

AGRIVIEW



Published monthly by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture • www.vermontagriculture.com

New Study Highlights the Value of Vermont's Dairy Industry

Dairy Brings \$2.2 Billion in Economic Activity to Vermont Each Year

By Alison Kosakowski, VAAFM

The Vermont Dairy Industry brings \$2.2 Billion in economic activity to Vermont annually, according to a new study funded by the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council.

Recognizing the need for up-to-date data about dairy's impact on Vermont's economy, the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council partnered with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, and Castleton Polling

to quantify the impact of the industry on Vermont's economy and way of life. The study, which began in March 2014, was funded by dairy farmers through the state's dairy check-off program.

The data has been consolidated in a new brochure called "Milk Matters: The Role of Dairy in Vermont," which can be downloaded at http://vermontdairy.com/download/VTDairy_MilkMattersReport.pdf.

Findings describe the impact of the industry on Vermont's economy, landscape, and way of life.

continued on page 3



Andy Duback

The Fiske family is one of more than 800 dairy families contributing to Vermont's dairy economy.

Inside This Issue

- View from 116 State Street Page 2
- Farm to School Awareness Day Page 3
- Organic Dairy Farmers Meeting Page 4
- Friendship and Farmland at Nordic Center. . . . Page 5
- Renewable Energy Resources for Farmers Page 6
- Vermont Quality Milk Producers Page 7
- Terrariums. Page 8
- Vermont Vegetable and Berry News. Page 10
- Market Report. Page 11
- Classifieds Page 11

- Vermont's Clean Water Initiative. Page 9
- Consumer Night at the VT Farm Show Page 16



AGRIVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

116 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901

Periodicals Postage Paid at Montpelier, VT and at Additional Mailing Offices

POSTMASTER: Send address change to: *Agriview*, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

Vermont Food and Farm Education: Real People. Real Food. Real Change.

Higher education in Vermont is working together to make the state the best place for farm and food education in the country.

"First," "Most," and "Highest" most often describe the Vermont food system. On a per capita, Vermont has more local and organic farms, Community Supported Enterprises, and farmers markets than any other state in the country. The state is also the per capita national leader in direct sales to consumers, and ranks #1 among the top five states for new farmers to get their start.

With the foundation of Vermont's leadership in sustainable agriculture, food systems development, and locally-sourced food products, our state's educators in partnership with entrepreneurs, food producers, and farmers have formed a new collaboration to redefine farm and food system higher education in Vermont.

The Vermont Higher Education Food Systems Consortium,

comprised of leaders from Green Mountain College, Middlebury College, Sterling College, University of Vermont, Vermont Law School, and Vermont Technical College, are tapping Vermont's agricultural traditions and entrepreneurship to make Vermont the emerging epicenter of the nation's food system renewal.

Providing academic programming and certificates in almost two dozen core areas of food systems study, the Vermont farm and food education emphasizes integration of classical academic instruction coupled with experiential learning engagements focusing on sustainability, and service learning with seasoned entrepreneurs.

As part of this experience, Vermont's colleges, universities, and graduate schools are engaging a creative new generation of networked farm and food entrepreneurs as student mentors. These businesspeople are growing Vermont-scaled companies that create and market biofuels, beer, wine, and spirits, artisan and cave-aged cheese, specialty wood products, organic seeds, produce, fruits, grains, meats and many other value-added products.

Together, Vermont's food system innovators are reaching potential students throughout Vermont, the U.S. and the world with a premier food system education experience— one that is grounded in the core Vermont values of entrepreneurship, community, and committed leadership.

The Vermont food system education experience reflects Vermont's identity, cultivating and inspiring the next generation of students interested in stewarding the working landscape while enhancing food systems enterprise development. By feeding Vermont higher education, a key economic driver, students are supporting the state's working landscape, seeding the next stage of entrepreneurial activity, and creating an innovative sustainable food systems model that may be

replicated in other communities and other regions. There are endless opportunities to learn among our leaders, right here in the Green Mountains.

As part of the collaboration, the Consortium has created a 21-day Vermont Study Tour, launching in June. In this moveable feast of learning, students will traverse the state to spend several days at each of the six schools, learning from farmers, policy experts, food justice advocates, agricultural education specialists, land conservationists, and entrepreneurs of all types. Examining place, players, policy, and profitability, the summer study tour uses Vermont education and agriculture as a framework to provide an insider's perspective on what it takes to create a just, sustainable, and resilient food system. It empowers participants with invaluable tools for helping communities transform the way in which it sources, grows, processes, purchases, and contemplates food.

The Consortium has launched a Food and Farm Education website (www.vermontfoodeducation.org) directed at students to generate inquiries to schools within the context of food systems education in Vermont. The Consortium's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/vhefsc) reflects a dynamic collection of real-time events, achievements, and news from Vermont's corner of the food system education world.

Here in Vermont, educators and innovators are mentoring students from around the globe to become part of a larger community of leaders, researchers, and catalysts for the sustainability and integrity of global food systems. Together our higher education partners are making Vermont our classroom. Working together, Vermont food producers, farmers, and educators are leading the way to real change.

Charles R. Ross

Editor's Note

What would you do with \$2.2 billion dollars? Wow, that's fun to think about. Where to begin? Day dreaming aside, perhaps a more important question is, what would the state of Vermont do without the \$2.2 billion dollars generated by the dairy industry each year?

Every morning, while the rest of us are tucked cozily in our beds, Vermont's dairy farmers are rising long before dawn, in frigid temperatures, to milk and feed their cows. Frozen manure sticks to their boots. Their hands are swollen and raw from the cold. But ask any farmer why they do it, and it's safe to say none will answer "for the cash."

Despite this, Vermont dairy farmers bring \$3 million in circulating cash to the state, each day. Every cow milked is generating \$12,500 annually. More than 15% of the state is covered in dairy land.

What would I do with \$2.2 billion dollars? That's a hard question to answer. But here's an idea. I'd use a large chunk of it to send Vermont's hard working dairy farmers on a nice tropical vacation for a week, to get out of the cold. The only problem is, who will milk the cows while they are away?

— Alison Kosakowski

Follow VAAF on Twitter @VTAgencyofAg and follow me @VTFarmGirl

AGRIVIEW

(UPS 009-700)

Agriview is Vermont's Agricultural Publication of Record.

It is published monthly by the
Vermont Agency of
Agriculture Food & Markets,
116 State St.,
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
Telephone: (802) 828-5667
Fax: (802) 828-2361

www.vermontagriculture.com

CHUCK ROSS
Secretary of Agriculture
ALISON KOSAKOWSKI
Editor

Advertising and subscriptions:
E-mail: agr-agriview@state.vt.us

Publication is mailed out of
USPS White River Junction, VT
Periodicals paid at USPS Montpelier, VT
and White River Junction, VT

Yearly subscription: \$15

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Employer and Provider.

Dairy Industry

continued from page 1

Highlights include:

Economy

- Dairy brings \$2.2 billion in economic activity to Vermont each year
- Dairy brings \$3 million in circulating cash to the state each day
- Dairy accounts for more than 70% of Vermont's agricultural sales
- Annual sales of Vermont dairy products and by-products = \$1.3 billion
- 63% of the milk produced in New England comes from Vermont
- The dairy industry provides 6000-7000 Vermont jobs
- Every cow brings \$12,500 in economic activity to Vermont annually

Landscape

- 15% of the state is covered by dairy farms, and the fields that provide their feed
- More than 80% of Vermont's farmland is dedicated to dairy
- 66% of Vermonters report using farmland for recreation

Way of life

- 97% of Vermonters say dairy farms are important to the state
- 92% of Vermonters say dairy farms add to the beauty of Vermont



• 91% of Vermonters say dairy is important to Vermont's way of life. "The dairy industry is a significant economic driver for Vermont," according to Patricia Moulton, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce. "This study helps contextualize the importance of dairy relative to Vermont's overall

economy." "Recently, there's been a lot of discussion about the water quality challenges facing the dairy industry," said Chuck Ross, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture. "This study underscores the importance of working together to solve those issues. I believe we can have both – a healthy lake, and

a thriving dairy industry. From open lands, to jobs, to the impact on the Vermont brand, it is hard to imagine our state without dairy." "We've lacked up-to-date data about the industry's impact," said dairy farmer Bob Foster, a member of the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council. "This study provides a

better understanding of the collective role family farms play in the bigger picture for our state."

To download the brochure, visit http://vermontdairy.com/download/VTDairy_MilkMattersReport.pdf.

To read the full report, visit www.VermontDairy.com.

Small State, Big Impact

63% of milk produced in New England COMES FROM VERMONT

15% OF THE STATE is covered by dairy farms and the fields that provide their feed



OVER 80% of Vermont's farmland is devoted to dairy and crops for dairy feed

DAIRY IS 70% of Vermont's Agricultural Sales

this figure is based on direct sales from farms, including milk and (partially) cattle and calves.

Vermont's economy is small—just 0.2% of the US economy. But we produce more than 1% of the nation's dairy products.

that's **5x** our "economic share"

Contact one of VACC's experienced farm lenders to learn more.

www.veda.org
1-866-828-FARM(3276)

VERMONT AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION




5th Annual VT Organic Dairy Farmers Conference

MARCH 11, 2015 AT VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN RANDOLPH CENTER

\$25 per person, including lunch.
Visit www.uvm.edu/extension/organicdairy for more details.

