$2.58	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$2.81
Blueberries (per pint)	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$7.00	\$5.00
Broccoli (per head)	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$-	\$-	\$-
Cabbage	\$1.50	\$2.25	\$1.81	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.50
Carrots	\$1.65	\$2.00	\$1.85	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.25
Cauliflower (per head)	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$3.44	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$4.06
Chard (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$3.17	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.56
Cucumbers (each)	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.38	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$2.50
Garlic (per lb)	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$11.00
Green Beans	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$2.83	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$3.75
Herbs (per bunch)	\$1.00	\$2.25	\$1.58	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.25
Kale (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.60	\$2.75	\$3.50	\$3.10
Kohlrabi (per bunch)	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.67
Lettuce (per head)	\$1.50	\$4.00	\$2.58	\$2.25	\$3.50	\$2.85
Mixed Greens: Arugula (per bag)	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.38	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.67
Onions (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.17	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.33
Peas	\$1.75	\$4.00	\$2.81	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$7.00
Radish (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$2.83	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$2.60
Raspberries (per pint)	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.60	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$7.00
Scallions (per bunch)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.31	\$2.25	\$3.50	\$2.75
Spinach (per bag)	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$4.83	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.50
Summer Squash	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$1.83	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$2.38
Tomatoes	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$3.54	\$4.50	\$5.50	\$4.92
Tomatoes: cherry/pear/grape (per basket)	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$3.86	\$5.00	\$5.50	\$5.33
Zucchini	\$1.75	\$2.65	\$1.85	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.50

Meats/Proteins

	Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic		
Goat (all cuts)	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$-	\$-	\$-
Rack of Lamb	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$13.00	\$-	\$-	\$-
Leg of Lamb	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$12.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Ground Lamb	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$8.40	\$-	\$-	\$-
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	\$12.50	\$10.06	\$10.50	\$16.00	\$13.38
Round Roast	\$6.75	\$10.75	\$8.33	\$10.75	\$11.00	\$10.88
Chuck Roast	\$6.75	\$10.75	\$8.33	\$10.75	\$11.00	\$10.88
Strip Steak	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$23.00	\$18.67
Skirt Steak	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$9.50	\$18.00	\$14.50
Tenderloin	\$16.00	\$20.65	\$18.43	\$21.00	\$29.50	\$24.83
Beef Stew	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$6.38	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$8.00
Short Ribs	\$4.50	\$8.00	\$5.81	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$7.00
Eggs (per dozen)	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.33	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.67
Whole Chickens	\$4.15	\$5.50	\$4.78	\$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	\$9.11	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$10.50
Pork Tenderloin	\$13.50	\$20.00	\$15.83	\$-	\$-	\$-
Shoulder Roast	\$5.00	\$13.00	\$7.99	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$8.25
Ham	\$4.50	\$9.00	\$6.26	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Sausage	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$9.50

Market Comments**SEASONALITY:**

Green beans, garlic, more berries, summer squash, broccoli, and cauliflower.

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:

Mild sunny weather and great attendance reported at markets across the state this week.

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

VENDOR COMMENTS:

N/A



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.

Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

Just under \$2k but worth it for our two row systems with broccoli and beans.

We are having tunnel tomato ripening problems due to cool nights. Dr. Rich McAvoy of UConn said to bite the bullet and turn on some heat at night because tomatoes really need a minimum of 62 degrees. For a few degrees of extra warmth the main cost isn't the fuel but the time and effort of closing up the houses every night!

Between our mini drought and potato leafhopper our main season potatoes are mostly brown and down. Guess I will still have to keep them covered with copper, given late blight in the region. Farmers' markets are good. Kohlrabi is having a comeback. Starting our late fall Chinese cultivars and over-wintering onions today.

Choosing Fall Cover Crops

Becky Maden, Vegetable Nutrient Management Specialist, UVM Extension

It's a busy time of year, but take a few minutes if you can to plan for sowing fall cover crops as your fields open up after harvest. Having seed on hand will allow you to plant when there is adequate moisture, or rain is in the forecast to help get a good stand. Your choice of covers should consider what intend to grow in each field in 2018:

In field(s) where you'll plant early spring crops in 2018 some options are:

Oat/Pea Mix. Drill at 20-40 lb/acre oats plus 100 lb/acre field pea. Broadcast at 40 lb/acre oats plus 120 lb/acre field peas. Seed before end of August.

Straight Oats is a better option for very late Aug./early Sept. Drill at 80-110 lb/acre. Broadcast at 110-140 lb/acre. Oats and peas will winter kill; residue is relatively easy to incorporate in spring for early plantings.

