

AGRiVIEW



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Dairy Business Visioning Workshop Opportunity

By Laura Ginsburg, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

We're in the middle of a dairy crisis, where prices and demand have dropped, and passionate dairy farmers are struggling to find a profitable business model. In this workshop we will work with Vermont dairy farmers to develop concrete and actionable tools, as well as frameworks they can use to help them plan the future of their dairy farms. The group will meet online twice a week for four weeks starting on September 14. Sessions will be Monday/Wednesday at 9am.

This interactive session will lead participants through a series of exercises to help them:

- Understand the current financial state of their farm business

- Evaluate new opportunities for financial and operational feasibility
- Create a plan to develop new enterprises
- Map out checkpoints to track and measure progress and make adjustments as needed.

We will use the case study method to evaluate a real dairy farm business and then apply the tools and lessons learned to our own businesses. Each week, we will focus on each step in the process and work in groups to apply the concepts to our businesses.

Julia Shanks, author of *The Farmer's Office*, and Noah Munro of Kitchen Table Consultants will



facilitate this workshop to ensure the farmers have a strong understanding of their farm businesses and what it will take to achieve and maintain financial sustainability.

Participants must be current

Vermont dairy farmers and able to access reliable internet with video call capabilities. Participation is limited to 30 individuals with no more than two people from each farm business. Registration is free and on a first come, first served basis. Registration closes on September 7th.

To register your intent to attend, please fill out this survey: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/businessdevelopment/vermont-regional-dairy-innovation-center>.

For additional questions, contact: Laura Ginsburg, Ag Development Section Chief at 802-522-2252 or laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov

AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

It's been a busy summer for all of us the Agency. We would like to update you on the status of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CFR) that are available through our Agency, otherwise known as the Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program, or VCAAP.

The Dairy Assistance application is available until October 1. Many of you have already applied and we will continue to take applications until the fall. A select group of Vermont Farm and Forest Viability business advisors are prepared to assist interested dairy farmers and processors in completing applications.

There is a total of \$25 million dollars available for this program. We also have dollars for our Agriculture Fairs and Field Days. The virus forced the closure of these popular events this year but there is \$500,000 available to help cover economic losses and costs due to the COVID-19.

All Fairs should submit an updated W9 to the Agency of Agriculture if they have not already and fill out the application. Visit the Agency of Agriculture website to begin your application today.

We also have money available for producers, farmers, farmers markets and slaughterhouses. There is \$5 million dollars available for this relief program that could cover those who sell and grow vegetables, produce maple or those who process meat. Look for the application on the Agency's website.

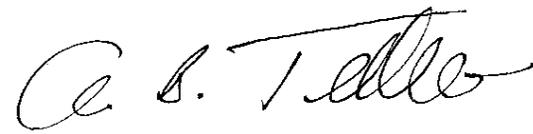
We also will have dedicated dollars that will be run through the Agriculture and Working Lands program. This is another relief program that

will help support those who make their living off the land. We know these programs will not cover all of the losses our farmers and processors have sustained during Covid-19 but these programs are aimed at cover some of the expenses and market losses because of the world wide pandemic.

If you have suggestions for future programs, please contact us. We are always learning and listening. It goes without saying these are extraordinary times for all of us. Agriculture has not stopped moving and farmers continue to feed Vermonters and our region. Farmers are leaders.

We are also proud of all those who are keeping us safe and healthy. Vermonters have done their best to control the spread of the virus by implementing best practices. It's still important to stay home if you are sick, wash your hands often and wear a facial covering. We all want our economy to recover, schools to open and get back to a safe routine.

Thanks for sacrificing and leading. Your commitment to your state and neighbors helps all of us. #grateful



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



@VTAGENCYOFAG



Apple Cake with Vermont Maple Goat Cheese Frosting

Apple Cake:

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
(Vermont flour is best)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 2 eggs *(farm fresh is preferred)*
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sour cream
(locally made of course)
- 1 cup finely diced Vermont apples,
peeled (freshly picked if possible)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9-inch round pans and set aside.
2. Mix together dry ingredients and set aside.
3. Mix together oil and sugars with mixer.
4. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix until combined.
5. Add in the sour cream and mix until combined.

This Month's Recipe

6. With mixer on low, add dry ingredients slowly.
7. Fold in the diced apples.
8. Pour evenly between two pans and bake for 20-24 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cakes comes out clean.
9. Cool on a wire rack for 10 to 15 minutes.



Goat Cheese Frosting:

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
(locally made of course)
- 3 ounces Vermont goat cheese, softened
- 2 1/2 to 3 cups confectioner's sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons sour cream or milk
(locally made of course)
- 1 8oz jar Fat Toad Goats Milk
Maple Caramel Sauce

Beat butter with mixer until smooth. Add in Vermont goat cheese

and mix until combined. With the mixer on low, gradually add in the remaining ingredients. Adjust the amount of sugar until desired consistency and sweetness is reached.

Once the cakes have cooled. Frost between the layers then use remaining to frost the outside of cake. Drizzle Fat Toad Goats Milk Maple Caramel Sauce it over the top of the cake and sprinkle with sea salt, if desired.

Why Do I Wear A Mask?

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

There are many answers to this new and important question, but perhaps none are more important than yours.

I want to tell you why I wear a mask: to protect you, your family and friends, and any of your vulnerable loved ones.

I hope that myself and my family have not been exposed to COVID but knowing it's possible and that this disease can be horrible and deadly, motivates me to want to wear a mask whenever I'm near others in my community. To protect them, and you, from me. My hope is that by doing this for you, you may do this for me as well...for my family, as well as my medically fragile daughter.

Yes, Vermont is relatively free from COVID-19. We are fortunate here in Vermont to have had a strong, unified government response that has kept our disease outbreaks

to a relative minimum.

