

# AGRiVIEW



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## Students Celebrate the Start of Maple Season at Slopeside Syrup

By Alison Kosakowski, VAAFM

**M**aple industry leaders, Agency of Ag staff, Governor Shumlin, and fourth graders from Richmond Elementary gathered at Slopeside Syrup on March 17th to celebrate the 2015 Maple season and Farm to School programing. The Richmond students are learning about the maple industry as part of a Farm to School partnership with Slopeside.

Slopeside Syrup is located on the grounds of Cochran's Ski Area, a not-for-profit ski center founded in 1961 by Mickey and Ginny Cochran. The sugaring operation was established in 2011 by four of Mickey and Ginny's grandchildren: Jim Cochran, Tim Kelley, and Roger and Douglas Brown.



Alison Kosakowski

Roger Brown and Tim Kelley, of Slopeside Syrup, load a crew of eager 4th graders into a snow cat for a ride to the sugar woods at Cochran's.

"For more than fifty years, Vermont's young people have come to Cochran's to learn how to ski," said Gov. Shumlin. "Today, they are learning another essential Vermont skill...sugar-making!"

Co-owner Roger Brown, who was named 2014 Maple Person of the Year by the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, says the idea for a sugaring operation at Cochran's took shape in 2009,

when a forester pointed out that the property was rich with mature maples. In 2011, they began tapping trees and today Slopeside has about 23,000 taps. They sell their syrup in a variety of local retail outlets, as well as online at SlopesideSyrup.com. They've also recently introduced a maple energy gel for athletes called Untapped. Sold in single-serve pouches, Untapped is marketed as a pure-maple energy booster for performance athletes. [www.untapped.cc](http://www.untapped.cc)

Flanked by members of the *continued on page 10*

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## AGRiVIEW

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

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## H.35 Proposes Real Solutions to Our Water Quality Challenges

**H**ouse Bill 35 addresses Vermont's water quality issues related to excess phosphorus, a real and persistent problem that has accrued for decades in our state. Evidence of this problem can be seen in the summer from the shores of Lake Champlain, particularly in the Missisquoi Bay and St. Albans Bay. This is also a problem that haunts Lake Memphremagog, Lake Carmi, and many of our rivers and tributaries. For too long, the problems have compounded. It is clear that protecting these precious resources is our duty and obligation. We must act now.

H.35 seeks to engage all of Vermont and all Vermonters in a solution. The major sources of excess phosphorus, including agriculture, storm water, roads, and waste water, are all addressed in the bill.

Agriculture has been identified as contributing 40% of the phosphorus overload. So, I'd like to highlight some of the ag-related measures which have been proposed in

*This proposed legislation will help ensure all farmers are held accountable, so that agriculture and our natural resources can thrive, together.*

H.35. The Agency of Agriculture will be tasked with implementing the changes, but a lasting solution will require an all-in approach – including approval from the legislature, and the support of Vermonters.

Key points in the *proposed* legislation:

1) **The Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAP's) shall be updated.** Beginning in summer 2015, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM) will begin the process of updating the AAP's, which is expected to take about 18 months. The public shall have the opportunity to provide comment to help inform this process. The goal of this process is to enhance the current AAP's to ensure greater protection of our natural resources.

2) **Small farms shall be required to certify with the state.** According to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture, Vermont has more than 7000 farms. Currently, VAAFM regularly inspects and certifies 166 farms, mostly medium and large dairy operations. In order to ensure all farms in the state are complying with the Accepted Agricultural Practices, small farms will be required to self-certify. "Small farms" will be defined by criteria which may include acreage and sales.

3) **Custom applicators shall be required to certify with the state.** Professionals hired to apply manure or nutrients will be required to complete training to ensure they understand best practices for minimizing runoff.

4) **VAAFM's enforcement process shall be streamlined.** The Agency will be granted increased authority to issue emergency orders, mandatory corrective actions, and removal of livestock in cases of immediate need, so egregious water quality violations can be dealt with more swiftly and efficiently.

5) **Current Use Valuation shall be tied to water quality compliance.** Currently, the Agency has a 3-step enforcement process for dealing with water quality violations:

- When a problem is identified, the Agency issues a Corrective Action letter.
- If Corrective Action is not taken in a timely manner, a Notice of Violation is issued.
- If the issue is still not resolved, a hearing is held and a ruling is issued. At this point in the enforcement process, if the business owner continues to

ignore the ruling, their Current Use enrollment would be suspended.

6) **VAAFM shall hire more staff to assist with education, outreach, and AAP enforcement:** There are more than 700 farms in Vermont, and currently VAAFM has only five staff in the field working with farmers on outreach and compliance issues. The legislation proposes adding seven additional field staff to work directly with farmers to promote water quality through stewardship practices and AAP compliance.

This bill is constantly evolving. Funding is a key component of the legislation, and sources are currently being debated. We have estimated an associated cost of \$1.2m to implement this programming. Funding sources under consideration include a fee on fertilizers, farm

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## AGRIVIEW

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### Editor's Note

It's been a long cold winter, and it's not over yet. Here in Montpelier, as we finalize this issue, the temperatures are dipping down to single digits. March has rolled in like a lion, with no signs of that little lamb we were promised.

So, we are staying busy indoors. Which brings me back to the subject at-hand. Do you have ideas for Agriview? Would you like to submit an article, or read about topics we're not currently covering? If so, send us an email at [AGR.Agriview@state.vt.us](mailto:AGR.Agriview@state.vt.us)

We are eager to hear your feedback and suggestions.

In the meantime, I'll be in the greenhouse. Starting my seeds, and trying to stay warm and optimistic. Spring is inevitable! I am impatient.

— Alison Kosakowski

Follow VAAFM on Twitter @VTAgencyof Ag and follow me @VTFarmGirl

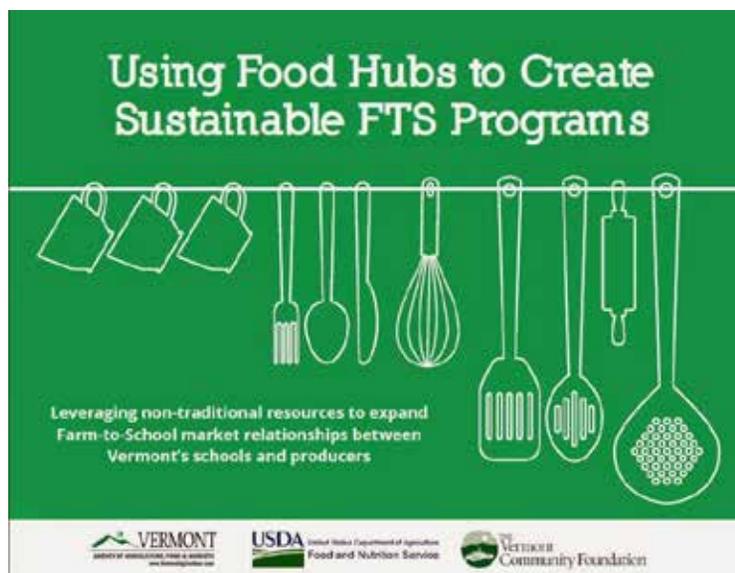


# New Resource Available to Help Food Hubs Support Sustainable Farm to School Programs

By Ali Zipparo, VAAFM

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) is pleased to announce the publication of a new resource, *Using Food Hubs to Create Sustainable Farm to School Programs* which highlights key roles that food hubs (defined by the USDA as “a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.”) can play in the development and maintenance of successful farm to school programs. This resource (available here) offers four case study examples designed to help guide both food hubs and farm to school (FTS) programs strengthen partnerships, increase local food procurement, and engage students and community members in farm to school.

