

# AGRiVIEW



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## Survey Data Highlights Severe Weather Impacts for Vermont Agriculture

*Millions of dollars in damage – recovery taskforce announced*

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

A month and a half after a devastating flood the economic reality is becoming clearer. Vermont’s farmers, agricultural businesses, and communities sustained millions of dollars in damage and face strong head winds to recover. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets developed and disseminated a survey requesting information from farms, agricultural businesses, and service and non-profit organizations to understand the overall impact of this natural disaster. The purpose of this survey is to capture the type and scale of the damage agricultural



producers suffered throughout the state between July 7 and July 18, 2023.

As of August 15th (the date of

this article’s writing), the survey has gathered over 200 responses. Below is some of the data collected. The data is expected to grow:

Number of responses . . . . .	205
Total estimated losses . . . \$	\$12,283,704
Total impacted acreage . . . . .	18,170
Average percentage of annual income lost . . . . .	30%

Other significant data collected from Vermont farmers to date:

Most Significant Damage	Percentage of Respondents
Loss of crops meant for wholesale or retail markets . . . . .	38%
Loss of crops meant for animal feed . . . . .	35%
Damage to soils or land . . . . .	20%
Damage to infrastructure or equipment. . . . .	.7%

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

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

Since our last publication Vermonters have been hard at work recovering from the great flood of 2023. While some regions were spared, just about every corner of Vermont was hit hard with this flood. From downtown businesses to flooded farms, this was by all accounts an historic flood.

Agriculture is facing strong headwinds as our producers and farmers try to recover from this flood. As I write this the damages total millions of dollars. The Agency of Agriculture conducted a survey in August and the early results were astounding. Less than two weeks of reporting told the story in dollars.

These are preliminary figures, and we expect these numbers to rise before the survey closes. The Agency has established a task force to help with short term needs

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## Summary of Statistics

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Total estimated losses . . . . .	\$12,283,704
Total impacted acreage . . . . .	18,170
Average percentage of annual income lost . . . . .	30%

and long terms of our farmers. We are fortunate to have a host of state and federal partners working on this panel. The group will be co-chaired by the UVM Extension Service Director Roy Beckford and Nicole DuBuque of the Agency of Agriculture. They will issue a report that will help Vermonters recover from this flood.

We are also working closely with Governor Scott and the state's chief recovery officer Doug Farnham. They have toured farms, flooded homes, and communities so they have seen the devastation firsthand.

Along with the Governor, we reported to Congress that we need additional help outside the existing programs. We know it will take multiple strategies to help recover. Vermonters are Vermont Strong and tough. They know the challenges before them and are ready to make progress one step at a time.

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

We are grateful for all those who are not farmers who have stepped up to support our food system. Thousands have donated dollars to funds that are supporting farmers and producers. They know farmers have always been there for them and now they want to give back.

Vermont is open and we are spreading the word to those from away now is the time to visit Vermont. Tourists can support Vermont by visiting and spending their vacation dollars in the Green Mountains. Vermonters are ready for this challenge, but it will take all of us pulling in the same direction. As the saying goes "We are Vermont Strong" and "tough".

## This Month's Recipe

## Breakfast Quesadillas

## Ingredients for

## 1 Breakfast Quesadilla:

- 1 flour tortilla, 8" in diameter
- 2 large eggs
- 1 Pinch salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup shredded cheese – your choice (we love extra sharp cheddar)
- Optional – add a meat protein! Sausage, ham or bacon (just a couple of ounces per quesadilla)

## Directions

1. Heat a non-stick pan over medium heat. Cook Sausage or Bacon until browned and cooked through then remove to a plate. If using cooked ham, you can heat it up or just add it over the cheese in step 4. Wipe excess oil from skillet if needed. Reduce heat to low.
2. In a measuring cup, add 2 eggs with a pinch of salt and pepper, or add seasoning to taste. Beat with a fork. Add beaten eggs



and swirl to spread evenly over the bottom of the pan. Cook over low heat until eggs are nearly cooked through (if you tilt the pan they shouldn't run).

3. Sprinkle the top with 2 Tbsp shredded cheese then cover with a tortilla. The cheese will make the tortilla stick to the egg. Use a large spatula to get under the egg and quickly flip over.

4. Sprinkle another 2 Tbsp of cheese or add cheese to taste. Sprinkle your cooked protein (sausage,

bacon or ham) over half of the surface and fold the tortilla in half. Sautee on both sides until golden brown. Remove from skillet and use a pizza cutter to cut quesadilla into wedges and serve warm.

Make them ahead to make mornings go more smoothly!  
**To freeze** – Arrange quesadillas in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and flash freeze for 2 hours. Once they are solid, transfer to a freezer-safe zip bag and store in the freezer.

To Reheat – Place frozen quesadillas into a toaster oven at 350°F and reheat until warmed through and cheese is melted. We love reheating in an air fryer to re-crisp the outside. If you thaw quesadillas in the refrigerator for a couple of hours or overnight, they will reheat twice as fast.



# Don't Wait for Insurance Settlement to Apply for SBA Low-Interest Loans

By U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is encouraging businesses and residents affected by the severe storms and flooding in Vermont that began on July 7 to submit their completed applications, even if they have not settled with their insurance company.

"Waiting to file an SBA application could cause unnecessary delays in receiving disaster assistance, and survivors may miss the application deadline," said Kem Fleming, director of SBA Field Operations Center East. "Returning the loan application is an essential part of the disaster recovery process,"

The disaster declaration covers Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties in Vermont, where both

Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are available. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for EIDLs: Addison, Bennington, Essex, Franklin and Grand Isle in Vermont (as of August 1, 2023).

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of

whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates are as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.375 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 2.5 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/> and should apply under SBA declaration # 18016.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should

register online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Disaster loan information and application forms can be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services) or sending an email to [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded from [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

## Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement Program

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

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets offers funding assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through an USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified for specific scopes under

the National Organic Program (NOP) are eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 75% of their direct certification costs paid

between October 1 and September 30 annually, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. There are up to four eligible certification scopes (crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling), which must be individually

inspected for organic certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

Allowable costs include application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, user fees/sale assessments, and postage.

