

# AGRiVIEW



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## Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center Awarded \$7 Million

*The fifth round of USDA funding will support resilience across the Northeast dairy sector*

By Katie Spring, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has been awarded \$7,053,333 by the USDA to continue their support of and investment in regional dairy resiliency.

NE-DBIC is one of four national Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBII) established in the 2018 Farm Bill. Hosted by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, NE-DBIC offers grants to dairy farmers, processors, and technical service providers across 11 Northeast states including: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New



York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

To date, NE-DBIC has awarded more than 210 grants totaling over

\$11.18 million directly to dairy businesses. This new \$7 million will allow NE-DBIC to continue its direct support of dairy farmers and proces-

sors across the region, with a focus on dairy farm modernization, marketing and branding, processor and packaging innovation, and investment in supply chain resources, along with research on dairy's economic impact in New England.

On announcement of the funding, U.S. Senator Welch of Vermont said: "I'm pleased the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center will be able to provide more much-needed funding to dairy farmers and processors. The NE-DBIC has lived up to its name, supporting innovations in the development, marketing and production of Vermont's world-class dairy products and assisting farmers in making improvements on their

*continued on page 6*



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

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

**D**airy farmers across Vermont and the Northeast received some encouraging news this month. The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center has been awarded \$7,053,333 by the USDA to continue their support of regional dairy resiliency.

The center located at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is one of four national Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives established in the 2018 Farm Bill. There are other centers in California, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. This program offers grants to dairy farmers, processors, and technical service providers across 11 Northeast states including: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Recently, I had the honor to attend a special forum at the World Dairy Expo in Madison Wisconsin. All four centers presented their programs to those attending this annual event that brings thousands from around the world to celebrate dairy. We learned from USDA Under Secretary Jennifer Lester Moffitt we would be receiving more funding to support our farmers and processors. This was great news for our farmers and dairy industry.

To date, our center has awarded more than 210 grants totaling over \$11.18 million directly to dairy businesses. This new \$7 million will allow the center to continue its direct support of dairy farmers and processors across the region, with a focus on dairy farm modernization, marketing and branding, processor and packaging innovation, and investment in supply chain resources, along with research on dairy's economic impact in New England.

In the coming weeks, the center will be making some critical decisions about projects that are focused on infrastructure. We know



USDA Under Secretary Jenny Moffitt

to keep up with the world we need to make investments in processing so our award-winning milk can be

made into value added products. Innovation was a theme at the World Dairy Expo. Many of the presenters highlighted the importance of developing and supporting value added dairy. We know from our research consumers love cheese, butter, yogurt, cottage cheese and ice cream. This funding keeps us moving forward.

This \$7 million represents the final round of funding from the 2018 Farm Bill. The upcoming 2023 Farm Bill will determine how and if the innovation centers move forward in our work to increase dairy resiliency across the region. We are advocating for these centers to continue their work in Vermont and across the United States.

To learn more about NE-DBIC visit [nedairyinnovation.com/impact](http://nedairyinnovation.com/impact)

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## This Month's Recipe

### No Bake Pumpkin Apple Pie

Serves 10

#### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 9 sheets)
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 4 tbsp melted butter
- 1 - 3.4 ounce box of instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice (or combination of your favorite spices)
- 1 - 20 ounce can of apple pie filling (approximately)
- 1 1/2 cups whipped cream

#### Directions

Finely crush six graham cracker

sheets. This nets approximately one cup of graham cracker crumbs. Place the crumbs in a large bowl and stir in brown sugar. Stir in melted butter with a fork, then press into the bottom of a 9x9-inch square pan. Chill until the filling is ready.

Wipe out the bowl you made the crust in. Place pudding mix, milk, pumpkin, and pumpkin pie spice in the bowl. Whisk until smooth. Pour carefully over crust, spreading it evenly.

Evenly spread apple pie filling over the pumpkin layer. Top evenly with whipped cream. Crush remaining graham crackers into chunky pieces and sprinkle over the top.



Chill dessert for at least two hours before serving. Store covered in refrigerator for up to three days.



# Maple Producers & Processors: Apply for the Maple Agriculture Development Grant!

By Madison Berry, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**M**aple producers and processors have a unique chance this fall for funding to improve their operations: a brand-new program that represents one of the largest state investments in Vermont maple.