Farm to School Awareness Day Celebrated at Statehouse

Ten Vermont Schools Receive Farm to School Grants

By: Hannah Reid, VAAFM

On Thursday, January 29th, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, in partnership with the Vermont Farm to School Network, announced the recipients of the 2015 Farm to School grants at a special ceremony at the Statehouse cafeteria.

The Vermont Farm to School Grant Program, now in its ninth year, works to improve nutrition among Vermont's children by connecting food producers to their local schools, as well as providing enriched educational experiences and



curricula. Farm to School grant funding allocated by the Vermont legislature enables Vermont schools to engage students in their local food system by incorporating local food and farm education in their cafeterias, classrooms and communities. This program has currently reached 101 schools, impacting 27,000

Vermont students. This year, grants were awarded to ten Vermont schools, including five implementation grants and five planning grants. Student representatives from schools that previously received grants also attended the event to demonstrate how awarded grant monies were used to bring more local foods into their cafeterias, and to share success stories and lessons learned.

The Vermont Farm to School grant program

is administered through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture with technical assistance support from our partnership with VT FEED (Food Education Every Day), Green Mountain Farm to School, and Food Connects. Planning and Implementation grant applications are submitted by Vermont schools each fall, and awards are granted in January.

2015 Farm to School Grant Recipients are:

Implementation Grants
Bennington School
Derby Elementary
Franklin Central School
Newport Elementary

Peacham Elementary
Planning Grants
Brewster-Pierce Memorial School
Chelsea Public School
Newbury Elementary
Washington South Supervisory Union
Walden School

For more information about this event or Farm to School Programming visit http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/market_access_development/farm_school or contact Ali Zipparo by phone at 802-505-1822, or by email at Alexandra.Zipparo@state.vt.us.

February 27, 2015 Deadline Approaches For Base Acre And Yield Update Decisions

By Pam Smith,
UVM Extension

Key dates for farm owners and producers relating to Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), both new 2014 Farm Bill programs, are rapidly approaching. These new programs, designed to help better manage farm level risk, replace the historical direct payments to producers, rely on individual farm based decisions for crop years 2014 to 2018, and potentially have significant economic impact

to area producers. Both programs are limited area risk programs, protecting only a small portion of a producer's risk.

By February 27, 2015, landowners and/or producers need to make a one-time decision regarding program payment yields by crop and base acre allocations. The main crops effected for this region's producers will be corn, grown for grain and/or silage, and soybeans, however, other program crops are included. Making the appropriate decision for your farm means understanding the various alternatives well

in advance of the deadlines. In the case of leased land, the landowner is responsible for the base acre reallocation decision. If the landowner chooses not to update farm yields and/or does not make the necessary updates before February 27, 2015, the farm's 2013 Counter Cyclical (CC) yields will be carried forward as the payment yields for 2014-2018. The first step is to visit your county FSA office, well before the February 27, 2015 deadline, where staff are available to assist with updating yield histories for each covered commodity,

explaining base acre reallocation options, and also discussing the program alternatives; Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), both county and individual coverage options, and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). It is important to note that the new farm bill does not allow for an increase in the number of base acres on each farm. Instead, it allows for a reallocation of base acres between covered crops.

The second step is to select which program, either ARC or PLC, best fits your operation by March 31, 2015. This is a one-time decision

that will remain in place for the 2014 to 2018 crop years. If an election is not made by March 31, 2015, the farm will be ineligible for any 2014 ARC/PLC crop year payments and the producers on the farm will automatically be enrolled in PLC for the life of the farm bill.

The Farm Service Agency and Vermont Extension will be conducting educational meetings across the state to help you make the best safety-net program choice. Stay tuned for dates of meetings near you and visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc for the web based decision tools.

Friendship and Farmland Are At The Heart Of The Strafford Nordic Center

By Erica Houskeeper,
HappyVermont.com

The 700-acre cross-country ski area is located on two adjoining Upper Valley farms and operated by three lifelong friends – Jeremiah Linehan, Rett Emerson, and Earl Ransom.

The base lodge, trail head, and scenic trails are located at Rockbottom Farm, a working organic dairy farm and home to Strafford Organic Creamery. Additional trails are hosted on the adjacent Tamarack Hill Farm, known for its high-level equestrian training and challenging terrain.

Ransom owns Rockbottom farm, Emerson owns Tamarack Hill Farm, and Linehan is an accomplished Nordic skier. Put the three of them together and the result

is one of the most unique cross-country ski centers in Vermont.

A Passion for Nordic Skiing, Preserving Land

In an effort to accommodate a need for local Nordic trails and to use the land to its fullest potential, the three worked together to restructure the two farms and create the Strafford Nordic Center with 30 kilometers of trails in 2012.

Linehan, 40, used to cross-country ski on snowmobile trails in Strafford when he was a boy. As a baby, he rode the trails while perched in a backpack carried by his older brother. After the family moved to Alaska when he was 10, Linehan pursued Nordic racing and went on to compete extensively around the country and in Europe.

Strafford native Jeremiah



Strafford Nordic Center includes 30 km of trails on two Upper Valley farms.

Linehan is an accomplished Nordic skier. When he returned to Vermont with his wife, Hilary, the couple purchased property in Strafford. They made 10 kilometers of trails for friends and families to enjoy on their land. "Then I started looking at grooming equipment, and I could not justify buying a snowcat" for his backyard ski trails, says Linehan.

That's when the idea of using the two farms for an

official ski area originated. "Both farms don't use the land in the winter, and it was a way to optimize the land," he says.

All the trails at Strafford Nordic Center are existing farm use trails, logging trails, and hay fields. The ski lodge is housed in a 800-square-foot apartment attached to the main farmhouse at Rockbottom Farm.

Operating Strafford Nordic Center on a Working Farm

The trio, who met sometime around kindergarten, find a way to work together and still be friends. Linehan manages the center, Emerson grooms the trails (they groom after every snowfall with a snowcat and other equipment), and Ransom takes care of logistics.

"It's been good. We all communicate really well. We try to avoid problems before they happen, and the relationships are still good," says Linehan.

More than 66% of Vermonters say they utilize Vermont Farmland for Snowsports, Hunting, and Recreation, according

to a survey conducted by Castleton Polling

While the fields are free of any farm activity in the winter, Rockbottom Farm continues its milking and ice cream making operations through the ski season. Skiers will likely see cows and day-to-day farm operations while visiting the ski area.

"We were a little concerned what people's perception would be with a farm operation also being a ski center. But people really enjoy it," Linehan says, adding that Nordic skiers of all abilities will find trails to enjoy. "We have everything from very flat areas with practice loops to hills for racers. We have a little bit of everything for everyone."

If You Go: Strafford Nordic Center is located at 53 Rockbottom Road in Strafford. Open daily (except Christmas) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Rentals are available. Biathlon training/clinics are held every other weekend, and fat bike demos are offered on weekends.

HappyVermont.com is all about exploring and enjoying the dynamic Green Mountain State. Editor Erica Houskeeper is a writer, mom, wife, and the former Communications Director for the Vermont Department of Tourism. Visit HappyVermont.com for tips about travel, food, and life in Vermont.

Sell Direct to Stonyfield

Stonyfield, the world's largest organic yogurt maker, is looking for exceptional organic dairies throughout the Northeast for our direct-sourcing program. As part of the Stonyfield team, you'll receive:

- A consistent milk price that addresses input costs over time.
- A direct relationship with a company and team personally vested in your success
- Customized tools and support to help you achieve your personal business goals



For more information, visit www.Stonyfield.organic or contact **Kyle Thygesen** (802) 369-0267 kthygesen@stonyfield.com

Renewable Energy Resources for Farmers at the 2015 Vermont Farm Show

By Rachel Carter,
VT Farm to Plate

As more farms and food enterprises minimize use of fossil fuels and maximize renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation opportunities, Vermont as a community inches closer towards reaching Vermont's Farm to Plate goals to decrease environmental impacts and energy consumption while increasing renewable energy production. And farmers make strides to raise their level of self-sufficiency while increasing farm viability.

Several booths at the 2015 Farm Show provided renewable energy resources. Here is a brief recap on some of the highlights at the Farm Show and where farmers and food entrepreneurs can go for more information.

Efficiency Vermont sparked conversations at the Farm Show as they continue to develop their

Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program to provide ways for farmers to keep energy on the farm. In response to farmer interest, LEDs for inside dairy barns, extending refrigerated storage, and a new maple program on reverse osmosis for small farmers are all in the works. Learn more at www.encyvermont.com or call 802-860-4095.

Waitsfeld, Vermont company, Aegis Renewable Energy, presented at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's "Energy on the Farm" workshop. Aegis offers wind, solar and anaerobic digesters as community-scale renewable energy solutions for farms, businesses, non-profits, and municipalities. Learn more at www.aegis-re.com or 802-496-5155.

Two solar companies exhibited at the Farm Show: Catamount Solar of Randolph provides financial analysis, design, and installation for homes,



farms, and businesses. More information at www.catamountsolar.com or 802-299-6669.

Daedalus Solar of Williamstown specializes in Do-It-Yourself (DIY) solar kits for smaller farms and families and works with contractors, but can also provide installation. More information at www.daedalusolarworks.com or 866-211-5843.