To learn more and apply, please visit: [agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare)

The application deadline is November 1, 2023. Reimbursement is available on a first come, first served basis.

Please contact Terry Smith via email at [terry.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:terry.smith@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-828-5667 with any questions.



## DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

# Cabot Creamery Focuses on Sustainability with Dairy Packaging Innovation Grant

By Katie Spring, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

Across the Northeast, the name Cabot is synonymous with cheddar. Established in Cabot, Vermont in 1919, Agri-Mark/Cabot Creamery operates throughout the Northeast and is owned by farm families in New England and New York. With a “commitment to caring for the environment and the communities where consumers, customers, and employees live,” Cabot became the first dairy cooperative to attain B Corp status in 2012. While Cabot offers a range of dairy products – including yogurt, sour cream, butter, and more – the company is best known for its award-winning cheese.

Now, Cabot is taking its environmental commitment to a new level with the support of an NE-DBIC Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant.

With a priority to reduce the use of virgin plastics across the dairy supply chain, Cabot is conducting trials of three types of sustainable packaging. The current plastic packaging, known as film, will be compared to post-consumer recycled content, recycle-ready, and fully compostable film.

The focus of the study centers on two of Cabot’s



*Cabot packaging innovation: two Cabot employees inspecting cheddar with sustainable film packaging.*

most popular cheeses: extra sharp cheddar, and pepper jack. Through a shelf-life and feasibility study for each type of film, Cabot is partnering with TC Transcontinental, a leader in the manufacturing of flexible packaging, to carry out these trials at its processing plant. To date, Cabot has completed line trials of each film in their processing plant.

“Our entire Cabot team is excited to have the support of this grant to

research, learn and educate about innovative packaging alternatives,” said Jessica Riley, a sourcing analyst for



*Cabot cheddar packaging trials (four cheddar block with different films: PCR, Recycle-Ready, Compostable, Control).*

Cabot.

Alongside testing different films, Cabot is conducting consumer studies to gauge perspectives on alternative packaging, and a consumer sensory study to ensure consistent cheese quality, flavor, appearance, and nutrition value with the different films.

While the study is still ongoing, and shelf-life and sensory data will be critical in determining the long-term viability of each type of film, the information Cabot is gathering represents a significant

step toward enhancing sustainability throughout the dairy sector. To that end, Cabot will develop educational materials based on their findings to encourage collaboration across the Northeast dairy processing industry.

The Dairy Product Packaging Innovation Grant is one of many grants offered by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center that supports sustainable solutions for dairy processors. To learn more about NE-DBIC grants, visit [nedairyinnovation.com](http://nedairyinnovation.com)







# The NE-DBIC Impact for Vermont Dairy

By Katie Spring, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

At the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC), we support dairy farmers and processors through grants, access to technical services, education, and events that promote the development, production, marketing, and distribution of regional dairy products. Our goal: to create resiliency and long-term sustainability for Northeast dairy businesses.

But what does that look like on the ground? Here's the impact, by the numbers:

- As of June 30, 2023, NE-DBIC awarded 86 grants and contracts across Vermont.
- That adds up to \$5,015,404 in funding for Vermont dairy farmers, processors, and service providers.
- An estimated \$1.6 million revenue will be generated by the VT dairy sector as a result of these grants. Dairy farms and processors of all sizes have received funding across our grant programs, including On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling, Food Safety & Certification, Agritourism, Marketing & Branding Services, Farm Innovation,



and Processor Research & Development Innovation.

Bridgman Hill Farm of the Oak Knoll goat milk brand has seen these revenue increases firsthand thanks to a Dairy Marketing and Branding Grant. "Since receiving the NE-DBIC grant and subsequently

rebranding the Oak Knoll Dairy bottles, sales have increased by 75% in terms of total milk volume bottled weekly," they reported.

NE-DBIC grants create benefits beyond increased sales. Bedrock Farm, a recipient of the On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling Grant, has seen improved milk quality thanks to their new system. As a result, they reported that "the project has improved and strengthened the business relationship our farm has with both our milk processor and its hauling contractor."

E.B. Flory, Dairy Section Chief at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food

and Markets, saw a state-wide effect of the Milk Storage & Handling Grant in the direct aftermath of July's severe weather and floods. "Three days [milk] storage is a significant game changer. In a time of crisis, that extra day [of storage]...kept us from seeing large amounts of milk being dumped," she said.

With funding for projects through 2026, we look forward to continuing NE-DBIC grant programs that benefit the entire dairy sector, from farmers to processors to consumers. Learn more about our funding opportunities at [nedairyinnovation.com](http://nedairyinnovation.com).

## Current Grants for Dairy Processors Across the Northeast

To increase sustainability and resilience of the dairy supply chain across our 11-state region, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces two upcoming grants for cow, goat, and sheep dairy farmers. Look for the Request for Applications (RFA) for the grants below this fall, plus our full funding calendar, on our website: [nedairyinnovation.com/grants](http://nedairyinnovation.com/grants)

### Upcoming Opportunity: Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant

This grant for dairy farmers will fund a wide range of projects that prioritize long term farm viability and climate/economic resilience. Projects at all stages and levels of complexity will be considered, but the most competitive projects will include direct involvement of a service provider, business planner, farm succession planner, or technical assistance provider to demonstrate a strategic, long-term approach to their grant project investment.

This grant is expected to be released in October 2023.

## Pesticide Applicator Certification Exams

By Stephanie Smith, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Are you ready to take a Pesticide Applicator certification exam? Have you studied the appropriate materials? Do you know which exam or exams you need to become certified or licensed? Are you 18 or older? To take an exam you must register by contacting the Certification & Training coordinator at least a week (7 days) in advance at 802-461-6118.

All exams are given by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

- All exams are CLOSED BOOK
- Please bring a calculator
- Please bring a current, state-issued, picture ID (required)

There is no cost to sit for (take) exams, *however* there is a fee for obtaining certification.