In 2012, VAAFM received a \$100,000 grant from the USDA’s Farm to School Grant Program to explore the potential role of food hubs in FTS programming.



This federal grant leveraged approximately \$80,000 in match funding from regional and community partners, including Vermont Community Foundation’s Food and Farm Initiative. The federal funds were allocated to four Vermont food-focused community organizations – “food hubs” – in order to identify and fulfill the needs of farm to school programs within their individual communities, and also form a collaborative “Community of Practice” to identify and capture best practices for successful and sustainable Farm to School-food hub relationships. These relationships are captured in the form of case studies, highlighting the four partici-

pating food hubs: Addison County Relocalization Network; Green Mountain Farm to School; Mad River Food Hub/Mad River Localvores; and Rutland Area Farm and Food Link.

The findings of the research supported by this grant confirm that regional food hubs can be instrumental in connecting schools with local food producers, resulting in increased access to, and purchasing of local foods. As a demonstration of this effectiveness, food hubs calculated that local food purchases among schools engaged with a food hub increased by 58% (overall) and 62% (per capita) over the course of one year.

While Vermont is already

a national leader in Farm to School programming, the demand for fresh, local food in Vermont schools continues to grow as new programs emerge and existing programs expand throughout the state. Increasingly, regional food hubs are emerging to help meet demand in a variety of ways, including fostering connections between schools and farmer/producers, the aggregation and distribution of food, consumer education, producer technical assistance, and general program support. Food Hubs are often well positioned to meet the unique needs of the individual schools in their communities. This new

resource *Using Food Hubs to Create Sustainable Farm to School Programs* is designed to provide guidance and role models to food hubs - throughout Vermont and beyond – interested in facilitating the availability of fresh food in their local schools.

To access the guide and review additional visit the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food Hub webpage: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/market\\_access\\_development/food\\_hubs](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/market_access_development/food_hubs). For more information, please contact Abbey Willard by phone at 802-272-2885, or by email at [Abbey.Willard@state.vt.us](mailto:Abbey.Willard@state.vt.us).

## View From 116 State St. *continued from page 2*

certification fees, and parcel fees, among others. Legislators are currently weighing the options, but it’s clear that it will take real resources to implement this work. Almost all voices in the debate agree the majority of funding should be tied to the sources creating the excess phosphorous.

Agriculture is critical to our way of life here in Vermont. More than 1.2 million acres of Vermont land is devoted to farming, and agriculture is one of our most important industries. As an example, Vermont’s dairy industry, our largest agricultural sector, creates between 6000-7000

jobs, brings \$3 million in circulating cash to the state each day, and drives \$2.2 billion in annual economic activity. Our livestock farmers, equestrians, poultry farmers, and vegetable and fruit growers are all vital parts of our local, agricultural food system. Agriculture, as a whole, preserves open land, provides us healthy local foods, and is an essential part of Vermont’s identity.

The vast majority of Vermont farmers are outstanding stewards and are actively working to protect the waters of our state. This proposed legislation will help ensure all farmers are held accountable, so that agriculture and our natural resources can thrive, together.

*Charles R. Pusey*



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# The 2015 Vermont Organics Recycling Summit is April 2nd

By Nicole Duch, Composting Assoc. of VT

The Composting Association of Vermont and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation will host the ninth annual Vermont Organics Recycling Summit (VORS) at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vermont on Thursday, April 2, 2015. The theme for this year's Summit is: Cultivating Value From Foodscraps

With the passage of Vermont's Universal Recycling law in 2012, Vermonters are looking at how to turn foodscraps into economic value that supports local agriculture and soil health. The value in foodscraps is good for the

environment and supports made-in-America business that cannot be outsourced: from livestock feed and compost, to producing soil amendments, and compost-based products for erosion control and stormwater management. The breadth of environmental, economic and climate change adaptation benefits from diverting foodscraps from landfilling will be central to the message from this year's keynote, Britt Faucette, Ph.D.

Dr. Faucette is an ecosystem scientist, author, consultant and frequent conference presenter. He currently directs research, technical services, and regulatory approval programs for Filtrexx International and provides similar services for the organics recycling and storm



water management sectors.

VORS 2015 features eight workshops including one specific for large foodscrap generators who are required to comply with Vermont's phased-in organics diversion landfill ban July 1, 2015.

Other workshop topics are:

- Compost Use in a Changing World: Stormwater, Water Quality, and Climate Change

- Hot Stuff: Capturing Thermal Energy from Composting
- Pros and Cons of Community and On-Farm Composting Methods
- Collection and Hauling Models for Efficiency and Profitability
- Compostable Products: From Food Service to Compost Pile
- Technology to Manage Food Scraps On Site
- Universal Recycling Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities: A Policy and Practice Discussion

Participants can also meet with vendors, and network with organics diversion experts and regulators.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. Registration fee (\$60.) includes continental

breakfast, lunch and an ice-cream social and raffle.

Sponsor and Vendor information is available on request. For more information about the Summit or to register, please visit the event website at: <http://www.regonline.com/VORS2015> or contact Nicole Duch, [vorsummit@gmail.com](mailto:vorsummit@gmail.com), 802-456-1094.

*The Composting Association of Vermont (CAV) is a nonprofit organization. CAV supports and promotes organics recycling that protects and benefits the environment. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (ANR/DEC) is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of Vermont's people and ecosystems and promoting the sustainable use of Vermont's natural resources.*

## Rural Road Crashes - They're Preventable!

By Louise Waterman, VAAFM

The increase in urbanization of rural areas has led to an increase in traffic on public roads used by farmers as they move equipment and commodities. Housing developments and small acreage lifestyles all contribute to more traffic on rural roads. Increasing farm size results in larger farm equipment, noncontiguous fields, and more travel time for farm equipment, making

rural roads more dangerous. Every year crashes between farm implements and motor vehicles happen on our public roads. **They're preventable! Share the road** safely with motorists.

- Plan travel to avoid high traffic times, busy roads, bad weather and times before daylight or after dark
- Be more obvious to motorists by using visible reflective SMV emblems



and lights for any implement operated on public highways.