The Maple Agriculture Development Grant is a one-time funding opportunity aimed at investing in infrastructure for Vermont maple operations. The grants are intended to help develop, grow, and sustain maple businesses throughout the state. Over \$540,000 is available for grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000, funded by the Vermont State Legislature in the 2024 fiscal year budget.

"These investments are important to the maple industry. We are fortunate to have these dollars for maple producers so they can continue to grow their operations," said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture. "We are grateful the Governor included



these grants in his budget."

Most maple-focused operations are eligible, whether they are tapping, processing, distributing, or even focused on sap-only. Wholesale, retail, direct-to-consumer? Maple syrup, maple candies, maple sugar? Big, small, or somewhere between? Whatever your operation, there could be funding for you!

Projects should focus on infrastructure, equipment, training, or sugarbush management. Marketing, agritourism, and

business services are not covered. Three funding priorities derived from industry feedback will guide final selections. All applications must address at least one of the following:

#### **Operational Efficiency**

Funds should increase business efficiency, particularly use of time, labor, or funds.

#### **Climate Resilience**

Funds should help operations remain productive and sustainable

in the face of climate change or help mitigate environmental impacts of the operation.

#### **Food Safety & Quality**

Funds should address food safety in the sugarhouse or final product or ensure adherence to maple quality guidelines.

Ready to apply? Applications are due via WebGrants by November 21, 2023, at 11:59 PM. More information and a full Request for Applications can be found at <https://bit.ly/MapleADG>.

## Agency of Ag Recommends Proactive Engagement Before the December 15th Winter Spreading Ban

By Brittany Cole, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**T**he annual winter manure spreading ban begins on Friday, December 15 and lasts until Monday, April 1 – a full 107 days. This ban on spreading manure or other agricultural waste through the winter months is designed to protect water quality. The Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) also prohibit manure spreading on saturated, frozen, or snow-covered

ground before December 15th and after April 1st.

As we enter the ban season, the Agency is aware that Vermont received unprecedented amounts of rainfall this summer, catastrophic flooding in early July, and then continued rainfall left fields too saturated for equipment to get on. Over the course of two days in the month of July, we experienced rainfall between 3 to 9 inches in some parts of the state. Farmers have already contacted the Agency to express concern about

trying to manage their manure to protect the environment and to meet the pending winter ban requirements. The Agency appreciates this level of engagement and understands the challenges. With the limited weather window and significant workload this fall, we anticipate that many farms will still have storage capacity challenges coming into winter.

While we can all hope for a sunny and dry fall, reality has a way of catching up with us. If you anticipate having an issue before or during the

ban, please contact Nate Sands for assistance with manure management options at 802-224-6850. The earlier communication is made, the more time there is to engage in a solution. Solutions often include helping to identify additional storage locations or other alternative options. An emergency exemption from the Secretary of Agriculture for spreading on frozen or snow-covered fields, or during the winter spreading ban can be issued to farms for emergency

*continued on page 8*

## DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

# Announcing the 2023 Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grantees

By Katie Spring, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center is pleased to announce nine recipients of the 2023 Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant. Individual awards ranged from \$14,400 to \$50,000, with total project funding of \$363,916.00. Each grantee will work with a marketing and branding professional to increase consumer awareness, develop market channels,



Sweet Rowan Farmstead

and implement strategies to increase product sales, with an overall aim to improve promotion of regionally

produced dairy products. Two Vermont dairy businesses were awarded: Rogers Farmstead of

Berlin will work with a consultant to refresh their branding, update their website with current content and to make it mobile phone-friendly, and create packing and marketing materials with a new logo and regional pro-dairy branded messaging.

Sweet Rowan Farmstead of West Glover will work with several professional branding, marketing, graphic design, and visual content consultants to produce new branded digital and physical marketing materials that will leverage their Vermont

and New England brand identity.

Grantees from across the Northeast include:

- Center for Dairy Excellence of Pennsylvania
- Clear Spring Creamery of Maryland
- Crosswinds Farm & Creamery of New York
- Fredrikson Farm of Maine
- Giffords Ice Cream of Maine
- Mystic Creamery of Connecticut
- Pariva of Massachusetts

## Current Grants for Dairy Processors Across the Northeast

By Ali Boochever, Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

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, plus our full funding calendar, on: [nedairyinnovation.com/grants](https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants)

### Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant

This grant for dairy farmers will fund a wide range of projects that prioritize long term farm viability

and their ability to adapt to climate and economic challenges. 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.