**Montpelier**  
Every Wednesday  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Williston**  
Bi-weekly  
1st and 3rd Thursdays  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**St. Johnsbury**  
Monthly  
Every 2nd Thursday  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Rutland**  
Monthly  
1st Tuesday  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Newport**  
Monthly  
1st Thursday  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Brattleboro**  
Monthly  
1st Thursday  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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# Connecting With Farm First

By Juana Lopez, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**F**arm First, a public, not-for-profit program provides farmers and their families with resources, support, and information to reduce stress. Their staff included license counselors and agricultural resources navigators with experience in the agriculture. Farmers can reach out to Farm First for assistance at any time.

Interested in a counseling appointment, peer connection, or receiving other resources and but have no idea how to make the first call? No problem! I decided to put this to the test by calling Farm First with possible scenarios that farmers may call about to get an idea of the process and to hopefully help future farmers learn more about the resources that are available.

On a Friday morning at 9am, I called the number listed on the Farm First website at 802-318-5538. Right away I was greeted by Eva Griffin, The Farm First Resource Coordinator, who appreciated the time I took out of my day to call them. She began our conversation with asking how I was doing



**FarmFirst**  
Resources and support for farmers

and what I am currently concerned about. I told her that I was having financial and mental health problems.

She asked me if any of my financial problems had to do with the recent flooding that occurred in Vermont. I stated that it was part of the issue, and she quickly told me about resources that I can contact and that if I wanted, she could connect them directly to me. Some of those included reporting to 211, or reporting my losses and damage to the VT Agency of Agriculture, Foods, and Markets. She shared that NOFA-VT is also currently providing emergency grants to farmers impacted by the floods and that the Vermont Farm Fund, which is run by the Center for an Agricultural Economy, is providing emergency loans at 0% interest.

When it came to mental health resources, she mentioned that Farm First can provide up to 12 free counseling sessions with a counselor that would fit my needs and situation. After the sessions, if I wanted to keep meeting with the same counselor, they could make sure that my insurance would cover the cost. If I did not currently have health insurance, she stated that they would help me find a counselor who would offer sessions at a reasonable and affordable price.

I asked her if I was not comfortable talking to a counselor, was there another resource I could use. Excitedly, she mentioned the Farmer Peer Network. She stated that these farmers were trained in listening skills and confidentiality and come from all different farming backgrounds and locations in Vermont and are ready and willing to meet with farmers in need. The meetings with a farmer peer could be unlimited, unlike the counseling session, and could accommodate my schedule. She mentioned that these meetings could be held, in-person, on the phone, or through zoom.

A conversation with a Farmer Peer could just be talking about things that I am overwhelmed about; an opportunity to express how I am feeling, or even help guide me through challenging situations or conflicts I am in. I told her that I was interested in this Farmer Peer connection, and she mentioned that she could connect me with a specific peer using what she had gathered from our conversations and my personal preferences, or that I could look at the interactive map on their website to review the farmer peer profiles and select a farmer that appears to be the best fit connection.

As we finished our conversation, she told me that she would be following

up with me through email and text with steps for moving forward, and to call her for anything or if things did not get better. Before ending the phone call, we set up our next meeting and she thanked me once again for reaching out.

Reflecting on my phone call with her, I liked how throughout the call, I was given a choice in the process. I was also offered various options that I could take moving forward and reminded that I could take things one step at a time. I felt heard instead of just being listened to, and sometimes that is just what someone needs in that moment.

For information, visit:

- <https://www.farmfirst.org/resources/peer-support>
- <https://www.farmfirst.org/>

## Current DBIC Grants

*continued from page 5*

Awards will range from \$15,000 - \$100,000 with a 25% match commitment.

Dairy farmers across the 11-states of the Northeast are eligible to apply. Current and former farmer participants from NE-DBIC cohort farmers will receive priority for \$695,000 of the funds from this grant. Total funds available in this round: \$1,495,000.

## Upcoming Opportunity: Milk Storage & Handling Grant

Northeast dairy farmers looking to access funds that support the purchase of equipment and other related costs that will improve

milk storage, handling, and energy efficiencies will be able to apply for this upcoming funding opportunity in the fall. This grant provides funds for farmers to purchase needed supplies related to streamlined milk pickup, efficient milk storage, and improved handling abilities for both farmers and their processors.

The RFA for this application is expected to be released in November 2023. Awards will range from \$15,000 to \$50,000 with a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement. Total funds available in this round: \$800,000.

For more information, contact the NE-DBIC team at [agr.dairyinnovation@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.dairyinnovation@vermont.gov)





# Got Cover Crop Questions? The Northeast Cover Crops Council Can Help

By Ellen Friedrich, VT  
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

There are many different reasons why farmers and gardeners choose to use cover crops. As Heather Darby, an Extension Professor and Agronomist with the University of Vermont explained, “Cover crops are a critical component of our northeastern cropping systems and can help improve soil health, nutrient cycling, crop yields, and build overall soil resilience.”

However, not all cover crops are created equal. Different cover crop species & varieties are associated with different benefits and have different growing & management requirements. Choosing what cover crops are right for your farm and figuring out how to harness all the benefits



*Cereal rye (*Secale cereale*), one of the most widely used cover crop species in the US, is one of many species featured in NECC Cover Crop Selector Tool*

of cover cropping can be challenging. Fortunately, the Northeast Cover Crop Council (NECC) has developed online decision support tools that can assist farmers, and those that work with farmers, with implementing cover crops.

Online support tools developed by the Northeast Cover Crop Council include a Cover Crop Selector Tool which can help farmers choose which cover crop species can best help them meet their farm goals, and a Cover Crop Nitrogen

Calculator which helps predict nitrogen release after cover crop termination. These tools have been developed with special attention to the individualized needs of farmers. They provide context-specific information & recommendations which account for differences in climate and soils across farms and fields. According to Heather Darby, all the information included in the NECC resources is based off high-quality research which took place in the Northeast, “These tools have been built with data produced in the northeast and vetted by researchers and farmers”.

