

# AGRIVIEW



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## Be on the Alert for Spotted Lanternfly in Vermont

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

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is asking the public to keep an eye out for the invasive pest known as spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) during the spring landscaping season. This is due to the risk of egg masses being accidentally brought in on shipments of nursery stock imported from other states that may have an established spotted lanternfly (SLF) infestation. This invasive bug is not yet known to have established a breeding population in Vermont. The Agency educates the nursery industry about the threat and what it can do to keep the invasive pest out of Vermont.

The Agency recently received



reports that nursery stock from SLF-infested areas may have been imported into states neighboring Vermont through the nursery trade. Any Vermonter who has recently purchased trees or shrubs or had them planted on their property,



particularly maple or crabapple trees, is being asked to inspect the trunk and branches to ensure there are no SLF egg masses or any hitchhiking nymphs, and to report any finds to Vermont Invasives at <https://vtinvasives.org/reporting-spotted-lanternfly>. Landscapers and plant nurseries are also being reminded to stay on the lookout for this pest, report it to the Agency, and treat nursery stock to prevent

possible spread of this insect.

“We know that SLF is a good hitchhiker and can be easily moved from state to state, on nursery stock or on vehicles or on anything they can hitch a ride on,” said

state entomologist Judy Rosovsky. “Our best bet for keeping spotted lanternfly out of Vermont is to get additional eyes on the trees. Alert citizens have found all the SLF that have been intercepted in VT.”

In addition to the agricultural impacts it causes, SLF has the potential to negatively impact outdoor activities when the adults appear in the late summer due

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# AGRIVIEW

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

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# New Farm and Food Legislation Advances Vermont Agriculture

This year Vermont legislators made record investments in our rural communities, agriculture, and the environment. Based upon Governor Phil Scott's proposals, legislators allocated dollars to farmers, producers and those making their living off the land.

The Governor's Future of Agriculture Commission offered new policy and program recommendations, and legislators listened. This winter the Commission proposed investing in food related businesses so they could grow and feed people in Vermont and beyond. A \$40 million dollar Community Recovery and Revitalization program led by

the Agency of Commerce and Community Development will issue grants to businesses to invest in new infrastructure, such as storage, distribution, waste management and meat processing for Vermont companies.

Farming and support for agriculture was well represented under the Golden Dome this year. Those who grow fruits and vegetables will get support; \$100,000 is dedicated to continuing Produce Safety Improvement grants for the industry. Grants will help finance equipment and infrastructure needed to safely produce and process more local food.

The Working Lands Program also will help farmers, producers and those who work in the forest. More than \$3 million dollars will be invested in this program over this next year, making it more affordable and viable to farm or produce food in Vermont. It's a proven program that grows Vermont's rural economy while producing high-quality food and forest products.

The Commission also proposed to invest in technology to help dairy farmers manage their complex and evolving businesses. This could mean upgrades to help with manure management, milking equipment or infrastructure. The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center is committed to this priority and will dedicate dollars to this recommendation in the coming months. With a tight labor market, this initiative could make it more affordable for the region's dairy farmers.

This year's state budget also includes support for organic dairy farmers who were faced with losing their Vermont markets. The \$200,000 appropriation will help farmers find and work with new buyers for their milk.



The successful session also focused on attracting and supporting the next generation of farmers. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development will collaborate with the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) to manage a \$19 million dollar business assistance program. This forgivable loan program is aimed at helping those businesses that are still recovering from the pandemic. The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center will also offer a mentorship program for dairy farmers. There is tremendous energy and need for new and beginning farmers.

While navigating the pandemic, farmers are also coping with climate change. Vermont farmers are stewards of the land. They stand ready to help improve the environment by implementing Climate Smart Farming, including agronomic practices that mitigate climate change. The Agency's budget includes spending nearly \$5 million dollars to plant more cover crops and improve soil health. The state's budget also includes dollars for the Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group and Program. This \$1 million dollar program, now a pilot, could reward farmers for

best practices that improve the environment and the climate.

Feeding Vermont and the region is also a priority for the Agency of Agriculture and its partners. Vermonters Feeding Vermonters, a program of the Vermont Foodbank, will receive \$2 million dollars to help feed those less fortunate while buying local food from Vermont Farmers.

This legislative session also resulted in significant investments in food security programs, farm-to-school and early educator grants, and child nutrition investments in our schools. These investments mean all Vermonters – including our most vulnerable – can benefit from healthy, nutritious food and a robust local food system.

These significant financial commitments to Vermont agriculture underscore its importance in our communities and our everyday lives. We are grateful for the support of Vermonters and policy makers in Montpelier and Washington. There is much work to do but short- and long-term approaches create opportunities for farmers and producers while making sure we can feed the region and at the same time keep our valuable agricultural land in production.

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

# New Tool Helps Farms Access Agritourism Resources

By Lisa Chase, UVM Extension

University of Vermont Extension, in collaboration with the Vermont Fresh Network and Dig in Vermont, recently released a new regulatory navigation tool for agritourism operators.

The free tool is designed to help both individuals new to agritourism or those interested in expanding

their enterprises understand and access information about the permits, laws, licenses, land use regulations and liabilities involved in Vermont agritourism. It also increases accessibility to important information, including what steps farmers and agribusiness owners can take for a successful enterprise.

The information can be accessed at <https://go.uvm.edu/atguide>.

Viewers can select an agritourism activity to pursue, and then click on the image for a “Getting Started Guide” that provides information and action items specific to that enterprise. Activities include farmstays, on-farm events, food trucks/food stands, store or market, summer camps, farmstand/pick-your-own, food made from farm products and farm tours/educational events.

Another useful resource is the “Regulatory Checklist,” a pdf document that can be downloaded and printed. It covers basic regulatory information and action steps for entering into an agritourism operation or activity. It also contains additional resources for specific agritourism businesses, such as weddings, summer camps, farmstays and on-farm dinners.

## Breakfast on the Farm Returns!

*Free breakfast and dairy farm tour on July 16th at the Gosliga Farm in Addison from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

By Rene Thibault, Vermont Breakfast on the Farm Committee

The Vermont Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) Committee invites you to join us for our free breakfast and dairy farm tour at the Gosliga Farm on Saturday, July 16th, in Addison. Free tickets are going fast; be sure to sign up today if you plan to attend at [VermontBreakfastOnTheFarm.com](http://VermontBreakfastOnTheFarm.com)

As always, BOTF is embracing its important mission of supporting local food producers by bringing you delicious and healthy breakfast choices

made by local farmers and businesses. New this year: Instead of pancakes, we’re excited to serve donuts from nearby Champlain Orchards. Every attendee will get two!

The full menu includes:

- Yogurt from Cabot
- Granola from Vermont Maple Granola
- Blueberries from Pratt’s Meat and Deli
- Donuts from Champlain Orchards
- Sausage from Pratt’s Meat and Deli
- Cheese from Cabot
- Vermont maple syrup for dipping or pouring into yogurt

- White and chocolate milk sourced locally
  - Coffee and tea
- After breakfast, you’ll get the inside scoop on how the Gosliga family cares for their cows and the Vermont landscape. You’ll explore the barns, milking parlor, see the scenic views of Lake Champlain from the farm, climb in the big equipment, meet the cows, and more. Grab the kids, invite your friends,

and reserve your free tickets now.

After two years of live, virtual tours, we’re excited to bring folks back onto the farm. Our Breakfast on the Farm will be fun for everyone. This event is totally free and made possible by your favorite Vermont dairy brands and the Vermont agricultural business community.

Get your tickets now before they’re gone at [www.VermontBreakfastOnTheFarm.com](http://www.VermontBreakfastOnTheFarm.com).