The application period will be open until December 7, 2023 at 2PM ET. 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.

### 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 pur-

chase needed supplies related to long-term farm viability including 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 on November 7, 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 about these grants, visit [nedairyinnovation.com/grants](https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants) or contact the NE-DBIC team at [agr.dairyinnovation@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.dairyinnovation@vermont.gov)

### Dairy Technical Assistance Cohorts

The NE-DBIC seeks Requests for Proposals for the next round of Dairy Technical Assistance Cohorts. The upcoming cohorts may be focused on either dairy farming or dairy processing.

TA providers can submit proposals for one or more of the following topics: increased grazing quality or quantity, home-grown forage enhancement, alternative herd management, innovative staffing and business management, marketing and education of dairy production practices, food safety and processed product pro-

*continued on page 6*



# Apply Now for Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Business Enhancement Grants

By Clare Salerno, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Since its formation in August 2012, the Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) has awarded over \$15 million in grant funds to over 400 grantees, leveraging more than \$26 million in matching funds.

The Business Enhancement Grant is open now through November 20.

Applicants will be notified in January 2024 and those awarded can start projects in February 2024. Project length is one year.

Projects eligible for funding may relate to one or more of the following

categories:

- Market development
- Research and development
- Infrastructure development
- Energy focused projects
- Workforce training and development

Businesses can apply for grants anywhere between \$15,000–\$50,000 per award. Up to \$580,000 is available total from a Fiscal Year 2024 State of Vermont legislative appropriation.

Grant recipients must provide matching funds equal to 100% of the grant award (one-to-one) using cash (e.g., funds in the bank, paid staff labor hours toward the project) or in-kind items (e.g., donated goods, pro bono services, volunteer

labor) that the grantee organization has received from other sources. Under limited circumstances, the matching requirement may be reduced or waived for applicants who demonstrate a clear need for this accommodation.

Businesses must be based in Vermont and registered with the Secretary of State at the time of application. All structures are eligible (e.g., Partnerships, Limited Liability Corporations, Sole Proprietorships, Cooperatives, Corporations, S Corporations, L3Cs, B Corporations, and/or non-profits that are involved

in the support of production of agriculture and/or forest products).

Value-added food businesses that source at least 50% of raw ingredients from Vermont OR are applying for a Working Lands grant to significantly increase use of ingredients sourced from Vermont are eligible. This means that businesses that sell “unique food products” are not eligible unless the business will use grant funds to increase production of raw ingredients in Vermont. Unique food products are defined as processed food

made from ingredients that are not regularly produced in Vermont or are not available in sufficient quantities to meet production requirements. Please make your sourcing clear within the application.

Secondary forestry businesses are eligible if at least 50% of the wood they use is grown in the Northeast OR the Working Lands grant project will significantly increase use of wood sourced from the Northeast.

For more information, visit [workinglands.vermont.gov](http://workinglands.vermont.gov)

## Fill Out the Northeast Dairy Workforce Survey

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center is exploring how we can best support dairy workforce development, and we want your input. If you're an employer or manager in the dairy industry, please fill out the Workforce Survey for Northeast Dairy Industry Employers.

This brief survey seeks to identify workforce challenges facing employers across the Northeast's dairy industry. Findings will be used to inform the design, and plan for the launch of, a pilot workforce program that will be developed in collaboration with regional dairy employers and stakeholders. KK&P, a food systems consultancy, is leading this research and workforce program design process.

This survey is intended for dairy industry employers and managers only, across the dairy supply chain (including farmers, processors, haulers, and distributors). Fill out the survey at [bit.ly/dairy-workforce](http://bit.ly/dairy-workforce)



## 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? Please register online at least a week (7 days) in advance or by contacting the Certification & Training coordinator at 802-828-1732. All exams are given by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. Scan the QR Code to schedule.

- 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.



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9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Brattleboro**  
Monthly  
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9:00 am – 12:00 pm

# Agronomic Training Grants Available Now

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

Interested in learning more about agronomy, soil health, or agricultural water quality? Trying to connect with regional experts on these topics? Eying an event out of state that discusses innovative practices you would like to implement on your farm, but concerned about the expense?

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to announce the release of Agronomic Training Grants under the Farm Agronomic Practices program. These new, easy-to-access grants support Vermont farmers to attend events or other instructional activities that further their

knowledge of agricultural water quality.