Heather Darby has been involved with the Northeast Cover Crop Council’s executive committee since the organization’s inception in 2016, including serving as the committee chair for the past two years. “It is a great organization with a

simple goal of expanding and enhancing the adoption of cover crops across the northeast,” Heather shared. “The organization has representation of farmers, researchers, agricultural industry, government organizations, researchers, and extension from every state in the Northeast.”

The Northeast Cover Crops Council website holds a treasure trove of information about different cover crops species in the Northeast. This information is valuable for anyone who wants to learn more about different species or management options, whether you have been using cover crops for decades or are completely new to them. To access and take advantage of the Northeast Cover Crops Council’s free-to-use decision support tools and other cover cropping resources visit their website at <https://northeastcovercrops.com/>

## Constructing in 2024? Plan Now.

By Sonia Howlett, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Thinking about a construction project on your farm next summer? Our experienced staff at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have seen many farmer construction projects over the years and recommend that you start

planning a year prior to construction. In addition to COVID-related delays and hurdles relating to construction, including scarcity of materials and overbooked contractors, it takes time to navigate town, state, and federal regulations on construction activities.

The Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may apply to

some construction projects. In addition, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Land Trust, and Act 250 may play a role in the planning and permitting of certain projects. Anytime water use is changing, wastewater may need to be considered. Proximity to wells, groundwater, rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, and floodways all need to be

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

All these regulations were built to carefully balance our environment, economy, and

communities – but can be overwhelming. Thankfully, there are resources to help navigate the process.

Agency of Agriculture engineers can help you with engineering assistance on water-quality-related projects and provide guidance on which state permits the project may trigger. Find an engineer at agriculture.

*continued on page 9*

## FEATURED FARMER:

# Allan Brisson, Allandra Farm

By Sarah M. Audet,  
Champlain Valley Farmer  
Coalition

**D**airy farmer Allan Brisson of Allandra Farm in Ferrisburgh is a manure injection evangelist. He'll share the good word about this agriculture practice to anyone who will listen.

"I basically preach it—I don't know why. I guess it's because I'm passionate about it," explains Allan. "It works so well and we all should be working in that direction."

Allan uses a dragline manure injection system. He connects a hose to a pump at his manure pit and connects the other end of the hose to the manure injector attached to his tractor. As he drives across the field, disks akin to pizza cutters create slits and the manure is injected 3.5" into the soil. By injecting rather than broadcasting the manure, Allan reduces nitrogen loss, phosphorus run-off, and unpleasant odors.

When I visited with Allan on his 2500-acre, 1000-cow farm in May 2023, he and his son Michael were busy making round bale baleage. Following many days of cold, rainy weather, the sun was finally shining and the wind had shifted to the north. Their fields were drying out nicely, just in time for corn planting.

But what about injecting manure?

"We don't inject in the spring because it makes the soil too wet," Allan explains. "Much of the injection hap-



Allan and Michael Brisson

pens in the summer or fall."

Four years ago, following two successful seasons of injecting manure on corn land, Allan and Michael wondered if the practice would work on grass, too. They tested it on two acres.

"We were just amazed," says Allan. "When you're injecting, you're going slow, so it doesn't disturb the soil so much." Minimizing soil disturbance is the key to its health; soil that is overly worked is susceptible to erosion and nutrient run-off.

And it's not just the soil that's healthier—it's the grass, too.

"The grass doesn't like to get pooped on either," Allan says with a laugh. "It's not happy for a few days. Manure burns it."

"It helps us save a ton of money and increases the quality of our feed," observes Allan. "We went from being an operation that typically was looking to buy feed to an operation that has feed to sell."

He attributes much of his money savings to the decreased loss of nitrogen.

"When you spread manure on top of the ground, I think it's a given you lose 80% or more of the nitrogen to the air," Allan explains. "If you can smell manure being spread, the farmer is losing fertilizer value. When you inject, you cut the smell down by 90% and therefore you're conserving your nitrogen."

Allan estimates that if he were to resume spreading manure instead of injecting it, he would have to apply 200 pounds of urea in order to achieve that same 20% protein in his grass. Urea costs around \$100 per acre;

multiplied across 1000 acres, that is \$100,000 in savings.

He acknowledges manure injection does not result in any fuel or labor savings for him, however.

"Anything more you do, takes a little more labor and management," Allan notes. "But I think the quality of feed is a good return. Last year, we were able to save 60 cents per cow per day on rations. When you multiply that by 900 cows, that's \$540 in savings each day. That's suddenly \$190,000 per year."

What has pushed Allan to try new things out of his comfort zone?

"I enjoy clean water as much as anyone—the beauty of Lake Champlain, a clean river. It's just not ok to violate it," he says. "So you figure out a better way to do something that's not only good for the environment, it's also good for you. It can't get any better than that, can it?"







# Gevry Firewood Supports Vermont's Forest Economy with Working Lands Grant

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

Vermont is home to many quintessential occupations; dairy farmer, maple producer, snow-plow operator, town clerk, etc. But one that has as much historical importance and present-day impact may sit in your driveway every fall as you prepare for winter. Firewood remains a vital element of rural living and our working lands economy.

Working the woods comes naturally to many Vermonters. Spending the day amongst the trees of Vermont attracts many to find an occupation that makes Vermont's hills and valley's their office. Ethan and Ashlie Gevry have done just that. "Here at Gevry Firewood we do what we do because we like being able to provide our local area with high quality firewood," said Ethan Gevry of Addison, Vermont. "We also do it to enrich the local economy, from supporting area loggers to buying our fuel and parts locally, while creating jobs in our community."

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative supports entrepreneurs at the forefront of Vermont's Working Lands economy to help growing businesses thrive. "The Working Lands grant is important to our business because it allowed us to do things needed to grow our business at a much



Ethan Gevry loads firewood at Gevry Firewood in Addison.

faster rate than we could do on our own," said Gevry.