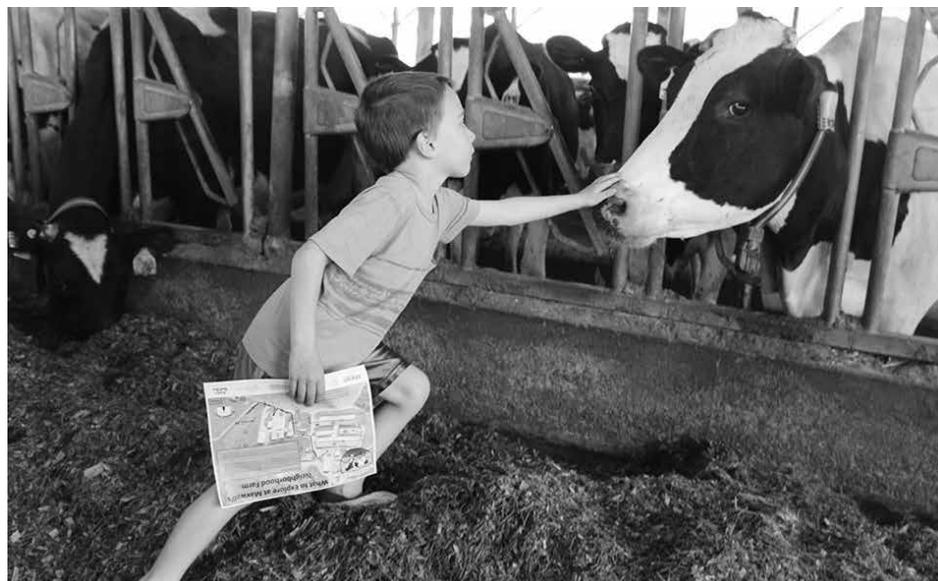
### Spotted Lanternfly *continued from page 1*

to their swarming behavior and production of “honeydew” that may attract stinging insects. SLF egg masses are about an inch and a half long, and are flat and gray in color, making them difficult to detect, especially on tree bark. Because of this, any SLF may not be noticed until the nymphs hatch at the end of May or the start of June. The public is asked to look for small black insects marked with white dots. If grapes or tree-of-heaven are in the area, they will migrate to those plants.

SLF is a sap-feeding insect that has caused significant impacts

to vineyards, orchards, and other agricultural commodities in states where it has become established. SLF not only harms grapevines, maples, hops, blueberries, and over 100 other host plants, but has been observed to impact outdoor recreation in other states where populations are high and adult lanternflies swarm in large numbers during mating season.

If you see any signs of spotted lanternfly, please report it, <https://vtinvasives.org/reporting-spotted-lanternfly>. The Agency may contact you to determine if action is necessary to prevent establishment in Vermont.



## DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

# Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center Hosts 20 on Missouri Grazing Dairy Learning Journey

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

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC), supported by University of Missouri Extension and Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), hosted an opportunity for northeastern farmers to learn from New Zealand and Irish dairy farmers in Missouri. The group of 20 was comprised of farmers, technical assistance providers, and Agency staff from four states. Farmers who attended represented the diversity of dairy production including organic, conventional, 100% grass fed, seasonal, and current Dairy Grazing Apprentices.

Missouri is home to a group of New Zealand and Irish owned farms who practice dairy as is common



80 calves eat at a group feeder at Flooded Rock Dairy, operated by sharemilkers Matt and Taleah Johnson.

in their home countries — seasonal milking, intensive rotational grazing, and limiting the addition of supplemental feeds. While these farms tend to be larger than the average northeastern dairy and do not experience winter in the same way we do, there were many important lessons learned during the trip.

All of the farms raise

their calves in group housing from the day of birth, and the group was interested to learn about these labor and time efficient management strategies. The first farm demonstrated feeding a group of 80 calves, who were between 2.5 and 3 months old, so that we could see the use of a 100-calf portable feeder. On other farms the group learned about forage

and animal management in a rotational system, where cows are expected to walk upwards of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile each way. Farms generally divide their herd into groups based on body score, a practice that is done weekly and allows them to support first calf heifers and those cows who need to add more condition.

Of note, the group met farmers who have entered dairy via a variety of paths that are unconventional for US dairy, including contract milkers, sharemilkers, and

farm managers. These different strategies allow young and beginning farmers to gain experience and equity with a clear pathway from being a farm hand to being a farm owner or partner without the cash outlay or loan typical of farm transfers.

In all, the group deemed this a successful trip. The NE-DBIC is planning a similar opportunity to a different location in 2023 for those who may be interested in attending.

## Join the Maple 100

The Vermont Maple 100 is a month-long, annual promotion that highlights the hundreds of maple activities, adventures, and maple-inspired products available across Vermont. This fall, join the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, in partnership with Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing and organizations from all across the state, to help visitors and Vermonters alike discover new ways to enjoy Vermont's sweetest treat!

We're looking for farms, food businesses, sugarmakers, restaurants, lodging partners, producer associations, food system organizations, recreation businesses, tourism partners, and more to participate in a celebration of all things maple from September 15 - October 15, 2022. If your business has a connection with maple, we'd love to have you participate!

It's free to join — just let us know how you'd like to be involved. It could be as simple as promoting a maple-inspired product, to hosting an event, or having a Vermont Maple 100 special at your restaurant. Each event will be featured on [VermontVacation.com](http://VermontVacation.com).

Registration closes July 30th. Contact Kristen Wirkkala at [kristen.wirkkala@vermont.gov](mailto:kristen.wirkkala@vermont.gov) to learn more and sign up today!



Randy Mooney, chair of the DFA board, explains cow management as his herd of 300 walk in from pasture.

# Vermont Salumi Leads Local Economic Revitalization with Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Grant

By Clare Salerno, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The pandemic has placed great strain on the meat production and processing sector, but Vermont's meat producers are meeting the challenge. Vermont Salumi, Pete Colman's Barre-based sausage and salami producer received a \$50,000 Working Lands Enterprise Fund (WLEF) grant in late 2018 and used it to purchase equipment and open a new storefront in downtown Barre that enabled the business to expand production, revenue, and number of employees

despite pandemic setbacks.

With their grant, Vermont Salumi developed a mid-scaled slicing line to open valuable markets for VT specialty meats. The slicer was installed at VT Packinghouse, which currently serves as a critical link between Black River Meats, which supplies Vermont-raised pork, and Vermont Salumi's custom fabrication facility on Main Street in downtown Barre. The Barre facility opened concurrent to the new slicer's installation at VT Packinghouse in Springfield. These infrastructure advancements enabled Vermont Salumi to lead critical scaling of the Vermont pork supply chain during the challenges

of the pandemic.

The business was successful enough that Coleman opened a separate retail business at the Barre storefront, or AR Market. In 2022, he began renting part of the space to Pearl Street Pizza who sells dine-in and takeout meals in addition to the grocery, produce, meat, and prepared food items at AR Market. Coleman has hired five full time staff in the market and employs an additional five employees in the Vermont Salumi processing rooms. The market meets an important need for Barre residents with limited transportation access, and Coleman seeks to provide a range of low-cost and high-end options to serve everyone in the community, including Everyone Eats meals, fresh produce, and wine. He says, "We'd like to believe that the addition of a renovated building in a dying downtown also creates vibrancy for the surrounding store fronts. We have been personally thanked by almost every other merchant in downtown Barre for our contributions."

At VT Packinghouse in Springfield, other farmers/producers operating out of the central supply chain facility have also benefited from Vermont Salumi's slicer. Vermont Salumi currently co-packs with five different hog farmers, helping them to broaden their offerings, increasing revenue, as well as supporting their distribution

channels. In 2021, Vermont Salumi purchased 65,000 pounds of VT pork and began purchasing whole animals from Vermont for dry cured meats. Because the volume of meat processed at VT Packinghouse almost doubles annually, Vermont Salumi creates two full time jobs per year just in that facility.

With all these successes and AR Market now open seven days a week, Coleman

has been able to step back from the day-to-day operations to appreciate the progress he's made from making sausage in his kitchen 10 years ago.

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) funding opportunities will re-open in fall 2022. Please visit [workinglands.vermont.gov](https://workinglands.vermont.gov) to learn more about how WLEI supports agriculture and forestry enterprises around Vermont.