- Watch out for passing vehicles when making left turns, especially into fields

- Always use hand or turn signals to indicate plans to turn
- Install wide mirrors so you can see traffic that is following you
- Use reflective marking tape and reflectors on equipment edges
- Turn on farm equipment lights
- If road and shoulder conditions are safe, pull over temporarily to allow

traffic to pass

- Minimize equipment width and haul equipment when practical
- Have an escort precede or follow you when practical
- Be aware of drowsiness from long hours of work

*Adapted from I-CASH – Iowa's Center for Agriculture Safety and Health*

# Producers: Get Your Scales Tested!

By Henry Marckes, VAAFM

The Consumer Protection Section of The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will be hosting multiple scale inspection events around the state during March and April for anyone who uses scale(s) at farmers' markets or farm stands to sell produce or other commodities. This testing is required by law, and the Agency would like to encourage producers to take advantage of these testing dates as they will replace the Agency's annual visits to Vermont farmers' markets. This will allow the Agency to perform these inspections in a more efficient manner in a way that creates less disruption to you and the farmers' markets.

Please plan to attend one of the inspection events listed below. Bring your legal for trade scale, and any accessories that you use with it for weighing items for sale.

The following is a list of dates and locations for the testing. Most sites will be at Agency of Transportation (AOT) garage sites. Hours for each location will be 9:00am – 3:00pm. You can come anytime during our open hours. The test should take around 10 minutes per scale.

- Agency Weights and Measures Lab**  
 322 Industrial Park Lane,  
 Berlin  
 March 17  
 March 24  
 April 9
- AOT - St. Albans**  
 680 Lower Newton Rd.  
 March 31
- AOT - Randolph**

100 Bettis Rd.  
 April 1

**AOT - Derby**  
 4611 US Rt. 5  
 March 25

**AOT - St. Johnsbury**  
 1098 US Rt. 5  
 April 1

**AOT - Dummerston**  
 870 US Rt. 5  
 April 1

**AOT - Colchester**  
 5 Barnes Ave.  
 April 2

**AOT - Morrisville**  
 643 Brooklyn St.  
 April 2

**AOT - Bennington**  
 359 Bowen Rd.  
 April 2

**AOT - Clarendon**  
 1628 Route 7B  
 April 7

**AOT - Middlebury**  
 341 Creek Rd.  
 April 8



**AOT - Windsor**  
 1640 US 5 North  
 April 8

Look for the scale-checking signs!  
 If you have any questions, call the Consumer Protection office at: 802-828-2426

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## Upcoming Conference Will Explore Agritourism

By Lisa Chase, UVM

**F**armers, agricultural service providers, educators, and others interested in agritourism, on-farm education, and direct sales are encouraged to participate in a two-day exploration of open farms April 7-8 in Rutland, Vermont

Are you interested in expanding your farm to include agritourism opportunities?

This is a great chance to learn from...

- Farm stay operator, Beth Kennett, Liberty Hill Farm
- Marketing consultant, Pam Knights, Pam Knights Communications
- Farm tour operator, Chris Howell, Vermont Farm Tours

- Vermont Fresh Network, Grace Meyer, on Dig In VT
  - Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative, Mari Omland, Green Mountain Girls Farm
  - Massachusetts diversified farmer and on-farm dinner extraordinaire, Elizabeth Almeida, Fat Moon Farm
  - Connecticut farm-based educator and farmer, Brianne Casadei, Terra Firma Farm
  - Salem, NY farmer and educator, Meg Southerland, Gardenworks Farm
  - And many more speakers and peers!
- More information is available at [www.uvm.edu/vtagritourism](http://www.uvm.edu/vtagritourism). Funding for this conference was made



possible in part with a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA Rural Development. Additional support came from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Rutland Area Farm and Food

Link (RAFFL), University of Vermont Extension, Shelburne Farms, Farm-Based Education Network, Vermont Farms! Association, the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, and the Vermont Agency

of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Community College of Vermont.

This conference aligns with Vermont's Farm to Plate goals to increase food literacy, farm profitability, and local food availability as well as more opportunities for farms to engage in technical assistance opportunities.

Register on-line at <https://www.regonline.com/vtagritourism-apr2015-rutland>. Space is limited and registration is filling quickly.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lisa Chase at 802-257-7967 or 1-800-571-0668 (toll-free in VT) or [lisa.chase@uvm.edu](mailto:lisa.chase@uvm.edu) so we may assist you.

## Agency of Ag Employee Recognized for Contributions to EPA's Pesticide Program

By Wendy Houston-Anderson, VAAFM

**D**uring the March 2015 Annual Meeting of AAPCO (American Association of Pesticide Control Officials) in Washington, D.C., Jeff Comstock, Groundwater Monitoring Coordinator with the ARM Division, was awarded a Bronze Medal by the U.S. EPA for "outstanding contributions to the development of the

FY2015-2017 FIFRA Grant Guidance, including the electronic template for work plans and reporting". (FIFRA = Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide

Act). The Bronze medal is the third highest honor award given by the EPA.



Jeff Comstock

Jeff received the award along with a dozen EPA employees, and four other individuals from State Regulatory Agencies. This was the only project award given during the ceremony that recognized the contributions of individuals outside of the EPA.

The EPA provides annual

grant funding to States to support the implementation of the states' pesticide regulatory programs. To receive this funding, states must develop workplans outlining how they will implement pesticide control activities that address National priorities, while at the same time addressing unique state program priorities. The revised grant guidance facilitates a State's development of their workplan by clarifying what activities must be undertaken

to meet EPA's requirements, while giving states the flexibility to incorporate efforts to advance their own pesticide control priorities.

Jeff has been attending AAPCO meetings throughout his 30-year tenure at the Agency and has served on the Board of Directors for seven years. He has just completed his term as past-president of AAPCO. Congratulations to Jeff for this significant accomplishment and honor!



# Vermont Food System Creates Jobs, Boosts Economy and Increases Local Food Availability

By Rachel Carter,  
*Farm to Plate*

The local food movement has been capturing media attention all across the country. Vermont, in many ways, is serving as the pace setter for focused, coordinated activity that is driving job and food business creation, economic output, and finding creative ways for all Vermonters to participate in this renaissance of ‘relocalized’ food.

“In 2009, when the Vermont Legislature set the Farm to Plate Initiative in motion, no one really knew what might come of it. As the Chair of the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee, I could not be more pleased,” said Carolyn Partridge, a state representative from Windham County. “We’ve seen incredible jobs creation, we’ve seen young people starting new farms, and we’re finding all sorts of creative ways to get fresh, local food onto the dinner table of Vermonters.”

The 2014 Farm to Plate Annual Report reveals how Vermont’s farmers and food enterprises are increasing food production and how programs such as farm to school, farm to college and farm to hospital as well as the charitable food system are all working to increase the amount of fresh, local food that is available to Vermonters at all income levels.

**Vermont’s farm and food economy is growing.**

From 2007 to 2012 food system economic output expanded 24%, from \$6.9 billion to \$8.6 billion.

**Food manufacturing is growing at a faster rate than overall manufacturing in Vermont as well as food manufacturing in the other New England states.**

There are 748 food manufacturing firms in the state, a 37% increase over 2009 (539 firms).