Governor Scott and his team recognized the danger early, adapted and delivered a strong message to Vermonters, and taken action when and where needed, and it has worked. Our mitigation efforts have been difficult and challenging, but COVID-19 has been beaten back in the Green Mountain State, for now.

To keep COVID-19 at bay means there are many issues on the table: return to school, vaccines, mandatory mask wearing and others. But the science is now proven you may have COVID-19 and not know it. You may have COVID-19, not know it and spread it easily. And, you can prevent most transmission of COVID-19 by wearing a mask when you are in public.



The Waterman Family – #MasksOnVT

The Agency of Agriculture has joined in the effort to spread the word about the importance of masks. We hope to reach those in

our important rural and working lands communities, to keep Vermont's farmlands and farming families safe from this threat. You can view our mask messaging on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Just search Vermont Agency of Agriculture, or #MaskonVT.

Someday soon I hope to have no need to wear a mask. Someday a vaccine will be here, and we can all get back to near normal. But until then, I will wear a mask, for you, my family and friends, and my daughters. Hopefully you have your own important reason to wear a mask, perhaps even for me. We are in this together.

Scott lives with his family Shelly, Hannah and Hadley in Burlington and is a 7th generation Vermonter.

Vermont Positive Dairy Campaign Meets the World

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

While 2020 has been dominated by the news of COVID-19, it has also seen efforts to bring Vermont dairy to the world. Along with the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council, the promotion of Vermont positive dairy messaging throughout the state and beyond, was undertaken by HMC Advertising of Richmond with an eye on telling the story of our dairy farmers and their legacy of service to us all, but also towards growing dairy purchasing by consumers.



While HMC Advertising created a fantastic video and social media campaign, the most important element may have been the re-deployment of the website www.VermontDairy.com.

The updated website includes the story of our dairy farmers, information about the importance of Vermont's dairy industry, but perhaps most importantly, includes a way to connect consumers to

Vermont dairy products and the farms and processors that produce them.

The Agency worked with HMC and the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council to develop a message of support while also asking consumers to think about Vermont dairy in their everyday behavior. We can all support our state economy

and recovery from COVID-19 by supporting our Vermont dairy producers, buying Vermont dairy products and continuing that behavior into the future.

To see many of the Vermont Positive Dairy Campaign messages and the important Vermont dairy website, visit www.VermontDairy.com. #SupportVermontDairy



School Lunch Programs Keep Milk Flowing with Grant Support

By Laura Hardie, New England Dairy

New England Dairy and the local dairy farmers we represent have a 100-year history of supporting efforts to improve child nutrition.

That's why when schools closed due to COVID-19, dairy farmer funds were put to work to help schools continue to serve milk and meals.

New England dairy farmers, along with other generous partners, provided school meal programs across Vermont and New England nearly \$255K in total grants and equipment.

The grants were used for portable milk coolers and other equipment needed to safely serve milk and dairy.

The schools that received grants served over 1 million meals and milks per week during the school year. Coolers and equipment were used to continue to serve milk and meals throughout the summer.

"Thank you so much for the coolers! There are so



many moving pieces every day and it is partners like you that help keep us moving in a positive direction. We all really appreciate it," said Karyl Kent, Foodservice Director of the Lamoille Modified Unified Union

School District.

New England Dairy will continue to support school food service needs during the 2020-21 school year. Additional grants will be provided this fall to help serve meals in alternative ways related to COVID-19 social distancing measures.

New England Dairy sincerely thanks the school staff, organizations and local dairy farmers who have come together to support school meals during this unprecedented time.

Stay in touch and learn more about our work by signing up for our dairy farmer and industry newsletter at: www.bit.ly/nednewsletter.

Reminder: Annual Agriculture Certification Requirement

In order to remain eligible for enrollment in the Current Use (Use Value Appraisal Program), owners of enrolled agricultural land or buildings must certify that the land and buildings continue to be eligible under the requirements of the program (Per 32 V.S.A. § 3755). In September, the Department of Taxes will provide a pre-filled version of the certification which must be signed and returned to the department by the November 1 deadline. Visit <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use/certification>



Apiary Program Update

By Brooke Decker, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In 2019, the passing of the “Pollinator Protection Law” or Act 35, made great strides in improving and strengthening legislation relating to pollinators. The legislation created a full time Pollinator Health Specialist position within the Agency—who also serves as the state Apiculturist. Act 35 also requires beekeepers to have a varroa mite mitigation plan, requires beekeepers to submit an import permit application along with a Certificate of Health from the state of origin.

Vermont has approximately 900 registered beekeepers who manage nearly 15,000 colonies. There are 15 commercial scale beekeeping operations (300+ colonies) most of which are located in the Champlain Valley and account for more than half



of the managed bees in the state. 25 Sideline operations (50-299 colonies) and the remaining 860 backyard beekeepers (fewer than 50 colonies), are dispersed throughout the state. Registration of all honey bee colonies is required.

Of the 15 commercial beekeeping operations, six

are migratory, meaning the bees are transported to southern states for the winter months (usually October-April). Overwintering bees in the warmer southern states, allows the beekeeper to manage their bees in ways that are not achievable in the cold north. For instance,

beekeepers can split their colonies to increase the number of hives, in late February or Early March, a time of year that is often prohibitive to open a hive in Vermont. Most migratory beekeepers also participate in one of the largest pollination events in the country—California

Almonds, early February to mid-March.

This spring, approximately 10,000 colonies (full colonies, nucleus colonies, and packaged bees) were imported into Vermont, with approximately 3,000 of those colonies (and or packaged bees) sold to the backyard beekeeping population.

A health inspection of colonies is required prior to sale of bees in Vermont. During a routine health inspection this spring, American Foul Brood has been detected.