Vermont Green Energy Systems of Middlebury offered information for Farm Show attendees on installing national Bergey WindPower wind turbines for homes and farms. More information at www.bergey.com or 802-388-4334.

H.A. Manosh out of Morrisville provides farmers with a full suite of well drilling services from hydro-fracturing and pump

installation to water treatments and pond construction. A trusted Vermont company since 1959, Manosh recently added geothermal heating systems, which pull energy stored underground to generate without the need for a furnace or chimney. Learn more at www.manosh.com or 802-888-5722.

Vermont Golden Harvest Biofuels, located in Addison, sells locally produced corn and the stoves, furnaces, and boilers to burn the corn. Biomass from the corn plant is used for heat and remaining organic matter can help increase soil nutrients. Learn more at www.vermontbiofuels.net or 802-475-4007.

Learn about the emerging frontiers in bioenergy at the website www.VermontBioenergy.com – a collaboration with UVM Extension. Oilseeds for biodiesel and livestock feed, algae for biofuel and organic fertilizer, perennial grasses for pellet fuels, and increased use of animal waste and food scraps for anaerobic digesters were included in the materials available at the Farm to Plate booth.

To learn more about how Vermont is doing to reach the statewide Farm to Plate goals to lessen environmental impacts and foster more renewable energy in the food system, visit www.vtfarmtoplate.com.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Irene Glazer, Cold Moon Farm, 251 Pratt Bridge Road, Jamaica, VT 05343 to sell, process, package and transport milk and milk products in 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 March 17, 2015.

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.



Catamount solar panels

Dairy Banquet Recognizes Vermont Quality Milk Producers

By Andrew Wood, Vermont Dairy Industry Association

Vermont dairy farmers were recognized for producing high quality cow and goat milk at the Dairy Farmers' Appreciation Banquet on January 29th during the 81st Vermont Farm Show. The 2014 overall highest-quality (cow) milk award was presented to Alan and Karen Bathalon of North Troy. The 2014 overall highest-quality goat milk award was awarded to Roland and Joan Therrien of Newport Center. Based on nomination criteria rolled out last year for the quality awards, 82 cow milk quality nominees and 10 goat milk quality nomi-

nees qualified for the 2014 competition. Quality parameters such as bacterial and somatic cell counts as well as farm inspection scores are factored into identifying the winners. "Farms demonstrating low counts month after month deserve this recognition," according to VDIA Board member and Agri-Mark, Inc. employee Brady Metcalf.

The 2014 Dairy Farm of the Year, Dolloff Acres operated by Mike and Heidi Dolloff in Springfield, VT were recognized with a hand-painted sign. The Finley award was presented to Greg Lockwood of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

The Vermont Dairy Industry Association works for the mutual benefit of its members, dairy farm families, and the dairy industry; and encourages and promotes close cooperation with educational institutions and other agencies concerned with the dairy industry. For more information about the Vermont Dairy Industry Association, its events, or the Vermont Dairy Industry Association Memorial Scholarship please visit www.vdia.org. For more details on the Vermont Farm Show, visit www.vtfarmshow.com/

A complete list of nominees and overall winners and runners-up follows.



Pictured from left to right are Maeve Bathalon, Karen Bathalon, Brady Metcalf (VDIA Boardmember and employee of Agri-Mark) and Alan Bathalon. Photo courtesy of Andy Wood.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Cate Hill Orchard, 697- Shadow Lake Road, Craftsbury Common, VT- 05827 to sell, process, package and transport milk and milk products in 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 March 20, 2015.

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.

2014 Quality Cow Milk Nominees

- Aires Hill Farm Inc. - Enosburg Falls, VT
- Alan and Karen Bathalon - North Troy, VT
- Allandra Farm Inc. - Vergennes, VT
- Amanda & Chad McCormick - Newport, VT
- Andersonville Dairy LLC - Glover, VT
- Andrew and Debra Hogan - Whiting, VT
- Andrew and Lisa Sherman - East Dover, VT
- Anthony and Christine Brown - Randolph Center, VT
- Armon and Kathy Lewis - Williston, VT
- B&T Black Creek Farm LTD - Enosburg Falls, VT
- B. Danyow Farm LLC - Ferrisburg, VT

- Barb & Robert Laduc - Orwell, VT
- Barne's Black & Whiteface Ranch - Addison, VT
- Ben Moulton & Amanda Taylor - North Troy, VT

- Benjamin Williams - Fairfield, VT
- Brett and Marjorie Urie - Craftsbury Common, VT
- Bullis Savage View Farm

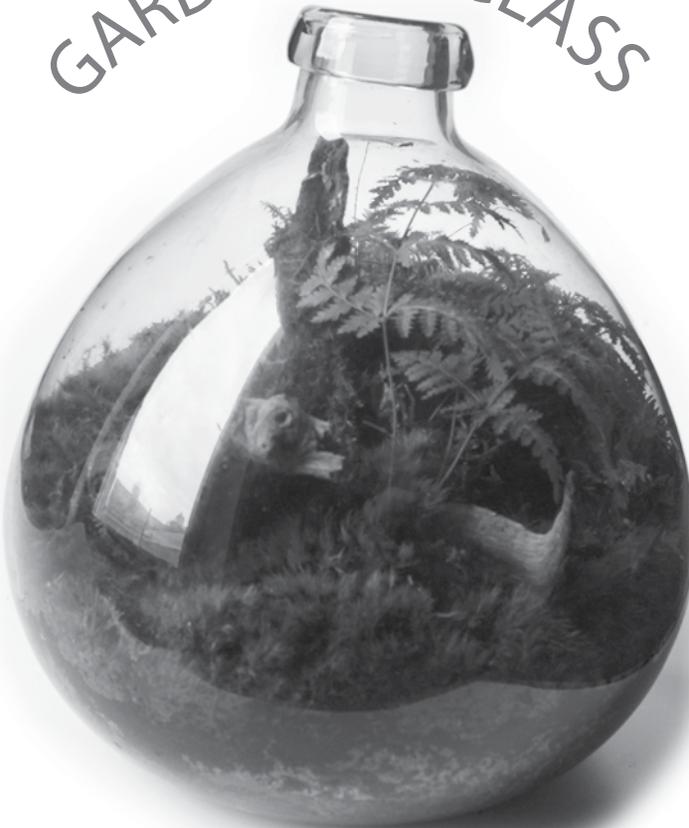
continued on page 9

888-921-5990 | www.efficiencyvermont.com/ag

Efficiency Vermont

Terrariums:

GARDENS IN GLASS



*Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor
University of Vermont*

What do fish tanks, brandy snifters, and Mason jars have in common? They are all containers that can be used to make gardens in glass, or terrariums. Whether you put together a terrarium on a rainy summer day or for garden-relief in the dead of winter, this activity is suited for all ages. Terrariums are once again quite popular, perhaps due in part to the interest in fairy gardens—one possible theme for a terrarium.

Growing plants in clear containers dates back to at least 2,500 years ago in Greece. The terrariums we know today began with a 19th century London physician, N.B. Ward, and were named after him. These large, enclosed glass containers called “Wardian cases” were the original means of transporting newly discovered plants back to Europe from voyages around the world.

In America, the earliest terrariums were made by women settlers placing the native partridgeberry in handblown glass bowls. This is a woodland plant with dark green, small evergreen leaves and red berries. These simplest of terrariums we know as berry bowls.

If making a larger terrarium, many plants may be used-- in fact any that are small, or grow slow and can

be kept clipped to size. Keep in mind that, depending on the plants used, terrariums will need to be renovated every year or two as plants grow. You’ll need to remove any that die, or get too large, and replace with new, smaller plants. When doing so, take the opportunity to introduce some fresh soil. If the plants are too out of control, you may just want to start again with new and different small plants.

Low woodland plants which can be used include mosses, ferns, lichens, foamflower, wintergreen, and partridgeberry. Some taller plants include other ferns and violets. Just make sure if collecting such plants during the summer that they are not endangered (check with the state natural resources agency), and that you only collect a few plants from a native population.

Some common garden and house plants can be used such as aluminum plant, asparagus fern seedlings, creeping fig, English ivy, strawberry begonia, spider plants, nerve plant, selaginella moss, palm

Visit TerraSquadCustoms.com for some examples of unique and artful terrarium ideas. Photo courtesy of Terra Squad Customs

seedlings (which of course as they grow will need to be removed), and peperomias. There are many low perennial plants you now can find for planting in walks and patios and stepping on, such as the herb thyme, which may be suitable in terrariums.

You may even want a theme of a specific ecological area. For a desert, use some of the many slower growing cactus seedlings and succulent plants such as echeveria, panda plant, or haworthia. For a bog, use mosses, ferns, and even carnivorous plants such as the Venus fly trap.

For a rock garden, consider perennials such as saxifrage, sedum, sempervivum (hens and chicks), erodium (alpine geranium), or low dianthus

(pinks). Keep in mind, though, if using perennials that they may need some winter rest in a cool area. This may be an unheated, yet non-freezing garage, with indirect light.

Materials you’ll need, beside plants, include proper soil (humus soil for woodlands, sandy for deserts, for instance), sand or fine gravel

for drainage, and charcoal bits to keep the soil sweet. For desert themes, you may want to layer colored sands in the bottom. White or colored aquarium gravel, and miniature figures or fairy garden accessories (available at many garden and craft stores), can be used for accents. Sphagnum sheet moss is the usual liner for traditional and woodland terrariums.