Tillage Radish. Drill at 10 lb/acre. Broadcast at 13 lb/acre. Great for breaking up compaction, scavenging N, and adding biomass. Seed before Sept 1. Can be seeded in combination with oats or oat/pea. Radish is not recommended as a cover crop following, preceding, or adjacent to a planned Brassica cash crop, as it can harbor the same insects and diseases.

In field(s) where you'll plant warm season crops in late May/ June 2018 some options are:

Winter rye plus hairy vetch. Drill 70 lb/acre rye plus 20-30 lb/acre vetch. Broadcast 80-90 lb/acre rye, 30-40 lb/acre vetch. Seed early to mid-September.

Rye-oat-vetch mix. Broadcast 60 lb rye, 50 lb oats, 30 lb vetch per acre. Reduce rates by 20% if drilling. Seed early to mid-September. Oats will winter kill leaving a less dense mat of winter rye in the spring, and more room for vetch to establish itself.

Straight Winter Rye. Best if cash crop will be planted before May 10, here are guidelines for planting dates and seed rates, adjusting for reduced growth later if planted later in the fall:

9/15 Drill 60 lb/acre. Broadcast 85 lb/acre.

9/22 Drill 100 lb/acre. Broadcast 140 lb/acre.

10/1 Drill 140 lb/acre. Broadcast 200 lb/acre

10/15 Drill 180 lb/acre. Broadcast 250 lb/acre.

Beef Report

For the month of July 2017

Est. Volume: 8,125 lbs • Last Month: 12,650 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 light this month. YTD and 3-month rolling averages were adjusted to account for sales on the carcass trades.

Average Hot Carcass Weight: 738.649 lbs.

Last Month's Average Hot Carcass Weight: 764.19 lbs.

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

Dressed Beef Carcass Value

Dressed Basis Steers/Heifers: \$350.00-610.00/cwt. Wt. Average Price: \$471.72/cwt

Year to Date Weight Average Carcass Price: \$445.01/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	\$19.50	\$15.55
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

Additional Information: Cornell Cover Crop Guide for Vegetable Growers: <http://www.covercrop.net>

SARE's Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/>

[Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition](#)

Cover Crops – New England Vegetable Management Guide: <https://nevegetable.org/cultural-practices/cover-crops-and-green-manures>

Effect of Planting / Terminate Dates on Cover Crop Biomass: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/extension/organic/ocs/reports/Cover%20Crops%20Planting%20and%20Termination.pdf>

Guidance for Nutrient Management During Wet Weather

By Ryan Patch,
VT Agency of Ag

If you don't like the weather, wait a minute" may be an old New England saying but, unfortunately, it would appear that, for much of this growing season, Vermont was stuck under a blanket of cool weather and rain, stifling crops that were able to get in the ground and preventing – in far too many cases – farmers from being able to even get out in their fields.

And just because it is cold and raining does not mean that the cows take a day off either, the milk truck keeps coming and the level in the waste storage facility continues to rise. And as optimum timing for planting and crop fertilization with manure comes and goes, farmers can often start seeing their manure storages as a ticking clock that needs to be managed even if the weather does not cooperate.

All this introduction is simply a way to broach the complicated topic of ensuring farmers meet their waste storage facility management goals, crop needs, and environmental stewardship requirements. A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is something every Vermont farmer has in one form or another - all but the smallest of Vermont's farms need to have a formal, written plan that complies with all State and Federal requirements – called a "590 Plan". Other, farms below the thresholds



are not required to develop such plans, but they must manage their nutrients in responsible ways by soil testing once every five years and applying nutrients based on the soil test recommendations.

Many farmers have reached out to the Agency to ask: 'What am I supposed to do with my NMP when it calls for 6,000 gallons of manure in the early spring but it is summer and I can't even get on my field!' So as farmers reach capacity in their storages, and some of their fields dry out and are able to be fertilized with manure, the Agency's guidance follows a few simple principles:

- Follow recommended application rates as closely as possible in your NMP.
- Keep appropriate records of all nutrients applied to your fields.
- Familiarize yourself with

the phosphorus index and the nitrogen index in your NMP and which fields are able to take more manure without increased environmental risks when challenges with weather arise.

- When the applied rate and timing differs from the planned rate and date, write down what you did and why you did it.
- Use the records to update the NMP for the next field season (also known as reconciliation)
- Call the Agency of Ag, UVM Extension, or your NMP Planner if you have questions!

Many farmers have asked the Agency for concrete guidance on how they can best follow the above points to ensure they are in full compliance with the new Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs). In the following paragraph, the Agency provides recom-

mendations from UVM Extension to assist farmers with maintaining a NMP that meets the RAPs.

