

AGRiVIEW



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Shumlin Celebrates 2016 Maple Sugaring Season at Sugartree Maple Farm in Williston

By Hannah Reid, VAAFM

Gov. Peter Shumlin celebrated Vermont's 2016 maple sugar season on Monday, March 14th with a ceremonial tree tapping event at Sugartree Maple Farm in Williston. The Governor was joined by Vermont Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross, Consumer Protection Chief and state maple expert, Henry Marckres, Executive Director of the Vermont Sugar Makers Association (VSMA) Matthew Gordon, as well as 3rd and 4th graders from Williston Central Elementary school who aided the governor in the tree-tapping process, and accompanied him on an educational tour of the Sugartree Maple Farm facility.

Established in 2009 by Mark and Amy Yandow, Sugartree Maple Farm



Hannah Reid

encompasses 49 acres of prime sugar maple trees, 4,200 taps, and a modern wood fired sugarhouse boasting a

new reverse osmosis machine capable of processing 900 gallons of sap an hour. Designed to evaporate 75% of

Governor Shumlin taps a maple tree at Sugartree Maple Farm in Williston, VT with help from Williston Central Elementary 3rd & 4th graders.

the water out of the sap before it enters the evaporator, reverse osmosis machines enable sugar makers to save both valuable time and fuel.

“According to a recent study, Vermont’s maple industry contributed between \$317 and \$330 million in total sales to the state economy in 2013, in addition to supporting roughly 3,000 full-time jobs and over \$140 million in profits and wages.” said Gov. Shumlin. “Maple is Vermont’s signature brand, and the kind of technological

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

As I was presenting the Agency of Agriculture's annual budget to the house and senate appropriations committees earlier this month, I was struck, once again, by the breadth and depth of programs and services administered by this agency. From water quality initiatives, to consumer protection, to implementing federal food safety laws, and from promoting Vermont dairy in school lunch rooms, to farm viability across our working landscape; the scope of work our small agency is responsible for is truly astounding.

This perspective is validated by the range of content on display in this March edition of *Agriview*.

The Agency of Agriculture has a significant regulatory mission, as directed by the Vermont legislature and resulting statute. We work hard to ensure that our regulatory practices are accompanied by wrap-around services including education, and financial and technical support, so that, together, we can strengthen and grow the economies, cultures, and communities of Vermont's working landscape. I could not be more proud of our team of smart, dedicated agency staff who are as diverse as our mission.

Charles R. Ross

Sugaring Season

continued from page 1

innovations that we see right here at Surtree Maple Farm – combined with the Vermont entrepreneurial spirit – will ensure Vermont's maple industry remains the national leader in production and quality."

In response to questions about the variable weather conditions this year, Agency of Agriculture Consumer Protection Chief and state maple expert, Henry Marckres said, "It has certainly been an interesting weather year, but it's hard to say for certain how the weather will affect production over the course of the season. It takes 40 days to make a season; I think we've probably had about 15 strong days so far. It looks like we're supposed to get some

cold nights over the next week or so, which should result in good runs and will hopefully carry us until April."

Despite this winter's variable weather conditions, Vermont continues to lead that nation in maple production. In 2015, Vermont produced 41% of the nation's syrup, roughly 1.4 million gallons, twice the amount produced by the next largest maple states, combined (New York and Maine each produced 17%, respectively). The value of Vermont's maple crop in 2014 was over \$44.5 million.

"Maple production in this state has increased by 111% since 1992 – from 570,000 to 1,320,000 gallons a year," said Chuck Ross, Secretary of Agriculture. "This astounding is

growth a testament to our sugar makers, who not only help promote and preserve Vermont's heritage, but also help to ensure our state's Working Landscape endures for future generations of Vermonters to enjoy. We could not be more proud to lead the nation in syrup production!"

Visitors to the Surtree Maple Farm during this year's sugaring season will have the opportunity to watch and learn about the sugaring process, and, most importantly, sample and buy the Yandow's 100% pure maple syrup, as well as maple lollipops, maple candy, maple cotton candy, maple cream, and maple sugar.

"We share this wonderful business with our children Matthew

and Mackenzie and many other supportive family members and friends," said Mark Yandow. "We all take part in the sugaring process — from cutting and stacking firewood, to the final boiling of the sap. We are exceedingly proud of our business, and honored to have the opportunity to host the governor in our sugarhouse."

To learn more about Vermont's maple industry, please review this recently completed study conducted by UVM's Center for Rural Studies for the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association: <http://www.vermontbiz.com/news/march/study-vermont-maple-industry-contributes-more-300-million-sales-states-economy>.

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Editor's Note

I think March gets a bad wrap. Sure, there are the Ides, and the 60 degree temperature swings, and the dirt roads that turn into moonscapes with ruts deep enough to swallow a school bus, but then again, March in Vermont also means maple. Not only is running sap a harbinger of spring, but there is truly nothing quite like pure Vermont maple syrup fresh off the arch. Seriously, nothing. But beyond the product itself, that heavenly nectar without which my pancakes are hardly worth looking at, there is a wonderfully vibrant culture that surrounds maple in Vermont – evidenced by the multitude of sugarmakers who have emerged from their winter hideaways to gather with neighbors around steaming arches to participate in Vermont's favorite springtime pastime. Enjoy March!

— Hannah Reid
(Interim Editor)



Vermont Recognizes National Weights and Measures Week in March

By Marc Paquette,

March 1-7, 2016 was National Weights and Measures Week, a time set aside to recognize the important role of weights and measures inspectors across the United States. Housed within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Market's Consumer Protection Section, Vermont's Weights and Measures program strives to advance a safe and secure food supply within a marketplace that provides fair and equal access to consumers and processors while enhancing Vermont's working landscape, rural character and local economies.

Many consumers are surprised to learn that weights and measures programs are often administered by agencies of agriculture nationwide. When considered in

historical context, however, the relationship between weights and measures and agriculture becomes clear. Much of the Vermont's early economy was based on the agricultural products produced on tens of thousands of farms. Historically, commodities produced in the state like milk, meat, grains, feed, corn, and maple were sold by weight or measure, therefore inspection programs were placed in the Agency of Agriculture.

While the technologies may have changed significantly since the early days of farming in Vermont, the critical role played by the weights and measures program in verifying weights and quantities across many business sectors, has not. From gas stations to supermarket scanners, our inspectors employ state of the art weighing and measuring equipment to provide secu-



rity to both producers and consumers in the marketplace.

Vermont's Weights and Measures team is comprised of six field inspectors and a Chief Weights and Measures Specialist/Metrologist who manages the metrology laboratory. Each year the lab tests thousands of hydrometers utilized by the maple industry, weights ranging in size from 1,000 lbs. to 0.001 lb., and numerous test measures used in the inspection and calibration of thousands of fuel pumps.

Each year the Vermont program inspects over 6,000 gas pumps, 425 fuel oil truck meters, 225 propane truck meters, thousands of scales and packages. Inspectors conduct hundreds of price verification inspections, testing the accuracy of laser scanning systems in retail outlets.

This year, the weights and measures team is rolling out

a redesigned program to test and license produce scales used by vendors at Vermont Farmers' Markets. Accurate scales will help ensure customers get what they pay for, AND ensure producers are properly compensated for their products. Testing days will be held across the state this spring in order to make it easy and convenient for scale owners to have their scales tested and licensed ahead of the market season. For more information about scale testing dates and locations, please visit call 802-828-2426 or visit: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/node/1240>.