Eligible events may focus on state or federal agricultural water quality regulations, the impacts of agricultural wastes on water quality, and/or best practices to reduce agricultural impacts to water quality. Attendance at lobbying or advocacy events is ineligible.

Successful applicants will receive reimbursement for up to 100% of travel, registration and housing costs for attending eligible events. Individuals are limited to \$2,000.00 in agronomic training funding per state fiscal year through this initiative.

Funds are available to support many grantees this year, but all applications and expenses are subject to review by the Vermont

Agency of Agriculture, Food and

Markets to ensure that they meet eligibility requirements and that costs

are reasonable.

Applicants must apply at least 45 days prior to the event. Apply now to request funds for any event

attendance planned prior to June 30, 2024!

Learn more and apply at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap/training>



*Agronomic training events give farmers the opportunity to learn about water quality, soil health and climate improvements they can bring back to their farms or the farms they work with.*

## DBIC Grant

*continued from page 1*

farms. This latest round of funding will continue that work, benefitting farmers in our state and across the Northeast."

Across the region, state agency leaders voiced support for the NE-DBIC:

In Massachusetts, MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randall said: "The funding provided to the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center uplifts our region's dairy industry at an important time. Dairy farmers play a critical role in the Northeast region's agricultural economy, food system resiliency, and act as stewards of a vast percentage of

farmland. Supporting dairy farmers through infrastructure upgrades and workforce development will have a cascading positive impact on our region's overall agricultural economy and sustainability."

In New York, Agriculture Commissioner Richard Ball said: "We thank the USDA and the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center for their continued partnership and for the financial assistance that this program has provided to our dairy industry in New York State. The dairy community continues to face some unprecedented challenges, making it more vital than ever that these critical programs are available to help our industry

grow, diversify, and remain sustainable in the future."

In Vermont, at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets where the NE-DBIC is based, Secretary Anson Tebbetts said: "These investments in dairy are working across Vermont and the Northeast. Having these dollars available for farmers and processors means they can adapt, innovate, and connect with consumers. We are grateful for the support from USDA, our delegation in Washington and our region's policy makers for their ongoing support of this important program."

Speaking on the impact of NE-DBIC Grants, Jacki Martinez Perkins of Maine Organic Farmers

and Gardeners Association said, "For many farmers, NE-DBIC grants have been a crucial lifeline, providing technical assistance, funding infrastructure improvements that enabled access to new markets, support to help maintain their certification compliance, and the financial backing needed to pursue innovations critical to the success of their businesses that may have otherwise been out of reach."

"Having access to a regional resource like NE-DBIC has been a game changer for us," said Jayne Sebright, Executive Director of the Center for Dairy Excellence in Pennsylvania. "By working with NE-DBIC, the Center for Dairy Excellence

has been able to extend our resources to farms outside of Pennsylvania and even more farms in the Commonwealth."

This \$7 million represents the final round of funding from the 2018 Farm Bill. The upcoming 2023 Farm Bill will determine how and if the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (DBII) will continue forward in our work to increase dairy resiliency across the region.

To learn more about NE-DBIC visit [nedairyinnovation.com/impact](http://nedairyinnovation.com/impact)

All DBII centers were awarded a fifth round of funding. Read the USDA-AMS press release for more details.



# New \$400K Grant Opportunity to Increase Local Food Access Opens October 30

By Sarah McIlvennie, VT  
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has released a request for applications (RFA) for farmers, producers, and organizations to apply for Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Plus funding. Approximately \$400,000 will be awarded to farms and organizations demonstrating an ability to purchase and distribute Vermont-sourced food from socially disadvantaged producers to underserved community members across Vermont.

Awards will range from \$15,000 - \$60,000 with no match requirement. Funds must be used to start new programs or expand existing offerings to purchase Vermont food and move to neighbors in need. Farmers and producers who fall

under USDA's definition of socially disadvantaged will receive priority for funding. Project duration will run from March of 2024 through March of 2025.

Applications will open on October 30 and are due by Tuesday, December 12 at 2:00PM.

Grant funds are to be used for food purchases only and are limited to Vermont raw or minimally processed foods per USDA definition. Additionally, at least 50% of LFPA Plus funds must be spent procuring foods from farmers that meet the USDA definition of socially disadvantaged. At least 50% of food products purchased with LFPA Plus funds must be distributed to communities that meet the USDA definition of an underserved community. This second and final round of LFPA is referred to as LFPA Plus because it is

separately funded and has its own stipulations. This program is designed to establish markets for socially disadvantaged farmers, while feeding underserved Vermont communities.