1. Document what you do!

- Be sure to document all the required details for manure applications, crop rotations, crop yields, etc. as well as additional information needed to record changes from the plan.
- For example: if your field can manage more phosphorus based on your NMP, keep a record of what you applied and then revise the NMP accordingly for the next crop season
- One documentation could be: PSNT or Adapt-N test demonstrated that more manure was needed, since the field is under N-Based Management, I applied an additional 2,000 gallons an acre.
- Or: Wet weather prevented me from applying manure on 25% of my fields, so I increased my manure application rate on 25% of my N-Based fields, as long as total application rate is below maximum agronomic rates.
- Additional planning steps may be required to ensure appropriate agronomic applications of manure on fields for the following crop-year. Technical Assistance is available to support farmers in decision making.

2. Plan Ahead!

Inventory the fields on

your farm that pose the least risk to water quality if you need to deviate from your NMP when applying manure over the course of the year, whether it is due to weather conditions or crop conditions. Working with your NMP Planner, develop a contingency plan on which fields can be accessed in wet weather to ensure options are in place when we have a spring like 2017.

Consider:

- Soil Test P Levels – the lower the better!
- Low or Medium P-Index's (can practice N-Based management)
- Distance from Surface Water – make sure the field is 'high and dry'
- Tile Drainage – tougher to manage well under wet conditions
- Slope – the steeper the field, the greater the risk of runoff
- Surface Residue – the more cover on a field, the better
- Incorporating surface-applied manures immediately if precipitation capable of producing runoff or erosion is forecast shortly after the time of planned application

Always remember that manure applied to crop fields under any conditions can runoff to ditches or surface water, and wider manure spreading setbacks and lower application rates should be observed if risky weather conditions are forecast.

A Northeast Kingdom Focus on Water Quality

The Lake Memphremagog Long-Term Water Quality Partnership

By Kaitlin Hayes, VAAFM

“Lidback, like put the lid back on the cookie jar,” explains Adam Lidback, a dairy farmer, regarding how to spell his last name. Sarah Damsell, Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) Manager since 2015, makes note as she helps Lidback fill out information that will become part of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) for his farm, The Farm at Wheeler Mountain – located in Westmore, Vermont. Damsell began work with the Vermont Conservation Districts in 2009, and has taken a large role in several crucial projects focused on improving water quality in both the Lake Memphremagog and Tomifobia watersheds in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Helping farmers with technical assistance, amongst other responsibilities, is made possible for Damsell in part through Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS).

The Memphremagog Long-Term Water Quality Partnership is one of three State RCPP Projects. The Project focuses on working with farmers to compile and utilize their NMPs, install NRCS approved practices on farms that will



Sarah Damsell and Adam Lidback review the farm's NMP.

decrease nutrient loading to waters of the State through implementation of smaller Best Management Practices in production areas, and implementation of field and pasture practices to address water quality, soil erosion, and soil quality decline. The RCPP funding was granted to the Orleans County NRCD in 2015, and includes \$314,000 for installation of approximately 80 on-farm projects over a five year period of time and \$360,000 for technical assistance, totaling \$674,000 available for water quality improvements. More than \$140,000, or 21%, of the technical assistance funds are allocated to 16 farmers developing NMPs for their farms through a nutrient management planning course.

Lidback, originally from Northwood, New Hampshire

took over his uncle's farm in 2008 with a purchase of ten milk cows and ten heifers. Lidback studied at the University of New Hampshire, where he completed his degree in Dairy Animal Science. He is one of nine farmers who Damsell has worked with this year on the process of getting signed up for the nutrient management planning course. NMPs are required for Certified Small, Medium, and Large Farming Operations in the state, and can be very complex to compile. Farmers that complete this course, or that are located in high priority watersheds, are given preference for various projects on their farmsteads when RCPP funding is distributed.

Success of RCPP implementation will be based on results of water samples collected by Damsell and

the Orleans County NRCD, the number of NMPs that are completed, the number of field and pasture practices installed on farms, the amount of phosphorus reduction recorded for each practice, the amount of field acreage improved, as well as some assessment of social measures – such as creation of a continuous farmer work-

group or changes in farmer behavior. Damsell's efforts, combined with other local and state input, have been instrumental to even further increase the results of ongoing efforts by farmers to improve water quality within the state. Funding from the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, through the Clean Water Fund, has also been awarded to the Orleans County NRCD to host local field days and create an online Required Agriculture Practices Quiz for farmers to complete, which will count towards required Water Quality Training Credits.

Providing support to farmers and promoting their positive efforts in the community are the largest and most important aspects of Damsell's job; with those drivers, there is endless opportunity for continued improvement of water quality in Lake Memphremagog and other surrounding waterbodies. To contact Sarah Damsell and the Orleans County NRCD, please call: 802-334-6090 x7008.

Follow @VTAgencyofAg on social media for news, updates...



...and a few laughs, too



Visit a Little Bit of Vermont, in Massachusetts, at The Big E

By Lauren Masseria,
VT Agency of Ag

Vermont will once again share its culture and heritage with more than one million attendees at the Big E, New England's largest agricultural fair, which commences next week in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The fair will run from September 15 – October 1.