Tools you’ll need are scissors, a dowel rod, wire hooks or fork, water sprayer, funnel or tube, and brush or paper towels. Long-handled bamboo or similar tongs are useful for placing plants, pebbles, or accents. A small paint brush, as used in crafts, helps in cleaning leaves.

First, if using a moss liner,

insert it green side out into the bottom quarter of the bowl. Then add a layer of gravel or sand. Sprinkle the charcoal bits on top. Finish with the soil, moistened. The container should now be about a quarter to third full. Add a little extra soil, as it will likely settle a half inch or so over the coming months.

Check your plants for pests before placing in the container. If foliage plants, it may be a good idea to dunk them in a mild, soapy bath and rinse before planting. This may help get rid of any lurking pests. Then check your terrarium frequently for pests, especially the undersides of leaves. If palm seedlings, check for mites, although mites prefer drier environments. Mealybugs may be the more commonly found, and if so, swab them with a cotton swab and rubbing alcohol.

Insert the plants, roots first, into holes made with a fork. Start with the largest plants first, filling in with those smaller. Use the dowel rod to place plants, and firm soil around them. Spray the plants with water (unless of course a dry garden), clean the inner sides of the container, then add your decorative accents.

Keep the terrarium in bright but indirect light. In direct light it can get too hot, cooking the plants. Since the moisture and humidity remains in the container much longer than with

continued on page 9

houseplants, take care not to overwater. Closed containers will remain moist much longer than those with open tops. If your container is closed with a lid, open and check it every few days to give it some fresh air, and to make sure mold isn't growing inside.

Most containers used for terrariums don't have drainage, so if you overwater you'll end up with a bog garden only suitable for specific plants. You can tell when to water if the plants wilt, of course, or if the soil looks dry and lighter in color.

Not watering too much is probably the most important key to success. If in doubt, best is not to water. For a new terrarium, or one with young and small plants, you may need to water only a couple times a month. For those with well-grown plants, and little soil or sandy soil, you may need to water a couple times a week.

You may need to water cacti and succulents very seldom-- once or twice a month-- and during sunny days. If watering when cloudy, the soil may stay wet too long and these arid-

loving plants can rot. When watering any terrarium plants in winter, make sure the water is room temperature and not icy cold. Avoid fertilizing, or do so very sparingly at very low rates, to keep plants smaller longer.

If a large container, such as large rectangular fish tank, you may want to put a layer of gravel on the bottom and very small pots of miniature plants on top, as in a greenhouse. Plant choices here might be miniature African violets, small seedlings of cacti and succulents, or rooted cuttings

of small-leaved houseplants such as some gesneriads, peperomia and begonias.

There are many attractive containers you can purchase for terrariums, such as miniature greenhouses and Victorian-style large glass cases with many sides. Round glass "rose bowls" are available at many florist shops. Those with sides lower than the plants are used to make "dish gardens." Look around the kitchen for clear containers such as glass tea cups or mugs, large spice jars, gallon cider jars (the thin necks will be harder to

work through), or the tops of plastic soda bottles cut off and placed over pots.

If you find a clear glass or plastic container, the size and shape of a Christmas ornament, this can be used for a one-plant hanging terrarium. I have one with a tillandsia air-plant which needs very little water, just an occasional misting. You also may find suitable and unique containers at craft stores, flea markets, yard sales, antique shops, and on the internet. The next time visiting any of these, think "terrarium containers."

Vermont Quality Milk Producers

continued from page 7

LLC - Grand Isle, VT
 Chad and Heather Trudeau - Hardwick, VT
 Chaput Family Farm - North Troy, VT
 Cindy Crawford - Whiting, VT
 Claudia & Joe Allen - Allendale Farm - Panton, VT
 Clifford Farm LLC - Starksboro, VT
 Dale and Alma Briggs - Addison, VT
 David & Davy Dragon - Franklin, VT
 David and Tina Houde - St. Johnsbury, VT
 David Kim Conant - Richmond, VT
 Dean and Terry Conant - Randolph Center, VT
 Deer Flats Farm Inc - West Pawlet, VT
 Dennis & Caffy Roberts - Milton, VT
 Dennis and Carol Poutre - Irasburg, VT
 Dennis Wood - Concord, VT
 Dolloff Acres - Springfield, VT
 Essex Farm - Dave, Mary and Tim - Vergennes, VT
 Fieldstone Organic Farm -

Cabot, VT
 George & Debra Stebbins - Enosburg Falls, VT
 Gervais Family Farm - Enosburg Falls, VT
 Gingue Brothers Dairy - Fairfax, VT
 H.J./A. Howrigan & Son Inc. L.W. Howrigan - Fairfield, VT
 Hatch Farm Inc - Vergennes, VT
 Hill View Farm LLC - Danville, VT
 J & M Ladd Families Farm - Alburgh, VT
 James and Kristie Callan - Fairfield, VT
 Jeff & Olive Phillips - Bristol, VT
 John Andrew - Newport, VT
 Keewaydin Farm - Les and Claire Pike - Stowe, VT
 Keith Day - Lyndonville, VT
 Lady Bug Farm - Hardwick, VT
 Larry and Arthur Morrill - Stowe, VT
 Lawrence & Brenda Rainville - Highgate Center, VT
 Leon Benoit - Sheldon, VT
 Leonard and Joanne Hammond - Newport Center, VT
 Lucase Dairy LLC - Starksboro, VT
 Lyle and Kitty Edwards - Westfield, VT

Magnan Bros. Dairy LLC - Fairfield, VT
 Michael Gervais DBA BPD LLC - Enosburg Falls, VT
 Mike & Marilyn Gardner - Pownal, VT
 Nelson Boys Dairy LLC - Swanton, VT
 Newmont Farm LLC - Bradford, VT
 North Hardwick Dairy - Meyer Family Farm - Hardwick, VT
 Orr Acres Farm - Orwell, VT
 Paul and Kristine Stecker - Cabot, VT
 Peter Rainville - Fairfax, VT
 Real and Marie Claire Laroche - Highgate Center, VT
 Regis and Rita Lamoureux - W. Charleston, VT
 Rene Fournier & Son Farm Inc - Swanton, VT
 Richard and Jodie Roorda - Addison, VT
 Richardson Farm - Hartland, VT
 Ridgeview Farm Inc - Fairfield, VT
 Robert Adams - Williston, VT
 Roger and Patricia Leblanc - East Hardwick, VT
 Scotch Burn Farm - Ryegate, VT
 Stephen and Shirley Harness - Enosburg Falls, VT

Steven and Leslie Brown - East Burke, VT
 Stronghold Farm - Craftsbury Common, VT
 Teresa and Michael Menard - Fairfield, VT
 Tiffany Brothers Partnership - Enosburg Falls, VT
 Walter Morse Jr. and Joseph Mahr - Wells River, VT
 Willard and Theodore Taft - Island Pond, VT
 Woodlawn Holsteins LLC - Pawlet, VT
 Woodnotch Farms Inc - Shoreham, VT
 2014 Quality Goat Milk Nominees
 Bear Mountain Diversified Farm - North Troy, VT
 Big Picture Farm - Townshend, VT
 Huard Family Farm - Craftsbury Common, VT
 John Reynolds - Swanton, VT
 Lee & Theresa Lawyer - Enosburg Falls, VT
 Long Field Farm - Cabot, VT
 Oak Knoll Dairy Farm - Windsor, VT
 Richard and Linda Smith - Westfield, VT
 Roger & Martha Wales - Weybridge,

VT
 Roland & Joan Therrien - Newport, VT

Vermont's Highest Quality Cow Milk Awards

2014 Overall Best Quality:

Alan & Karen Bathalon, North Troy
1st runner up: Andrew and Debra Hogan, Whiting
2nd runner up: North Hardwick Dairy - Meyer Family Farm, Hardwick

Vermont's Highest Quality Goat Milk Awards

2014 Overall Best Quality:

Roland & Joan Therrien, Newport
1st runner up: Oak Knoll Dairy Farm, George Redick & Karen Lindbo, Windsor
2nd runner up: Lee & Theresa Lawyer, Enosburg Falls



VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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

Reports From The Field

(Shelburne/South Burlington) Despite the warm Nov/Dec this stretch of well-below normal temperatures is going to make for interesting regrowth under the hoops. The kale, surprisingly, looks good. We will see how this coldest weather yet treats them. The spinach is more troubling looking. I am confident that any damaged leaves will just be removed and the plants will eventually regrow well, but it's hard to tell at this point. I have a lot more visual freeze damage than in years past. I am still not working beds yet. Usually I plant a new round of kale, lettuce, cilantro, escarole and other crops in a week! Not going to happen this year with these temperatures. Luckily we had a bountiful Nov. and Dec., and even beginning of January before things got so cold. I have been wondering what greenhouses in Massachusetts look like with all the snow. When I lived in Michigan, some areas of the state near the lake would get an accumulation of 4 to 6 feet of snow, and the hoophouses did just fine as long as the snow load was evenly spread out, so I have been curious to know how farms with greenhouses are handling the snow load. We are definitely appreciating the longer days, and even though it was still quite cold, the sun in the last few days was able to warm up the houses enough to slough off the 3 to 6 inches of snow that had built up on the houses after that freak sleet/rain we had (even though air temperatures were only about 3 degrees!). The sleet had created a

nice ice layer on the houses and then the next snowfall all stuck right on. Happy to see it slide off on its own!