## Assessment of Dairy Farms Interested in Supplying Milk to Specialty Cheesemakers: Report Now Available

By Brockton Corbett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

In Vermont, the dairy sector is responsible for \$1.3 billion dollars coming into the state's economy. Of this, cheese production makes up half of this total making it the largest and most dynamic portion of dairy related activity. This represents a significant opportunity for milk producers who are experiencing unsustainably low prices for fluid milk, since milk that meets standards for specialty cheeses can receive significantly more per hundredweight.

To understand this market opportunity better, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center contracted with Karen Karp & Partners (KK&P) to conduct research. This research included a landscape assessment and interviews with four specialty cheesemakers and 17 milk producers from southern Vermont and Massachusetts. From this work, KK&P developed their report Assessment of Dairy Farms Interested in Supplying Milk to Local & Regional Specialty Cheesemakers. If you are interested in reading more into the report, please visit: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/form/report-milk-cheese-assessment-study>



# Hemp Seed Oil And CBD Concentrate: Understanding The Difference

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

**H**emp seed oil and hemp concentrate are both derived from the hemp plant and used in the manufacture of products sold to the consuming public. In Vermont these products and associated byproducts can be used in the manufacture of food and feed, botanical supplements, and cosmetic products, however, are created with different methods and from different parts of the harvested hemp plant. Understanding how both products are made, as well as the difference in their chemical make-up, is important to understand regulation in Vermont.

Hemp seed is and oilseed, generally, from a hemp grain variety. Making hemp seed oil is similar to the mechanical extraction process to make any seed oil, such as sunflower oil. Seed oils are commonly made with a cold-press oilseed machine that compresses the seeds under extreme pressure to express the oil contained in the seed.

The byproduct of this process is hemp seed cake, which has potential to be legally used as a commercial feed for laying hens. Hemp seed oil contains essential fatty acids and omega 3s that have important health benefits, and generally contains no more than trace amounts of cannabinoids,



such as CBD and THC. Hemp seed oil is considered “Generally Recognized as Safe” (GRAS) by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. The use of hemp seed oil in the manufacture of products

in Vermont does not require a registration as a processor.

Hemp concentrate, also sometimes an oil consistency depending on extraction method, is made from harvested hemp floral

material/ inflorescence, or biomass, but not the harvested seed. A person can use mechanical or solvent based extraction methods to create a concentrate, and primarily consists of cannabinoids at the end of the extraction process. The permitted solvents for primary extraction are ethanol, CO<sub>2</sub>, or lipids (coconut, olive or a seed oil!). It is also possible to extract cannabinoids using solventless extraction methods. Manufacturing products using hemp concentrate, a process intermediary, requires a registration with the Vermont Hemp Program as a processor. This is for several reasons, including regulating processors to make sure that the

products produced meet the acceptable potency level and are tested for contaminants that can be present in hemp floral material or are byproducts of the extraction process.

Hemp product manufacturers should be aware of the difference between hemp seed oil and hemp concentrate when determining whether or not a registration as a processor is required. A person must register to cultivate hemp for any type of end use in Vermont. Questions regarding registration requirements can be directed to Michael DiTomasso by email [michael.ditomasso@vermont.gov](mailto:michael.ditomasso@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-505-3726.

## Farm to School Program Awards \$190,000 in Grants

By Trevor Lowell, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**E**very year the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Farm to School Program helps hundreds of students, children, educators and care professionals through its three unique grant programs: the Farm to School and Early Childhood Grant, the Community Supported Agriculture Grant, and

the Farm to School Vision Grant.

These programs provide a variety of financial and technical support to help advance goals related to food access and nutrition security, agricultural literacy, economic development and community engagement. This past winter and spring, VAAFAM awarded over \$190,000 in grants to 37 organizations throughout the state.

With support from partner organizations, these

programs help children and students engage with their local food systems and explore the many ways in which our agricultural systems affect our health, our communities, and our culture. Here’s what Molly Leach, an early childhood education provider in Addison County had to say about the impact of her CSA grant:

“It was such a joy to ‘reveal’ the CSA goods every Friday morning with

the children! It was a really fun way to incorporate counting, colors and shapes. I felt so honored to be able to consistently remind them that this amazing produce was grown by local, community farmers. I felt very proud of that!”



# Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Highlights Record \$5.2 Million Investment and Grantee Impacts

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

A gathering of grantees and program officials helped recognize an historic investment in the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative this fiscal year and the historic and future impacts of the program.

Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Legislature committed \$5.2 million dollars to the program this fiscal year, facilitating grants to 59 Vermont businesses.

This marks the most significant investment in the 10 years of the program, with a total investment of over 12 million since 2012. This gathering included a number of grantees since 2020 to highlight the programs important reach and impact despite the effects of the pandemic.

“The Working Lands program provides critical support to emerging needs within markets and communities of Vermont’s working landscape, which is especially important

during difficult times,” said Governor Phil Scott. “I want to thank the Working Lands Board and staff for their hard work in support of our Vermont working lands businesses that help sustain our rural economy, our heritage and our vital recovery and revitalization work.”

The future is bright for the program as Vermont business interest and successes have translated to continuing and growing support from the Vermont legislature. On top of this

year’s record investment, the legislature increased the future base funding for the program from an annual \$500K level to \$1 million dollars. These important investments made in Vermont working lands businesses has the potential to bring business and job growth to Vermont working lands communities for the foreseeable future.

“These record investments in those who work the land will grow our economy,” said Secretary Anson Tebbetts of the Vermont

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. “Small businesses are important to Vermont’s future. They are the backbone of the Green Mountains. We look forward to seeing these farm and forestry businesses flourish.”

For more information on the Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, please visit: Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | WLEB Grantees and Funded Projects or contact Clare Salerno by email [clare.salerno@vermont.gov](mailto:clare.salerno@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-917-2637.

## Camping Weekend Connects Families To Nature

By Allison Smith, UVM Extension

Interested in reconnecting with nature, sampling recreational and water sports or learning a new outdoor skill? The Outdoor Family Weekend (OFW), now in its 24th year, may be the perfect opportunity for you and your family.

Registration is now open for the annual camping weekend, which takes place September 9-11 at Stillwater State Park in Groton. It features expert-led workshops; swimming, boating and other recreation; nightly entertainment and campfires.

Registrations will be accepted through August 19 at <https://go.uvm.edu/outdoor-family>.

<https://go.uvm.edu/outdoor-family>. Early registration is advised as tent, lean-to and RV sites, as well as workshops, are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The cost is \$175 per family (up to eight individuals) and covers the campsite, choice of three workshops per camper, the Friday night ice cream social and evening activities. Campers are welcome to stay Sunday night for no extra charge by notifying the park office upon arrival.

Families of current military personnel should contact Lisa Flinn at (802) 751-8307, ext. 351, or (800) 545-8920 (toll-free in Vermont) to receive a discount code for registration. Anyone requiring a disability-related accommo-

dation to participate should call by August 19.

OFW alumnus and woodsman Nate Gusakov of Lincoln will entertain the group on Friday evening with original songs and traditional banjo tunes. On Saturday, campers are invited to a Nidba N’adalia (Friends Gathering) led by Brenda Perretta-Gagne and Virginia Holiman, who will share indigenous tales and celebrations under the harvest moon. Perretta-Gagne is a member of the St. Francis/Sokoki Tribe of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi. Holiman is a farm-to-school educator and storyteller from Highgate.

Workshops cater to a diverse range of interests including outdoor cooking,

shooting sports, nature crafts and painting, introductory mountain biking, careers in arboriculture, fire starting for wilderness preparedness and tree identification, among others. Wildlife lovers can participate in a bird walk, learn about whitetail deer or hone their skills at identifying common songs, signs and tracks of birds and animals.

Among the new offerings this year are classes on indigenous crafts, wild plant medicine, finding art in nature, geocaching and exploration of stream and aquatic habitats. The youngest campers can learn about bears or feathered friends in the forest, go canoe fishing with a parent or explore math with nature.

A story walk, available all weekend, introduces many woodland creatures through the book, *Over in the Meadow*.

Throughout their stay, campers have full access to all park amenities including the trails, lake, boat launch and free canoe rentals. Fishing licenses may be purchased at the park although kids 14 and under may fish for free.