The number of food manufacturing jobs increased by 1,596 between 2009-2013. Vermont’s 34.5% increase grew at a faster rate than other New England states (MA=21%, NH=4.2%, CT=3.6%, RI=-1.5%, ME=-8.5%).

**Crop and livestock sales are on the rise.**

The value of agricultural sales increased to \$776 million in 2012, up from \$746 million in 2007, a 4% increase. The number of farms with \$10,000 or more in sales in 2012 was 3,018, a 5% increase from 2007 (2,883).

**Job creation is strong.**

4,189 new jobs (7.2% increase) were created in the food system from 2009 to 2013. For every 1 food system job created there are 1.28 additional jobs created in Vermont.



**Vermont’s entrepreneurs are creating new businesses and thus, employment.**

665 new farms and food businesses (5.9% increase) were launched in the food system from 2009 to 2013.

Over 60,000 Vermonters are employed as farmers, waiters, cheese makers, brewers, bakers, butchers, grocery stockers, restaurateurs, manufacturers, marketers, distributors, and many other food related jobs. About 12,000 businesses are part of Vermont’s food system.

**More businesses are sourcing local food.**

Sodexo spent \$3.2 million on local food in 2014 served to Vermont college and university students at 16 campuses as well as at 4 additional locations.

UVM Medical Center purchased \$1.6 million in local food in 2014, includ-

ing \$343,000 directly from farmers (up 35% over 2013). They also purchased an additional \$260,000 worth of food from regional food purveyors (up 18% over 2013).

City Market, one of Vermont’s 17 consumer food cooperatives, reported \$11 million in locally sourced food sales, or 31% of their total gross sales in 2014.

The Vermont Food Venture Center in Hardwick processed 40,000 lbs. of locally grown produce for schools, colleges and hospitals in Vermont.

**Innovation and collaboration across Vermont’s food access community is helping food insecure Vermonters.**

The Vermont Foodbank, state agencies, and many community food security organizations are bringing fresh local food to food insecure Vermonters and providing job training to underemployed and unemployed people.

In 2014, the Vermont

Foodbank distributed nearly 9 million pounds of food – over 1.3 million of those pounds were produce. This is the first time the Foodbank has distributed more than 1 million pounds of produce and is a 45% increase over the previous year. Of that, nearly 320,000 pounds were donated or gleaned from Vermont farms (a 9% increase over the previous year).

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, the non-profit coordinator of Vermont’s Farm to Plate Network, is responsible for reporting Farm to Plate Strategic Plan progress annually to the Vermont Legislature. Data is collected from a variety of sources including the USDA Census of Agriculture and Farm to School Census, and the U.S. Census Bureau’s Annual Survey of Manufacturers and Economic Census. Data sources and analysis relevant to each of the 25 goals of the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan can be accessed directly at the Farm to Plate website: [www.VTFarmtoPlate.com/Getting-to-2020](http://www.VTFarmtoPlate.com/Getting-to-2020).

“Because of our small size, when we work together towards a shared goal, such as strengthening our local food economy, we can really make things happen. We see the fruit of our hard work, and so do others around the country — Wisconsin, New Mexico, Washington, Florida, Maryland, as well

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# Discover Hellebores: “The Lenten Rose”

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

This perennial often is just called “hellebore” from its genus name (*Helleborus*), and is not a rose at all. It gets this name from the fact the flowers somewhat resemble a small single rose, and it blooms in the north in early spring—the Lent religious season. There have been many improved selections introduced in recent years, and it was named the Perennial Plant of the Year for 2005 by the Perennial Plant Association.

There are about 15 species of hellebores, with four more commonly found, the most common being the Lenten Rose (*orientalis*) and the Christmas Rose (*niger*). The Christmas rose blooms much earlier in mild climates such as in Britain, hence its name. One of the legends about it concerns a country girl, Madelon, who visits the Christ child in Bethlehem. Seeing her sadness for not having a gift to bring him, an angel brings her outside and touches the ground. There arise blooms of the Christmas Rose that she can then present as a gift to the baby Jesus.

It is odd to have such a plant celebrate Christ’s birth, as this species and the other members of this genus are highly toxic. It is one of the four classic poisons, together with nightshade, hemlock, and aconite. In fact, the name hellebore comes from the Greek “elein” meaning to



injure, and “bora” meaning food.

Use of hellebore dates to 1400 BC, when it was used as a purgative to “cleanse the mind of all perverse habits”. It is found in writings through the ages, from the ancient Greeks through the Middle Ages, when it was used by herbalists. It has been used for animal ailments, to bless animals and keep them from evil spirits, to repel flies, to “purge the veins of melancholy, and cheer the heart”, or even in one superstition to make oneself invisible if scattered in the air!

Hellebores are native to southern and central Europe, and from Slovenia to Macedonia. They are often found in mountains, and on stony clay soils. Although the Lenten rose is listed as hardy to zone 4 (-30 degrees F), and the Christmas rose to zone 3 (even colder), both are usually battered by or under the snow in these areas. Mine, in a cold zone 4, often start the spring in a sad state, with

unattractive or few flowers, but rebound with nice leaves in the summer. Cutting back damaged spring foliage can result in new growth more quickly.

Most species are not as hardy, and most hybrids that one finds include these less hardy species as parents. These hellebores, often hybrids (x hybridus) with the Lenten rose prefer and grow best in mild climates, such as in Britain, our mid-Atlantic states, the Pacific Northwest, and even the upper Southern states. If you have a mild climate (USDA zones 5 to 6 or 0 to -20 degrees minimum), or a protected location, you may wish to try some of the newer hybrids. When buying from catalogs, look for hardiness zone designations.

Hellebores grow best in part shade, with moist but well-drained soils. They will, however, tolerate most soils as long as not waterlogged. In the north, if hardy, they can be grown in full sun if sufficient moisture. They

need little fertilizer, just an application in spring of compost and perhaps a light sprinkling of a slow-release organic fertilizer (such as a 5-3-4 analysis).

Plants are slow to get established, but once they are growing they seldom need division, unlike many perennials. If you do want to divide, or need to transplant, September or October is best. Dig the whole plant, wash off soil, then divide with a sharp knife between growth buds. Leave at least 3 buds on each division.

When planting divisions, or even new plants in pots, keep the “crowns” (where stems join the roots) at soil level and no more than one inch deep. Prepare the soil well prior to planting, and deeply, as many have deep roots and they’ll likely be in the same spot for many years. Make sure not to mulch excessively (this can lead to rots) or cover with compost too deeply.

They grow well on hillsides and slopes. Since

they are low (12 to 18 inches high), and flowers are at or below the leaves, they are better appreciated if placed in raised beds, along walks, or on slopes. Much breeding has focused on not only new and better flower colors, and larger flowers, but upward-facing flowers. To better appreciate the flowers you can cut them, and place in a vase with floral preservative.