(Huntington) Local wholesale markets have been steady. It seemed like there was a whole lot of product put up on many farms going into winter, but it seems to be moving at this point. Winter farmers' markets have been somewhat disappointing in 2015, but below-zero temperatures on those Saturdays probably hasn't helped casual foot traffic. Plowing in semi-weekly 2-degree snow storms has me dreaming of a cab on the utility tractor, but I take as consolation that this wasn't the winter we dove head-first into winter greens production. We're nearing the end of an insulation project in our shop, so that is a pretty good bet that a warm-up is imminent. We will be clearing out a room in the storage barn in the next two weeks to take advantage of the radiant floor to germinate our onion flats prior to turning on the greenhouse. We started doing that last year and had germination in four days on a 75-degree slab.

(Grand Isle) Very cold, we are happy there is a good amount of snow insulating the strawberries. Rounding up wood pellets for opening the propagation greenhouse in early March. Cheapest we have found is \$239 a ton, but limited availability. Should have stocked up in the early winter! We are trying out some vole traps in our empty high tunnels, as described in Eliot Coleman's 'The Winter Harvest Handbook.' They are simple rectangular wooden boxes with removable lids, and space for two spring loaded traps inside. We cut a small vole hole into the bottom corner on two opposite sides for the voles to get in and get out. The vole/mouse natural instinct is to scurry into a small dark hole, and once there they walk into the trap as they try to go out the opposite side. We've caught five so far without even baiting the traps, a successful trial. Looking forward to putting them to expanded use once transplants start to go out in the early Spring. Also, we set up a new invoicing system to use for



2015, with waveapps.com. It's a free web-based invoicing solution, and looks like it will fill our needs. Most importantly, you can export all your data periodically so you aren't relying on one free service to save it all for future reference.

(Elmore) Wading through chest-high light fluffy snow to check deer fences and carry boxes of tools and handouts to winter shows. Not too many deer tracks, hopefully due to time put in patching and strengthening our perimeter fence. We made a lot of spreadable fruit jam and now taking it on the road to stores, the NOFA conference, the flower show. Our jam won three ribbons including 'best of class' at the farm show. This feels good for all our effort and originality. Sometimes it seems buyers don't care about local organic anymore, just price or what sells the fastest. But then people stop you on the street and say: "Wow, I can't eat any of other jam, only yours." This gives us strength for another season. We're busy looking at inventory software for keeping track of all we grow, what we need to grow more or less of, and what we need to order for our production season. It is challenging not to know what fruit trees are alive or not, because it has been so cold for so long. Compare this to a shopkeeper, who knows what's on the shelf, ready to sell. Meeting with crew to plan for the season and focusing on 'keep it simple and true to the pathway that has heart.' To us this means not trying to do everything, but remembering we started farming to make the world a little better, a little kinder and we saw that we could do this in our own

way, one row and one day at a time.

(Westminster West) Definitely a throwback winter! We have two greenhouses running now and thanks to all the snow piled around the house, they are snug and staying warm without too much fuel. Today I started pricking out the first crop of tomatoes for grafting next month. Onions and leeks are popping up in packs and herbs and lettuce is almost ready for transplanting. We have extra 128's of kale and lettuce and I will do a list serve message for those soon. Response to listing for our own grafts for sale has been tremendous and we increased production to meet the demand. Still working on finalizing field plans for veggies, I like to work it out in my head first before committing it to paper, eh I mean computer! Meeting with buyers and working it all out. Almost all our staff are returning once again this year, I guess this isn't too terrible a place to work! A few new faces that need to get some training, not my most favorite part of the job but important to get people started on the right foot. After buying lots of new equipment the last few years I'm cutting back the spending to a bare minimum and focusing on building maintenance and some new product development. I enjoyed attending the NOFA winter conference in Burlington and once again enjoyed our Governor's good natured ribbing but I must add that I was not a founder of NOFA, I was only there at the birth by luck and somehow I'm still here, so I'm tenacious if nothing else. Spring is just weeks away and although it's hard to believe, all this snow will be gone in six weeks and crocuses will

continued on page 15

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Prices

February 2015

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

Vermont Egg Prices:

Jumbo	\$2.61
X-Large	\$2.15
Large	\$2.10
Medium	\$1.59

Market is steady and supply is good.

You can find more reports online at

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

This is the web source for USDA Market News



Northampton, MA • February 10, 2015

All prices are per hundredweight on the hoof unless otherwise indicated.

Source: Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc., www.northamptonlivestockauction.homestead.com

Calves:	LOW	HIGH		Cows:	LOW	HIGH	
Good & Choice	20.00	82.00	cwt	Canners	20.00	102.00	cwt
Farm Calves	100.00	410.00	cwt	Cutters	103.00	112.00	cwt
Starter Calves	100.00		cwt	Utility	115.00	125.00	cwt
Feeder Calves	none		cwt	Sows	40.00		cwt
Vealers	none		cwt	Hogs	50.50	55.50	cwt
Bulls	110.00		cwt	Boars	none		cwt
Heifers	50.00	146.00	cwt	Shoats	none		cwt
Replacement Cows	none		each	Feeder Pigs	45.00	70.00	each
Steers	92.00	146.00	cwt	Lambs	195.00		cwt
				Sheep	52.50	97.50	cwt
				Goats	115.00	205.00	each
				Rabbits	4.00	10.00	each
				Hay (7 lots)	3.80	5.50	bale

Addison County Commission Sales • Middlebury, VT • February 16, 2015

Cattle: 115		Feeder Calves	
Calves: 164			
Slaughter Cows		Holstein Bulls	90-120 lbs. 357.50 410.00 cwt
Breakers 75 - 80% lean	100.00 106.50 cwt		80-90 lbs. 302.50 330.00 cwt
Boners 80 - 85% lean	96.50 112.00 cwt	Utility	70-120 lbs. 60.00 162.50 cwt
Lean 85 - 90% lean	92.50 104.50 cwt	Holstein Heifers	85 lbs-90 lbs 77.00 81.00 cwt

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising in Agriview

Classified Ads: Free to subscribers only. Limited to two ads per issue, ads will run for two issues. **Must include subscriber number with ad request** (number appears at the top of the mailing label)

Deadline For Ads: 10 days prior to the publication date.

Display Ads: Information available upon request

Classified advertisements must be sent:

- **By mail:** (see address on page 2)
- **By e-mail:** (to Agr-agriview@state.vt.us)
- **By fax:** (802) 828-2361
- **Online at:** <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/Agriview/agriviewclassified.html>
- **We do not accept ads over the phone.**

Only items of an agricultural nature will be listed. The only real estate which will be listed are tracts of Vermont land two to five acres or more which are being used or can be used for agricultural purposes. All Feed, Hay and Forage ads must have county, town, and phone number, **and must be renewed each month.**

The Secretary reserves the right to make a final decision on the eligibility of items listed. The editor reserves the right to censor and edit ads. **The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets assumes no responsibility for transactions resulting through advertising in Agriview.** Advertisers are cautioned that it is **against the law** to misrepresent any product or service offered in a public notice or an advertisement carried in any publication delivered by the U.S. Mail.

Ads must be limited to 40 words or less.

Agriview Subscribers can Now Submit Classifieds Online

Agriview subscribers now have the ability to submit their classified ads online.

Subscribers can log on to http://agriculture.vermont.gov/news_media/agriview and submit their ad using the online form.

Classified ads are free to all subscribers — limit two ads per issue. Ads must be 40 words or less. You must include your subscriber number when submitting your ad.

Please take advantage of this service, which will help streamline the classifieds process. For those who are unable to access the Internet, we will still accept classifieds by mail.

If you have questions about classified ads, please contact Faith Raymond at 802-828-1619 or Faith.Raymond@state.vt.us.