OFW is offered by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’ Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Forests, Parks and Recreation. If questions, contact Allison Smith at [allison.smith.2@uvm.edu](mailto:allison.smith.2@uvm.edu).

# Growing Works of Art Award Winners

**G**rowing Works of Art is an arts and writing contest for students in grades K-8. This contest is hosted in partnership with UVM Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation. Here are the 2022 winners.

## Kindergarten: Jackson Partlow Roxbury Village School

### The Best Birch Tree at My House

*I have a lot of trees in my yard. This one is better because I like white and I like black. I climb on the tree. I watch it and every year it grows. I ride my dirt bike around it.*



## 1st: Auden Rubin Woodstock Elementary School

### The Forest Trees

*I was in forest kindergarten and we put out buckets on sap trees to make maple syrup. A few weeks later we got out all the buckets and boiled the syrup. We had syrup tea and we got to bring home a little bottle of syrup. We made pancakes outside in the forest. We used syrup on top of it. It was delicious.*



*One time, we went to a river where there were hundreds of pine trees surrounding. We followed the river and went into great, rocky and foresty places. One person in my class fell into the water and got soaked. Well, we all pretty much did get soaked. We didn't have our shoes on or our socks, so we were allowed to go in the river. I didn't want to have my shoes or socks off. The stream was a long stream. We finally went back. It was so fun.*

*When I made my picture, I started with a brown little spot on a page to make these pine trees with a little owl in the night. I started to use a green paint and filled around the brown trunk. When that was done, I made night-time with dark blue sky around. I drew an owl on a tree trunk with pencil. I colored it with the pastels. I did yellow*

*eyes with black spots in the middle for the eyes. I colored the rest in gently black to make gray. I colored the beak the most so it would look right. I colored the rest of the tree trunk green for leaves. I started to make yellow spots as the stars. They needed more light so I blended them in. I did a circle with white pastel for the moon. I switched to paint and painted it in silver.*

## 2nd: Elet McCusker Rochester School

### The Hammock Tree

*I have tree at my house that got struck by lightning! But the tree is still strong. I have a hammock on that tree and I swing on it.*



## 3rd: Elise Menguc Homeschool (from Orwell)

### My Elm Tree

*I live on a goat farm and I like to climb on the elm tree that's inside the goats' pasture. My rabbit coop that my dad built is right underneath the tree and it gives them shade and it also gives the goats shade.*

*Sometimes in the evenings, when me and my sister are finished doing our goat chores, I climb the tree. It's fun to climb it because it's leaning sideways a little and when I get to the top, I can see the whole farm.*

## 4th: Elsa Mueller Benson Village School

### My Special Tree

*Nine years ago my special tree, a redbud, was planted*

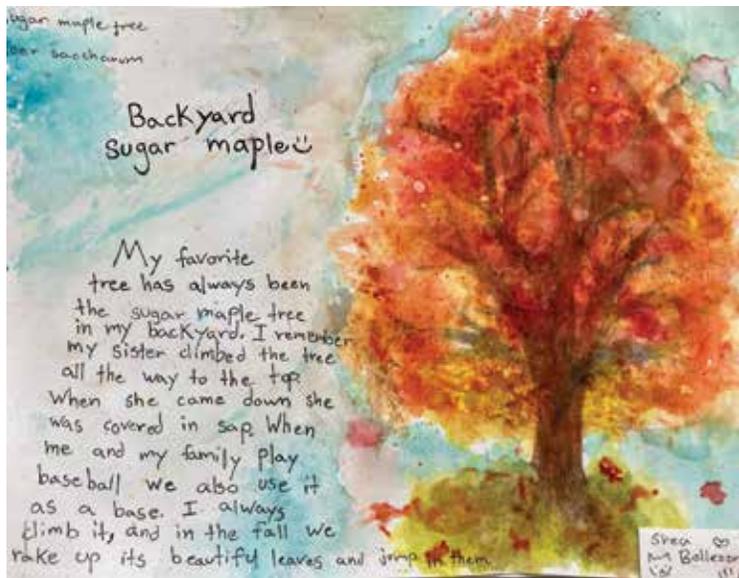
*in my backyard to celebrate the day I was born. My tree blooms pretty, purple flowers around May, a month after my birthday. When my tree blooms it is a late birthday present.*

*My redbud is special to me because it feels like my tree is part of my family. My sister has a magnolia tree and my mom has a crabapple tree. They are planted in my backyard. My sister's tree was planted to celebrate the day that she was born too. My mom's crabapple was planted to celebrate her. This spring we are planning on planting a tree for my baby sister to celebrate her birthday. I enjoy seeing the tree every day when I go outside.*

*My redbud tree holds some good memories. One was when I made a bird house and hung it up. I enjoyed watching birds fly around my tree and the bird house. I also like to watch the hummingbirds get the nectar from the flowers when my tree blooms. A funny memory is when my goat tried to eat the leaves off my tree. I couldn't get her to stop. I finally had to pull her away on a leash.*

*My tree is very special to me and I like watching my*





tree grow as I grow. I wonder how tall it will be when I am nineteen.

**5th: Shea Bellezza  
Shelburne Community School**

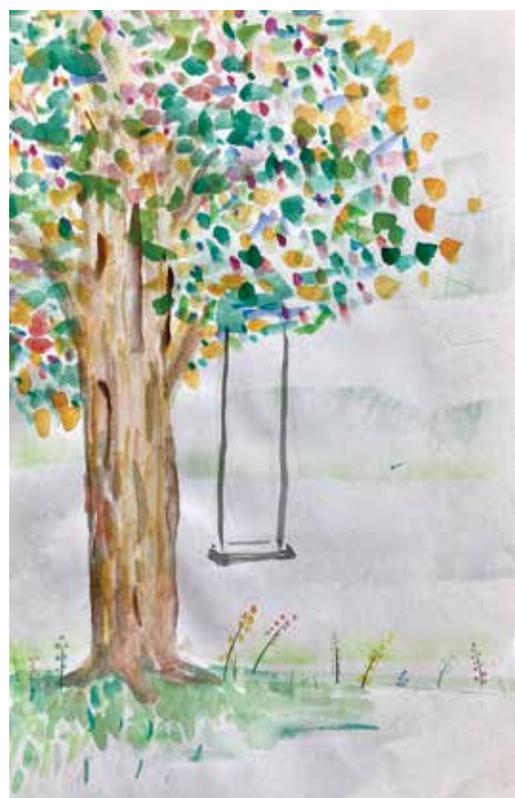
My favorite tree has always been the sugar maple tree in my backyard. I remember my sister climbed the tree all the way to the top. When she came down, she was covered in sap. When me and family play baseball, we also use it as a base. I always climb it and in the fall we rake up its beautiful leaves and jump in them.

**6th: Krish Dahal  
Mater Christi School**

We all  
Think,  
Admire,  
And wonder.  
At everything that we see.  
But what do we think,  
When we notice a tree?  
We think wise,  
An old and wonderful tree.  
We think smart,  
An experienced and all knowing tree.  
We think humble,  
A large but quiet tree.  
We think beautiful,  
A colorful and vivid tree.  
We think unique,  
A distinct and individual tree.  
We think calming,  
A tranquil and peaceful tree.  
We think powerful,  
A strong and upstanding tree.

We think kind,  
A helping and caring tree  
But though all we think,  
What do you think of a tree?

The years of COVID-19 have been long-lasting and tedious but art and nature have been very enjoyable and entertaining to me. One of the things I like to draw are trees. They are forgiving, pleasant and satisfying to draw. They remind me of Vermont and signs of peace and tranquility. It also connects me to my birthplace. I was born in Nepal and I remember very little about it, so trees and nature help me connect with



my birth place. Nature is the thread that connects my life to not only Vermont, but to Nepal and other parts of my life.

**7th: Celeste Hines  
Mater Christi School**

**Tree**

In this time of change and disorder, the one thing that brings me back to reality is nature, and especially trees.

A human may live 80 years, but a tree could last very near to forever. We live in a world where we have bad days and good ones, but a tree just had bad years and good years. And for me, it makes my problems feel very insignificant and unnecessary when I compare.