Leaves are divided into leathery leaflets with coarsely cut, or spiny, margins. The nodding flowers, up to two inches across, are generally in shades of white, rose, green or purple. Some new hybrids have spotted flowers, others are quite double or bicolors or streaked. What we call the flowers are actually the sepals, the flower petals being inconspicuous. Flowers and leaves of some species, such as the Lenten and Christmas roses, are stemless — they arise directly from the roots. Other species may have stems.

Plants are generally purchased, already started. As with other members of the Ranunculaceae or Buttercup family, growing from seeds can be difficult. The Christmas rose may be difficult to establish, not tolerate climate and cultural extremes, and may grow well in one area and not one adjacent. The Lenten rose is much easier to grow if you are just trying these plants for the first time. Check with local perennial nurseries to learn which of the many selections might grow best in your area.

# Grant Funds to Support Vermont Specialty Crop Industries Announced

*VAAFM plans to award approximately \$200,000 in Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds in 2015*

By Kristina Sweet, VAAFM

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) announces the availability of grant funds for the purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops. These funds are awarded through a competitive review process guided by industry, nonprofit and government stakeholders. Interested applicants may download the Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Request for Proposals on the Agency's website at [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/funding\\_opportunities/vaafm\\_funding/specialty\\_crop](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities/vaafm_funding/specialty_crop)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural

Marketing Service (AMS) awards Specialty Crop Block Grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. In Vermont, the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets administers these funds to enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops. VAAFM plans to award approximately \$200,000 in Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds in 2015. Visit [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgbp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgbp) for further details on the federal program.

VAAFM strongly encourages projects proposing innovative partnerships that will develop new knowledge to strengthen specialty crop producers' operations, and, in partnership with statewide specialty crop industry stakeholders, has identified the following (unranked) program goals for 2015:

- Economic impact across

Vermont's working landscape

- Environmental stewardship
- Farm viability and profitability

Applicants must submit a letter of intent by April 3,

2015. A review committee will invite the top-ranking projects to submit full proposals, which must be submitted by May 15, 2015.

For more information about grant opportunities visit...

- The Vermont Working

Lands Enterprise Initiative's Funding Opportunities page at <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/apply/ta/securing>

- USDA AMS's Grant Programs page at [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSGrants](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSGrants)



## Vermont Food System *continued from page 7*

as the other New England states – who all inquire about the 'secret sauce' here in Vermont and look to Farm to Plate as a model for statewide food system development," says Ellen Kahler, executive director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund which administers Farm to Plate.

Kahler also serves on the

coordinating body of Food Solutions New England, which released A New England Food Vision in June 2014—a six state initiative to produce 50 percent of the food purchased by New Englanders by 2060. "Vermont can't be an island. We're never going to be able to provide all the food we need by ourselves. Even within New England, this 50% goal is going to be hard to achieve. But it serves

to inspire us, to envision a different kind of food system, one that is more ecologically and health aligned with our values as Vermonters," says Kahler. "The value of 'local control' is strong in Vermont. 'Relocalizing' where our food comes from, how it's grown, raised or caught, and who benefits, matters. It's about fairness and it's something that Vermonters across our great state are making happen."

*Vermont Farm to Plate is the statewide initiative legislatively directed to increase economic development and jobs in Vermont's farm and food sector and improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters. The ten year Farm to Plate Strategic Plan to strengthen the working landscape, build the resilience of farms and food enterprises, improve environmental quality, and increase healthy, local food access for all Vermonters*

*is being implemented by the Farm to Plate Network—over 350 farm and food sector organizations from across the state. Farm to Plate is coordinated by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, a non-profit organization based in Montpelier, Vermont. Learn more about the plan, network, and how progress is being tracked at [www.VTFarmtoPlate.com](http://www.VTFarmtoPlate.com).*

# Increasing Efficiency In The Sugar House

By JJ Vandette, Efficiency Vermont  
Planning Manager - Agriculture

**W**ith daytime temperatures on the rise and nights still dipping below 32 degrees, sugaring season is starting to ramp up in Vermont. For the next month, more than 1500 sugaring operations across the state will boil incredible volumes of maple sap to produce over one million gallons of delicious syrup.

According to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture from 2012, our small state is responsible for more than 44% of the nation's syrup production. The Boston Globe reported that in 2014, Vermont's sugarers produced just over 1.3 million of the total 3.17 million gallons of U.S. syrup. Therefore, it's with good reason that syrup has become a symbol of Vermont.

Vermont maple sugaring operations vary in scale, from the small hobbyist with a few backyard buckets, to the dairy farmer looking to diversify his/her income stream, to the large scale operation that produces tens of thousands of gallons a year. While different in many ways, they all have at least one thing in common – energy.

## The Sugaring Process: How Reverse Osmosis Works

Sugaring is an energy intensive process. It takes approximately 43 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup, and getting from 43 to one requires a lot of fuel. The majority of Vermont maple sugarers use oil or cord wood-fired evaporators to concentrate their sap, and even with an efficient evaporator, this process still requires a lot of energy.

For decades maple sugaring equipment has been evolving to adopt more advanced technologies to optimize the efficiency of sugaring operations. One example of these

advancements is a Reverse Osmosis (RO) system. ROs can remove more than 75% of the water from sap prior to boiling, leading to as much as a 75% reduction in energy used by the evaporator to fully transform the sap to syrup. The sap is first pressurized and passed through the RO system, which uses a filter membrane designed to let water molecules (permeate) through, which increases the sugar content of the remaining liquid (concentrate). The concentrate is then moved on to the evaporator to be boiled into maple syrup.

## Slopeside Syrup

*continued from page 1*

maple community, the Governor used the occasion as an opportunity to build awareness for “real maple.” He called on Vermonters to help him bring attention to the many imitation maple products lining grocery shelves, which threaten the reputation of Vermont maple.

“Vermonters know real maple, but across the country, food manufacturers are mislabeling artificially produced products as maple, and that creates confusion,” the Governor said. “We need to build awareness for real maple... there is no substitute.”

“As a business owner, my livelihood is threatened by those who market ‘fake maple,’” Brown says. “My hope is that Vermonters will take an interest in this issue and vow to buy ‘real maple’ to support our sugarmakers.”

Vermont continues to lead that nation in maple production. In 2014, Vermont produced 42% of the nation's syrup, twice the amount produced by the next largest maple states, combined (New York and Maine each produced 17%, respectively).

After tapping a tree, the

Sugarers began incorporating ROs into their operations in the 1970s to save on fuel costs and time. ROs are now commonplace for the largest maple sugar makers in Vermont. However, for the majority of small and medium-sized operations in the state, installing an RO just isn't in the budget.

At Efficiency Vermont, we understand the many benefits of RO systems and the energy saving opportunities that still exist for Vermont's smaller maple sugar makers. In order to expand the use of this efficient technology and

reduce the energy intensity of maple operations in Vermont, we will soon be offering technical assistance and a rebate for maple sugar makers who are looking to install an RO for the first time. We're excited to roll out this new offering to support a fundamental part of Vermont's economy, culture, and heritage.

Contact the Efficiency Vermont Customer Support team to be placed on a callback list when rebates become available, or come visit us at the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans on April 24, 25 and 26 to learn more!