Of course, every successful Vermont working lands business impacts other layers of our state's rural economy, a distinct element the WLEB Board considers when processing grant applications. Gevry said their firewood operation reaches many other Vermont businesses in its day-to-day operations. "In 2022 we will have spent almost \$750,000 on logs, all of that is spent with Vermont loggers in our community and throughout the state. We also buy all our fuel and parts locally, supporting those local businesses that rural areas need. We employ five full-time employees, all from our local area."

The potential growth of Gevry Firewood and other Vermont working lands enterprises highlights the importance of our rural economy and the employment, sustainable product, and community provided by these successful

businesses. "The grant activities will put our business in a very good position where we can easily scale to meet market demands," Gevry said. "The grant has helped us increase production and, in the spring of 2023, we will construct storage to be able to better serve our customers by having a stockpile of ready to deliver wood at any given time rather than cutting to order."

Working lands enterprises increase the resiliency of our economy and support Vermont's unique sense of place. Ashlie Gevry said their plans for the future will establish them as a contributor to their local economy for many years to come. "Our hopes and

dreams for the business is that we can scale to an 8 to 10 thousand cord a year operation by 2025, which would create another six to eight full-time jobs as well as put over 2 million dollars a year into Vermont's forest economy."

To watch a video about Gevry Firewood's Working Lands grant, visit <https://workinglands.vermont.gov/blog/gevryfirewood>.

Working Lands Grant Applications are opening soon! Visit [workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/overview](https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/overview) for the most up to date information.

## Constructing in 2024 *continued from page 7*

[vermont.gov/water-quality/water-quality-program-staff](http://vermont.gov/water-quality/water-quality-program-staff). The Department of Environmental Conservation also have Permit Specialists listed on their website who can assist farmers navigate environmental regulations. To find a Permit Specialist, visit <http://dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/permits/specialists>

Please note that in addi-

tion to state regulations, your town may have various requirements for construction. When constructing a farm structure, you may be exempt from some of these regulations because construction of farm structures is regulated by the Agency of Agriculture. HOWEVER, you still always must notify of the town zoning administrator or town clerk of the proposed project. You must also ensure that the farm structure meets state

and local setbacks from landscape features such as property lines, rights-of-way, and water sources, unless you have a requested and received a written variance from the Agency of Agriculture. To learn more about land use regulations and limitations to farm structures, visit: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/land-use-renewable-energy-0/municipal-bylaw-land-use-limitations> or contact Mary Montour at (802) 461-6087.

## Vermont Fairs and Field Days 2023

*Please check before attending a fair or field days event to be sure they are operating.*

- Champlain Valley Exposition ..... August 25 - September 3, 2023
- Guilford Fair ..... September 3-4, 2023
- Orleans County Fair ..... September 6-10, 2023
- The Tunbridge World's Fair ..... September 14-17, 2023

## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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

## Reports From The Field

(Guildhall) We were not spared the flooding of a few weeks back. The CT river rose on 7/11 and submerged 12 acres under 5 feet of water for 55 hours. So that's all gone. About 22% of our crop. Generally counting my blessings it wasn't worse, there are so many farms that were devastated. If anybody needs potatoes to fill out a farmstand or CSA, we'll supply you with rock bottom prices.

In other news, the relentless rain before and since 7/11 has made taking care of the remaining 40 acres of potatoes difficult. We're doing the best possible job with weed

control, but fields don't look as clean as usual by any means. Fungicide has been going down as frequently as possible, in addition to some spray for CPB, and the kelp product we foliar feed.

All in all, the crop looks good, though behind. Rows are filled in, everything is flowering, tubers are set. Pumpkin plants are way behind, but perhaps some heat and sun will pull 'em through.

(Westminster) At first, we didn't think the flood damage was as serious as that from Tropical Storm Irene; only 8-10 acres were underwater. But as the rain continued, we saw more disease and lost more crops. Expecting results soon of soil tests from flooded fields to determine if there has been any contamination. Our loss, so far, has been about a quarter million dollars. It's unclear at this point if there will be any financial help from the government.

(Franklin) We have an average of 4 SWD female in our traps over the last two days. Salt float test was about 6 larvae from about a pound of berries. Berries seem to be falling off bushes easier than normal (even before SWD). Maybe due to late frost or heavier than

usual bird pressure.

This very wet year appears to have caused excessive new growth and I'm guessing it's the cause of bushes to be more flexible than normal (in a bad way). I'm also guessing this year's excessive growth will cause bushes to be a bit lanky next year, even with aggressive pruning. Earlier I was worried about Japanese beetles, but the numbers seem to be reducing.

(E. Wallingford) PYO blueberry season is off to a good start. Mid-season berries are large and loaded with fruit, some branches breaking due to weight. Battling weeds. No signs of SWD; just did salt water bag test. New peach trees are growing well. Vegetables are a different story; lots of disease and weeds but starting to look better with drier weather and catching up with cultivating.

## Soil Heath Recommendations For Saturated Soils

*Becky Maden, Vegetable Nutrient Management Specialist, UVM Extension*

Flooding and prolonged saturation of soil from excessive rainfall can have negative impacts on soil health. Nutrients in a water-soluble form, like nitrate and potassium are likely lost through leaching. In saturated conditions, most beneficial microbes become inactive or die, which leads to further nitrogen losses via denitrification. Phosphorus is also less available during and after soil saturation because anaerobic soil conditions reduce vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (VAM), which are organisms that assist crops in P uptake.

Some strategies to remediate soils:

- 1. Side-dress nitrogen** for annual crops at a rate of 30 to 40 lbs./acre of N. The presidedress nitrate test (PSNT) is useful to understand how much available nitrate-N is in the soil. The cost is \$10 through UVM's Ag testing lab. This test is part of the free package of soil tests being offered to farms with flooded fields, through August 15.
- 2. Side-dress other nutrients** such as phosphorus, potassium, magnesium for longer season and fruiting crops, based on soil test results.
- 3. Improve soil biology.** One of the best ways to rebuild soil biology is to grow a cover crop, ideally a legume/ grass mix. Living roots will help rebuild fungal networks and other microbial activity.
- 4. Physical soil management.** Surface crusting may exacerbate prolonged wet periods and make sidedressing or seeding difficult. Use gentle cultivation to break up surface crusts and help aerate the soil.
- 5. Promote growth of stressed plants.** If fruiting plants survive but are stressed, remove flowers and fruit to promote vegetative growth.