American Foul Brood (AFB) is a highly communicable and deadly honey bee disease. We are asking the beekeeping community to learn the clinical symptoms of AFB. If any suspect cases are identified, contact the State Apiculturist immediately by phone 802-272-6688 or by email brooke.decker@vermont.gov

Historic Preservation Barn Grants

The Division for Historic Preservation, in cooperation with the Legislature and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, is able to award competitive 50/50 matching grants of up to \$15,000 for the repair and adaptive use of historic agricultural buildings. In order to qualify, the buildings must be at least 50 years old and listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

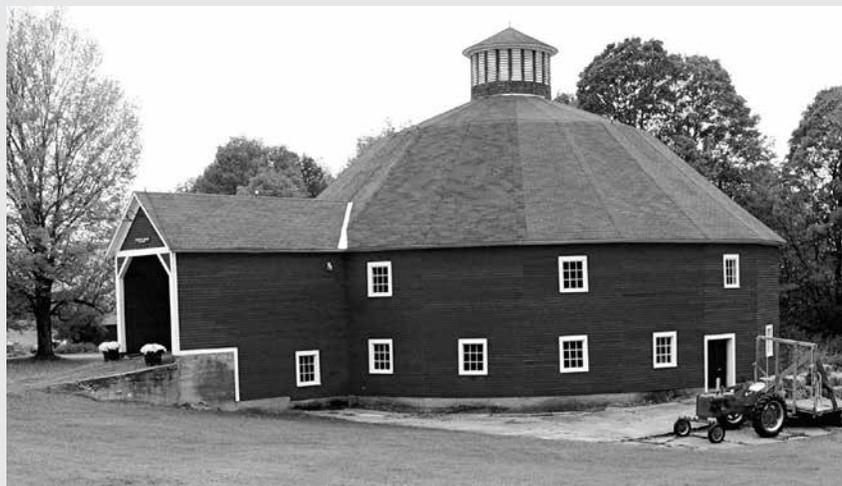
This is a reimbursement grant program, which means that if you are awarded a grant, you are responsible for paying for the full amount of the project and the State will reimburse

you once the project and required paperwork are completed. The Barn Grant Program is funded by the taxpayers of the State of Vermont,

at the direction of the General Assembly, through the annual Capital Appropriations and State Bonding Act.

Applications for the 2021 grants are now available and are due on Monday, November 2, 2020.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/barn-grants#:~:text=grants%20and%20incentives-,Historic%20Preservation%20Barn%20Grants,symbol%20of%20Vermont's%20rural%20landscape.>



Increasing Demand for Custom Slaughter and Processing

By Julie Boisvert & Craig Koscielski, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

When the summertime comes to an end and the autumn air is slowly creeping in, Vermonters are busy harvesting their crops and reaping the benefits of all their planning, hard work and time with hopes of a bountiful production. For those producers of livestock and poultry, the “harvest” begins with slaughter.

An important factor that must be considered prior to harvesting their livestock or poultry is: What will they do with the bounty? Is it going to fill the freezer and feed the family? Will they sell some of the meat to help cover the cost of raising the animal? Can it be sold at a local market? Definitely a lot to consider, but knowing how they will use the

product will help guide them to the right person for the job and ensure they are in compliance with Vermont laws.

For the people who raise livestock and poultry for their own consumption and have no intention of selling or giving it away, they can slaughter and package it themselves without requiring inspection, licenses or licensing fees. Of course, it is important to adhere to good sanitation, cooling procedures and ensure proper disposal of waste materials to keep the food safe. But what if this is something the owner just cannot do? Can someone else do it for them?

The simple answer is yes, they can pay another type of processor who slaughters as a “Custom” or “Custom Exempt” processor to do the job for them. In general, the Custom Exempt processor

is defined by the state as someone who slaughters and/or processes meat for the owner of the animal and the resulting product is only consumed by members of the household and non-paying guests. Meat derived from animals slaughtered and processed by an Exempt Custom Processor cannot be sold.

Custom processors are licensed and receive inspection from the state. They are required to follow sanitary procedures and handle livestock humanely. They are required to keep records, properly mark, label and package the product. Currently the State has 26 custom processors, but unfortunately, only three of them do custom slaughter. This is challenging for folks who raise livestock and poultry for personal use due to the growing demand for slaughter in response to

the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that Vermont’s commercial State and USDA slaughter and processing facilities are booked solid.

At the Agency of Agriculture, the phones have been ringing steadily. We are fielding a lot of calls and questions regarding what it takes to get started in the custom meat industry. Our staff is working hard to provide technical and regulatory assistance to new and existing producers and

will continue to be there for you as you navigate the various challenges that it may bring. We have a wealth of education, knowledge and guidance to share and we certainly hope that more Exempt and Custom producers will come on board with our program to help to meet the custom slaughter and processing needs of our fellow Vermonters.

For additional information contact 802-828-2426.

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



Food Safety Classes for Food Processors on Website

By UVM Extension

To help food processors and manufacturers get the necessary training and certification required for their work, University of Vermont (UVM) Extension has created a listing of available classes on its Food Safety Training for Food Processors website.

The food safety classes, including some for Spanish speakers, are offered in partnership with various agencies and institutions. Details of current classes, including fees and registration links, can be found at <http://go.uvm.edu/fsclasses>. Additional classes will be posted on the website as scheduled.

Current offerings include:

Introduction To Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Points (HACCP): This self-paced class covers HACCP principles, current U.S. food safety regulations, prerequisite programs and HACCP plans that meet state and federal regulatory requirements.

Advanced HACCP: In this 16-hour class, food manufacturers and state and federal inspectors will identify regulatory requirements and review prerequisite program verification, HACCP system verification, HACCP plan validation and the differences between verification and validation. HACCP certification is required before enrolling in this class.