Governor toured the Slopeside sugarhouse and enjoyed some French toast prepared by Richmond Elementary school kitchen director Karyl Kent. This is the fourth year Slopeside Syrup has provided maple syrup for Richmond Elementary, and has taught students about tapping trees.

“This is a fantastic example of Ag Literacy in action,” said Chuck Ross, Secretary of Agriculture. “This hands-on experience will make a lifelong impression on these students, building awareness for the

way our food system works.”

The Cochran family has a long and storied history in the world of skiing: over the years, eight Cochrans have raced on the U.S. Ski team, including Barbara Ann Cochran, who won a gold medal in slalom at the 1972 Olympics in Sapporo, Japan.

Today, a whole new generation is coming to Cochran's to learn to ski and enjoy real maple syrup.

“It doesn't get much more ‘Vermont’ than this,” said the Governor.



Governor Shumlin tears open a serving of Untapped, Slopeside's new energy gell, before tapping the first tree of the season.

MARKET REPORT

**Wholesale Prices**

March 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



**Vermont Agency of Agriculture - USDA Market News**

Addison County Commission Sales - East Middlebury, VT

Livestock Auction Report for March 9, 2015

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Calves</b>
This Week:	119	190
Last Week:	148	225

Compared to last Monday's sale, slaughter cows sold \$2.00-\$3.00 lower with moderate demand. Slaughter cattle supply included 119 cows. All prices quoted per cwt.

**SLAUGHTER COWS:**

Percent Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	104.00-106.00	108.00-112.50	100.00-102.50
Boners	80-85	100.50-104.00	107.50-108.50	94.00- 99.00
Lean	85-90	95.00-97.50	—	90.00-93.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: not tested

CALVES: When compared to last week's sale holstein bull calves sold steady with good demand. Winter storm travel restrictions limited buyers from purchasing calves for the New England market. All prices per cwt.

**HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:**

**Number 1:** 100-120lbs 402.50-440.00; 90-100 lbs 382.50-422.50; 80-90 lbs not tested; 70-80 lbs not tested.

**Number 2:** 100-120lbs 350.00-397.50; 90-100 lbs 530.00-395.00; 80-90 lbs not tested.

**Number 3:** 100-120lbs 245.00-267.50; 90-100lbs 225.00-310.00; 80-90lbs 300.00-307.50; 70-80lbs not tested.

**Utility:** 100-120lbs 73.00-200.00; 90-100lbs 77.00-250.00; 80-90lbs 65.00-200.00; 70-80 lbs 50.00-125.00

**HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES:**

84-99lbs 112.50-247.50

Price and grade information is reported by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture-USDA Market News Service. While market reports reflect the majority of livestock sold at each sale, there are instances where animals do not fit reporting categories and are not included in this report.

**SOURCE:**

VT Agency of Ag - USDA  
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA

Darryl Kuehne  
Market Reporter  
Cell: 802-793-5348

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

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/MP\\_LS141.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/MP_LS141.txt)

For all USDA Livestock and Grain market reports:  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMNPubs/index.htm>

CLASSIFIEDS

**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](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](mailto: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](http://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**

Black Angus 2 year old Hefier 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 rola-bar 57 3 ph rake good teeth, handy \$2,750.00 vicon 510t

## CLASSIFIEDS

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)

Mixed breed herd for sale. 14 registered Ayrshires, 11 Jerseys, 1 Brown Swiss, 7 Jersey/Hol crosses. Florence 802-483-2889 (6/15)

6 month old registered Dexter bull calf, dun, horned, PHA & Chondro free. Halter broke, trained to stanchion and handled daily. His dam is the smallest cow and biggest milk producer in herd. Calf is mature for his age with a beefy, square build. He will make an excellent sire for a dual purpose herd. \$800. (802) 333-7025 (6/15)

Certified Organic Registered Springing Jersey Heifers for sale. 2 due in April, 1 in May, and 2 in June. Performance pedigrees available upon request. All from appraised herd \$1750 each. Call 802-748-8461 (6/15)



### Employment

CO-provider/co-manager wanted on an organic livestock farm in Danville. Ideal cansitate/couple would be willing to assist with current operations which include 150 herd of cattle, small sheep flock, and even less pigs housed in 4 barns and based on 278 acres of hayland and pasture. All this serviced by a full line of haying and tillage equipment. We direct market beef, pork and lamb from our retail Farmstore and seek to add offering to our customer. Co-provider opportunities include more small ruminants, poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables and maybe a micro-dairy. Extra pasture and barn space available for those seeking start up opportunities. 802-748-8461. (6/15)

### Equipment

7 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) 270-4159. (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 coulters - \$950. MF

3bottomm plows 3 pt coulters - \$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)

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)

Emasculator \$100. 7" Tractor Harrows \$300. Harness parts Harness tugs for cart (home-made) can be used with three horses with three horse neck yoke. 802-877-3297 (5/15)

14.9 tires good shape. 5 horsepower motor, 9.5 horsepower motor. 802-624-0143 (5/15)

International 1486 cab ac heat Am/FM CD radio three remotes new tires run like new \$9500. Nine wheel pin-wheel rake \$1050. 18 ft tag along cattle trailer \$300. 802-537-2435 (5/15)

New 2014 5 ft ATV plow. Fits

on Can-Am or Polaris \$400. 802-989-1006 (5/15)

New Hollard 892 Chopper both hay and two row corn heads. International NO 56 silo blower short hopper with auger feed. For price call 802-372-4513(6/15)

Stewart cow clippers (New baldes) used to clip horses mane. 2 No 9 MC Cormick HD mowing machine (for parts), some parts already gone, also two Mc-Cormick no.7 for parts. 802-877-3297 (6/15)

John Deere 348 baler w#42 ejector [pan type], 2 Pequea steel flare top racks on gears, all in very good condition, asking \$14,000 for all, will separate. Corse Farm Dairy Whitingham 802-368-7192 before 8PM, leave message. (6/15)

Gehl 1075 Chopper, Tandem axle, 7ft pickup and 2 row corn heads, w/processor (new rolls and bearings), ready to work! \$12,000. Richardton 700 Dump, Great condition, with roof. \$9,000. Dawn Row Cleaners, 6 standard units to fit JD 7200/1700 series planters. Good working condition. \$100 per unit. North Clarendon, VT. (802) 345-2231(6/15)

Kuhn EUI Vertical mixer-scales..\$8500. Gehl 1287 (NH 680) man sprdr- end gate..\$2800.