Bees & Honey

BEES 5-FRAME NUCLEUS COLONIES: Our Northern Survivor Stock bees are a hybrid mix of several strains, bred for best traits. We have developed a hardy, gently, productive bee. Order now for May through June pick ups. \$155 each with \$40 non-refundable deposit toward each nuc. Please include your address and phone number. See our web site: www.vtbees.com or send a check or money order to Singing Cedars Apiary, 77 Singing Cedars Rd., Orwell,

Vt. 05760. (802)948-2057 (4/15)

Cattle

Blonde d'Aquitaine. Prepare for the 2015 breeding season. Bring that bull in now to ensure readiness (herd and environment compatibility). PFB YASMIN 99.22%BD,DOB 11/19/2011. Top blood lines. Progeny registerable. A great opportunity to elevate those hanging weights. Come take a look! **Blonde d'Aquitaine.** Prepare for the 2015 breeding season. Bring that bull in now

to ensure readiness (herd and environment compatibility). PFB ARNIE 99.22% BD, DOB 12/02/2013. Out of a DDD CLAY daughter. Progeny registerable. A quiet individual, good length of loin. Blood lines for production. PADDOCK FARMS,802/426-4086, Please leave clear and distinct message. Thank you. Or beefbypfb@yahoo.com (2/15)

7 month old Black Angus Bull, great temperament and great bloodline \$1600 call (802) 558-8196 (2/15)

CLASSIFIEDS

Black Angus 2 year old Heifer deven calf \$1600. Jersey breed February \$1500. Pigs - 400 lbs \$400. Old hens \$2 each. Red Angus Bull calf deven \$1800. 802-229-4628 (3/15)

2/500-600 pound sows for slaughter, were breeding stock. Asking \$300 each. 603-256-8422. (3/15)

Hereford cow and Heifer bred to Hereford \$1200 each or BO, also Bull Jersey calf and 8 mons Jersey heifer \$550 or BO. Trade fir Itay 603-336-0017 (3/15)

Grass-fed Angus beef now available. Whole, 1/2, - 25, 50 and 100 lb lots. Shrink wrapped and frozen. call 802-482-2320 after 6. (3/15)

New Holland discbine 411 new rolls excellent overall \$6,900.00 john deere 336 baler no kicker. new teeth \$3,450.00 new Holland rolar bar 57 3 ph rake good teeth, handy \$2,750.00 vicon 510t tedder \$1,850.00 rebuilt bale sled \$200.00 802 773 8898 (3/15)

John Deere 2950 4wd OS fender tractor. Quad outlets hi/lo 4500 original hours. This



tractor has been professionally mechanically refurbished and repainted Too many new parts to list. \$18,950.00 802 773-8898 (3/15)

2 Holstein and 1 Holstein Cross Bred Heifers due May (2) and July (1). All bred A.I. to Jersey. 802-325-3064. (4/15)

3 Angus bulls 18 mo's old. From registered herd excellent breeding bulls. 533-9804 or 533-2208. (4/15)

Equipment

2001 Corn Pro trailer 25 Ft flat deck x 102" wide, 21K GVW, Tri Axle with all new tires and brakes, stored indoors

when not in use, Excellent condition has 4 Ft. Adjustable beaver tail with 5 Ft ramps, Pintle pull. \$4,200.00 Call 802-537-3167 (2/15)

New glass jars with gold cap, 7.2oz. In case lots of 12,24,36,48,60, \$ 5.60 per Dz. Call for details 802-343-7303. Note jars are fancy. (2/15)

Antique farm wagon or called Keystone farm truck, Made for Int. Harvester co. In good condition. Call for more details 802-343-7303 Asking \$1,100.00 or Best offer (2/15)

C7 Tree Farmer grapple and wink tires and chains 90% in good shape, \$10,900. Call 802-673-6474 or 802-755-6202 (3/15)

7.5 Universal vacuum pump, like new. 6 ton brook grain bin, excellent shape. 12 ton vatoure grain bin. 84 feet long new halland elevator, good shape. 4 b 12 Leader pan complete and brand new, price to sell. 8 -9 ton grain bins complete redone, excellent condition. 12 -13 ton grain bin 802-624-0143 or 802-895-4683 (3/15)

Pronovost Round Bale Tuber. Works great. \$6500. Call before 8 pm. 802-348-6303. (3/15)

JD 6620 Combine with 4 row corn head, 4 row IH cultivator, rotary hoe and JD 450 spreader. Contact (845)2704159. (3/15)

JD 3020 7768 hrs. 70 hp, diesel, with cab. new rear tires, rebuilt engine, needs batteries, always shedded, only used for hauling round baler, excellent condition, call 802-482-2320 after 6. (3/15)

Gehl 1287 (NH 680) man sprdr- end gate. \$2800. NI 3622 Manure Sprdr- 150 bu. \$2200.

Cedar fence post 6' & 7' - \$3.25 to \$4.25. Corral panels 12ft walk through gate - \$90 ea. Farmall C, mower W/F good tires - \$2750. Farmall A, plow good condition - \$2500. Ford #461, blade as is - \$2000. Ford 8N, 1949, mower little use excellent condtion \$3500.



JD 3 bottom plows 3 pt, trip, no coulter - \$950. MF 3bottom plows 3 pt coulter - \$750. Kuhn tedder #GA 5001, 17.5', clean - \$3950. JD 717 brush-hog 7 dt clean - \$2500. IH brush hog #111, solid 3 pt, 5 ft - \$750. JD #60 H hopper blower - \$950 802-483-2870 (4/15)

Nice Jersey heifer sired by SR 2 mpvls stone. One year seven months old. Bred to goose 10/17/2014/Preg checked positive due 7/17/2015. Also registered yearling heifer. Asking \$1500 and \$900. Call 802-875-3159 (4/15)

Knereland Round bale hay grabber \$500. Tractor tire 11-224 \$25. Antique Grappo hay B.O. 802-895-2833 (4/15)

10 ton tilt bed trailer tandem axles, with air brakes. Very good condition. \$6000 OBO 603-543-3616 (4/15)

1986 EBY Aluminum Cattle Trailer 8' X 18'; Good condition; \$4,000 (802) 897-8201 (4/15)

Gehl 1287 (NH 680) man sprdr- end gate. \$2800. NI 3622 Manure Sprdr- 150 bu. \$2200. Kuhn EUI Vertical mixer- scales. \$8500. Farmhand XG30 Tub grinder. \$3500. Kverneland 7512 Wrapper- 20" self-loader. \$8500. JD F845- 4 bm Roll over plows... \$1400. 4' Woods Bush hog... \$800. 802-376-5262 www.youngsmilkywayfarm.com (4/15)

Heifers for sale: Registered American Milking Devons: 10 month old- \$1100. Grass-fed, in and out of barn, stanchion trained, also 2 month old- \$900. Ready to go in the spring. Please call Liza 802-247-9309 or email derrickminer@comcast.net (4/15)

1984 JD 410B bucket loader/ back hoe 3500 hrs straight hoe 4 wh dr \$11500. 2004 Chevy truck 4 wheel drive/ club cab gas/v8/6 ft box with cover 107,311 miles excellent condition/oil undercoated \$9995 802-236-3412 or 802-236-3469 (4/15)

Farm & Farmland

61 acres on paved town road in Whitehall, NY. 14 acres, flat, certified organic. Balance are woods. Excellent hunting, timber, Adirondack Mt. and Green Mt. views. Must lease back hay land for 2015 crop year. \$125,000. gsearles@verizon.net (3/15)

12 +1/4 acre parcels vast trail surveyed 400 ft well 750 gal septic, pond nice horse barn, 1 bedroom camp access to 100's of trails. Able to develop organic gardens and fruits. Part of a very exciting community. 150 k firm, 802-751-9826. (4/15)

General

Trucking cattle, sheep, goats to CVLM every Tuesday, strong Market prices. 802-483-2210 (4/15)

Hay, Feed & Forage

Seed corn for sale. Vermont grown open pollinated organic Early Riser \$150/50 lb. bag. Also available Ontario grown DeDell hybrid seed corn from 78 day to 115 day maturity. All De Dell corn is non GMO. Some organic varieties available. For more information or a catalogue, contact Jack Lazor Butterworks Farm Westfield, VT. (802) 744 6855 or 999 7722. Catalogues will be available at the Northern Grain Growers table at the Vermont Farm Show. (3/15)

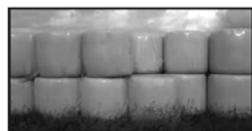
2nd cut sq bales \$4 per bale 802-796-6067 (1/15)

TWINE & PLASTIC Pre-Order Special!

Clover & Winmore Brand
Order now, Pay later
If the price drops—you pay less—never more!
Prices only guaranteed thru 1/31/15 early order

BALE WRAP

Available in white, green & black

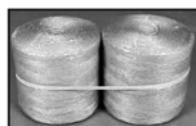


20" \$68/Roll



30" \$82/Roll

POLY & SISAL TWINE



Poly

7,200 \$26/roll
9,600 \$32/bundle
20,000 \$24/bundle

Sisal

9,000 \$52/bundle



NET WRAP 48" X 9,844' \$215
51" X 9,844' \$225

ALL SIZES available in Poly, Twine, & Net!
(please call if you don't see what you need)

We ship anywhere in the Northeast for just \$90/pallet



BLISS FARM ENTERPRISES

"Farmer to Farmer" Sales

802-875-2031 • www.blissfarm.com • Chester, VT

CLASSIFIEDS

Excellent quality 2nd cut square bales. 802-728-5000 (3/15)

Corn Silage, 800 Ton, \$60 / ton. Delivery available. Robeth Holsteins, Rochester, Vt 802-767-3926. Email-beth@libertyhillfarm.com (4/15)

2nd cut grass silage 45.5% dm, 15.9% crude protein, .56 NEL. +/- 120 ton feed available. \$45/ton at the farm. Discount for purchase of the whole pile. Delivery available at additional charge. Call BJ for details at 802-779-7104 bjh@hathawayfarm.com (4/15)

ADDISON COUNTY

2014 corn silage for sale, 550 tons processed and treated with pioneer innocule \$47 per ton. 2014 haylage 1st cut and 3rd cut, excellent quality, test results available 430 - \$40 to Addison. Small square bales 1st cut Timothy and mixed grasses 40# and each excellent for horses \$4 bale. Small square bales 3rd and 4th cut 16-19% protein, test results available 40# each \$5 bale. 802-759-2480. (3/15)

CALEDONIA COUNTY

2nd cut mixed hay. Top quality, VOF certified Organic, 40lb. plus bales by appointment. 802-592-3088. (4/15)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Large or small square bales. Whole or processed by bales at Farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 (3/15)