Better Process Control

School: This class is designed for food manufacturing employees who process acidified or low-acid foods and need certification to comply with current thermal processing regulations for these food products. It combines self-paced learning and group exercises through video conferences.

Foreign Supplier Verification Program,

Part 2: Food processors must complete Part 1 of the blended class through the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance prior to enrolling in this eight-hour, instructor-led class. In the four video sessions participants will review and apply knowledge gained in Part 1 including implementation of the regulation requirements for U.S. Food and Drug Administration Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers

of Food for Humans and Animals.

Preventive Control For Human Foods Blended

Course, Part 2: This eight-hour class will help participants review and apply the knowledge gained from Part 1 of the blended class, which must be completed before enrolling. In the four video sessions participants will review and apply knowledge gained

in Part 1 and will practice designing a food safety plan. This class also is offered as a 20-hour class through video conferences.

Classes in Spanish include:

HACCP: The class covers HACCP principles, current U.S. food safety regulations, the importance of prerequisite programs and how to create and implement a HACCP plan that meets all federal

regulations.

Seafood HACCP, Part 2: This eight-hour class will provide online training in HACCP principles for seafood and fish processors. This class also is offered in English.

For more information, contact Dr. Omar Oyarzabal, UVM Extension food safety specialist, at omar.oyarzabal@uvm.edu.

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VERMONT AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2020:

Apples

By Terence Bradshaw, UVM Extension

What's at Stake?

Apples in Vermont are behind only dairy and maple in total annual crop value. Since the 1990s, Vermont's share of all apples sold to eastern U.S. wholesale markets has decreased. Apple acreage fell from approximately 3,500 acres in 2001 to 1,700 acres in 2017. Local sales at pick-your-own and farm stand sales have increased, and cider markets have grown, but have not replaced lost volume nor revenue from wholesale sales. Some Vermont orcharding communities are seeing a loss of economic activity from crop sales and farm employment and the disenfranchisement of growers. Overall, relatively smaller Vermont growers are losing out to growers in regions where modernization, efficiency, and infrastructure follow a critical mass of orchards.

Wholesale apple producers are presently experiencing very difficult economic circumstances. Apples have historically been one of Vermont's primary regional wholesale crops, and thus provide significant revenue from out of state. Vermont orchards are planted primarily to McIntosh and similar varieties, but consumer tastes are shifting to newer varieties that require replanting of orchards. Recent shifts in marketing to in-state buyers has increased



per-bushel prices paid to growers who are selling fewer fruit into commodity markets, but the increased value has not offset reduced sales volume that previously supported about twice the orchard acreage that Vermont now has. This shift has led to contraction in the wholesale market, facilitated by loss of in-state packing and distribution facilities. Some growers have adopted direct store delivery models by assuming their own packing and distribution systems, but limited outlets and local population limits potential growth.

Licensed hard cider

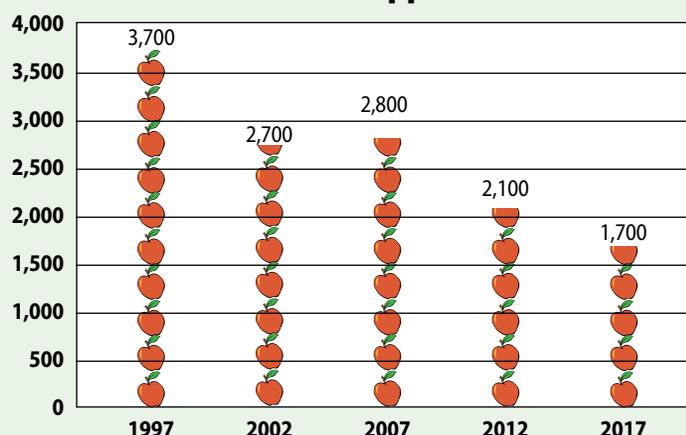
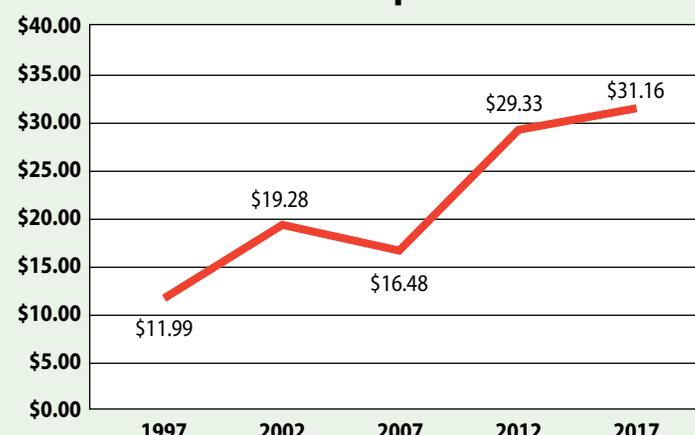
manufacturers have increased to 24 in 2019 from less than ten in 2010, but the prices paid for cider apples are typically one half to one sixth the price for packed fresh fruit. Higher-value cider apples require growing unique varieties with no secondary market and sometimes unknown production needs. Orchards take three to ten years to reach full production, and installation costs up to \$30,000 per acre. This causes barriers to entry as time between investment and return requires saved or borrowed capital. Apples also have substantial, unique,

and annual pest management needs relative to most annual crops. Despite recent losses in technical support at UVM Extension, private-sector technical assistance has been provided by a consultant with the primary agrichemical product dealer who works closely with UVM personnel to expand technical assistance services to growers.