When I imagine a tree, I seen an anchor for all time, unchanging and steadfast. Trees have been here long before us and they will be here long after we are gone.

**8th: Taylor Tritt  
Mater Christi School**

On a river bank sat two sisters. They were relaxing under the gentle shade of the cherry blossom trees that lines



the river. As the lay there, the younger sister told the older that the trees make her happy. "Why?" asked the older sister. And to that the younger replied, "because they're beautiful, of course"

"That's all?"  
"Should there be any other reason?" The youngest was confused. She believed that the trees were beautiful and that was their only purpose. But the oldest knew more. She did know that they were beautiful, but she also knew that they were the lungs and heart of the earth, that they connected every living being no matter how different.



"They are beautiful, to that I agree" she told her sister. "But there is so much more." "What do you mean?" the youngest asked.

"Well to start, the trees give us oxygen to breathe. They also provide safe shelter for many small animals." She pointed to a small robin's nest in one of the cherry blossom trees. "But another thing the trees give us is a message."

"A message? But trees can't talk. Can they?" The youngest was intrigued.

"No, the trees can't talk!" she giggled. "But they don't need to. See, there are many types of trees from the jungle trees in South America to the pine trees of the north. There are the oak trees in the forests, the savannah trees in Africa, and the cherry blossom trees you see now!"

"Wow! So many trees!" her sister exclaimed.

"Yes! There are many trees in the world but they all have one thing in common. They all give us life."

"Just like people!" the younger sister said.

"Exactly.. just like people. No matter the differences in culture, skin, gender, race, languor, or background. We are all human and we are all equal." The oldest agreed.

"We are all equal" her sister echoed in awe.

## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,  
University of Vermont  
Extension  
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or  
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[www.vvbga.org](http://www.vvbga.org)

## Reports From The Field

(Shaftsbury) Off to a good start. Bedding plants sales were strong despite a 15% price increase, and we should probably have done 20%. Produce will be up the same percentage I assume when we open the food part of our stand next week. Strawberry bloom seems light this year. Perhaps from all the rain last year which led to some poorer than normal weed control. This year's planted berries look good so far. Greenhouse toms are growing well. Flea beetle are thick.

Just found cherry fruit worm moths in our blueberries and if we find more in a few days that is our biofix from when we time our spraying. (This is part of a Cornell monitoring program). Also monitoring for cranberry fruit worm which should be picked up any day as well. Have a fantastic crew of local folks again this year many of whom are very self-motivated and take great initiative. Feeling grateful to be able to do this work for yet another season.

(Westminster West) Finally getting some much-needed rain and cooler temps. Huge swings in weather this year but overall fine, although I notice my potatoes are struggling to root and emerge due to cold soils. Been dry enough to plow some areas that I haven't been able to deal with last few years and I think it looks like a drier year overall which after last year would be appreciated!

An acre of winter squash in and covered with remay, another acre going in by this weekend. Garlic looks awesome with excellent weed control on plastic mulch and ground cover between the beds. Greenhouse Tom's growing faster than we can sucker them, and early fruit yields look great. Celery growing fast as well in the tunnels. Doing variety trial for a firm in the UK that breeds celery, will report on results when done.

Plant sales were strong and winding down for us and a had successful fundraiser using sunflowers raised \$2,000 for World central kitchen Ukraine relief efforts at our farmers market and roadside. Have a great summer everyone!

(Newbury) First planting of peas flowering. Favas are budding and should flower this week.

(Westminster) We continue to harvest kale, collards, and lettuce. There's more lettuce ready to go than we can sell at the moment: hot weather and some rain have made it grow faster than we expected, while some of our larger customers weren't quite in their purchasing groove this

early.

We just started picking strawberries, which look great. Although we have fewer plants this year, there are plenty of blossoms so it should be a good year.

The weeds are also very healthy but we've managed to stay on top of them so far. That will get to be a little more difficult once we start heavy harvesting. But we have had a few more local applicants for jobs, and all of our core H-2A Jamaican employees are here now.

Root crops are in the ground – carrots, parsnips and beets. We've had to irrigate a little but not constantly, since a convenient rain seems to come through just when we need it. Flea beetles are a continual problem, especially on collards and lacinata kale, so we keep them in check with Pyganic and Entrust, two organic insecticides.

(Winchester NH) Our CSA distributions began this week and the harvest timing has matched up pretty well so far. Our biggest challenge of the spring has been wind. Flea beetles are here! Very little damping off in our spring spinach successions, which we've often struggled with, whether or not we employ any of seed treatments like Rootshield or Actinovate. Not much rain but a few quarter or half-inch events have helped germination, though the carrot stands are a little thin.

(Salisbury NH) Terrible problems with root maggots, flea beetles really seem to love Lacinato Kale, cut worms and rows planted with only spotty results. Do cut worms possibly ruin the seed just as it sprouts?

Do ants cart off the seeds? Guess I'll have to resort to using insect netting on more and more crops. Transitioning to no-till on many crops and it has been a real challenge. Weather has been giving some rain but more to damp down the dust rather than a good, soaking rain. Hoping that things will start to even out. Plants will get bigger and overcome some of the attacks. And keep planting, planting, planting.

(Plainfield NH) Labor and Covid have been the biggest impediments to moving forward this season. I got the virus, and though acute effects were minimal, it was like a persistent hangover. Certainly glad I got the vax, it would have been tough without. Over half our team has had Covid since April.

We are coming to grips with the fact it is a buyer's market for workers, and the new work week is down to 25 hours from 40, with locals not wanting more than a 3- or 4-day work week. Hold-ups with DOL, our booking group and the US and Jamaican Ministries have delayed arrival of many of our H2A Jamaican workers. That said, we seem to be getting stuff into the ground and the drip fired up, so we are fairly current with planting.

Weather extremes continue with very dry conditions, 90 degrees yesterday, today a high of 60....a pattern we have experienced for the last month. Strawberry crop looks so-so, with some root diseases showing up in some of the varieties on sandier soils. Blueberries are finishing up bloom and looks like a decent fruit set.

## Spring 2022 Crop Pollinator Report

Laura Johnson, Pollinator Support Specialist, UVM Extension

Here is a summary of pollinator observations from seven farms during the month of May in blueberries, strawberries, plums, and apples. The following six species of bumble bees were identified on farms: Common eastern bumble bee, Tri colored bumble bee, Yellow-banded bumble bee, Brown belted bumble bee, Perplexing bumble bee, and the Two spotted bumble bee. Most farms had at least one of these species and one monitoring event revealed all six. A two page photographic identification guide of New England bumble bees can be found here.

Other bees seen included honey bees and numerous species of mining bees, sweat bees, and cuckoo bees. Where no honey bee hives were present in crop fields, wild bees dominated blossom visitation. Mining bees and sweat bees were prolific and foraging crop blooms for pollen and nectar.

Non-bee species abundance and diversity in flower visitation varied, depending on the crop. Each crop had an array of non-bee species, but strawberries appeared to be the most popular host of non-bees including flies, wasps, and beetles. While moths, ants, and cuckoo bees seek out nectar and don't actively feed on pollen, they can passively pick up pollen grains while drinking nectar.

Thanks to all the farms and those that participated in this effort. Please be in touch with any questions or

*continued on page 12*

## CLASSIFIEDS



To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: [Agri.agriview@vermont.gov](mailto:Agri.agriview@vermont.gov), phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

**Cattle**

Angus bulls for sale.