The Agency administers this federal program in Vermont through a \$1,017,953 cooperative agreement with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. The Agency is pleased to administer the final round of funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) this fall.

- For more information visit the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) website. This will include the Request for Application (RFA), a factsheet, and the application.
- An informational webinar will be held on October 27, 2023 from 2:00-3:00pm. Interested applicants can click here to

register. For those unable to attend, a recording will be posted on the LFPA program website here, the following week.

For questions about

Vermont's LFPA program or the LFPA Plus RFA, contact Sarah McIlvennie by email at [sarah.mcilvennie@vermont.gov](mailto:sarah.mcilvennie@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-261-5866.

## Nutrient Management Planning Classes Coming Up!

By Susan Brouillette, UVM Extension

Do you want a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), or are you being required to have an NMP? Are you in compliance with the NMP requirements and the NRCS 590 Standard? Is your NMP up-to-date?

We will be holding the 2024 NMP classes in January and February (it is a 6-week course). We have not determined the schedule or locations yet. If you are interested in attending the class, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

There are also basic NMP course requirements that need to be done prior to taking the class in January that include:

- Current manure analysis
- Current soil analysis (no older than 3 years) for all fields on the farm
- A completed Land Treatment Plan (field maps, RUSLE2 values, etc.)

Given these course requirements and time to complete them, it is time now to start getting ready for the 2024 NMP classes.

If interested in the NMP, or taking the 2024 class, or gaining help with completing the course requirements, or gaining help to update your current NMP, please feel free to reach out to UVM Extension (Susan) at 802-524-6501 or 802-656-7611 or your local Conservation District office.

### Current Grants

*continued from page 4*

duction practices, value-added product marketing/sales, and production management.

Contracts will be issued for up to \$150,000. The Request for Proposals is expected to be released in November.





# New England Green Pastures Recognizes Outstanding Dairy Farms of the Year

Submitted by Eastern States Exposition

Exceptional dairy farm families from across the Northeast were rewarded for excellence in a variety of categories during the New England Green Pastures Recognition Banquet, held Sept. 15th, at The Big E, in West Springfield, Mass.

The Green Pastures program began in 1947, when New Hampshire's then-governor Charles Dale bet that his state had greener pastures than anywhere else in New England. The claim sparked an annual competition that recognized innovation and pasture management. Extension services in each New England state facilitated the contest, and the program has evolved to annually recognize one extraordinary dairy farm in each state. Each year, previous winners interview, tour, and judge the nominated farms.

Now in its 75th year, the New England Green Pastures program has grown from a challenge that started with Governor Dale, into a successful regional initiative



Ackermann Farm, of Hardwick, Vermont, was honored with the Green Pastures Award for Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year at The Big E in West Springfield, Mass. Pictured left to right are Tony Kitsos, State Coordinator, Andee Ackermann, Sara Ackermann, Allie Ackermann and Jim Ackermann.

that emphasizes the importance of a viable dairy industry in New England.

"The New England Green Pastures program has evolved from one of promoting pastures and forage management, to its present objective of honoring an outstanding dairy family from each

of the six New England States by considering their farm's contribution to the agricultural community and other criteria," said Green Pastures Program

Coordinator, Gary Anderson.

The Green Pastures committee's judging criteria includes business management, crop production, herd

## Spreading Ban

*continued from page 3*

situations only. This emergency exemption is always a last resort, and the Agency

always seeks alternative solutions where possible before issuing an exemption. There are additional requirements as part of the process and under no circumstance can

performance, environmental practices and community leadership.

The 2023 Outstanding Dairy Farms of the Year are:

- **Connecticut:** UConn Kellogg Dairy Center, of Storrs, Conn.
- **New Hampshire:** Huckins Farm, of New Hampton, New Hampshire.
- **Maine:** Green Valle Farm, of Newburgh, ME.
- **Vermont:** Ackermann Farm, of Hardwick, Vermont.
- **Massachusetts:** High Lawn Farm, of Lee, MA

Each family received a silver pitcher and a sign designating their farm as a New England Green Pastures winner. They were also invited to attend The Big E during their Massachusetts visit.