Bottlenecks and Gaps

- Limited in-state growth in population and fruit consumption limits the potential for increased local fruit sales.
- Lack of independent storage, packing, and distribution facilities limits individual growers' entry into many markets.
- Technical assistance for growers through UVM Extension is limited to grant-funded personnel with multiple other duties.
- Coordinated marketing support through the Vermont Apple Marketing Order was withdrawn by the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture in 2009 and cancelled by the Vermont Legislature in 2014.
- Orchards are highly

continued on page 14

Vermont Acres in Apple Orchards**Vermont Price per Bushel**

The Time to Plan for 2021 Farm Construction is Now

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

The construction season in Vermont is short but cherished. Vermonters take pride in the quality of their work and doing things the right way. “Measure twice, cut once” is a common phrase heard on construction sites. In that spirit, it is important to remember that coordinating with State Agencies and municipalities before breaking ground is in everyone’s best interest.

State and federal regulations pertaining to construction activities carefully consider our environment, economy and communities. It is the landowner’s responsibility to comply with all applicable regulations, and while it may seem onerous, there are resources to help navigate the process.

As we all know, Covid-19 has had immense impacts on all walks of life, causing delays and unforeseen hurdles. The Agency strongly encourages all farmers to take this into account when planning for the future to account for delays and other potential effects.

Agency of Agriculture Employees can explain how the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) apply to various projects and provide guidance on which state permits the project may trigger. The Department of Environmental Conservation also have Permit Specialists listed on their website who can assist farmers as well.

To find a Permit Specialist, please visit: <http://dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/permits/specialists>

Keep in mind that the best time to plan is the year before construction. Aside from the Agency of Agriculture, the Agency

of Natural Resources, the Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Land Trust, and Act 250 may play a role in the planning and permitting of certain projects. Anytime water use is changing, wastewater may need to be considered.

Proximity to wells, groundwater, rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, and floodways all need to be taken into consideration as well. Easements and right of ways for utilities, roadways, and railways have requirements that need to be met. Remember, farms are not exempt from construction storm water permits, and farmers may need to plan how to manage heavy use area storm water runoff.

In addition to communication between State Agencies, farmers may also have various requirements for general construction or construction of a farm structure project at

the town level. Construction of a farm structure, although regulated by the Agency of Agriculture, still requires notification of the town zoning administrator or town clerk of the proposed project, and that the farm structure meets local setbacks pursuant to Section 9 of the RAPs:

- *Prior to construction, farmers must notify the zoning administrator or the town clerk of the municipality where they are planning to construct, in writing. The notification needs to include a sketch of the proposed structure, the setback distances from property lines, rights-of-ways, and identify any water sources located near the proposed location.*
- *Local and Agency of Agriculture established*

setbacks need to be followed unless the Agency has received and approved a request for a variance.

Vermont farmers are celebrated for their ability to merge land stewardship with creating the opportunity for economic growth and being a crucial part of the development of Vermont communities. The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets can offer support by providing guidance in navigating the regulatory landscape, so that farmers can continue doing what they do best.

To be in contact with the Agency of Agriculture about construction on farms, variance requests, and applicable permits please contact Kaitlin Hayes at (802) 622-4112.



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VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
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[http://www.uvm.edu/
vtvegandberry/](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/)

Reports From The Field

(Guildhall) After precipitation-less May and June, thankfully it's been raining in July. Potatoes have been stunted by the dry and by the leafhoppers but are pulling out of it now. We have been spraying for leafhopper, CPB, early blight and started mixing kelp into the tanks, with apparent benefits. Pumpkins and winter squash are looking well; pumpkins particularly seem to have a very good fruit set. Sorghum/Sudan seeded mid-July germinated well but seems to be off to a slow start since.

(Westminster) Still quite dry in southern Vermont and, between that and a few intermittent downpours, it's been a struggle to get beets and carrots to germinate. A hard rain crusts the soil and makes it difficult for the seedlings to push through.

On the other hand, we've had few insect or disease problems so far this year. One exception is our early broccoli variety, Emerald Crown, which tends to get head rot when it does get wet.

Our sweet corn crop has been very good, and the blueberries are finally coasting to an end. Sales have picked up from earlier in the year and we're selling plenty of lettuce, kale, and chard, and starting to harvest beets and carrots. The downside to that is our weed control is suffering – just not enough time to both weed and harvest.

(Shaftsbury) It has been an amazing year for business, but man the critter count is unreal: Crows eating melons and corn, coyotes eating corn and an occasional melon too, groundhogs eat everything leafy... and this is with 8-foot deer fence. Luckily, the bear inside the fence was just eating the mowed corn we had already picked.

On the bug front we had cranberry fruit worm in blueberries and lost 75% of crop. Laura McDermott from Cornell is working with us on a monitoring/organic spray program for next spring. We have squash vine borer for the first time, and all the leafhoppers, flea beetles etc. Still, we are harvesting some nice crops. Our field tomatoes have been in for two weeks. Sweet corn is... sweet. Melons coming in. Fall brassicas look good. The spring and early summer ones were kind of a bust. Nicest garlic crop we have had in long time. We grew it on bare ground for the first time and used straw for mulch and will definitely do that again. Feel extremely grateful to be farming in Vermont.

(Rochester) The wash station tent we have set up in front of the farm store might be the best thing we



have done this PYO season. It signals we are serious about safety and sets a tone of respect for the farm and for others. Even people just coming in to buy a pint of blueberries wash their hands before they approach the shop window. Eating berries while picking has ceased and how we love that. Children are not running around unsupervised. Expressions of gratitude for making picking available have increased greatly. People are craving getting outside, being in a safe place, and gathering healthy food. And the hot, dry weather and continual irrigation has contributed to us having a wonderful blueberry crop, with conditions like California. Insect pressure is low. Weeds have slowed down. We have a bountiful crop, plenty of pickers, and happy customers. Somebody pinch me!