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

Second cut, wrapped, round bales. 4 1/2 by 4 'bales. \$35 per bale. Crescent Bay Farm, South Hero 802-318-3208 or Email crescentbaybb.com (2/15)

Goats

Taking orders for Lazy Lady Farm registered Alpine spring kids. Please visit the website for the complete listing and prices. We are on DHIA testing and our herd average is over 2200lbs. The herd is CAE negative and tested annually. 30 years of fine herd management for milk production and type. Call 802-744-6365. Write to laini@lazyladyfarm.com (4/15)

AlpineGlo Farm is taking orders on 2015 alpine dairy goat kids. All will be ADGA registerable, vaccinated, disbudded, and come from CAE, TB, and Brucellosis free herd. Superior genetics including; Roeburn's, Mamm-Key, Missdee's and Kickapoo Valley bloodlines. Follow us on Facebook, visit www.vthorsheshoer.com/sales, or call Rachel at 802-463-2018 for full details. Prices starting at \$300 (call for info on discounts). (4/15)

Horse Equipment

Meadowbrook Horse Cart, good condition, Harness with bridle, Western Saddle almost new, Bridle, blanket and other accessories. Perfect size for Standard Bred. Crescent Bay Farm, South Hero 802-324-5563 or Email crescentbaybb.com (2/15)

36x72 12-stall horse barn by behlen country. It is designed to be moved and disassembled/reassembled without special tools or equipment. barn is priced to sell. call Newton farm in Chittenden 802-773-8898 for pricing, photos and complete details. (3/15)

Sugaring Equipment

4x14 Waterloo Evaporator oil fired with preheater hoods and extra pans in good shape \$6500. 802-673-6474 or 802-755-6202 (3/15)

2014 Maple Syrup for sale. Grade A dark and B I quart \$15. Half gallon \$25. And gallon \$40 also have cooking syrup in half gallons and quarts. 802-728-5241 (3/15)

4x12 Leader pan complete and arch brand new. 802-895-4683 (4/15)

2 maple syrup signs, some pipeline and wire, stove pip cover, large size, old sap spouts and more. \$100. 802-728-9102 (4/15)

Maple tubing washer, air and water injection system made by Goodrich's Maple Farm and Equipment. Used 3 seasons, in good condition. Bought new for \$1000, asking \$600. Call 802-848-3885 or email fleuryrmaple@hughes.net. (4/15)

Wanted

Help wanted on diversified organic dairy in southern Vermont. Learn and participate in all aspects of organic dairy, maple sugaring, and woodland management. Room and board with farm family plus a competitive wage based on ability, willingness to work hard and learn, and experience. 802-254-2228 Guilford (2/15)

I used Same (Drago) tractor rear wheel rim. Tractor is 120 horsepower. Rim size 18.4"x 38". 8 bolt hole rim. Richard Alexander, Chester. 802-875-3659. (2/15)

1st cut hay, square bales 40 - 45 lbs, Will pay up to \$3.25 bale. Large quantity wanted. Call cell: 603-848-2477 (2/15)

Holstein Brown Swiss crossed bull calves 802-775-5316 (2/15)

1967 -1972 Chervrolet or GMC pick up truck. I need trim parts, but can take the whole truck. 802-446-2870. (3/15)

Apple Boxes - bushel size. Eastern or "SCAPA" style. 8-2-438-5068 (3/15)

Hay squares or round del. Price also corn chopper belt driven chopper/blower 603-336-0017 (3/15)

Dairy cattle, beef cattle, bulls, steers, feeders, sheep, and goats. 413-441-3085 (3/15)

Looking for set of skidder chains to fit 16.9 -30 tire at least 50% or up worn. 802-434-2275 (3/15)

Looking for steel panel fencing and gates for cattle and sheep. Various sizes needed. Must be in good condition. (802)362-2290. (3/15)

Proven nurse cow, in milk or due in late February / early March. Normande preferred, though Jersey okay. Would also consider a non-proven nurse cow that doesn't fit well in your parlor (3 teats, etc.). Call Meghan: (802) 451-6548 (3/15)

4-stall "Step-up" (pass-thru or flat-barn) milking parlor; CIP milk machines & pipeline. Ashlee 518-645-2697, info@northcountrycreamery.com (3/15)

ORGANIC FARMING

Responding to the 2014 Organic Survey is important!

Your agriculture operation and products are a valuable part of the ag industry and should be counted.

1. Total organic sales by farms in the U.S. increased by 83 percent between 2007 and 2012.
2. Sales from farms with certified or exempt organic product sales totaled more than \$3.1 billion in 2012.
3. Organic agriculture producers reported direct-to-consumers sales more often than conventional producers, with 42 percent of organic farmers selling directly to consumers in 2012.

Please respond! Learn more at
www.agcensus.usda.gov



CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Vermont's Clean Water Initiative Moves Forward

State Leaders Describe the Plan to Enhance Stewardship and Accountability

By Alison Kosakowski,
VAAF

State leaders have outlined the new plan for addressing agricultural runoff in the Lake Champlain basin. New resources, deeper partnerships across state government, and new accountability tools have been established to improve water quality across Vermont.

"In the State of the State, the Governor emphasized the state-wide commitment we will all engage in to clean up Lake Champlain. As you know, we have a particular challenge in meeting that goal here in Franklin County. Today, we are here to tell you more about the Clean Water Initiative and the collaborative approach we will take to meet this commitment," said David Mears, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Commissioner Mears, Ag Secretary Chuck Ross, and Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell outlined The Statewide Plan to Enhance Stewardship and Accountability, a four-pronged approach to address agriculture-related water quality issues.

Stewardship & Accountability

1. Resources for Stewardship Practices: Fueled with new resources, State partners



will expand their work with farmers to provide technical assistance and implement additional stewardship practices, proven to improve water quality. These practices include...

- Cover crops
- Buffers
- Contour Tillage
- No Till
- Livestock Exclusion
- Barnyard Repair
- Grass Waterways
- Crop Rotation

The state has worked diligently to identify and secure these resources. The USDA has committed \$45M as base program funding, an additional \$16.8M for two Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects, and \$3M of Lake Champlain Basin Program funding. The Administration has also proposed a Clean Water Fund that is estimated to raise \$5M to help levy additional resources and implement water quality improvements.

2. Increased Capacity: Staff from the Agency of Agriculture and the

Agency of Natural Resources are being re-deployed to address the priority regions. Additional staff will also be hired. This will add capacity for...

- Outreach and Education
- Technical Assistance
- Additional Inspections
- Investigations
- Data Tracking

3. Enhanced Partnerships:

State partners, Federal partners, NGOs, farmers, and business owners are collaborating in new ways to increase efficiency and improve results. For instance...

- Training new partners to assist in educating farmers at the farmstead about conservation practices and programs
- Creating watershed specific plans that incorporate these partnerships for increased on-the-ground efficiency
- Meeting regularly with these groups at the local level to keep the plans moving

- Coordinating the compliance investigations and technical assistance to identify the issues and connect the farmers to partners that can help them plan solutions

4. Accountability Tools:

The Agency of Agriculture, Agency of Natural Resources and the Attorney General have established enhanced, coordinated enforcement for agriculture water quality; the State is also proposing new ways to hold offenders accountable. For instance...

- Current Use penalties
- New Enforcement Authorities
 - Emergency Order Authority
 - Civil Penalties
 - Authority to Limit Livestock

"We have honed our focus to enhance the statewide culture of stewardship and accountability," said Chuck Ross, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture. "Stewardship means greater partnership across state government, more technical assistance and new, unprecedented resources for farmers to implement conservation practices. Accountability means we have more tools to bring those who fly in the face of the law into compliance."

"The majority of farmers are working hard to protect

our natural resources," said Secretary Ross. "Now there are more resources available to assist them in their efforts."

"This initiative leverages one of the state's most vital resources—Vermont farmers who have demonstrated a commitment to stewarding the land to protect clean water. The initiative offers support for farmers to take actions that will conserve soil and protect water, and ensures that all farmers are held to the same standard," said Commissioner Mears.

"My office is working closely with the Agency of Agriculture and the Agency of Natural Resources and is committed to bringing enforcement actions when necessary to address violations of Vermont's agricultural water quality laws, and especially here in Franklin County," said Attorney General Sorrell.

"We understand that most Vermont farmers are trying to run sustainable farms that operate within the law and live up to the expectations of Vermonters, but when farms fail to do so, we are ready to step in."

State leaders are urging farmers to contact their local USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to discuss how they can become eligible for these unprecedented new financial resources to implement conservation practices.

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News

continued from page 10

be flowering on my front lawn!

(Ange-Gardien, Quebec)
Everything is frozen solid in the greenhouse, will see what survives in the spring. Planning is almost completed. I try to push further the concept of double and triple cropping in the greenhouse. The effort in finding little-used machinery treasure should pay off anytime soon.