Greensboro, VT (802) 533-9804 (8)

Breeding Age Bulls, Registered

Holstein. 10 over a year of age; popular sires; Dam to over 30,000 milk, 5.1 % 1600 Fat, 3.4 % protein. Robeth Holsteins, Rochester VT. Delivery available. Call David at 802-342-1816 or Bob at 802-767-3926. (8)

18-month old open pure-bred

Guernsey heifer. Stellar pedigree. Can be registered. Would make an excellent family cow or a great addition to an existing herd. \$2000 or best offer. Call George at gopher broke Farm or email. 917-692-7749 (8)

**Equipment**

New Holland 2 row corn

head model 770N2 fits 718 chopper and others. Best offer 802-293-5439 (8)

76 Deloval vacuum pump, like

new. 19 ton grain bin, like new. Mower 7ft, 12 ½ ft steel roller, 2 furrow plows 802-624-0143 (8)

13 ft roller. John Deere 39 3pt

hitch mower. 10 ton grain bin. 802-62400143 (9)

Dr. Stewart Clipmaster cattle

clippers with extra blades \$100.00. Complete set of shoes fit 3200 cattle used 1 month \$50. (9)

New Idea 5209 disc mower,

Fahr Tedder (4 rotor) KH 500, JD 894 rake and M-F 120 baler. Baler is fresh out of dealer, small bales, good knotters. All together for \$13,000. 802-316-7815 (10)

**Equine**

Horse for sale. Halflinger, 15 hands, 14 years old,

strong and gentle, trained to harness by Amish.

\$4500. Accompanying equipment also for sale, price negotiable: harness, bobsled, heavy 2 wheeled cart, sulky, cultivator, small spiked harrow, potato plow. Shrewsbury, VT. Art Krueger at 802-492-3653 or knsh@vermontel.net. (5)

**General**

14 acre fertilized field for contract use. Located at 23 School St. in N. Springfield, Vt. Land is high and dry. Call Karl 802 886-1473 (10)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request. (3)

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435 (3)

4x4 round balage mixed grains cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707 (3)

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566. (3)

Certified Organic First and Second cut wrapped round bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt at 802-558-3879. (3)

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers. Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176 (3)

2021 First cut \$ 4.00 At barn in Ryegate. Steve 802-584-4450 (3)

Hay for sale: 1st cut organic round bales. Randolph Center. Call John at 522-8798 (3)

Certified organic first cut wrapped round bales for sale – cut by mid-June, good sized and well made. Asking \$50/each with 200 bales available. Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center Contact: 802-728-5601 or brentbeidler@gmail.com. (3)

Excellent quality first, second, and third cut wrapped round bales for sale. First cut by June 1, dry. \$50.00/bale Please call 802-454-7198 (3)

1st, 2nd and 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call 802-533-2984. (3)

Dry 2nd Cut Hay for Sale 5' round bales, avg. 750 lbs, \$100/bale- Craftsbury, VT 802-624-0539 (3)

Certified organic 4x4 round bales for sale. First cut 45.00, second and third 55.00. 802-793-7526 (3)

1st cut 4 x 4 wrapped round bales \$45/bale Call Tom at 802-457-5834 (3)

1st, 2nd & 3rd cut round bales. 2nd cut square bales - \$6.00 per bale. Volume discount for square and round bales. Please call Chris 802-272-0548. (3)

Certified Organic wrapped round bales. Mid-summer first cut @ \$45/bale and 2nd and 3rd cut @ \$55/ bale loaded at the farm in N. Danville. All hay is tedded and raked and feeds out like dry hay. Definitely not frozen. Perfect for small as well as large ruminates. Email Vince at badgerbrookmeats@gmail.com or call 802-748-8461. (3)

Certified organic wrapped round bales – 1st & 2nd cutting 802-592-3356 (3)

400 wrapped bales available. 1st May cut. 2nd June cut. 3rd July cut. Call (802)446-2791/dlc724@gmail.com (3)

4 X 4 wrapped baleage, good

quality. Certified organic. Fair prices. Call Phil at 802-254-6982 (5)

400 wrapped bales available. 1st May cut. 2nd June cut. 3rd July cut. \$80 each. Call 802-446-2791 / dlc724@gmail.com (5)

1st, 2nd and 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call 802-533-2984. (5)

**ADDISON COUNTY**

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166 (3)

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. (3)

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 (3)

Hay for sale. \$3.25 bale. 802-377-5455 (3)

1st cut 5ft diameter round bales, \$30-\$35. Orwell 802-948-2211 (3)

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 (3)

Hay for sale, cows have been sold. 750 Lb 4X5 round bales stored inside or tube wrapped. Bedding/mulch \$35 heifer/beef \$40 dairy

\$55. I will load your truck. In Whiting Call 802-623-6584 (3)

Large organic round bales good heifer/dry cow hay \$45/bale call 802-948-2382 evenings (3)

**BENNINGTON COUNTY**

Corn Silage 1000 ton plus. Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976 (3)

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**

1st & 2nd cut alfalfa mix 600lb wrapped hay baleage. For questions, prices and orders call (802) 375-5647 (3)

**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. (3)

First Cut wrapped round bales, processed. Great heifer or beef hay. Analysis available upon request. Huntington VT Call or text Tim: 802-363-9770 \$45 loaded (8)

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 each. Call 899-4126 (3)

**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 (3)

Excellent 2021 1st cut hay wrapped round bales for sale. Call Wayne (802) 285-6383 (3)

CLASSIFIEDS

200 tons certified Organic corn silage stored in an ag bag. Will load for you. 180 wrapped 4X4 certified organic round bales, 18% protein, price negotiable. Highgate Center, VT 802-868-7535 If no answer, please leave a message. (9)

LAMOILLE COUNTY

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/ bale. Organic First Cut Hay. \$5.00/bale. Certified Organic. Valley Dream Farm, Cambridge. 802-644-6598. valleydreamfarm@gmail.com. (3)

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. (3)

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. (3)

North Troy: Good quality Certified organic large round bales, some dry and some wrapped and 9x200

ft ag bags fo haylage. Also conventional large round bales and 9x200ag bags of haylage. Delivery available 802-988-2959 or 802-274-2832 (3)

RUTLAND COUNTY

Good quality 1st and 2nd round bales available, wrapped and dried. Please call 802-446-2435. (3)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

200-4x4 round bales 1st & 2nd cut \$45 each. 802-229-9871 (3)

Wrapped, Dry, Round Bales.

First, second and third cut. Perfect for horses, goats and cows. Never been wet. \$50/ bale. Please call 802-454-7198. (3)

WINDHAM COUNTY

1st cut hay. Good horse hay. \$4.50 bale 802-254-5069 (3)

WINDSOR COUNTY

Hay for sale-400 square bales, Reading, Windsor County Vt. \$3.50 per bale at the barn. Call 802-484-7240 (3)

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00 delivery available. 802-457-1376 (3)

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. (3)

4 x 4 wrapped bales, 1st

green \$45.,dry \$55. 2nd green \$50.,dry \$60. Royalton,802-356-1402 royalvillagefarm@gmail.com (4)

1st Cut 4 x 4 wrapped round

bales \$45/bale, located in South Pomfret, Call Tom at 802-457-5834 (3)

Quality first cut wrapped round bales for sale 40\$ Each 802-674-2417 (5)

Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

comments. Laura Johnson, UVM Extension Pollinator Program, [laura.o.johnson@uvm.edu](mailto:laura.o.johnson@uvm.edu).