Looking ahead, the weights and measures team will continue to work collaboratively with legislators and industry experts to develop new inspection processes, testing methods, and added training programs to address regulatory challenges surrounding emerging

markets like alternative fuel and energy sources such as ethanol, biodiesel, bio butanol, natural gas, hydrogen, and electrical recharging for motor vehicles.

Weights and Measures Week serves to remind us all of the unseen, and often unrecognized, effort that goes into ensuring that drivers get what they pay for at the gas pump, that the price of milk is scanned correctly at the checkout counter, and the sugar content of our world renowned maple syrups is accurate. These, and many more consumer and producer protections are provided to the public with accuracy and efficiency on a daily basis by the Vermont Agency of Ag's Weights and Measure Team.

Thank You!

For more information about the Agency of Agriculture's Weights and Measures program, contact Marc Paquette, Weights and Measures Specialist, Consumer Protection by email: Marc.Paquette@vermont.gov or by phone: 802-828-2426. Or visit our website: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/consumer_protection

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The Vermont Milk Cooler Grant Program

Promoting dairy in the classroom and the cafeteria

By Cecilia McCrary, VAAFM Intern

It's no secret that Vermont is a dairy state. 63% of all milk produced in New England comes from Vermont, and dairy represents 70% of Vermont's total agricultural sales. In fact, milk generates more sales than any other Vermont agricultural product. Dairy is a big part of Vermont's identity, and yet, you might not know it from the looks of the dairy displays in our schools.

Many Vermont schools do not have appropriate storage facilities to display and keep milk ice cold for their students. New milk coolers can cost thousands of dollars, which may be out of reach for many schools. That is where Vermont's dairy farmers and the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets has stepped in. In 2014, the agency launched the Milk Cooler Grant Program using funds made available through the Vermont dairy check-off funds (\$0.10 per one hundred pounds of milk col-



Saint Francis Xavier School Food Services Director Peggy Lewis and Assistant Principal Eric Becker show off their new milk cooler.

lected from farms and managed by the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council for the purposes of promoting the Vermont dairy industry). The Milk Cooler Grant Program, which is funded directly by Vermont dairy farmers, allows Vermont schools to apply for funding for the purchase and installation of new milk coolers. In 2016, the grant program gifted \$12,000 to 12 schools. These schools include schools like Putney Central School, Wardsboro Elementary, the

Halifax School, and Thetford Elementary.

Putney Central School received a Milk Cooler Grant last year (2015). Putney's new bulk milk dispenser purchased with Milk Cooler Grant funds has led to an increase in milk consumption, a decrease in waste,

and a reduction in labor cost associated with maintaining a milk program. Before the bulk milk cooler was installed, the school was tossing 51,000 milk cartons into the landfill annually. Now, the school provides tumblers to students, and the waste of milk cartons has been drastically reduced. Using tumblers also means a much easier clean-up for the cafeteria staff.

The kids are also very happy with the new milk cooler. In fact, that the school recently had to put a locking system on the cooler to keep kids from drinking milk outside of lunchtime. "Having to lock up milk so kids won't drink it was not something we predicted," said Alice Laughlin, who is on the school board at Putney Central School. "[The staff was] pretty convinced it was going to cause them

more work and kids were not going to drink it," she said. "Turns out we are experiencing the opposite."

To grantee schools, the grant means more than just machinery. It means that their students are able to enjoy a healthy, vitamin rich drink option at lunchtime. Healthier students lead to happier students, and that leads to better students overall. In addition, the milk coolers provide an opportunity for Vermont students to learn about the very industry that helps Vermont produce some of the best milk, cheese and ice cream in the world.

The next round of grant applications will be accepted in fall 2016. Schools interested in participating in the Milk Cooler Grant Program, should contact Ali Zipparo by phone: 802-505-1822, or by email: alexandra.zipparo@vermont.gov.

New FSMA Online Decision Tree Tool Available to Farmers

By Kristina Sweet, VAAFM

VAAFM has launched a new online decision tree tool to help farmers determine whether a farm is subject to Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) final Produce Safety Rules. The tool may be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vtfsma> or taken over the phone by calling (802) 522-7811.

The FSMA Produce Safety Rule will affect farms that

grow, harvest, pack or hold fresh produce for human consumption and that have annual produce sales of greater than \$25,000. The rule was finalized in November 2015 and became effective on January 26, 2016. VAAFM estimates that at least 150 Vermont farms will be fully covered under the rule and will need to meet all of the rule's requirements. An additional 400 farms are likely to be eligible for a "qualified exemption"

under the Produce Safety Rule, which subjects them to modified requirements including recordkeeping and labeling.

For more information about FSMA and produce safety at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, visit http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/fsma and http://agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/produce_safety



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The Business of Farming in Vermont

As we head into a new agricultural year with depressed milk prices and unpredictable weather events affecting Vermont's farmers, it is more important than ever to get a handle on the business. It is safe to say that farmers tend to enjoy operations more than strategic planning. "Farming offers fundamental satisfaction from producing food, working outdoors, being one's own boss, and working intimately with nature," according to Richard Wiswall of Cate Farm in Plainfield. However, the farm picture isn't complete without sharpening the pencil and crunching numbers.

Unfortunately, according to Wiswall and others, many farmers avoid the business end of farming. Working without a business plan results in farmers working harder than they need to, or quitting farming altogether following unforeseen losses. Wiswall trains organic farmers to raise profits by working smarter, not harder.

Theme 1: Work Closely With Your Lender

Dale Thompson, Vermont Farm Loan Specialist at USDA's Farm Service Agency recommends that anyone who is having difficulty with cash flow visit their lender early and often. "If you have a relationship with a lender, don't give up on it," he advises. "The main thing is to stay in compliance with the lender; don't sell hard assets and pay things off without



working with your lender."

Lenders have more flexibility if you come in early. "Don't wait until you're on COD and need feed in three days," says Bob Parsons, PhD, Agricultural Economist at the University of Vermont. For chronic cash flow problems, lenders can help refinance or use other tools at their disposal. "Interest rates are still very low", he states, "so try to lock in fixed rates now if you have the option to refinance."

"Before thinking about deferring payments to suppliers, call your lender to work out a plan. It's easier for a lender to wait than it is for a supplier. Lenders don't want to see their farms fail... working with the lender will relieve a lot of stress" says Tony Kitsos, Farm Management Educator for UVM Extension.

According to Parsons, the dairy sector just completed a strong year, but the forecast is not rosy. The price of milk is currently below the cost of production, and indications are that it could stay that way for many farmers well into 2017. With feed prices low at the moment, farms are getting by; however, cash will get tighter, requiring

planning for the next 12 months, not just the next three months, Parson cautions.

Theme #2: Develop a Management Team

Tony Kitsos helps farmers develop strategic management teams that meet a few times per year around the farm's kitchen table. Strategic planning (deciding what are the right things to do) for the farm is the key strength of these teams. The teams include involved agriculture professionals, mentors and family members. Everyone has input at the meetings, and the process aids effective decision-making. Farmers are welcome to call Tony at 802-524-6501 for information.

Two programs for farmers serious about business planning with technical

assistance are UVM Extension's Farm Viability Program <http://blog.uvm.edu/farmvia/> and the VT Housing Conservation Board's (VHCB) VT Farm and Forest Viability Program <http://www.vhcb.org/Farm-Forest-Viability/>. Both programs have an application process, and both have abundant resources on their websites.