(Richmond) Our PYO blueberry farm has been quite busy this year, even on the weekdays. This has been a relief since we were unable to have our typical Music Night events and has helped us stay on top of the picking. We actually caught SWD in our traps a little later this year, by about a week, maybe due to the hot temperatures this July. Numbers were low to start and bushes were staying very

well picked so we took a gamble and didn't apply our first spray until last Sunday. Looks to still be manageable thus far...

Curbside pick-ups for orders of 6 quarts of picked blueberries have been popular. Customers have been doing a great job following our Covid guidelines and seem happy to enjoy a socially distanced outdoor family activity. It does look like our season will be on the shorter side, likely due to the hot July temps which have been ripening the berries fairly quickly. Overall, it's been a great few weeks for our season.

(Orwell) We are dry dry dry here, clay cracking with deep fissures in the earth. Hard to grow field vegetables or good pasture with the little bit of water from our well. Ready to get a big gulp of rain from the hurricane tomorrow!

The heat also means navigating the tunnel crops differently, trying to keep things cool and irrigated. We've lost some fruit sets on tomatoes and peppers due to the heat, which has meant some peaks and dips in production. Also trying to mitigate sun burn on the fruit by maintaining a little bit of foliage.

We are trying the Qlipr

system in one tomato tunnel, liking it but learning that the metal rods can be a little rough on the plants and fruit. We installed them after the plants were established and now see some signs of abrasion along early fruits and stems. But compared to our other houses, where we try to lower and lean plants by climbing up on ladders and releasing the roller hooks, it is a very elegant system. The roller hooks can release too quickly, and we tend to lose some fruit and crimp some stems. I think we will really love the Qlipr when it comes to plant removal time--no pulling off plastic clips!

Knocked back the hornworms last week after hand squishing loads of them. Then found one that almost looked like a parasitized hornworm--but is really a *Cecropia* moth caterpillar! So glad we didn't stomp on it out of habit. We fed it in a jar overnight and now it is spinning a cocoon.

(W. Rutland) Garlic all in, probably the best crop ever and drying rather quickly. Good hauls on cabbage and red onions as well. Currently hauling water for fall raspberries and peppers. Very little pressure from critters.

(Westminster West) Extremely dry here, received 3" since May. Droopy winter squash thought it might be bacterial wilt. Running drips all the time to try to get the fields moderately moist.

Wondering what's up with my tomatoes, looks like many flowers seemed burnt and later sets look very light on fruit. might be a new rootstock we used for

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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**

In Westford, VT...2 Jersey

Heifers. One due end of June. One due 1st of July. \$750 each. 802-338-0684.

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

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

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

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

22 Jersey cows 2 bred heifers. 4 fresh Jan, 2 Feb, 3 due Mar, 4 Apr, 1 May, 2 Jun. Can be

reg. Feed grain hay pasture. 802-775-3846

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

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

Registered angus cow calf pairs, bred cows Starting \$1500 18 years of Select Sire Artificial Breeding. Call Richard Dickinson at 802-782-9970; drdickinson@dbdentalcarevt.com

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

Employment

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.

Larson Farm and Creamery, 30-cow organic grass-fed Jersey dairy farm and creamery seeks dairy herd manager who is passionate about sustainable dairy production. Responsibilities include milking, feeding, pasture management, herd health, calf and barn chores. Must be able to handle animals calmly, have basic tractor skills. Cleanliness and good organizational skills a must. 802-645-0865.

Equipment

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: two 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

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

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

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

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

N.H. T4030F cab 4wd narrow model 2200 hrs \$25500. Kubota L4400 4wd 2000hrs \$9500. Case IH 685 narrow model \$7500. Call 802-897-5771

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

New Holland 479 hay combine runs good 500.bucks. Tel. 430-4378.

Leather Mini harness, like new. Only used a couple times. Chester, Vt. \$250.00. 802-384-3553. Email

CLASSIFIEDS

wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com for pics and more info.

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

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

Former flower farm in Andover for sale this fall. Off-grid wood-heated house, composting toilet. 3 poly greenhouses. 802-875-2758 or andfar@vermontel.net.

General

High tunnel greenhouse assembly and maintenance: Ledge wood, Harnois, Rimol and more. 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. 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

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

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

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

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

June 15th cut mixed Hay, great quality, Will Load, 4' X 4' Round Bales, \$40/bale, quantity discount/cash prices available. Westford, 802-355-2930

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

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

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

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 ea. call 899-4126 or e-mail

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

LAMOILLE COUNTY

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

ORANGE COUNTY

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

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

per ton. Chris 802-522-9485

ORLEANS COUNTY

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

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

RUTLAND COUNTY

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

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

WINDHAM COUNTY

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

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

WINDSOR COUNTY

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

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

Rolling Meadows Farm: square bales in the field or barn \$4.00. 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.

Wrapped round bales of hay: 1st cut \$35.00. 2nd cut \$40.00. Chester, Vt. 802-384-3553.

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

Horses

Icelandic/ Walking horse, looks

pure Icelandic. He is 14 hh, 2 years old, gelded and up to date on shots, trims, and worming. He's a beautiful yellow dun. He can trot and gait. He must have a

knowledgeable home and trainer. He is not spooky and very friendly and polite. PM for more info. Located in Chester, Vt. \$1,200 or best offer. 802-384-3553. Email

wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com for pics and more info.

Sheep

Sheep Feeders - DS Livestock: 8' long, 4' long and two

hexagonal. 20 years old - all steel frames. Cost new without shipping \$1,420. Package price \$475. bearmountainfarmVT@gmail.com (802)-394-7852.

Vegetable & Berry News
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grafts this year, hope to get a confirmation this week.

Winter squash looks good with no insect damage or signs of squash bugs at this time. Delicata look terrific, big and maturing fast.

Onions are almost all, ready with Wallas almost sold out and Cabernet reds looking good as well. Garlic all in and dries, sales are strong! Potatoes looking really nice! Raspberries in the tunnels were real slow due to under-watering, but starting to catch up now, trying to stay ahead of SWD and releasing beneficial for spider mites.