For more information on the New England Green Pastures program, contact Program Coordinator Gary Anderson at [garya@maine.edu](mailto:garya@maine.edu).

manure or agricultural waste ever make its way to surface water. Please reach out to resolve any manure storage and application concerns before it becomes an issue.





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# World Dairy Expo

From the hills of Vermont to the show barns of Madison, Wisconsin, Vermonters were representing the dairy world at the World Dairy Expo held October 3 – 6, 2023. The World Dairy Expo hosts more than 70 countries from around the world with more than 2000 cows at the expo. Tebbetts spent his time connecting with and speaking about Vermont dairy to those in attendance, highlighting the great things that Green Mountain State dairy offers inside our state and to the world.



Laura Ginsburg presents on the impacts of Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center grants at the World Dairy Expo.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski (far left) and Secretary Tebbetts (center) enjoyed their time with families exhibiting their cows.



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## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



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[www.vvbga.org](http://www.vvbga.org)

## Reports From The Field

(Westminster) The lettuce and kale we replanted after harrowing up many acres due to the endless rains of summer are doing pretty well. The first kale plantings looked terrible but they have bounced back, especially green kale. We're harvesting cabbage and collards, which are doing well. We're done with romaine for the year but will be harvesting red and green lettuce for a few more weeks.

Meanwhile we're harvesting fall crops of carrots, beets, parsnips, rutabagas, purple daikon, and watermelon radish. Picking butternut squash, too – the only winter squash that survived the season. There are a lot of small ones, probably due to lack of sunlight. The first parsnips harvested looked good when we put them in storage, but they turned out to have black rot in the middle. Some of our carrots have a fungal disease killing the tops so we'll get those harvested soon before the tops all die; those carrots will be smaller than we'd

like.

Market prices for fall crops are pretty good, probably because there's not a big supply out there. Higher prices should make up a little for our smaller crops this year.

(Burlington) After 97% flood coverage and losing most crops in July, fall is looking OK. We were able to get back in to plant a bunch of crops later July and throughout August. The harvest is like June in October: lots of greens, brassicas, and a few root crops. With all of these, together with our tunnels, we'll be able to offer a credible winter CSA share, though at a somewhat reduced rate due to the lack of some key root crops and winter squash.

Our catastrophic losses this year underscored how CSA can be a strong farm insurance plan. After refunding our income-subsidized members, we offered our remaining summer CSA members a pro-rated refund, while urging them not to take it to support the long-term health of the farm, keep the farmers employed, etc. Of the 610 or so fully-paying shares we had about 5 request refunds. Between that and a GoFundMe we were able to make up most of the revenue we lost in the summer and winter share, leaving only a hole with our winter wholesale business, 5-10% of our total revenue.

It has me thinking about risk management, and pining for some land out of a floodplain, but also a lot about the CSA risk-reward proposition and how that works long term. Our 2012 sales after Irene was the only

year we missed our CSA sales goals since 1996, albeit still hitting 95% of target. We are making the case to our members now for next summer that looking at any consecutive three-year period, even including 2011 or 2023, our CSA members do well in the economic value equation. In recent years we've been whittling away at the value of our CSA share and giving less discounted food to our members in order to invest more in the farm and the staff. I continue to ponder how much of that discount is important for us to provide our members in order to have the risk proposition be tolerable and continue to appeal to our people even with the lousy years mixed in, our price for crop insurance.

(Orwell) Having a few blissful days without rain allowed us to make some progress on a construction project and install a new walk-in cooler. It's refreshing to rip out diseased tomatoes and put in greens, although a few houses of tomatoes that we gave up on a few weeks ago had a surprising turn around, so we are pleased to still have a few fruit to offer accounts. Direct-seeded spinach planted 3-4 weeks ago grew quickly, but is already getting devoured by winter cutworm. I found about 5-6 of various colors and sizes on each plant the other day – at 6 cents a caterpillar, my daughter made some money on them. Sprayed dipel last night and will try to stay on schedule with that for a few weeks while other houses get planted out. They seem earlier and more destructive each year since we first

found them about 4 years ago.

(Guildhall) Just started harvesting today. October is the earliest I've ever started, but the weather seems right. We're starting with a 20-acre clay-ish field. Try to get it done while its dry this week. Parts of that field had standing water between the hills most of the year, so there are a lot of clods riding up the harvester. Overall, I expect average yields and quality from the 20 acres of clay, and great yields & great quality from the 20 acres of sand left to dig.