Theme #3: Use Farm First as a Smart Business Tool

Farmers call the Vermont Farm First Program to talk through problems for which farmers are struggling to find solution.. It's a great relief to have an objective professional to talk to at times. Farm First is free, confidential and available with a 24/7 call line. The program is staffed by

licensed counselors trained in agricultural medicine, resource specialists and Vocational Rehabilitation workers. Stress, depression, insomnia, chronic health issues, injury, family conflict, employee problems, legal or financial issues are upsetting to farmers, and farmers who are distracted and stressed are at high risk for accidents. Talking to a Farm First consultant about your concerns is a smart business decision. It can increase safety AND improve your financial bottom line. Farm First: 1-877-493-6216 any time, day or night.

You are encouraged to stay in touch with your lender, work on a business plan and talk with Farm First about concerns this year. Have a productive season!

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New Resource for Farmers: A Legal and Regulatory Overview of On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont

Vermont Law School research commissioned by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund will help reach biodiesel goals of Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan

A new report, *On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont: Legal and Regulatory Overview*, conducted by the Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) at Vermont Law School reviews all Vermont state and federal regulations related to on-farm biodiesel production. Commissioned by the Vermont Bioenergy Initiative at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, the report aims to inform farmers about the potential laws and regulations surrounding on-farm biodiesel production.

"As statewide partners begin to find new ways to achieve the goals of Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan, which identified biodiesel as a fuel that will help Vermont meet the 10-percent renewable transportation goal for 2025, the On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont report provides a timely review of the regulations that pertain to home-grown biodiesel production," states Ellen Kahler, executive director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund.

According to the report's findings, "while several of the federal regulations are only triggered by high levels of production, there are a number of state laws and regulations that may be triggered by small-scale



State Line Farm in Shaftsbury, Vermont is an innovative bioenergy farm and research facility and worked with Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School researchers on the On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont: Legal and Regulatory Overview report.

biodiesel production, such as state air emission provisions that establish lower thresholds when compared to the federal Clean Air Act (CAA). In addition, it is critical to understand the role biodiesel production

plays in the definition of 'farm' and 'farming activities' for the purpose of states laws, such as Act 250 and the Current Use Program."

IEE Global Energy Fellow Carla Santos coordinated the legal review with contributions from fellow IEE researchers Diana Chace, Christopher Cavaiola, Jeannie Oliver, and Jeremy Walker. The report is broken into five chapters that review tax legislation, site regulations, occupational safety and health, registration, and environmental legislation.

"Our institute's research should help Vermont farmers understand the regulatory hurdles to producing biodiesel on the farm and help them convert a locally grown resource into

economic and environmental benefits for Vermont," said VLS Professor Kevin B. Jones, deputy director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment.

IEE researchers applied the legal review to three potential scenarios in the report, concluding with a convenient and accessible list of "do's and don'ts" for farmers to use as a legal checklist as they move forward with producing biofuel in on-farm operations.

The complete On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont: Legal and Regulatory Overview report is available on the Vermont Bioenergy Initiative website along with a variety of additional biofuel relevant reports and resources.

Vermont Grass Farmers Association

Mini-grant Program

Application Deadline: April 1, 2016

Annually, the VGFA dedicates money to support on-farm research led and designed by farmers.

Grants range from \$500-\$1,000. Possible ideas include but are not limited to:

- Extension of the grazing season,
- Innovative grazing practices or infrastructure,
- New forage varieties or cropping systems,
- Evaluation of new or competing products, etc.

For more information:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~pasture/?Page=minigrants.html>

Vermont Dairy Cooperative First to Adopt New Technology to Improve Value of Milk and Farm Management Practices

By Laura Hardie

The St. Albans Cooperative Creamery is the first dairy cooperative in the nation to provide new information to farmers about the fatty acids that make up the milk fat in their cow's milk. Local researchers found a direct correlation between the fat content in milk and farm management practices — this information will allow farmers to improve the way they feed and manage their cows as well as earn a higher pay for their milk. Recommendations from this research will support the economic viability of local dairy farms and ensure that consumers continue to have access to local, affordable dairy products.

"Thanks to the new milk analysis technology, we have developed recommendations farmers can use to improve their cow's digestive health and how their cows are cared for," explained Tom Gates, the Cooperative Relations Manager for St. Albans Cooperative Creamery. "These recommendations will allow farmers to produce milk with a higher content of protein and fat which they earn a higher price for."

Dairy farmers learned about the new technology at the St. Albans Co-op Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 13 at the St. Albans Town Educational Center. Rebecca Howrigan and her family's farm is a member of



Over 300 dairy farmers gathered for the St. Albans Annual lunch meeting on February 13th in St. Albans. Farmers heard from state leaders including Governor Shumlin, and learned about new technology pioneered at the co-op to benefit their farms.

the St. Albans Co-op. "We are excited to begin applying this new information to our farm," said Howrigan. "My family will use it to make sure our cow's diet meets their nutritional needs, and it will help us make decisions to ultimately produce higher quality milk."

Recommendations to farmers on how to use this technology were developed by a team of dairy scientists from the University of Vermont, Miner Institute, Delta Instruments, and Cornell University. The technology measures fatty acids in milk, which are the building blocks of milk fat.

"Healthy, well-nourished cows naturally produce milk with a higher percentage of fat and protein," said Melissa Woolpert, of the Miner Institute. "The extra fat and protein won't affect the fat

and protein content of the milk we drink, but instead can be used to make dairy products such as ice cream, yogurt and cheese."

Not only will the research allow farmers to learn about the best-management practices to care for their animals, it also means that farmers can improve their bottom line at a time when the low milk price is tightening farm budgets.

"Because farmers are paid more for milk with higher fat and protein, they are constantly looking for ways to improve the amount of fat and protein in the milk their cows produce," Gates said. "Higher fat and protein means healthy cows and more valuable milk, a win for the cows, the farmers, and our local agricultural economy."

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Northern New England of Colchester, Vermont to transport and sell milk products within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

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

All written comments must be received by April 15th, 2016.

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.

Extension Agricultural Business Programs: A to Z

By Mark Cannella

In winter 2016 Vermont farm managers and forest products business owners can select from a variety of business programs. The University of Vermont Farm Viability program specializes in individualized educational programs and business coaching to address topics unique to each business and each manager.

Budget Clinics are single sessions that farm owners can reserve in advance. The 1 – 2 hour session pairs farmers with a business educator to update a key financial statement like a balance sheet or develop a budget for the coming farming season. Sessions are available at twelve Extension locations statewide from late February through March 2016.

Farm Viability Business Planning is an ongoing program that accepts applications year-round. UVM has been a service provider for the statewide Farm and Forest Viability Program, funded by the

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, since 2003. Participating farmers work directly with a lead business educator for 4 to 18 months to complete an enterprise analysis project, full business plan or farm transfer plan. Approximately half of the participants each year use the business plans to apply for financing with agricultural lenders. Every year farm owners that complete the program indicate they have more confidence in the direction they want to take their farm business.

Last year, UVM Extension launched the Forest Business program that provides one-on-one business coaching to loggers, mills and small wood products manufacturers. Similar to farm business programs, participants worked to improve accounting systems or workplace communication and complete cost analysis projects to identify the most profitable aspects of their business.