## For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: [https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension\\_event\\_calendars](https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars)
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about\\_us/budgets\\_reports](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports)
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 anytime day or night, or visit: [www.farmfirst.org](http://www.farmfirst.org)
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: [info@vcil.org](mailto:info@vcil.org) or visit: [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org).

For more agricultural events visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/funding\\_opportunities](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities)





CLASSIFIEDS

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

**Cattle**

Angus Bulls for sale good genetics and ready for service. Greensboro, VT (802) 533-9804 (9)

4 year old angus proven bull. Anyone interested can call me at 802-558-8196 (8)

Jersey cows for sale; Organic, grass-only, some A2A2, Highgate Ctr, vaccinated, Negative for Johnes. 802-868-2356, or 802-370-1051 (10)

Breeding age Bulls. Good selection, 14 -16 months of age; Registered Holsteins. Popular sires. Dams or granddams: EX or VG w/ records to 40,000 lbs., 4.0%, 1800 fat. Delivery available. Robeth Holsteins, Rochester, VT. 802-767-3926. (11)

**Equipment**

Steel 20 ft kicker wagon 802-624-0143 or 802-895-4683 (9)

Gehl - 3935 -\$9500.00, Gehl - 3410 -\$7000.00, Kuhn/knight 3170 mixer- \$19,000.00 Call 802-537-2435 or 802-345-5543. (9)

Kuhn GMD400 Disc Mower, Kuhn tedder, Darf 5 wheel rake on rubber, JD 24T baler (would like to sell together). Also JD 2040 tractor with loader (40 hp; 2wd), NH 329 manure spreader. Springfield, 802-886-1473 (9)

1 Bunker Silo Defacer (fits on skid steers) \$1250.00, 400 amp transfer switch for generator \$400 or BO, Electric pipe threader \$300, CONTACT INFO: Robert Manning 802-233-9173 (9)

Beautifully restored doctor's buggy and Irish Brougham coach. Call 802-451-6813 for photos & details. (9)

2012 Kuhn 3130 trailer type reel mixer wagon. Digistar scale, floatation tire, very

good condition, always under cover - \$19,500. [upweyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:upweyfarm@gmail.com) 802-457-1639 (9)

New bunk full of organic grass silage. Trucking is available. We are an Organic farm and would consider leasing part of our barn and pastures. We are located in Newport Center, Vermont. You can call Tom at 1-802-744-2444 or Shaye at 1-802-744-6553 or cell phone 1-802-274-4939. (9)

PTO three point hitch post hole digger. Excellent working condition \$400. Two Travis horse drawn work sleds. Good condition. Need poles for work team. \$150 each or both for \$250. 802-291-4525 (10)

Superior Model GS394- 7' blade 3-point hitch double action sickle mower excellent condition. Includes extra knife section/guards bar with tool box, spare parts + parts book & Sickle Servicer Model S4--\$2,150. 802-439-6348 (11)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Small square first cut bales. \$4.00 a bale. Call 802-767-4247 (9)

Wheat and oat rotocut straw from western Canada, quality feeding. Large bales 3X4X8 or 3X4X7. Stored inside. From 175USD/ton, transport available (not included). We are located 30 minutes away from Swanton VT in Canada (Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu). Call or text us 514-588-3829 for more info. (9)

Feed-organic haylage, 3rd cut - 60 a ton, 2nd cut - 60 a ton, 1st cut - 45 a ton. Call 802-537-2435. 802-345-5543 (9)

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Good quality hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard and orchard sweet grass. 18 to 20% plus protein. Large bales and organic by trailer loads. Large or small square bales of straw whole or processed at farm we load or direct delivery by trailer load. 802-849-6266 or 802-373-5217 (12)



**Sheep & Goats**

Villa Villekulla Farm yearlings for sale. Purebred Alpine and Alpine-Nubian crosses. No milking records available but all boast Lazy Lady genetics. From tested disease-free herd. Two-year old does in milk also available. Must go in pairs at minimum. Experienced goat handlers and small scale farms only. Contact [lauren@villavillekullafarm.com](mailto:lauren@villavillekullafarm.com) for pricing and more info. (10)

**Wanted**

Fahr KH40 hay tedder for parts. Contact Dan, Hinesburg VT 802-482-2047 (9)

Caretaker for beautiful "hobby" farm in the Upper Valley of Vermont, Woodstock area. On site detached housing provided. Part or full time duties. Perfect for retired person or couple. Basic horse experience preferred but not necessary. References required, Make inquiries by email: [morganmiltimore@gmail.com](mailto:morganmiltimore@gmail.com) or call 802-436-1111. (9)

**For Sale**

419 acre organic Farm - 2 - robotic milkers, 3 - bunker silos 275/100 freestall , 4 bedroom farm house Call 802-537-2435 or 802-345-5543 (9)-

**For Immediate Release**

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Mark and Susan Rushton, Grafton, Vermont to process and package ice cream and frozen dessert within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

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

All written comments must be received by September 15, 2023.

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: Magic Chopsticks Noodle Bar, Burlington, Vermont to process and package ice cream within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

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

All written comments must be received by September 15, 2023.

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.

**Survey Data**

*continued from page 1*

The Agency survey closed on August 28th. However, if you are a farmer, agricultural business, or organization that raises animals and/or grows feed or crops for anyone beyond your immediate family and have sustained flood loss or damage from the July event, the Agency asks that you report your losses to 211, the Farm Service Agency and FEMA. This will help provide officials with a complete picture of the disaster event, how it has impacted our farms, farmers and agriculture community and help disseminate assistance and inform future resiliency efforts.