NI 3622 Manure Sprdr- 150 bu..\$2200. JD 2800 Onland Plows- Auto reset..\$2000. JD F845- 4 bm Roll over plows...\$1400. NH 411 MoCo- 10' \$3800. Kuhn GF440T tedder-13'. \$1500. 802-376-5262 www.youngsmilkywayfarm.com

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, Bumper pull. \$4,200.00 Call 802-537-3167 (6/15)

### Farm & Farmland

61 Acres on paved town rd. in Whitehall, NY. 14 acres, flat, certified organic. Balance are woods. Excellent



CLASSIFIEDS

hunting, timber, Adirondack Mt. and Green Mt. Views. Must lease back hay land for 2015 crop year. 125,000 dollars. 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)

21 acres tillable cropland and permanent pasture for sale or rent. Has been in sod for 30 plus years and could be certified organic. Many uses possible. On a dead end road with big skyline views and would make a great homesite. Northfield 802-485-7434 (6/15)

**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)

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)



First cutting, never wet, 35# bales, \$3 per bale. About 50 bales available. East Thetford. 802-785-4247(6/15)

Organic first cut hay for sale, small square bales, never wet, \$3.50 at the barn, Monkton, Last Resort Farm 453-2847 (6/15)

**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)

Organic first cut hay for sale, small square bales, never wet, \$3.50 at the barn, Monkton, Last Resort Farm 453-2847 (6/15)

5' rototiller \$1200, Farm 3 pt winch \$250, 15' rotary hoe \$500, 4' Dr road grader, used once \$200. 802-767-3327 (6/15)

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**

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

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Hay and Straw and or organic, Large or small square bales. Whole or processed by bales at Farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 (5/15)

**ORLEANS COUNTY**

Canadian hay for sale, big squares, round bales, straw available for more information call 802-323-3275. (6/15)

Good quality 1st & 2nd cut conventional square bales. 802-988-2959 or 802-279-2832. (6/15)

**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)

**Horses & Other Equine**

2 Purebred "Le Cheval Cagation" blood mares. 1 started under saddle \$2000 each 802-767-3327 (6/15)

**Horse Equipment**

Tranis sled - holds 14 average size adults. Very good shape, kept under cover \$800. New Idear Manure spreader under cover, good condition. Tractor hitch can be used with horses with forecart. \$800 1988 Horse trailer very good shap. No more use for it. \$1000. Used for 2 drafft horses 1900 lbs each with harnesses on. No divider. 3 collars 26"-28" collar pads, back pad, blanket.

1 pair new blankets. 2 sets bells go around collar \$25 - \$150. 802-295-2910 (6/15)

36x72 12stall 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)

**Poultry & Rabbits**

20 Black Sex Link pullets born October 1st, starting to lay for \$15 each. 12, 2 year old hens \$4 each. (802) 325-3312 (6/15)

**Sheep**

Border Leicester ewes and lambs for sale \$100 - \$150 each. 802-592-3320. (6/15)

**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 fleury@maple@hughes.net. (4/15)

Sap buckets \$5 a set. 5x4 front pan \$350. 802-933-6840 (5/15)

2 maple syrup signs, some pipeline and wire, stove pip cover, large size, old sap spouts and more. \$100(6/15)

**Swine**

Four piglets of a heritage breed for April or early May. chas-

call2@fairpoint.net or 802-564-3769 (6/15)

**Wanted**

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)

I am looking for a PT7 mower/conditioner in usable condition or for parts. 802-244-8580. (6/15)

Yearling beef cattle for grass-fed grazing: 550-850 lbs, healthy, grain-free, no or little antibiotics, no hormones. May 2015 delivery or pickup. Open to any beef breed or beef cross. Will buy as few as 1, as many as 20+. 802-585-6236. (6/15)

3 bottom plow, grain drill, manure spreader, backhoe for John Deere 5085E. Todd Hardie, Greensboro, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802.324.0354 (6/15)

# UVM and Vermont Law School Present 4th Annual Food Systems Summit June 16-17

By Erica Houskeeper, UVM

All people deserve access to adequate, nutritious food. The complicated and provocative question for the fourth annual UVM Food Systems Summit on June 16-17 is how to provide this basic human right.

Globally and in Vermont, the stakes are profound. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, one in nine people worldwide are chronically hungry. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 13 percent of Vermont households are food insecure. The challenge of “feeding the world” is complicated by income inequality, environmental constraints, technological limitations, climate change and a growing world population. This multi-dimensional challenge calls for interdisciplinary responses.

At the UVM Food Systems Summit, international and national food movement leaders – including renowned food rights activist Raj Patel – will join with scholars, farmers, scientists, philanthropists, business leaders and students, among other food system stakeholders, to discuss and debate pathways and challenges to food security.

Facing questions that cross boundaries between law, policy, science, technology, and agriculture, UVM is partnering with Vermont Law School’s Center for

Agriculture and Food Systems to host the summit.

“UVM and Vermont Law School are leading academic institutions in the study of food systems, and together are working to enhance our understanding of food systems, from local to international. Vermont is a small state, but our communities are similar to other communities anywhere, and what we learn about community food systems can be applied globally,” said Doug Lantagne, director of the UVM Food Systems Initiative.

The summit is open to the public, and the organizers are seeking participation from nonprofits, government, farmers and food producers. During the two-day conference, sessions will address the following themes: the biophysical constraints to feed the population, the impact of geopolitical context on our food system, and the implications of behavior and culture.

“Food advocacy is a unique vehicle for systems change, and the UVM Food Systems Summit is a unique opportunity for the academic and agricultural communities to come together to find food systems solutions,” said Laurie Ristino, director for the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School.

Three keynote speakers will each provide a one-hour talk, as well as participate in a panel discussion at the end of the summit:

**Raj Patel** is a research professor in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin, and a senior research associate at the Unit for the Humanities at Rhodes University in South Africa.

**Claire Kremen** is a professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley, and co-directs the Center for Diversified Farming Systems and the Berkeley Food Institute at the University of California.

**Smita Narula** is a fellow in human rights and pub-

lic policy at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. She is a human rights advocate, attorney, and academic who has worked globally to promote and defend sustainable access to nutritious food as a fundamental human right.

In addition, panel discussions with international, national, and regional experts will feature research and examples of how the right to food is playing out in a globalized food system.

Panelists include scholars and leaders from a variety of organizations and institutions, including Syracuse University, the University

of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, CATIE Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center in Costa Rica, the University of Idaho College of Law, the University of South Carolina, the Vermont Farm to Plate Network and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. To promote dialogue among all participants, all sessions will include time for Q&A and engaged dialogue with the audience.

The UVM Food Systems Summit will be held at the UVM Davis Center. For more information and to register, visit [www.uvm.edu/foodsystemssummit](http://www.uvm.edu/foodsystemssummit).



## Registration Now Open for Youth Tractor Safety Course

By Liz Kenton, UVM Extension

All 14- and 15-year-olds who work on a farm other than their family farm must successfully complete a tractor safety certification course in order to operate tractors and other machinery and handle certain hazardous tasks. While legally required only for this age group, training also benefits older teens employed in agriculture.

This spring University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and Vermont Technical College (VTC) will offer a two-part class through the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation

Program. It will be held on May 3 and 17 from 8 a.m. to noon at the VTC dairy farm on Water Street in Randolph Center.