Ag Biz Pro is our newest individualized education

program for the experienced farm business manager. Ag Biz Pro is for farm managers who wish to continue working with an individual adviser after completing a grant funded Farm Viability business planning project. Participants work directly with a farm business adviser

within a flexible curriculum to address priority issues facing the business through advanced financial analysis and strategic planning exercises.

Visit the Farm Viability website to find program registration information: <http://blog.uvm.edu/farmvia>



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Dairy Farmers Talk Sustainability and Innovation At Annual Conference

By Laura Hardie

Hundreds of dairy farmers from New England and New York gathered at the 17th annual Vermont Dairy Producers Conference in Burlington on Feb. 23 to hear from a panel of experts about emerging technology and innovative strategies to ensure dairy farms continue to be a vibrant part of the local economy.

“It’s critical that our growing population continues to have access to local, nutritious and affordable dairy products,” said Les Pike of Keewaydin Farm in Stowe. “To do this, farmers continually look for innovative ways to be more efficient and sustainable.”

Jude L. Capper specializes



Over 300 dairy farmers and industry professionals gathered at the 17th annual Vermont Dairy Producers Conference to learn about emerging technologies and innovative strategies to ensure dairy farms continue to be a vibrant part of the local economy.

in food system sustainability, and says that today’s modern dairy farms have reduced their carbon footprint by two-thirds since the 1940s.

“Sustainability doesn’t

only mean natural, or organic, or pasture-fed. Sustainable means caring for our animals and land to make a nutritious product,” Capper said.

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin and Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross thanked dairy farmers for their contributions to the state. Shumlin said during his

administration, 5,000 jobs have been added in value-added agriculture.

His remarks were echoed by Ross, who said dairy farmers bring \$3 million per day into Vermont.

Dr. Ray Nebel, Vice President of Technical Programs at Select Sires, talked to farmers about emerging technologies.

“We have a new health monitor that attaches to the cow’s ear, like an earring, that measures five parameters of health, including their resting and eating patterns,” said Nebel.

A topic that every farm faces is how to transition the farm to the next generation said motivational speaker, Garrison Wynn.

“To attract and keep employees, you have help them understand how their day to day contributions fit into the success of the business and their future opportunities,” Wynn said.

Organizers say there were over 300 attendees at the conference.



For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Pumpkin Village Foods, LLC. of Burlington, Vermont to transport cheese, butter and cultured 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 April 15th, 2016.

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.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Norwich Farm Creamery, LLC. of Norwich, Vermont to process, package and sell milk, cream, cultured products, butter, cheese and pasteurized ice cream mix 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 April 15th, 2016.

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.

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension

(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vern.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

Reports From The Field

(Westminster West) That the weather is different this year goes without saying! We are burning less than half the fuel we normally would, which is a good thing and I'm sure the savings will disappear into both wage increases which we have implemented and some additional machinery. Not a windfall really, but who's complaining? With the lack of snow, I might be able to get some field work done early, spread lime etc. I hope to spread out tasks that normally get jammed together in the bubble of time called spring. Garlic is up and when the rains stop we will remove the heavy duty row cover from that acre. Early herb and veggie crops in the greenhouse look nice, and releasing beneficials really kept the bad bug situation under control. Drenching and spraying plants with protective bacteria also helped reduce, even eliminate, many fungal diseases so our crops look really handsome. Early bookings for starts are well above last year at this point so it looks like another banner year. Most of our

staff are returning veterans though we are fielding a good number of applicants for a few positions. Not a lot are looking for full time work; how do people survive without full time work? Truck maintenance, last-minute greenhouse repairs and building a new office are filling out the days. Stay busy, keep moving and have some fun this year!

(Newbury) Over-wintered spinach in our unheated hoop house produced all winter and is starting to re-grow.

(Plainfield NH) Watching the weather forecasts with a fair amount of trepidation. Ground is drying out, the upper Connecticut River is starting to drop, there is no snow pack in the mountains and it's not even St Patrick's day. That is the trifecta for the start of a dry season and I am hoping that we get adequate rainfall. Michael Smith said "we can grow in a desert, and we can grow in a

swamp. The trick is to know which it is going to be." I am laying money on a dry year. I will plow a few acres and think about uncovering garlic and berries in another 10 days if the weather continues to be warm and we get through pruning the blueberries. Maybe get some peas and oats sowed down in front of the fall veg crops. The real business at hand is in the greenhouses with grafting, seeding, potting plants and taking vegetative cuttings. So far the over-wintered ornamental stock does not seem to have any population booms of thrips, which usually start to show up in force this time of year. I have some persistent fox-glove aphids, but ladybugs and Aphidoletes seem to be keeping those in check. I am told by one of my suppliers that green and brown lacewings are excellent for aphid control. I would be curious if others have had good luck with them, because I have not, to date. Tomato grafting is going along ok (at least by

our low standards) and on time. We always have trouble with the healing process, and it gets trickier later when we do the last grafts for the fall houses. The bright spot is that despite the weather being a harbinger of bad things to come, it is delightful none-the-less to be outside working in. This is the earliest I have ever had next winter's wood supply cut and in the garage.

(Newburyport MA) Our gravel Merrimack soils are dry with soil temps in the upper forties. First peas went in on February 29, the earliest we have ever planted, by a week. Overwintered spinach, cress and bunching onions growing very fast under lightweight remay fabric. Planted first three tomato houses this week with large blooming transplants; cheap oil and warm temps so we are starting these crops at 74F night temps. Hope to have cherry tomatoes by early May, when we can price them

at \$6.75 for a heaping half pint. Also planted one house of basil today, in containers, with Albion and Seascape strawberries in 12" baskets hanging overhead, and running night temps at 68F. Will have pansy baskets ready for sale this weekend, and cut daffodils ready in the field. Cut daffodils are a great long term crop for us; big upfront cost but good return over many years with low maintenance. By planting along the outside edge of heated greenhouses and in the field you can harvest from late March until mid-May. Sell well at markets and CSA Members love to cut their own.

Season is off to a wonderfully early start; just the opposite of last year. CSA signups have been coming in steadily with some new names.

Winter FMs fairly slow. The 'Year Without a Winter'.

(Little Compton RI) Grafting going really well finally! Getting our first

continued on page 13

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Monarch & the Milkweed Restaurant at 111 St. Paul Street in Burlington, Vermont to process, package, transport and sell ice cream and butter 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 April 15th, 2016.

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.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: David R. Butterfield of Irasburg, Vermont to process, package, transport and sell cultured products and cheese 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 April 15th, 2016.

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.

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Prices

January 2016t

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

Vermont Egg Prices:

Jumbo	\$3.00
X-Large	\$2.75
Large	\$2.50
Medium	\$2.25

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 February 2016

	Cattle	Calves
This Week:	87	172
Last Week:	-	-

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold \$2.00 - \$4.00 higher with good demand. Slaughter cattle supply included 85 cows and 2 bulls. All prices quoted per cwt.

SLAUGHTER COWS:

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	83.50-85.50	91.50	—	—
Breakers	75-80	79.00-82.00	87.00	74.50	—
Boners	80-85	75.00-80.00	79.00-82.00	—	—
Lean	85-90	675.00-81.50	81.00-82.00	68.50-74.50	55.00-69.50

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 635-925 lbs: 87.00 – 92.50

CALVES: When compared to last sale Holstein bull calves sold steady with good demand. All prices per cwt.

HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:

Number 1: 100-120lbs 200.00-220.00; 90-100 lbs 180.00-210.00; 80-90 lb 160.00-180.00; 70-80lbs 150.00-155.00.