Cover crops coming up fast in this weather. Overall sales are steady.

Tech Tips From The UVM Extension Ag Engineering Team

Washing Machine Greens Spinner: Cleaning Tips.

This blog post highlights some tips to cleaning your greens spinner and provides links to six videos that focus on how to best clean these machines. <http://go.uvm.edu/cleaningtips>

Spray Tables for Produce Farms.

Here are some options for spray table materials and approaches that should help make yours easier to clean and more durable. <http://go.uvm.edu/spraytables>

Drains for Produce Farms.

This guide provides background on planning for drains and drainage from

produce wash and pack areas. Direct drains, floor and spot drains, and trench and gutter drains are discussed. A construction drawing for a trench drain is also provided. <http://go.uvm.edu/drains>

Improving Handwashing Stations.

This guide was motivated by a desire to improve current handwashing station practice with a focus on minimizing or

even removing all contact between the user's hands and surfaces of the station. <http://go.uvm.edu/handwashingstation>

For Immediate Release

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

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

All written comments must be received by September 15, 2020.

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



ORLEANS COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

How much could your manure be worth?

Dairy manure is an important source of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium for your crops. What if, instead of relying on manure to feed your crops, you had to purchase those nutrients in the form of commercial fertilizer?



The liquid manure generated by me and 99 of my friends could be worth about **\$6,610 per year!** That's approximately \$6.61 per 1000 gallons of liquid manure, \$6.00 per ton of solid manure, or \$0.16 per cubic foot of solid manure.

To get the full value of your manure, don't forget the 4 R's of nutrient management: right source, right rate, right timing, right placement.

- The value of your manure depends on many factors, including transport cost, the cost of application, time to incorporation, crop needs, and current soil nutrient content.

Do you want help figuring out what your manure is worth?

Contact the OCNRCD at 802-334-6090 ext. 7008

- *Manure analysis values from "Nutrient Recommendations for Field Crops in Vermont" (published by UVM Extension, Revised 2018); 5-10% DM for liquid manure, >20% DM for solid manure*
- *N value based on \$380/ton for urea (46-0-0); P value based on \$450/ton for MAP (13-52-0); K value based on \$400/ton for Potash (0-0-60); estimated values from Bourdeau Brothers*
- *Conversion of solid manure from tons to cubic feet assumes 1 cubic foot = 55 lbs*

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

By Dr. Kristin Haas, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In 2020, an exotic disease deadly to wild and domestic rabbits called rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHDV2) has been making its way through the states of California, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Texas, and has also been identified in Mexico. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is watching these developments with concern for Vermont's population of rabbits.

Since March of this year, RHDV2 has caused mortalities of both wild and domestic rabbits in other states. Infected rabbits and jackrabbits may die so quickly that the clinical signs associated with RHDV2, including fever, inappetence, and neurologic

and respiratory abnormalities, are not observed. The range of susceptible species in North America is currently unknown, but all rabbit, jackrabbit, hare and pika species are likely susceptible. RHDV2 is not related to coronavirus; it is

a calicivirus that does not infect humans or domestic animals other than rabbits.

"We are greatly concerned for our Vermont community of rabbit owners, including several agricultural operations. These owners of domesticated rabbits are encouraged to maintain strict biosecurity standards for their rabbits and to avoid importing rabbits from the states where RHDV2 has been identified. We also encourage rabbit owners to report findings of rapid and unexplained rabbit death



or detection of signs that could be consistent with this disease to their veterinarian," said Dr. Kristin Haas, the Agency's Director of Food Safety and Consumer Protection and the Vermont State Veterinarian.

Globally, this disease has caused dramatic declines in some wild rabbit populations since it was first detected in China in 1984. Since then, there have been confirmed cases in 40 countries, including in Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, Israel, the UK, Mexico, the

US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

"We're quite concerned with the potential impact of this deadly disease and are currently working with the Agency of Agriculture to monitor rabbit deaths in Vermont," says Mark Scott, Director

of Wildlife for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "We will continue our monitoring efforts of any adult wild cottontails or snowshoe hare found dead without an obvious indication on what killed it."

Best Practices

Due to the severity of this disease and the current inability to protect rabbits through vaccination, Vermont rabbit owners and caretakers must practice strict biosecurity at all times when working with

rabbits to protect them from RHDV2 and other contagious diseases. These measures include:

- Do not acquire rabbits from regions of the country with positive cases of RHDV2. A map of infected areas can be found here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/animal-health/rhd>.
- Do not allow pet or wild rabbits to have contact with your rabbits or gain entry to the facility or home. If you must bring outside rabbits into your facility or home, keep them separated from your existing rabbits for at least 30 days and monitor closely for signs of disease. Use separate equipment for newly acquired or sick rabbits to avoid spreading disease.
- Do not allow visitors in rabbitries or let them

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Apples

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reliant on seasonal labor, including migrant labor through the federal H2A program, which makes them vulnerable to labor shortages at critical times and to onerous regulations and inspections.

Current Opportunities

- Older orchard systems include deep-rooted, healthy trees that are resilient to climate and pest pressures. Well-managed orchards are a long-term asset, although prices for fruit from older varieties are low and many

older trees may be past their commercial prime.

- Increased production of high-value specialty ciders creates markets for unique specialty cider varieties and for growers to establish on-farm cideries that add value to their crop.
- Institutional purchasers such as schools, colleges and hospitals may be an important area for increased local sales.
- Retail or pick-your-own apple markets are not saturated in many areas of the state and provide customers with a valuable agritourism experience.