Vermont Insect Pest Scouting Reports Available

Funded in part by the VVBGA, UVM's Vermont Entomology and Participatory Action Research Team (VEPART) prepares scouting reports of major vegetable and berry insect pests and diseases found at UVM's horticultural research farm in S. Burlington and also at Cedar Circle Farm in E. Thetford. Reports are posted at <https://blog.uvm.edu/vepart-scouting/>

Resources From The UVM Agricultural Engineering Team

Andy Chamberlin and Chris Callahan

New Blog Post:

Exclusion Netting for Spotted Wing Drosophila. <https://go.uvm.edu/swdnetting>

New Videos:

<https://go.uvm.edu/agengyt>

A series of one-minute videos on produce farm cleaning tools

Honey Field Farm Visit  
Full Belly Farm Visit, Monkton Vermont  
Strawberry Mulching at Full Belly Farm  
Bottom Watering Rolling Greenhouse Benches

Across the Fence TV Episode: Post Harvest

New Podcasts:

<https://agengypodcast.com>  
Ebb & Flow Bottom Watering  
Rolling Greenhouse Benches  
Strawberry Production Systems: Matted Row vs. Plasticulture  
Mulching Strawberries With A Round Bale Shredder & Overhead Frost Protection  
Getting to Know Full Belly Farm (VT)  
12 Greenhouse Tours – And Each One is Different!  
Buying A Farm When FSA Loans or Family isn't an Option

Make Sure Your Farm Is Counted in The Next Census of Agriculture

Data from the USDA Census of Agriculture is used to allocate federal resources to states, to document the importance of agriculture, and to identify trends in the farm community that justify research. Taken every 5 years, the Census strives for a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. All sizes of farms, whether



rural or urban, growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. June 30 is the last day to sign up for the 2022 Ag Census. If you have never received a census survey go to: <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/static/get-counted.html>. In November 2022 data collection will begin, with a February 2023 response deadline. Title 7, U.S. Code, and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act, Public Law 107-347 requires only aggregated data, not individual or farm-specific data, to be shared. For more information, visit the NASS website at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/>

Agency Contact Numbers

To help you find the right number for your question, please consult the list below. You are always welcome to call our main line 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

Program Phone Numbers

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Act 250 . . . . .                         | 802-461-6798 |
| Animal Health . . . . .                   | 802-828-2421 |
| Business Development. . . . .             | 802-828-1619 |
| Dairy . . . . .                           | 802-828-2433 |
| Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide . | 802-828-2431 |
| Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime. . . . .    | 802-828-5050 |
| Licensing & Registration . . . . .        | 802-828-2436 |
| Meat Inspection . . . . .                 | 802-828-2426 |
| Produce Program . . . . .                 | 802-522-7811 |
| VT Agriculture & Environmental Lab . . .  | 802-585-6073 |
| Water Quality BMP. . . . .                | 802-828-3474 |
| Water Quality Grants . . . . .            | 802-622-4098 |
| Water Quality Reports. . . . .            | 802-272-0323 |
| Weights & Measures . . . . .              | 802-828-2433 |
| Working Lands. . . . .                    | 802-917-2637 |



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# Technical Assistance for Transition to Grazing Cohorts

By Brockton Corbett, VT  
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has identified grass-based dairy farming as a significant market opportunity for farmers in the region. To support this work, the NE-DBIC has engaged with several service providers over the last few years. These service providers conduct technical assistance to farms interested in transitioning to grass-based production models, enhancing the production of home-grown forages, and/or utilizing alternative farm management strategies not typically found in the United States dairy sector.

The following projects are the most recent technical assistance providers who are servicing farms within the

Northeast region.

## Projects Underway:

**Conservation Performance LLC|Northeast Region|** is working with a panel of farmers and farm financial experts to build a set of financial reports that represent the implementation of a New Zealand-style farm structure adapted for use in the Northeast.

**Cooperative Regions of Organic Producer Pools (CROPP) |ME, VT, NY, PA|** will work with no less than 35 farmers in their area, to promote and educate on climate smart farming with an emphasis on practices that are most associated with profitability and environmental stewardship.

**Cornell University Cooperative Extension** will work with two cohorts in New York of 5-10 farmers each to collect data and perform

independent studies on dairy replacements on organic dairies, healthcare preventions and remedies for organic dairy replacement, and the economic disparity caused by the loophole in the USDA's Origin of Livestock Rule.

**UMAINE Cooperative Extension ME|** will work with Maine dairy farmers to implement precision dairy technologies. Farmers will also utilize the data from wearables to enhance current management on their dairy farm to improve production, health, and cow comfort.

**UVM Extension VT|NY** will work with agronomists, animal nutritionists, grazing experts, and financial experts to work with 8-10 farms on developing a holistic alternative management strategy.

# Youth Farm Safety Days Planned For July

By UVM Extension

A free farm safety day will be offered at two locations in July for youths, 10-16. The 2022 Youth Farm Safety Days are scheduled for July 14 at the J & R Family Farm in Troy and July 18 at the Newmont Farm in Bradford. The events will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes lunch.

Youths may register for either session at <https://go.uvm.edu/safety>. The deadline to register and receive a free safety vest is June 30. If requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Martha Manning at (802) 524-6501, ext. 449, or (800) 639-2130 (Vermont calls only) or [martha.manning@uvm.edu](mailto:martha.manning@uvm.edu) by June 24.

Four hands-on workshops will be offered. These will focus on proper operation of fire extinguishers, ATV/UTV and farm equipment safety, safe handling of livestock and basic farm first aid.

Farm Safety Days are sponsored by University of Vermont Extension 4-H in collaboration with the Northeast Agriculture Education Foundation and Cooperative Insurance Companies, Middlebury.

## For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Morningside Farm, of Orwell, Vermont to process, package, and buy/sell milk and cultured products 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 August 31, 2022.

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.

# 2022 Vermont's Fairs and Field Days

Vermont's classic country fairs are a favorite summer past-time for Vermonters and visitors alike. Drawing over 700,000 visitors and exhibitors every year, Vermont's fairs and field days represent an important opportunity to promote agricultural literacy and provide insight into our unique cultural heritage. They're also a great source of entertainment and fun for the whole family! Please be sure to visit fair websites for the most up to date information.

- **The Bradford Fair**  
July 14-17, 2022
- **Lamoille County Field Days**  
July 22-24, 2022
- **Pownal Valley Fair**  
TBD
- **Deerfield Valley Farmers Day**  
August 12-14, 2022
- **Franklin County Field Days**  
August 4-7, 2022
- **Addison County Fair & Field Day**  
August 9-13, 2022
- **Vermont State Fair**  
August 16-20, 2022
- **Caledonia County Fair**  
August 24-28, 2022
- **Bondville Fair**  
August 26-28, 2022
- **Champlain Valley Fair**  
August 26 - September 4, 2022
- **Guilford Fair**  
September 5-6, 2022
- **Orleans County Fair**  
September 7-11, 2022
- **The Tunbridge Fair**  
September 15-18, 2022

# Vermont Phosphorus Innovation Challenge Highlights Outcomes and Future

By Scott Waterman, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Burnor Farm in Fairfield, Vermont played host to visitors and state officials to highlight the developments of the Vermont Phosphorus Innovation Challenge (VPIC), and what the future may hold for the technologies and business models that have been developed to date.

Launched in 2018 by Governor Phil Scott, the Vermont Phosphorus Innovation Challenge is an initiative to develop new technologies and practices that help to improve our state's water quality. VPIC has facilitated the deployment of new technologies for removing phosphorus from our environment and utilizing the phosphorus residuals in value-added post-products. Improving the options for phosphorus management enables farmers and other land managers to better distribute phosphorus resources on the farm. These methods help prevent excess phosphorus runoff into the farm watershed, making the value-added phosphorus materials

more readily transported, stored and applied to crops at appropriate times.

"Technology and innovation lead to advances that provide more opportunity and flexibility in how farms, municipalities and businesses manage waste streams," said Laura DiPietro, Director of the Water Quality Division at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. "Getting innovative concepts from the ground to proto-type and eventually full scale requires time, energy, and capital investments. It's exciting that VPIC has been able to collaborate and provide support to talented and thoughtful innovators in Vermont. These projects have shown us where there are still challenges that need to be overcome and the possibilities for better management into the future."

On display at the Burnor Farm owned by Magnan

Brothers Dairy, was the phosphorus removal technology developed by Agrilab Technologies Inc., a grantee of the VPIC program. Along with the Magnan Brothers Dairy LLC/Magnan Bros. Fertilizer, Agrilab Technologies Inc. is making several farm-made compost and blended products called Franklin County Compost.

"Phosphorus is a nutrient, essential both for plant growth and for human and animal health. We know, however, there are locations in Vermont where there is simply too much phosphorus," said Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore. "One of the most straightforward ways to correct this imbalance is to repurpose excess phosphorus to form value-added products – such as composts and organic fertilizers. And the VPIC program has served as a catalyst for several innova-

tive technologies."