Number 2: 100-120lbs 180.00; 90-100 lbs 150.00-177.50; 80-90 lbs 127.50-150.00; 70-80lbs 102.50-125.00.

Number 3: 140.00-150.00; 90-100lbs 120.00-160.00; 80-90lbs 100.00-140.00; 70-80lbs not tested.

Utility: 100-120lbs 61.00-102.50; 90-100lbs 55.00-112.50; 80-90lbs 70.00-102.50; 70-80 lbs 50.00-80.00.

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 75-82lbs 125.00-142.50

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:

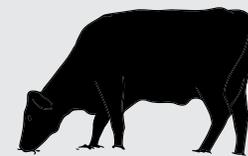
VT Agency of Ag-USDA
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA

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

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)
- 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.

Cattle

Nice Hereford bull, coming 4, approximately 2000 lbs. very friendly, well-mannered, and gentle. Loves a back scratch, fence trained, can be around any livestock, offspring can be seen. \$2,200. 802-748-0558 (3/16)

West Swanton, VT - Hereford Cows, with calves at side, \$1,500.00. Please call Jon at 802-868-7097 (evening) or 802-868-3327 (day). (4/16)

Guernsey cow 4th calf easy hand or machine milker good

bag and handles \$2000 putney vt 802 387 4412 (4/16)

3 4 year old red and white Holstein oxen broke to pull but need some work 1 full team then 1 extra who lost his partner must stay together not 4 beef very friendly very gentle good home a must just don't have time to work them call and make an offer Lyndonville Vermont 1 802 626 3061 ask for annie (4/16)

Employment

Horsford Gardens & Nursery

needs a Perennials Manager! Come grow with us, and manage perennial production, a 2-3 person team, and sales. Great benefits including paid vacation. See our website for a full job description and to apply at <http://www.horsfordnursery.com/jobs.php> (4/16)

Horsford Gardens & Nursery is seeking candidates for the 2016 season! Openings include:-Perennials Manager -Garden Center Assistant Manager -Field Crew Member -Horticultural

CLASSIFIEDS



Professional -Wholesale-Shrub Grower-Perennial Grower Assistant Complete job descriptions are online at www.horsfordnursery.com. (4/16)

Seeking a responsible grounds-keeper/farmhand in Cabot to rent our remodeled bungalow and work 20-30 hours per week. Animal chores, haying, running tractor, basic machine maintenance, chainsaw work, gardening, pruning and spraying trees, weed wacking, fence maintenance. Email Israel at ihelfand1@gmail.com (4/16)

Equipment

2002 New Holland Tractor TV140 Bi-Directional, 2300 hrs., PTO bucket and clam. \$42,500.00. Please call 802-525-1272. Like new!! (3/16)

ANDO 5 1/2 rock root grapple skid steer mt \$3500 trailing log arch \$500, cub cadet 104 mower deck hy lift \$450, Honda 4 trax \$1500, craftsman 30" snow blower \$350, military 4 cyl generator jeep engine powered \$400. Coleman power mate 4000 watt 120-240 volt new condition \$350, MF 35 gas \$250, MF 50 gas \$2000, MF TO35, die \$3500, MFIND 20 W loader \$4000, case 3 PTH 2 BTM plow \$250, MF 3 PTH 2 BTM Plow \$250. 603-313-3039 (3/16)

Haying equipment – 5 wheel rake \$250: NH 275 small square baler \$750: NH 276 baler-kicker available \$1500. NH Baler parts: Massey 205 manure spreader \$750: IH 300 – parts tractor - \$600. 802-878-4025 (3/16)

Case 450c new undercarriage. Ford 4630 low hours good condition with loader 4-wheel drive. Long 2460 good rubber 4 wheel drive. Ford 4000 2 wheel drive, Ford 555B 4 wheel drive TLB cab ready for work. Retired do not need anymore. 802-485-7757 (3/16)

1 5hp motor, 1 9 1/2 motor, completely rebuilt. 1533 mosey Ferguson tractor 4 wheel drive with blower for snow. 802-624-0143 (3/16)

Massey-Harris Pony 1949 with

plow cultivator, tine harrows \$3250. Ford 4 row corn planter \$975. IH Chiesel plow, 9 shanks \$3250. Ford 3 bottom plows \$975. JD 4 bottom plows \$1250. Panels 12' for round pen \$95 each. 802-282-2060 (4/16)

New Holland 893 chopper both hay and two row corn heads. International NO 56 silo blower short hopper with auger feed. 802-3722-4513 (4/16)

Case 450C new undercarriage. Ford 4630 low hours good condition with loader 4-wheel drive. Long 2460 good rubber 4-wheel drive. Ford 4000 2-wheel drive. Ford 555B 4-wheel drive TLB cab ready for work. Retired do not need anymore. 802-485-7757 (4/16)

DR generator model GEN-01826 \$450 802-728-6077 (4/16)

Kubota 2002 L2600 DT 4-wheel drive loader, back blade, low hours, service manual and parts catalog \$13,500. 802-446-2870 (4/16)

Pronovost Puma 64 snowblower 3 pt hitch, extra chain and spare shear pins \$2200. York rake model MR3 6Ft with guide wheels 3 pt hitch. 802-446-2870 (4/16)

CONDE Vacuum Pump, dry tank with gauge. Works well, great for small dairy or sugaring \$350. Underhill, 802-899-1363 (4/16)

2 Wheels for a Pin Wheel Rake \$50.00. 2 Full rolls of 4 point barbwire and 2 half rolls \$150.00 603-543-3616 (4/16)

MF 165- Diesel- w/ldr- Runs good!-\$3800. Hesston (NI) S260 man sprdr- 250 bu-Exc..\$5800. Gehl 250 man sprdr- words good..\$1850. Knight #250 man sprdr-fair-\$1250. Oliver 5 btm-Auto reset plows--\$2800. Kverkland 2 Btm Plow-New..\$1800. Several Harrows & Plows-3btm plows/ 8-10' Disk har/ 16'-3ph Spr tooth har--\$850. Each 802-376-5262 www.youngsmilkyway-farm.com (4/16)

JD3950 Corn Chopper -

\$5,500, JD336 Square Baler - \$3,500, JD455 Hydro-Push Manure Spreader - \$5,500, 200Gal Walsh Sprayer - \$1,000, Int.56 SilageBlower - \$500, Gehl970 Forage Wagon-no roof-\$3,500, 18' Brillion Springtooth-\$3,500, (802) 558-8370 (4/16)

Cedar fence posts for sale. 6' long by 3-5" tops, unsharpened. \$1.50 each, 5% bonus for orders over 200, 10% for orders over 400. Prefer to load with forks. Vince Foy, Danville, 802-748-8461. (4/16)

General

Super cute male & female Border Collies for sale! 10 weeks old. \$600.00 each. Call us @ 802-387-4473 or email: info@vermontshepherd.com (3/16)

Trucking cattle, sheep, goats, to C.V.L.M. every Thursday, top prices. 802-282-2060 (4/16)

Glass canning jars with bail top lids. Sizes available, pints, quarts, and 2 quart jars. All in excellent condition also are jar rubbers available. Good for canning and/or crafts. 802-438-5017. (4/16)

Potatoes for sale, 4 kinds .40 per pound. Call 802-767-4247 (4/16)

Hay, Feed & Forage

Good quality first and second cut hay large and small bales and organic. Straw, large or small square bales whole or pressed bales at farm we load or direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 (1/17)