Other important data collected to date:

Agricultural Damages Reported by Vermont County	
Franklin County . . . . .	\$289,000
Orleans County . . . . .	\$334,025
Lamoille County . . . . .	\$1,287,300
Washington County. . . . .	\$1,064,700
Rutland County . . . . .	\$391,000
Bennington County. . . . .	\$2,005,000
Orange County. . . . .	\$442,611
Chittenden County . . . . .	\$1,552,725
Essex County . . . . .	\$120,000
Caledonia County . . . . .	\$971,963
Addison County . . . . .	\$2,056,955
Windsor County . . . . .	\$1,101,225
Windham County . . . . .	\$667,200

*\* Over 69% of respondents do not carry crop insurance.*

Respondents focused their survey responses on impacts resulting from the flooding and severe weather experienced between July 7 and 18, 2023. The Agency is aware that a widespread freeze event in May has also impacted producers. A USDA disaster declaration was signed by Secretary Tom Vilsack on July 21st to assist producers impacted by that extreme weather event.

Because of the seriousness of these disasters, Secretary of Agriculture

Anson Tebbetts has named a special task force to help farmers recover. The task force will be co-chaired by Dr. Roy Beckford of UVM Extension and Nicole Dubuque of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. This panel will deliver a report to federal and state policy makers in the coming weeks focusing on short-term and long-term strategies to help Vermont agriculture recover and become more resilient.

To view the Severe Weather & Flood, Loss & Damage Survey dash-

board, please visit: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/loss-damage-survey-dashboard>

VAAFM continues to encourage all farms and agricultural operations that have suffered flood impacts to report those damages



*Dr. Roy Beckford*



*Nicole Dubuque*

and/or losses to Vermont 211 and their local Farm Service Agency office, preferably both.

For information on flood recovery and support, visit [agriculture.vermont.gov/flood](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/flood),

email [agr.floodresponse@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.floodresponse@vermont.gov), or call 802-828-5667.



## FARM AND FOOD WORKERS RELIEF PROGRAM

ADMINISTERED BY:



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm and Food Workers Relief Program (FFWR) provides a one-time \$600 payment for expenses incurred by frontline farmers and meatpacking workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**One-time relief payments**

Eligible frontline farmworkers and meatpacking workers can apply for a one-time \$600 pandemic relief payment through check, direct deposit, or gift card. [See if you're eligible.](#)



**No cost to apply or for assistance**

There is **no cost** to apply. You do not need to pay a notary, agency, or lawyer to apply for the USDA Farm and Food Workers Relief (FFWR) program.



**Your identity is protected**

Applicant information is confidential. It will not be shared with the USDA nor any other state or federal agency.

**APPLY NOW AT FARMWORKERS.COM**  
**OR BY PHONE AT (833) 469-3397**

SCAN TO APPLY





**CONTACT US FOR SUPPORT**

 (833) 469-3397

 [support@pasafarming.org](mailto:support@pasafarming.org)

**USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.**

For more information visit: [usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement](http://usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement)



# Tap into Something Delicious with the Vermont Maple 100!

By Kristen Brassard,  
VT Agency of  
Agriculture, Food &  
Markets



Are you ready for a sweet fall treat? The 2023 Vermont Maple 100 is a fall celebration of all things maple in the Green Mountain State, presented by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing. From September 15th through October 15th, follow a tasty trail throughout Vermont of businesses and organizations with unique maple offerings.

It's not just about syrup anymore! Follow along with the Vermont Maple 100 to find new local attractions or visit old favorites, all offering maple in new, fun ways.

You'll find maple's best kept secrets all month long – and there's something for everyone! You can savor unique maple specialty products; rank your favorite maple creemees; tour a sugar house with a local sugar maker; indulge in a maple-based brew or cocktail; discover your new favorite restaurant with a maple-infused meal; explore a sugarbush at the height of fall foliage; or even find a maple treat for your furry friends! No matter what you do, you'll get the chance to see Vermont's best ingredient in a whole new way.

And the more activities you enjoy, the "sweeter" the deal! This year we're

partnering with the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) and their new Maple Meander Passport! The Maple Meander is VMSMA's brand-new, year-round passport program

that encourages you to visit maple producers, partners, and celebrations throughout the year. Chart your own course to uncover new or cherished destinations throughout Vermont, in every season. Pick up a Maple Meander Passport at any of the participating

Maple 100 locations and track your path through the state. Fill in six spots and turn it in by October 20th for the chance to win a special Maple 100 prize. When Maple 100 is over, be sure to hang on to your passport and continue to use it when you visit

participating Maple Meander businesses. Once you visit 12 or more locations, you can turn it in for some sweet Vermont Maple swag!

Tap into what makes maple great by heading to [vtmaple100.com](https://vtmaple100.com) and planning your fall maple adventure today!

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

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

### Programs Open Year-Round

#### Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

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

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

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

### October

#### Farm to School and Early Childhood Grant

Grants to help schools and early childhood organizations develop farm to school programs or farm to early childhood programs

Gina Clithero  
[Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov](mailto:Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov)  
802-585-6225

### Fall

#### Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)

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

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

#### On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling Grant

Grants to provide dairy farmers with funds that support the purchase and supplies to improve milk storage, handling and energy efficiencies

Ben Eldredge  
[Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov](mailto:Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov)  
802-522-9478

#### Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant

Grants to support food safety projects, including specialized equipment purchase, supplies, food safety training, and certifications.

Ben Eldredge  
[Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov](mailto:Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov)  
802-522-9478

#### Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Business Enhancement Grants

Grants to provide farm and forest businesses with funds to support marketing, infrastructure, equipment, workforce development, and energy-focused projects

Clare Salerno  
[clare.salerno@vermont.gov](mailto:clare.salerno@vermont.gov)  
802-917-2637

# Start Planning Now for Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Grant Applications

By Clare Salerno, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**D**o you operate a farm or forest business or a food business that uses local farm products? Or are you

a producer association or service provider that works with these businesses? Are you looking for funds for equipment, infrastructure, marketing, climate-focused projects, research, or workforce development? If

so, consider applying for a Working Lands Enterprise Initiative grant!

Applications will open throughout the fall and winter, with awards announced throughout the winter and spring. These awards should

be for projects that you will start working on in spring/early summer 2024.