Any youths 14 and older may register for the course, which will include classroom work, safety demonstrations and hands-on tractor driving instruction with VTC's farm teaching staff. A wide range of topics will be covered including instruments and controls, pre-operation checks, PTO and hydraulics, maintenance and farm and highway safety. In addition to in-class time, students must log a minimum of 10 hours of supervised at-home driving practice and pass both a written exam and driving test to earn their tractor



operator's certificate.

Registrations will be accepted until April 27 or the class is filled. The fee, which includes a cookout on the last day, is \$65 per person with a \$5 discount for each additional registration from the same

farm or family. Space is limited to the first 15 paid registrants.

To register or for more information, go to [www.vtc.edu/tractor-safety](http://www.vtc.edu/tractor-safety) or call Eva Loomis at (802) 728-1534. To inquire about scholarships or request a disability-

related accommodation to participate, contact Liz Kenton, UVM Extension Youth Agriculture Project coordinator, at [ekenton@uvm.edu](mailto:ekenton@uvm.edu) or (802) 257-7967, ext. 308, or toll-free at (800) 278-5480 (within Vermont) by April 22.

## Accepted Agricultural Practices: A Regulatory Primer

By Stephanie Smith, VAAFM

There are many laws and regulations to mitigate nuisance and to safeguard the public and a property owner from undue adverse consequences arising from agricultural practices. These exist in various sections of Vermont law. However, municipal land use laws, enabled under Chapter 117 of Title 24, a common source of regulation for the protection of property rights at the local level, are limited in their application to accepted agricultural practices.

The limitation provides

that "accepted agricultural... practices, including the construction of farm structures" [AAP] are not regulated at the municipal level. The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (Agency) regulates these activities through standards in the Accepted Agricultural Practice Regulations. These apply to all individuals farming in the State of Vermont. The purpose of these standards are to reduce the potential for polluting surface and groundwater, and require farmers to properly manage manure, agricultural product processing waste, pesticide, fertilizer, and

animal mortalities.

The statutory limitation on applying local land use regulations to accepted agricultural practices leads to confusion about whether a municipality can regulate any activities that occur on a farm. Currently, activities that are not "farming" and an "accepted agricultural practice" as defined in the regulations [AAP Sections 2.05 and Section 3.2 respectively] are subject to regulation by the municipality under Chapter 117. Examples of uses that may be regulated by a municipality through zoning are on-farm restaurants and events, and sales or

processing of products that are not "principally produced on the farm." In other words, it is important to understand that not all land use activities on a farm are considered "farming" and otherwise regulated by the Agency.

Another point of confusion concerns the construction of "farm structures." [Defined in AAP Section 2.06]. Construction of buildings on a farm property that are accessory to a residential use, such as a garage or apartment; or buildings that contain a mixture of uses, would not meet the definition of a "farm structure"

and may be regulated by the municipality. The construction of farm structures, moreover, still requires that the farmer notify the town of their intent to construct a farm structure [AAP Section 4.07 and 24 V.S.A. §4413(d) (2)]. The Secretary of the Agency applies the locally adopted setbacks, unless the Secretary approves an alternate setback in accordance with the AAPs. It is important to note however, the Agency does not have the authority to approve construction of a farm structure within a state or municipal highway right of way.

## Farmer Spotlight: Shat Acres Highland Cattle and Greenfield Highland Beef

By Janet Steward, Shat Acres

Ray Shatney of Greensboro Bend has been raising Highland Cattle for nearly fifty years. The first cow Ray's Dad, Carroll, purchased as a novelty animal in 1967 to take to local fairs arrived on a railroad car from South Dakota. "Scottie" was an old cow when Carroll purchased her and came with no registration papers, however she was well-branded. The local artificial inseminator traced Scottie's brands and discovered her to be XX El Donn's Lassie, born in 1956 in Belvedere, SD, an offspring of the first Highland bull registered in the United States.

Once a threatened species, Highland Cattle — a Heritage Breed — are much more numerous today with herds in nearly all fifty states. Ray Shatney and his wife, Janet Steward, now have the oldest registered herd of Highland Cattle in the United States. They also have the oldest closed herd, not having bought a breeding female in over forty years, and one of the largest Highland herds in the US numbering approximately 150 animals.

In 1998 when Carroll was 87 and no longer able to tend his Highland Cattle without help, Ray began assisting with the cattle and supporting the farm by off farm employment. The herd numbered 40 head. Carroll implored Ray to save his Highlands to preserve the



historic genetics Carroll had been breeding and improving since 1967. Ray and Janet soon realized the only possible way for the herd to support itself was by utilizing the hardy Highlands for what they were designed to do and had been doing for centuries--producing lean, tender, flavorful beef while totally grass fed and finished.

In 2007 Ray and Janet began marketing their beef as Greenfield Highland Beef--derived from Greensboro and Plainfield, Ray's and Janet's respective properties.

Ray and Janet knew they needed a faster growing beef animal to support the farm and allow them to continue to preserve Carroll's finely tuned breeding stock. Ray improved the feeding program, utilizing rotational grazing, improved pasture and crop land, making and buying high quality haylage for the Highland cattle.

In 2002 Ray and Janet took their first Highland to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, the largest Highland show in the world, traveling the

farthest of any Highland farm to this prestigious show. Since that time Shat Acres Highland Cattle have won multiple Grand Championships at the NWSS, and at the 2015 NWSS Shat Acres Cinnamon Raisin was awarded Grand Champion Cow/Calf for the third time. Her first Grand Championship was in 2011 with twins Crimson and Clover; the first time a cow had won Cow/Calf with twins. Cinnamon Raisin was Grand Champion Cow/Calf again in 2014 and this year became the first cow ever to win this award three times. Cinnamon Raisin will be ten in May; the oldest cow ever to win this award.

As Ray and Janet were showing and making a name for Shat Acres breeding stock, they continued to focus on improving the quality, productivity and economic viability of their beef. When Ray and Janet traveled to Scotland with the American Highland Cattle Association they saw many Highland/X beef operations, the hardest animals appear-

ing to be the Highland/Shorthorn crosses. Ray purchased a few registered Beef Shorthorn cows, and began crossing some of their Shat Acres Highlands with a locally available Angus bull. In 2014 Ray and Janet purchased a registered Beef Shorthorn bull to breed approximately thirty of their Highland cows.

In 2015 Ray and Janet took one of their Highland/Shorthorn steers to the NWSS. Shat Acres Charlie X's dam is a registered Beef Shorthorn; he is sired by registered Highland Shat Acres Cinnamon Bear. Charlie is enormous, towering over the Ray and Janet's Highlands, weighing 1303 pounds at 20 months. In the show ring Charlie placed last in his

class. However in the Carcass Competition (determined by ultrasound and a complex formula calculating rib-eye size, intramuscular marbling, back fat, and market beef prices) Charlie was Reserve Grand Champion!

Both Ray and Janet have active roles with national organizations. Janet serves as Chair of the Beef Marketing Committee for the American Highland Cattle Association and is working with the University of Missouri conducting scientific research on the unique traits of Highland beef. Ray currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Highland Cattle Association and the American Highland Cattle Association.

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