Butterworks Farm Organic red clover mixture wrapped haylage June cut \$45/bale call or email Collin at 802-323-9304, cmahoney@butterworksfarm.com (3/16)

2nd cut square bales \$5.50, 1st cut wrapped 5x4 round bales \$40. Must pick up. Cloudland Farm, Pomfret, VT 802-457-1520 (3/16)

50 4x4 wrapped round bales \$45 each. Some early June cut some 2nd cutting certified organic. 802-254-6982 (3/16)

Round bales large well packed. Have quality testing 1st 45

2nd 55 3rd 65. Dairy quality can load 802-472-5750 cowspigsand more@gmail.com (4/16)

4000 ton corn silage, 1000 ton haylage 1st cut, 500 ton haylage 2nd cut 802-394-2976 (4/16)

400 grass baleage, 4x4, second cut - \$45/each. 2000 1st cut square bales \$4/bale (802) 558-8370 (4/16)

Big square 1st cut \$50. Big square 1st cut wrapped \$45. Big square 2nd and 3rd cut wrapped \$50. Delivery available. 802-236-7741 csfarm1@gmail.com (4/16)

HAY for sale, round bales, big squares, organic hay available, also straw. Tractor trailer loads only. Call Richard for more info at 802-323-3275 (4/16)

1000-2000 tons of 1/3 corn silage, 1/3 2nd cut and 1/3 3rd cut. Please call 802-533-2984. (4/16)

Certified organic square baled hay, never rained on. 802-433-5837. (4/16)

ORLEANS COUNTY

Conventional haylage. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cut and organic haylage 1st cut all in Ag bags. Organic and conventional - Dry round and wrapped round bales. 1st and 2nd cut. Call 802-274-2832 or 802-988-2959 (3/16)

Organic first, second and third cut grass silage for sale. Trucking is available. Call Tom at 802-744-2444 or 802-274-4934 or Shaye at 802-744-6553 or 802-274-4939. (4/16)

Horse Equipment

Travis sled – holds 14 average size adults, good shape been under cover, \$800. Set of new D ring harnesses used

twice, bridles used, paid \$1500 asking \$1000. Used electric wire rolled up in arms lengths, make an offer. Used 4x5 fiber glass posts .50 + 1.00 802-295-2910 (3/16)

Travis sled with 12 ft box body and seat, foot rest. Misc horse equipment. Rubber tired feed cart. 802-885-4920 (4/16)

Sheep

1 year old Tunis Lambs Ewes \$200 each 802-728-6077 (4/16)

New lamb emasculator, \$15. 12.4x24 tractor tire, good tread, \$75. 65# DeLaval milking machine pail (only), \$125. Vacuum dumping station, will hold about 75' of hose, \$75. Bedding chopper with new motor to be installed, \$100. Williamstown 802-433-5870. (4/16)

Sugaring Equipment

6x16 used evaporator. 10' King drop flue pan 2002. Soldered pans. Front pan Leader 1994. Draw off both sides. 4 speed blower. 24"stack. Base is stainless. Preheater. \$5000 will separate. Call Kent Gilman 802-384-0433 email Hkpalmyra@gmail.com (3/16)

10" Maple Syrup Press for sale. \$1,000. [Hartland] Call 802-436-3127. (4/16)

Swine

6 month and growing fast. \$125 each. 802-276-3477 (4/16)

Wanted

3 PTH log grapple. Tail wheel rim for JD 55H trailing plow. JD 3PTH plows rock bucket for JD H240 Global attachment. 603-313-3039 (3/16)

Vermont Weekly Farmers Market Report

For week ending February 29, 2016

Commodity	Produce			Certified Organic		
	Not Certified Organic			Low	High	Average
	Low	High	Average	Low	High	Average
Apples	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$-	\$-	\$-
Beets	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Broccoli- Frozen	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
Brussel Sprouts	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Cabbage	\$1.25	\$3.00	\$1.77	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Carrots	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$2.05	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Celeriac	\$2.50	\$3.65	\$3.05	\$-	\$-	\$-
Garlic	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.67	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Green Beans- Frozen	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
Kale	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$3.13	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Leeks	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$3.55	\$-	\$-	\$-
Lettuce	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Onions	\$1.65	\$2.00	\$1.91	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Parsnips	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Peppers	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Potatoes	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$1.95	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Rutabaga	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$-	\$-	\$-
Shallots	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Spinach	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Sweet Potato	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$3.38	\$-	\$-	\$-
Turnip	\$1.00	\$2.15	\$1.58	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Winter Squash	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$1.63	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50

	Meats/Proteins		
	Low	High	Average
Lamb Chops	\$16.50	\$18.00	\$17.25
Rack of Lamb	\$16.50	\$18.00	\$17.25
Leg of Lamb	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$13.00
Ground Lamb	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Ground Beef	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$8.26
Ribeye	\$19.00	\$23.50	\$21.25
Sirloin	\$12.00	\$17.25	\$15.08
Round Roast	\$10.25	\$12.00	\$11.08
Chuck Roast	\$6.45	\$12.00	\$9.48
Strip Steak	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$21.00
Skirt Steak	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Tenderloins	\$20.25	\$29.50	\$24.58
Eggs (dozen)	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$4.88
Whole Chickens	\$4.15	\$5.00	\$4.72
Ground Pork	\$7.95	\$8.00	\$7.99
Pork Chops	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$10.45
Pork Loin	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$11.00
Pork Tenderloin	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$12.50
Shoulder Roast	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$8.82
Ham	\$8.80	\$12.00	\$10.40
Baby Back Ribs	\$7.00	\$10.50	\$9.17

Market Comments

SEASONALITY:

Fewer choices than summer market. Some crops frozen and brought to the market make them available much longer than normal seasonality.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The warmer than normal temperatures and lack of snow has meant much larger crowds than normal at our winter markets.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance has been slightly higher for markets this time of year.

VENDOR COMMENTS:

N/A



Source:

VT Agency of Ag - USDA
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA
Hailee May, Market Reporter
P. 802-828-5445
E. Hailee.May@state.vt.us

Levi Geyer, OIC

Cell: 717-406-7350
Office: 717-354-2391

Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

recovery chamber properly humidified with two micro-mist humidifiers made a huge difference. Also, keeping the chamber at a modest 72-78 degrees keeps the plants happy and hungry to grow together.

Biggest problem is keeping the chamber cool during hot sunny days. We had a gorgeous crop of overwintered English broccoli that got pasted by the sudden drop down to 4 degrees during the Valentine's Day freeze massacre. It even burned our overwintering onions sets right down to

the plastic ground cover. I mentioned this to my overwintering guru Brian O'Hara and he suggested we had too much coverage over our low tunnels.

Or rather, we should have taken off the row cover and clear plastic during an occasional high 20s night to allow acclimation to winter weather. By giving constant full coverage, we got them too soft. His method requires a lot more daily management. Either that or we need to buy a heavy perennial cloth and just have it 'at the ready' on extremely cold nights. Will make a decision before next winter. Got a chance to plant peas and carrots two

days ago and hoping this rain is enough moisture to get them off to a good start. Just spent a weekend with Hugh Lovell and now am convinced it is better to only add compost as a top dress activity and not to rototill it into the beds. We are also buying a small power harrow for our BCS to do more soil prep in our greenhouses and elsewhere and try to not mess up the delicate balance of the soil food web.