With an investment of \$1.4 million from the state of Vermont, the VPIC program began in 2018 with 12 teams that submitted responses to the Stage One invitation. Ultimately, three applicant grantees continue to work and move forward in the final stage of VPIC. These grantees have addressed the challenge of phosphorus removal in different ways, with promising results:

- **Agrilab Technologies Inc.** - Agrilab Technologies Inc.'s (AGT) VPIC proposal includes the establishment of a hub and spoke network of five on-farm composting and phosphorus processing sites. AGT has been engaged in establishing the market demand for composted materials created from cow manure, with various combinations of nutrient additives. AGT worked closely with the

Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) to document the demand for bulk and bagged products, as well as willingness to pay for locally produced fertilizer for use by Vermont farmers, in home gardens, specialty crop growers, etc.

- **Digested Organics** - Digested Organics has been engaged in the fabrication and construction of a mobile manure screening and ultrafiltration system to be used on a Vermont dairy farm to remove up to 95% of the phosphorus and up to 99% of the suspended solids, and up to 99.9% of pathogens in liquid manure. The remaining liquid is ideal for field application and the concentrated fertilizer is readily transportable. By concentrating phosphorus, this technology allows the farm to apply phosphorus more economically

## This Month's Recipe

### Southwest Pasta Salad

#### Ingredients

1 lb. dry pasta, such as elbow, bow tie, or rotini  
1 - 15-oz. can corn kernels  
1 - 15-oz. can black beans  
1 c. shredded Cheddar  
1 c. halved cherry tomatoes  
2 avocados, diced  
1/3 c. Chopped cilantro

#### For the Dressing

1 c. Greek yogurt  
1/3 c. extra-virgin olive oil

1 tbsp. honey  
1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 Limes, juiced  
1/2 jalapeño, chopped (optional)  
1 1/2 tbsp. Taco Seasoning  
kosher salt

1. In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta according to package directions until al dente. Drain and cool, 5 minutes.



2. Meanwhile, make dressing: Whisk all ingredients together. Taste and add salt as desired.
3. Stir corn, black beans, cheese, tomatoes, avocados and cilantro in with pasta. Toss with dressing. Cover tightly and refrigerate one hour before serving.

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on lands that are further away and typically lower in soil phosphorus, as well as transport the material to nearby compost facilities for stabilization and incorporation into value-added products.

- **Village of Essex Junction/University of Vermont** - The University of Vermont and the Village of Essex Junction, along with several other partners have developed and been testing PePhlo (pronounced P Flow), a mobile, flexible, and scalable solution for Phosphorus capture and removal. PePhlo applications focuses on reduced installation and operational costs without the investment needed for conventional Phosphorus

removal “brick and mortar” approaches. This technology may well prove to be immensely cost effective for Phosphorus removal in Vermont sized wastewater applications.

“In addition to seeking new ways to better our environment and water quality, this program was also created to give innovators and entrepreneurs the space, time, and funding to think about and seek out new solutions to the phosphorus problems the state faces,” said ACCD Deputy Secretary Tayt Brooks. “Vermont has a long history of businesses that got their start with a simple innovative idea and go on to regional, national, and even global success. Sometimes

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### For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: [https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension\\_event\\_calendars](https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars)
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://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/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag’s Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAF annual report available here: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about\\_us/budgets\\_reports](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](http://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](mailto:info@vcil.org) or visit: [www.vcil.org](http://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](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities)

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to be able to help you identify upcoming grant opportunities. Please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/calendar> for more information.

### Programs Open Year-Round Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Technical and financial assistance for engineered conservation practices on Vermont farms.

Jenn LaValley  
[Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov](mailto:Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov)  
(802) 828-2431

### Pasture And Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management and livestock exclusion from surface water on Vermont farms.

Mary Montour  
[Mary.Montour@vermont.gov](mailto:Mary.Montour@vermont.gov)  
(802) 461-6087

### Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Technical and financial assistance for implementing buffers and seeding down critical areas on VT farms.

Sonia Howlett  
[Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov](mailto:Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov)  
(802) 522-4655

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Implementation costs of vegetated buffers and rental payments for maintained buffers on Vermont agricultural land.

Ben Gabos  
[Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov](mailto:Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov)  
(802) 461-3814

Phil Wilson  
[Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov](mailto:Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov)  
(802) 505-5378

### August

#### Working Lands Enterprise Fund Service Provider Grants & Contracts

Grants and contracts for service providers that support agriculture and forestry businesses

Clare Salerno  
(802) 917-2637

### Fall

#### Dairy Processor Innovation Grant

Grants for dairy processors to position their businesses for long-term success

Kathryn Donovan  
[Kathryn.Donovan@vermont.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Donovan@vermont.gov)  
(802) 585-4571

### Fall - Biennial

#### Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program

Grants for water quality initiatives by supporting farmers with education and outreach, technical assistance, identifying and implementing best management practices, planning, and more

Nina Gage  
[Nina.Gage@vermont.gov](mailto:Nina.Gage@vermont.gov)  
(802) 622-4098

### September

#### Capital Equipment Assistance Program

Purchase of innovative farm equipment that aids in the reduction of runoff

Nina Gage  
[Nina.Gage@vermont.gov](mailto:Nina.Gage@vermont.gov)  
(802) 622-4098

### September/October

#### Working Lands Enterprise Fund Business Grants

Grants to support agriculture and forestry projects

Clare Salerno  
(802) 917-2637

### September/October

#### Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Partial reimbursement of direct costs for organic certification

Terry Smith  
[Terry.Smith@vermont.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@vermont.gov)  
(802) 828-5667

# An Introduction to ECO AmeriCorps

By Marilia Muschett, VT  
Agency of Agriculture, Food &  
Markets

**M**y name is Marilia Muschett and I am in the ECO AmeriCorps program, serving with the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets in the Water Quality division. While AmeriCorps is a national program for service, the ECO AmeriCorps program is a state program through the Department of Environmental Conservation that aims to connect emerging leaders with the needs of Vermont communities in the environmental and conservation spheres. Through this year long position, I have been assisting the Water Quality programs team in reporting and outreach. My day-to-day work has varied greatly with the seasons, similarly to the farmers I interact with. In the fall, most of my tasks

consisted of completing reporting requirements for the FAP (Farm Agronomic Practices) program. By winter, I worked at home creating surveys and reaching out to farmers regarding reports and maps. I was also able to attend some informative webinars that deepened my understanding of agronomic practices and farmer efforts around the country. With spring and summer, I am looking forward to getting back in the field for farm checks and connecting with more people related to agriculture in Vermont.

As my first position after graduating from college, I was excited to see how my education would be useful outside of the classroom. I have found employees at the agency to be welcoming and diligent in their work. From programs to outreach to inspections, agency staff have shown me their dedication to holding agriculture in Vermont to a high standard,



where people, animals, and the land is valued and treated with respect. I've seen this firsthand in accompanying staff with field checks, which has been my favorite part of my work. A field

check starts with communicating with the farmer to get permission to visit or organize a time to meet. We will print out maps and begin our journey to the farm, which could take two hours to

reach some. The field checks are how staff can verify practices and infrastructure that have been claimed for payments. They must be up to agency standards and installed in the correct time frame, especially rotational grazing and cover crops. These field checks have been eye opening in understanding agriculture in Vermont and connecting with farmers.

The ECO AmeriCorps program is a great opportunity for learning and experience in the environmental sector, especially in Vermont where these organizations are closely related. There are more than 20 host sites centered around environment and conservation which you can apply to. There is no age limit, or education level required. If you are interested, visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/administration-innovation/eco/prospective> to learn more.

## Phosphorus

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news ideas just need a little extra attention to become fully realized."

While the VPIC program has released its final funding to the three active projects, the mission and direction that has resulted in these unique outcomes fulfills the vision that Governor Scott proposed in 2018.

"These innovative projects not only enhance our efforts to restore Vermont's waterways but also promote

economic growth and environmental sustainability," Governor Scott said. "I'm so proud that the vision of this program is coming to fruition with these new Vermont businesses that have developed pioneering phosphorus reduction concepts and technologies."

For more details of each VPIC project and a historical view of the program, please visit: [https://agriculture.vermont.gov/Vermont\\_Phosphorus\\_Innovation\\_Challenge](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/Vermont_Phosphorus_Innovation_Challenge).

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