- Collaborate across the distribution chain to increase in-state and regional institutional purchases of Vermont apples. Local food coordinators and other market specialists should assist with USDA purchases for school lunches, contracts at key institutions including higher education food service and hospitals, and aggregation through food hubs that prioritize fruit from local orchards.
- Support increased purchases of apples and production of high-value ciders through farm cidery legislation that would

- allow growers to more easily enter the cider market themselves and increase farm gate value for the fruit they produce.
- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets should conduct and expand marketing programs for all Vermont horticultural crops, including apples. Marketing programs should be two-tiered to support both in-state and out-of-state promotions. Quality standards should be established for Vermont products that are exclusive and meaningful and thus may indicate provenance and quality of Vermont products sold

- outside the state.
- Increase and permanently fund technical assistance services through UVM Extension, the Agency, or other stakeholder organization. Include pest management, horticultural, food safety, and economics expertise in technical assistance programming.
- The Agency should work with Vermont's federal delegation to urge sensible reform to immigration and labor rules that affect fruit and vegetable growers (e.g. H2A, Title 29, part 780 of CFR Agricultural Labor Exemption Rules).

VERMONT AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

Animal Health Lab

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

September marks the height of fair season in Vermont and a peak in activity here at Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Laboratory (VAEL) as we work with fair associations and farmers to ensure the health of their animals. Fairs with pulling events may require that participating animals (horses or oxen) be tested for performance enhancing drugs. Yep, you read that right; VAEL is here to make sure there is no animal doping! Licensed veterinarians collect blood samples at the event, then VAEL provides the drug screening. If a sample comes back hot, fair associations

may revoke that animal's prize and/or disqualify them from future events.

Similarly, participants in horse shows may be required to have their animals tested for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), an infectious and potentially fatal viral disease impacting equids worldwide. EIA tests are valid for 6 months and many owners have their horses retested frequently to ensure the continued health of their animals. Again, licensed veterinarians collect the samples and VAEL provides the testing.

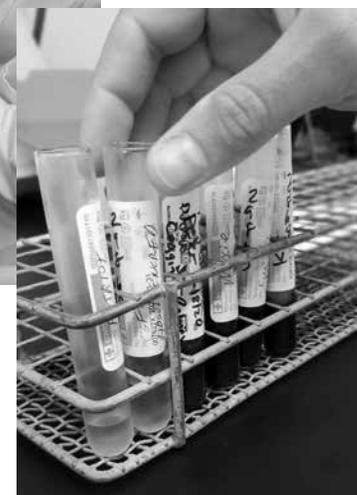
Before transporting to a fair or in the event of a livestock sale, it is also common practice to test cows, sheep, goats and other ruminants for brucellosis, a highly contagious and serious disease impacting livestock and pub-

lic health. Brucellosis can cause decreased milk production, weight loss, loss of young, infertility and lameness. Human consumption of dairy products contaminated by the virus *Brucella* can cause the disease in humans, with the same symptoms as a nasty bout of the flu. In some cases, symptoms recur for years. The pasteurization process eliminates *Brucella* so the bulk of VAEL's samples come from raw dairy producers committed to providing safe products.

VAEL also works closely with the Agency's State Veterinarians to respond quickly to emergent viruses/bacteria that threaten the health of Vermont livestock.



VAEL Microbiologist Amanda Michaud prepping samples for brucellosis testing.



For example, VAEL quickly ramped up 2010s, testing samples from both domestic and wild birds throughout New England.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Wayward Goose Farm, of West Pawlett, Vermont to transport, buy and sell milk within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

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

All written comments must be received by October 31, 2020.

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

Rabbits

continued from page 14

- handle pet rabbits without protective clothing (including coveralls, shoe covers, hair covering, and gloves).
- Always wash hands with warm soapy water before entering your rabbit area, after removing protective clothing and before leaving the rabbit area.
- Do not introduce new rabbits from unknown or untrusted sources or from those that cannot confirm the rabbit's health status for 30 days prior to acquisition.
- Sanitize all equipment and cages moved on or off premises before they are returned to the rabbit housing area. We recommend disinfecting

with 10% bleach or 10% sodium hydroxide mixed with water.

- Establish a working relationship with a veterinarian to review your biosecurity practices for identification and closure of possible gaps.
- Report all cases of rapid and/or unexplained rabbit death to your veterinarian immediately. Your veterinarian will then follow up with the appropriate state or animal health official if warranted.

RHDV2 does not pose a food safety concern and is not transmissible to people. However, strict biosecurity practices should be maintained when handling or processing rabbit carcasses to prevent accidental spread, and all rabbit meat should be thoroughly cooked prior

to consumption.

To ensure continued free movement of rabbits into and within Vermont, it is imperative that each Vermonter who owns or works with rabbits is diligent and takes all necessary precautions to prevent an introduction of this highly contagious virus. Visit the Agency's website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal-health/rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease> for more information about this disease outbreak. Information will be updated as the situation evolves.

If you would like to be added to the Agency's rabbit industry distribution list to receive updates on this issue, email Dr. Haas at kristin.haas@vermont.gov or direct general questions to the Agency at 802-828-2421.

Stalking the Hornworm

The tobacco hornworm with its distinctive diagonal white stripes and reddish "horn" feeds on tomatoes, eggplant and other plants in the nightshade family. For more information visit: <https://www.uvm.edu/newsstories/news/stalking-hornworm>

Eddie McGriff/University of Georgia/Bugwood.org



David Cappaert/bugwood.org



Managing Japanese Beetles

The Japanese beetle, an invasive species, feeds on nearly 300 different plant species. For more information visit: <https://www.uvm.edu/newsstories/news/managing-japanese-beetles>



Vermont Beef Producers Association

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



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Standard Offer Program May 1, 2020

Public Bid \$0.258/kWh For Small Wind Technology

Land Wanted to Lease

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Small Wind Workshop Saturdays 10:00



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