(l'Ange Gardien, Quebec)
Harvesting overwintered spinach and lettuce. Mostly alone on the market with fresh greens. Arugula, radishes, beets, other greens and

kale are doing fine but not to harvest yet. Experience some tip burn on spinach, not sure I should use calcium fertilizer, keep GH colder or have better irrigation practices. Probably all of these.

Always looking to get the maximum crop in my high value GH per square meter, trying seeding arugula and beets together on different rows, trying to keep a nursery row to avoid transplanting shock on certain crops. Maybe try to fit microgreens between two crops, as one has gone to seed and too early for the other.

(Argyle NY) Pleasant Valley Farm. Great yields of

greens this winter despite up and down temperatures and some losses of lettuce due to the extreme temperature changes. Two weeks ago we harvested 262 lb of greens for our Saturday markets from our 3 high tunnels (34x144) with a value over \$2000! The harvest included salad mix (2 types), spinach, Asian greens, kale, Swiss chard, and arugula. Parsley has also been reliable every week. We started a new system this winter of replanting open areas in our tunnels as we pull out bolting or older greens that is working great: Starting in January in the greenhouse on our radiant-

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Vegetable & Berry News

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heated benches, we seeded successive weeks of lettuce mix greens (lettuce, mustards, Asians) and arugula in the strip trays and as soon as they are rooted well (about three weeks), we plant the whole strips into the open areas and even in between the Salanova lettuce where there is a 4" space. Now ready to harvest this week. We have also been doing direct seedings for several weeks which are growing well. Markets have been strong, seeds are doing well in our greenhouse with our newer soil mix (Cornell type mix with no compost) and the labor crew is coming together for the new season. Lots of early birds like robins, redwing blackbirds, turkey vultures and even a bunch of turkeys walked across our field yesterday! Irrigation and peas soon?

Community Accreditation For Produce Safety Is Launched!

CAPS is a voluntary program for members of the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association. CAPS helps growers to plan and then document the use of practices that reduce food safety risks. The CAPS advisory board of farmers and service providers has identified 18 practices that are required for accreditation. CAPS uses an on-line platform to help you write a plan for these practices and subsequently to upload evidence that you implemented them. The evidence is documents and pictures that are in your on-line farm folder, which is then reviewed for completeness by your peers

before accreditation is granted and your CAPS "eBadge" and paper certificate are awarded. The accreditation fee for 2016 is \$100, though you can also use CAPS just to develop a food safety plan, without getting accredited, for free if you wish. To become accredited by the end of 2016 you must finalize your produce safety plan by April 1.

CAPS is not a regulatory program nor is it a guarantee of food safety.

CAPS is not a substitute for complying with food safety laws, though it can be a part of that compliance. CAPS is simply a system for the VVBGA to establish its own food safety best practices and recognize member farms that apply them. To get started go to <http://capsvt.org/> then create an account and start drafting your produce safety plan. If you currently have a produce safety plan, you can cut-and-paste portions of it into your on-line farm folder, which is shareable, revisable, and renewable. For more information contact hans.estrin@uvm.edu or 802-380-2109 (phone or text.)

If you are not yet a member of the VVBGA here is the link to join the association. The fee is \$45 per farm for 2016, go to <http://vvbga2016memberships.eventbrite.com>

Farm Transfer Webinar

Transferring the Farm: Tools You Can Use.
March 23, 2016,
12 noon to 1 pm.

As the second of a two-part webinar series, Bob Parsons, agricultural economist at the University of Vermont, will describe legal and business tools that farm

families can use to effectively transfer the farm from one generation to the next. The webinar is free of charge and open to the public; register early at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7795227751500403460>

Gaps Certification Workshop April 5, Barre, Vermont

Location: UVM Extension Office, 327 US Route 302, Barre. 8:30 am– 4:00 pm

This workshop will help farmers understand and prepare for GAPs certification. It is being co-taught by UVM Extension Produce Safety Coordinator Ginger Nickerson and Gretchen Wall of Cornell Extension and the Produce Safety Alliance Coordinator. Farmers will leave the workshop with a solid understanding of the science, risks and principles behind Good Agricultural Practices, a draft of a food safety plan in the GAPs Audit format, an understanding of what happens at a GAPs Audit, and many resources. Registration fee: \$50. Space is limited. There are also two pieces of homework to do to help you get the most out of the workshop.

Register here: <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804822> or contact Ginger Nickerson at 802-505-8189 or gnickers@uvm.

Is Elderberry Cultivation Right For Your Farm?

Growing numbers of Vermont farmers and homesteaders are considering diversifying into "superfruits" like Elderberry, Aronia and Haskap because of interest

in their rich antioxidant profiles and other benefits. That trend led UVM Extension's Center for Sustainable Agriculture to secure a Working Lands Enterprise Board grant to explore the commercial potential of one

of these fruits – elderberry. A preliminary enterprise analysis is now available at <http://www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture/resources/EldersEnterpriseAnalysisRWilson.pdf>

The production guide and

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program Update

Winter Cover Cropping Update

For the past few years, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets has encouraged farms to apply for financial assistance for winter cover cropping with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

To be considered for FAP Program funding for winter cover cropping, farms must apply for federal assistance with NRCS by April 15, 2016.

Farms that fail to apply, or miss the NRCS application deadline mentioned above will not be eligible for funding through the FAP program for 2016 fall cover cropping. Farms that apply by the application deadline and are either deemed ineligible for funding from NRCS or do not receive a funded contract from NRCS may apply for funding through the FAP program for winter cover cropping by July 1, 2016.

It is important to note that funding is not guaranteed and that the seeding date for all winter cover cropping remains October 1st.

For more information on the FAP Program, please check out our website at <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/farmer-assistance/fap> or contact Lisa Gilman at (802) 828-5050.

Winter Manure Spreading Ban to End April 1, 2016

For more information, contact
Wendy Houston-Anderson at
Wendy.Houston-Anderson@vermont.gov
802-828-3475
or visit
www.agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality

final market and enterprise analyses will be available this fall. If you're interested in joining the Elderberry Listserv with others who are learning about and trying this crop, send an email to Cheryl.Herrick@uvm.edu

Fertilizer From Urine – Your Input Needed On Research Direction

The Rich Earth Institute is a Brattleboro-based research group that provides farmers with sustainable, low-cost, locally-sourced fertilizer made from sanitized human urine.

Keeping urine out of the wastewater stream and recycling it to farms reduces nutrient pollution in rivers, lakes, and groundwater while also reducing the energy and chemical-intensive cost of waste-water treatment.

For the last four years, we have been collecting and pasteurizing urine that we then use for field trials growing hay and vegetables. Your responses to a short survey will help us understand how best to serve farmers, and will contribute to cutting-edge research planning.

Responses will be confidential and only shared in a grouped format. Please contact us with ANY questions or concerns at info@RichEarthInstitute.org or 802-579-1857.

If you would prefer a paper survey, please contact us and we'll send it right out! Here's the survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FarmerInterestSurvey>



Lamb Prices

New Holland Sales Stables - New Holland, PA
 Sheep and Goat Weighted Average for Monday, February 15, 2016

Sheep/Lamb Receipts: 1082. Last Monday: 2329, Year Ago: 1457
Goat Receipts: 1073. Last Monday: 1196. Year Ago: 848

Report format change: Traditional markets refer to lambs that are subjected to USDA carcass grading, and marketed through mainstream outlets. Non-Traditional markets refer to lambs destined for slaughter outside of what would be termed as traditional markets.