(Plainfield NH)
Tomato grafting 2015 has commenced, but that is not the big news on our farm. Snow removal is the featured lifestyle at the moment, and trying to survive frostbite while doing it. Because ten of our greenhouses have been nestled in a limited area, they fit only 2 feet apart, sidewall to sidewall. This, according to Ed Person is not a good way to set up greenhouses, and I agree, but that is how it worked out. So we plow the gable ends and then melt the snow off the poly. In recent cold storm events we wait until a sunny day after the storm to do that, and there is some tedious work between the sidewalls to assist the snow totally off the hipboards. At this time of the year the sun helps melt the snow off the tops and sidewalls, but those tops have to be clear enough to capture the sun. In warmer storms where temps are between 20 and 40F, we turn the heat up to melt snow at the beginning of the event. Getting a feel for snow density is important. The kind of powder that we have been getting up to this point can mount up to 2 feet on a house without much concern, but I have come close to collapsing greenhouses with 3 inches of white sludge in an April

storm. All snow is not created equal. The point is always be prepared for the next event before it lands at your farm. This winter has taken a toll already on greenhouses in MA and CT, and a NH grower lost 2 tunnels this winter. (Editor's note: see www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/PreventGreenhouseCollapse.html)

(Little Compton RI)
Coolbot warning! During the first storm our Coolbot was on to keep our carrot storage down to 33 degrees. With all the blowing snow and wind, a bunch of snow got into the side fins of our GE a/c and an ice dam got going next to the fan blades and that burned up the motor. Now I know to turn the unit off during snowy, blowing weather. Our heat systems and greenhouse designs are just not a match to the slings and arrows of this season's storms! Next season we will insulate some benches with 1.5 inches of styrofoam, put hydronic heat mats down and top it off with some electric conduit ribs covered with Agribon 30 so in effect we will have mini greenhouses. Our goal is to keep everything warm and not worry about the overall air temperature of the entire house. Regarding grafting, a big lesson this year was to consider the extra drying effect of the continuous bottom heat needed to keep them warm. Our plugs were not growing because the bottoms of the plug cells got too dry for root growth. So for the last couple of weeks we've watered everything very thoroughly, then we push up random plugs to be sure the water got down to the bottom. Not having a well-rooted Maxifort plug probably led to failure of some grafts. Another wakeup call was finding out our Therm-alarm unit had slight oxidation on the

contacts. One we checked had been in place 12 years and wasn't working. We took some emery cloth and a touch of vinegar to clean them up; another idea is to get a tube of some anti-oxidation lubricant that electricians use when setting up an electric panel in a moist environment...like a greenhouse!

(Argyle NY) This winter is bearing down hard. Our winter greens production in our unheated houses has been minimal, though I noticed the spinach under one layer of row cover has started to grow again. May be some harvest this week. Our two tunnels with underground heat had less than usual production in January, due to lack of sun in Dec. and first two weeks of Jan., but with more sunny days production is almost back to market demand now. Starting to clean up beds and replant the first fall plantings now. With heated

soil emergence is about a week at mid-Feb. light levels. With our minimally heated soils, production is more about sunlight levels than outdoor temperature. Lately, this is the only time of year we can retail a significant amount of salad greens. I have noticed a falling off of demand for greens at our farmers' market due I think to falling prices as organic production from out west reaches the economies of scale of conventional. Three new stores (and many existing supermarkets) in our area feature organic greens, plus home and workplace delivery services. Time for a new way of retailing. We are teaming up other local farms selling yogurt, eggs, apples, and vegetables to create a farmer-owned delivery service in our area.

(Enfield NH) Clearing snow and planning for the 2015 season. Looking at changing how we seed and cultivate our beds and

other field setup practices. Will start seeding onions and shallots in about three weeks.

Survey Responses Requested For Digital Record Keeping and Labeling

\$250 RAFFLE entry for each completed surveys! Produce growers: please complete the following survey to help this project find the right solution(s) for you. The goal of this project is to research, select, and pilot test affordable, easy to implement, and easy to use digital traceability solutions for Vermont produce growers, in order to meet FDA and market-enforced food traceability requirements. The survey link is on the project homepage <http://bit.ly/vtproduce>. Questions? Contact: Stan Ward, stan@stanward.com or 802-595-3232.

State Agencies Announce Factsheet on Farm Labor Housing, Wage and Hour

By Diane Bothfeld, VAAFM

Farming in Vermont has undergone several changes in the last 10 to 15 years with many farms adding value to their raw agricultural products, inviting the public to their farms and retailing products directly from the farm to customers. These changes coincide with changes in agricultural labor needs and sources for farmers. To address these changes, multiple state agencies worked with farm organizations to develop a factsheet to educate Vermont farmers on the requirements for farm labor housing and wage and hour.

The Farm Labor Housing, Wage and Hour factsheet can be found at the Vermont Department of Labor's website at <http://labor.vermont.gov/vermont-farm-worker-wage-hour-and-housing-factsheet/>. This factsheet will assist all types

of Vermont Farms to navigate the requirements of state and federal law surrounding agriculture, value added agriculture, interns and housing requirements.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Department of Labor, Health, Community Development and Fire Safety as well as agricultural groups including NOFA-VT, Migrant Justice, UVM Extension Migrant Education, Green Mountain Dairy Farmers all worked diligently to produce a factsheet that would answer frequently asked questions from farmers, provide the regulations and some best practices for housing and retaining labor. Hard copies of the factsheet are available at the Agency of Agriculture and training for agricultural groups is available.

For more information please contact Diane Bothfeld or Louise Waterman at 828-1619.

Consumer Night at the Vermont Farm Show

Local Producers, a "Lake to Plate" Culinary Theme, and a New Capital Cook-Off Champion

By Ali Zipparo, VAAFM

Farmers and foodies from across the state converged last Wednesday night, January 28th, to participate in the 4th Annual Consumer Night at the Vermont Farm Show in Essex Jct. Held on the second night of the Farm Show, Consumer Night celebrated a wide range of Vermont's agricultural products – both in the hands of the Capital Cook-Off competitors, and on display at the Buy Local Market. While attendees sampled and purchased locally-made specialty goods (including: cheeses, wines, ciders, maple products, and more) from over 50 vendors, the Capital Cook-off began at 5pm. Hosted by Vermont Secretary of Agriculture



VT Senator Dick Mazza, Gov. Peter Shumlin and Senator Bobby Starr whip up some fare made with local ingredients

Chuck Ross and Deputy Secretary Diane Bothfeld, the Iron Chef-style cooking competition challenged three teams comprised of Vermont Senators, Representatives, and Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets staff to craft a delicious dish using

local ingredients over the course of one hour.

Much anticipated was the competition's secret ingredient: freshly caught Lake Champlain Yellow Perch. The secret ingredient and the event's overarching "Lake to Plate" theme was revealed by Dep. Secretary Bothfeld alongside Champ, mascot of the Vermont Lake Monsters, and Clover the

Cow, mascot of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross went on to reiterate that, "The 'Lake to Plate' theme is a reminder of the importance of our communities' collective responsibility to support our working landscape, keep our rivers and lake healthy, and sustain viable agriculture."

Each Cook-Off team prepared Yellow Perch, alongside a number of other local foods, including vegetables, beans, honey, and meats, to be tasted and reviewed by a panel of judges including Lyndon Virkler, Dean of Education at New England Culinary Institute, Brian Roper of Sodexo, Allison Weinhagen of City Market, Hannah Egan Palmer, food writer from Seven Days, Paul Dunkling, owner of Ray's Seafood, Doug Paine, head chef of Juniper and Bleu in Burlington, Richard Jarmusz

of UVM Medical Center Nutrition Services, and Lt. Governor Phil Scott.

After a thorough debate, the judges declared the Agency of Agriculture team to be the 2015 Capital Cook-Off champions, dethroning the defending team from the Vermont House of Representatives. The Ag Agency's winning dish, a spin on fish tacos, featured seasoned and fried perch on a bed of slaw and paratha bread. The Agency team members - John Roberts, Maria Steyaart, Lauren Masseria, and Shelly Saleem, were thrilled with their dish and proud to have participated in such a fun and exciting event celebrating local foods.

"Consumer night was a wonderful combination of Lake to Plate and Farm to Plate, all in one location," said Dep. Secretary Bothfeld, "we looking forward to an excited rematch next year."

growing the next generation

ORGANIC VALLEY
ORGANIC PRAIRIE
FARMER-OWNED
CROPP COOPERATIVE

Join America's Leading Organic Farmer Cooperative

- Stable Organic Premiums - 2015 pay price is \$37.70/cwt.
- Transition Assistance
- Veterinary & Agronomic Support
- Feed & Forage Sourcing

To learn more about our cooperative, contact our Farmer Hotline.
(888) 809-9297 • www.farmers.coop

AGRICULTURE POLICY: NEFU HAS YOU COVERED
INSURANCE POLICY: ACADIA INSURANCE HAS YOU COVERED

New England Farmers Union is proud to partner with Acadia Insurance to bring qualified NEFU members quality insurance coverage and superior service.

Acadia Insurance offers*...

- Farm Package
 - Farm dwelling & household personal property
 - Farm machinery & livestock
 - Farm structures & fencing
 - Additional living expenses after a loss
 - Product liability
 - Equipment breakdown
- Business Auto
- Workers' Compensation
- Excess Liability

New England Farmers Union
UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Acadia INSURANCE
A W. R. Berkley Company

*Products and services are provided by one or more insurance company subsidiaries of W. R. Berkley Corporation. Not all products and services are available in every jurisdiction, and the precise coverage afforded by any insurer is subject to applicable underwriting guidelines and the actual terms and conditions of the policies as issued.

Please visit newenglandfarmersunion.org/insurance for details.