In addition to the many young agriculturalists who will compete in the livestock shows at the fair, Vermont will be represented by exhibitors in the Vermont building, located on the Avenue of the States. A popular Big E attraction, the Avenue of the States houses smaller-scale replicas of each of the six original New England Statehouses. These buildings feature vendors and exhibitors which exemplify the heritage, food, traditions, and products from each respective state. Similar to national embassies, the buildings on the Avenue of the States are owned by their respective jurisdictions. The Vermont building showcases local foods and wares, and local musicians will be entertaining attendees on the lawn.

Vermont companies featured in the Vermont Building:

- American Flatbread
- Beachcomings Studio
- Bear's Den Carving
- Ben & Jerry's
- Cabot & Vermont Cheese
- Cold Hollow Cider Mill
- Vermont Cookie Love
- Danforth Pewter
- Halladay's Harvest Barn
- Hall Home Place
- Johnson Woolen Mill
- Long Trail
- Mother Myrick's Confectionery
- Sap! Maple Beverages



Seedsheet is a big hit with West Springfield shoppers.

- Seedsheet
- Vermont Clothing Company
- Vermont Dept. of Tourism & Marketing
- Vermont Flannel
- Vermont Hand Crafters
- Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association
- Vermont Prime Emu
- Vermont Smoke & Cure
- The Village Peddler
- Agricola Farm
- Champlain Orchards
- Hempfully Green Healing
- Joe's Kitchen at Screaming Ridge Farm
- Maple Landmark
- Skinny Pancake
- Vermont Bee Balm

Musical performances:

- Sat. 9/16 16**
2:00-5:00 pm "East Bay Dixieland" (Dixieland)
- Sun. 9/17**
2:00-5:00 pm "The Rix Folk Band: A Tribute to Woody Guthrie & Pete Seeger"

- Sat. 9/23 (Vermont Day)**
10 am-Noon "Rumblecat" (Funk/Rock/Groove)
1:00-4:00 pm "Rick & The All-Star Ramblers" (Western Swing)

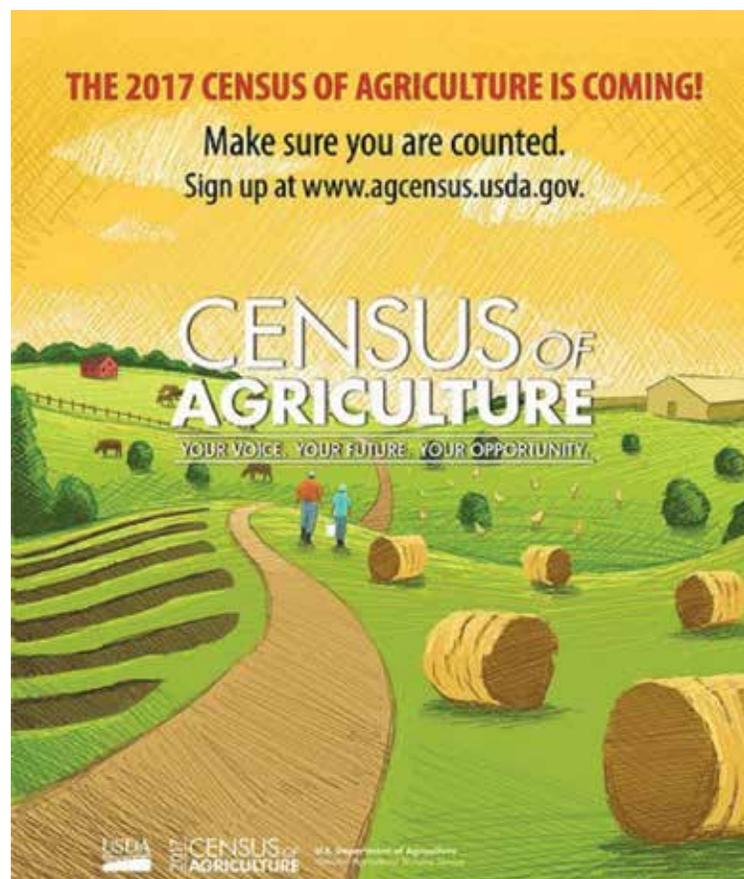
- Sun. 9/24**
2:00-5:00 pm "Yankee Chank" (Cajun and Zydeco)

- Sat. 9/30**
2:00-5:00 pm "Steve Hartman" (Vermont Singer/Songwriter)

- Sun. 10/1**
2:00-5:00 pm "Pete's Posse" (Traditional and Roots)

For more information on the Big E-Eastern States Expo go to www.thebigE.com

Ali Zipparo



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