Slaughter Sheep: Compared to last week, Slaughter lambs sold mostly steady to 20.00 higher on poorer quality offerings. Slaughter ewes sold mostly steady to 10.00 higher. Bucks sold steady on a very light test. Snowy weather kept supply light and demand moderate to good. There were more ewes on offer than typical. Supply consisted of 75 percent slaughter lambs, 24 percent slaughter ewes, and 1 percent slaughter bucks. All sheep and lambs are sold by the hundredweight, on actual weights.

Slaughter Lambs:

Wooled & Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3 70-80 lbs 235.00-265.00; 90-110 lbs 217.00-218.00, Hair sheep 200.00-230.00; 110-130 lbs 200.00; 130-150 lbs 180.00-197.00; 150-200 lbs 137.00-170.00.

Wooled & Shorn Choice 2-3 50-60 lbs 230.00-270.00, Hair sheep 225.00-265.00; 60-70 lbs 230.00-250.00, Hair sheep 225.00; 70-80 lbs 220.00-225.00, Hair sheep 230.00-235.00; 80-90 lbs. Hair sheep 205.00-227.00; 90-110 lbs 185.00-217.00, Hair sheep 180.00-197.00; 110-130 lbs 170.00-197.00, Hair sheep 170.00- 195.00; 130-150 lbs 150.00-167.00; 150-200 lbs 120.00-157.00.

Wooled & Shorn Good 1-2 50-60 lbs 210.00-220.00; 60-70 lbs Hair sheep 200.00-210.00; 90-110 lbs 160.00-165.00, Hair sheep 140.00-155.00; 110-130 lbs Hair sheep 150.00-150.00.



Slaughter Ewes:

Good 2-3 80-120 lbs 117.00-145.00; 120-160 lbs 82.00- 122.00, Hair sheep 92.00-112.00; 160-200 lbs 70.00-112.00, hair sheep 80.00-110.00; 200-300 lbs 72.00-90.00. Utility 1-3 80-120 lbs 92.00, hair Sheep 112.00-112.00; 120-160 lbs 65.00-107.00, Hair sheep 80.00.

Slaughter Bucks:

160-200 lbs 87.00-107.00; 200-300 lbs 62.00-105.00.

Slaughter Goats: Compared to last week, slaughter kids sold mostly steady to 10.00 lower. Slaughter nannies sold mostly steady. Slaughter bucks sold 10.00-20.00 lower with the exception of Number 1 bucks weighing over 150 lbs that sold mostly steady to firm. Wethers sold sharply lower on a light test compared to a very light test the previous week. Demand was moderate for all classes. A lighter supply consisted of 57 percent Slaughter Kids, 23 percent Slaughter Nannies, and 20 percent bucks/billies and wethers. All goats are sold by the head on estimated weights.

Slaughter Kids:

Selection 1: 50-60 lbs 195.00-225.00; 60-80 lbs 225.00- 235.00, Fancy 265.00, wethers 260.00-275.00; 80-100 lbs 230.00-280.00, wethers 270.00-290.00.

Selection 2: 20-30 lbs 85.00-125.00; 30-40 lbs 115.00-145.00; 40-50 lbs 145.00-165.00; 50-60 lbs 160.00-190.00; 60-80 lbs 180.00-210.00, wethers 200.00-255.00.

Selection 3: 20-30 lbs 70.00-90.00; 30-40 lbs 105.00-132.00; 40-60 lbs 120.00-145.00, Gaunt 80.00-120.00; 60-80 lbs 150.00-175.00, Gaunt 110.00-130.00.

Slaughter Nannies/Does:

Selection 1: 80-130 lbs 210.00-245.00; 130-180lbs 235.00-260.00.

Selection 2: 80-130 lbs 165.00-225.00, 130-180 lbs 200.00-235.00.

Selection 3: 50-80 lbs 130.00-150.00; 80-130 lbs 140.00-170.00, gaunt 100.00-135.00.

Slaughter Bucks/Billies:

Selection 1: 100-150 lbs 290.00-315.00; 150- 250 lbs 370.00-400.00.

Selection 2: 80-100 lbs 200.00-255.00; 100-150 lbs 235.00-275.00.

Selection 3: 80-100 lbs 160.00-210.00, Gaunt 130.00-150.00; 100-150 lbs 190.00-240.00, Gaunt 160.00-185.00.

Slaughter Wethers:

Selection 1: 100-150 lbs 270.00-335.00; 150-250 lbs 395.00.

Selection 2: 80-100 lbs 245.00-275.00; 100-150 lbs 265.00-295.00.

Selection 3: 80-100 lbs 185.00-225.00.

Price and grade information is reported by QSA-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: USDA Market News, New Holland-Lancaster County, PA • http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/LN_LS320.txt.
 Levi Geyer, OIC / 717-406-7350 • Kayley Ellis, Market Reporter / 717-354-2391
 For all USDA Livestock and Grain market reports: www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews

Right-Sizing Your Farm

By Kimberly Hagen,
Grazing Specialist, Center
for Sustainable Agriculture,
UVM Extension

Two years ago while attending a conference on grazing, I listened to a farmer describing the journey he had made for keeping his farm profitable, the land healthy, and his quality of life in the “good” column. He had rejected the more conventional practices, he said, because he was losing so much money, working harder than ever, and had no time with his family. His farm was not healthy and neither was he. Yet farming was his choice of profession. He did not want to give it up. Trusting his own observations and judgment through many trials, he eventually *right sized* his farm.

With meticulous observa-



tions to his farm’s capacity – what could it produce and what did it need to sustain that production level? What type of livestock did best on that landscape? What number hours could he commit to the operation? These were all part of the equation he juggled until he settled on the *right size*. This is a good exercise for any farmer – especially if they wish to stay profitable and in balance, not only providing good work, but also preserving the integrity of the soil and water, both on the farm and in the

surrounding environment. As the water quality issue moves Vermont’s agricultural community into deeper levels of debate on how to keep the water clean, it’s clear that each farm must find that “*right size*.”

A hundred acres in Addison County is not the same as a hundred acres in Caledonia County. A unique set of variables or ingredients

is attached to each farm, due to its bedrock, soils, topography, water (both underground and surface), type of livestock, vegetation and owner. It’s not unlike baking a cake. You lay out the ingredients, and mix in proper proportion for taste, lightness and fit to the pan it will be baked in. If the proportions are off, it won’t taste good, it may not rise, or could over-

flow onto the oven floor for a tedious clean-up. That can happen with farms too.

Unfortunately, overflow from a farm is costly—nutrients are lost and overloaded vegetation, soil and water can sputter with suffocation in a toxic brew. The opposite can be just as problematic – not providing enough nutrients, or in disproportionate amounts to what is needed for the soil type and the vegetation – starved, they cannot cycle nutrients properly or reproduce. Either way, the productivity potential is lost. Not only does the farm lose, but we all do as toxicity and/or starvation taxes the farm’s soil, water and the local environment, lessening its productivity as well.

Winter’s a great time to reflect, attend some conferences and webinars to collect some new ideas and formulate thoughts about new strategies for the coming year. There are numerous new tools to support and expedite this progression right along, but the basic rules are still the same.

Map your farm, find that match of resources, productivity potential, and how best to manage the ingredients for the best possible outcome for the immediate future while also thinking about longer term sustainability.

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