About the Program
The Vermont Pay for Phosphorus Program (VPFP) provides performance-based payments to farmers for reductions of phosphorus (P) losses from their fields. Reductions represent how farm management has improved from the management assumed in the Lake Champlain Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (LCB TMDL). Enrolled farms will receive payment for annual net reductions from the TMDL baseline, above a threshold.

Program Payments
- First time enrollees, regardless of performance, are eligible for a data entry payment of $15 per acre they enroll in the program — up to $4,000.
- Technical assistance services are available to help farmers with data entry and using FarmPREP.
- Farms whose data has been entered can choose to be entered into a competitive pool for annual P reduction payment contracts, which will pay $100 per pound of eligible phosphorus reductions per year, up to an annual cap of $50,000.

Why is this program unique?
Most current payment programs pay cost-share for practice implementation. VPFP pays for the outcomes of practices: it recognizes that conservation practices generate value to the public and directly compensates farms for that value. In this approach, farmers have the flexibility to implement conservation practices they know will work for their own operations.

Eligibility
- Vermont farm that manages crop and/or hay fields
- Have an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan that meets the criteria required for your farm size based on the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)
- In Good Standing with state and federal requirements.

To learn more or apply:
Visit our webpage at agriculture.vermont.gov/vpfp
Contact: Brodie.Haenke@vermont.gov or 802-636-7852

Field-By-Field Results
Each farm field will be entered into the Farm Phosphorus Reduction Planner (FarmPREP), which will model phosphorus loss based on soil, slope, and field management.

FarmPREP Inputs:
- Field Boundaries
- Soil Test Results
- Crop Rotations
- Tillage Practices
- Manure and Fertilizer Rates
- Conservation Practices

Modeled Base Load
Based on the same agronomic assumptions used in the LCB TMDL, each farm field will be assigned a baseline annual P loss. This baseline is the point of comparison with current management for calculating total P reductions.

40% Reduction Threshold
Total Reductions
Conservation practices and farm management choices contribute to reductions from the Base Load.

Additional Reductions
All farms are expected to achieve some P reductions through existing regulations and programs. To be eligible for VPFP phosphorus reduction payments, farms must exceed a 40% reduction threshold.
**Vermont Pay For Phosphorus Program**

**Farm Case Studies**

The examples below are based on Vermont farms that provided their data from the 2021 crop season to support our research. Each example illustrates how unique farms implementing various field management practices may perform in the VPFP program and the annual phosphorus reduction payments they may be eligible for if they enroll.

### Farm #1

This dairy farm manages 430 acres with fields primarily located on poorly drained silt loams in corn, hay, and corn/hay rotations.

**Field Management**
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Extended crop rotations
- No-till on annual crops
- Cover crops
- Surface applied manure

**Meets 40% Threshold**
- +20% Reduction

**Payments**
- Data Entry: $4,000
- P Reduction: $17,200
- Total (Year 1): $21,200

### Farm #2

This dairy farm manages 180 acres with fields primarily located on poorly drained silt loams all in permanent hay and pasture.

**Field Management**
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Crop to hay seed downs
- Surface applied manure

**Meets 40% Threshold**
- +27% Reduction

**Payments**
- Data Entry: $2,700
- P Reduction: $14,500
- Total (Year 1): $17,200

### Farm #3

This dairy farm manages 1220 acres with fields primarily located on poorly drained silt clays in corn/hay rotations, hay, and corn.

**Field Management**
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Extended crop rotations
- Conventional tillage
- Cover crops
- Surface applied manure

**Does Not Meet 40% Threshold**
- Current Farm P Loss

**Payments**
- Data Entry: $4,000
- P Reduction: $0
- Total (Year 1): $4,000

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