Most grants expect a match equal to 100% of the grant request, meaning that for example an organization or business applying for a

\$25,000 should expect to contribute \$25,000 in their own cash and/or labor.

Find details for each grant online at [workinglands.vermont.gov](http://workinglands.vermont.gov)

## Funding Opportunities Available for Fiscal Year 2024

Funding Opportunity	Application Window	Award Size	Eligible Projects/Expenses	Eligible Applicants
<b>Service Provider Contract</b>	September 6 – October 16, 2023	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Advising and Network Development</li> <li>Workforce Development Study in Primary Manufacturing Forestry</li> <li>Wage and Labor Laws</li> <li>Producer Association Umbrella Organization Feasibility Study</li> </ul>	Organizations that provide services to farm and forest businesses
<b>Service Provider Grant</b>	September 6 – October 16, 2023	\$10,000-\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market development</li> <li>Financial planning and accounting</li> <li>Business succession planning</li> <li>Manufacturing efficiencies or process flow</li> <li>Business research and development</li> <li>Workforce development</li> </ul>	Organizations that provide services to farm and forest businesses
<b>Producer Association Grant</b>	September 6 – October 16, 2023	\$10,000-\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market research and development</li> <li>Leadership and staff development</li> <li>Board training, refreshing by-laws, committee work, or strategic planning</li> </ul>	Non-profit associations of farm, forest, or local food businesses
<b>Business Enhancement Grant</b>	October 6 – November 20, 2023	\$15,000-\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market development</li> <li>Research and development</li> <li>Infrastructure and equipment</li> <li>Energy focused projects</li> <li>Workforce training and development</li> </ul>	Farm, forest, or local food businesses
<b>ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant</b>	December 8, 2023 – January 19, 2024 (pre-application phase)	\$50,000-\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market development</li> <li>Research and development</li> <li>Infrastructure and equipment</li> <li>Energy focused projects</li> <li>Workforce training and development</li> </ul>	Farm or forest businesses that raise livestock, grow crops, tap maple trees, or harvest timber and that have been in business since January 2020
<b>Supply Chain Impact Grant</b>	December 8, 2023 – January 19, 2024 (pre-application phase)	\$50,000-\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market development</li> <li>Research and development</li> <li>Infrastructure and equipment</li> <li>Energy focused projects</li> <li>Workforce training and development</li> </ul>	Farm, forest, or local food businesses
<b>Small Farm Diversification Grant</b>	January 12 – March 4, 2024	Up to \$15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversifying farm products produced</li> <li>Transitioning from one form of farming to another</li> <li>Processing farm products</li> <li>Developing an accessory on-farm business</li> </ul>	Farms of any acreage whose gross income from farm product sales equals at least half of the farmer's annual gross income; or a small farm subject to the Required Agricultural Practices
<b>Trade Show Assistance Grant</b>	Winter 2024 TBD	\$2,000 - \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning, exhibiting, and selling Vermont products at out-of-state trade shows or virtual shows targeting out-of-state buyers</li> </ul>	Farm, forest, or local food businesses with 3+ wholesale accounts



# Celebrating 10 Years of Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative recently celebrated ten years of serving Vermont agriculture and forestry businesses. The Board and recent grantees gathered at the Lareau Farm in Waitsfield to recognize this important milestone. Since 2012, WLEI has directly invested \$15.8 million in 470 farm, food, and forestry enterprises and leveraged an additional \$24.6 million in matching funds. These investments have demonstrated results: over 500 new jobs have been created, 24,000 acres of VT's working landscape have benefited from these investments, and businesses receiving grants have generated over \$55 million in annual sales.

Find out more about the Working Lands program at <https://workinglands.vermont.gov/>



## Alert: Rodent Baits

*Requirements for use of mice or rat baits*

**Baits used to control mice, rats, and meadow voles are pesticides and must be used properly. Improper use can result in poisoning of children, pets, domestic animals, or wildlife.**

It is illegal to use these baits outdoors without a bait station!  
Always read and follow label directions for use.

**Indoors**  
*Place bait where children, pets, domestic animals and wildlife cannot reach the bait.*



**Outdoors**  
*Baits must be put into a tamper resistant bait station*



The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food And Markets investigates reports of pesticide misuse. Incidents can be reported to 802-461-7160.



## Agency Contact Numbers

*Phone numbers for Agency programs are listed below. You are always welcome to call our main line at 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to the person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.*

### Program Phone Numbers

Act 250	802-461-6798
Animal Health	802-828-2421
Business Development	802-828-1619
Dairy	802-828-2433
Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide	802-828-2431
Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime	802-828-5050
Licensing & Registration	802-828-2436
Meat Inspection	802-828-2426
Pesticide & Plant Health	802-828-1732
Produce Program	802-522-7811
Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab	802-585-6073
Water Quality BMP	802-828-3474
Water Quality Grants	802-622-4098
Water Quality Reports	802-272-0323
Weights & Measures	802-828-2433
Working Lands	802-917-2637





# 'Breakfast on the Farm' Event in Bridport Feeds Nearly 1,400



**W**ith weeks of rain, storms and flooding affecting surrounding farms and communities, the Sunderland Farm in Bridport was still able to host 1,374 visitors for a locally sourced breakfast and a tour of the dairy operation. This year, Vermont Breakfast on the Farm was a wet and muddy in many places but still served breakfast under the big tent, then provided a guided, educational tour of the family-run dairy. Some cars needed a push or a tow due to the muddy conditions, but those who came rolled with the mud and were undeterred.

The mission of this event is to raise awareness of where our food comes from and how a dairy farm functions, cares for its animals and environment. To find out more about Breakfast on the Farm, how you can participate as a volunteer or host the event on your dairy farm, please visit: <https://vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com/>

Event organizers want to thank those who came, and also express their deepest sympathies and well-wishes to those who have been affected by the recent storms and flooding in Vermont.



## JOIN US AT SHELBURNE FARMS FOR ABCs of Farm-Based Education

A three-day workshop to help farmers engage & inspire visitors  
**Free** to participate! Oct. 22-24, 2023 or Spring 2024

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