Pumpkin crop pretty much failed. Seeded late, pollinated late, and it's a beautiful weed free field of green jack-o-lanterns. Not a big deal, but a good reminder to get them in early.

(Huntington) Pleasant clouds of dust are set adrift by tractors carrying bins, and the puddles and clods of Summer 2023 seem a distant memory. Well, until this weekend at least. I'll take 3 weeks of blue skies during September, that's for sure. To not have even a cursory frost in September is rare for us, as well. Though it looks like we might get our first taste of icy windshields this weekend.

Our fall brassica planting is surprisingly healthy. I'm not sure if it's stochastic variation, nature's penance, or what, but there is very little disease and all the aphids appear to be on 2 or 3 Brussels sprouts stalks. After a few years of paying a lot of attention to our Brussels and receiving suboptimal results, 2 years ago we decided to

employ a more hands-off approach: no leaf removal, no topping, no fussing. And they've been better crops both this year and last. Go figure. After seeing a talk at the NEFVC extolling its benefits, we tried the OMRI fungicide "Oso" for Alternaria prevention on the big fall brassica block, in addition to a few sprays alternating Serenade and Double Nickel, so either a.) something works in that mix or b.) we got lucky.

Galinsoga and crabgrass yields are well above average, after a summer of strong resistance to canopy shading and iron blight.

Butternut squash yields turned out to be about average, and the sweet potato crop is looking to be above average at the current halfway stage of harvest. Potato harvest is on hold for a few weeks, but certain later varieties seemed to thrive this summer, with a generally high tuber size with somewhat below average tuber set. So yields are turning out average on those, which I'll certainly take in a year like this.

(Westminster West) Spent some time today at the Orchard Aid concert held at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, it was a community effort to help 5 local orchards that lost most if not all their apples in May during the freak freeze. It's so great to see the community come out and support our local growers with encouragement and love!

Fall is moving along here; squash is all harvested, yields are down about 25% compared to last year, but quality is very high

*continued on page 15*



CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: [Ag.agriview@vermont.gov](mailto:Ag.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**

Breeding age Bulls. Good selection, 14 -16 months of age, Register 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)

Organic Freestall Holstein herd. Closed herd over 30 years Vaccinated No Johne's or Staph A. Some cows tested for A2. AI Bred Select Sire Power. Fall Freshening. Our cows are calm and we want them to go to a good home. Joel Pominville Middlebury, Vt. 802-377-0039 (12)

Jersey & Jersey/Holstein cross dairy cows, Some A2, in NW Vermont; farm certified

Organic since 2005, Grass-only since 2012. Cows are vaccinated, Negative for Johnes, and include 5 first-calf heifers. Contact (802)-868-2356 (farm landline) or (802)-370-1051 (girlfriend's cell) with questions. (12)

Grassfed dairy cows for sale, bred for spring 2024. Pure jerseys and Normande/Jersey crosses; Currently making 25-40#/day, OAD milking, 100% grassfed, bred to grass Holstein/Jersey dairy bull, preg checked. \$1800 each or \$1700 each for 3 or more. All are good cows, selling because we have too many spring calving and just bought some fall calving. Location: Keeseville, NY, Contact: Ashlee 518-645-2697 [info@northcountrycreamery.com](mailto:info@northcountrycreamery.com). Craigslist ad has more

info and photos: <https://plattsburgh.craigslist.org/grd/d/keeseville-dairy-cows-for-sale-bred-for/7660494699.html> (12)

**Equipment**

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)

Set of tracks and boogie wheels to fit MF-50 or similar tractors \$250 , Harland McKirryher, RiverDellFarm, 802-767-2602. (12)

2 Flex auger good working condition. 1 international manure spreader good shape. John Deere KBA Harrows. 80 ft New Holland hay elevator. 802-624-0143 (12)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

We have 1st and 2nd cut wrapped round bales for sale. \$45 each. We do not have



trucking but can load. Great for dairy or beef 802-563-2150 (12)

Certified Organic 2nd cut wrapped round bales. 802-592-3356 (12)

**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)



The University of Vermont

Engaging minds that change the world

**Farmyard and Field Specialist**

The University of Vermont's Miller Research Education Center (MREC) is seeking a Farmyard and Field Specialist to support farm operations and assist program faculty and students. This position will work to develop and maintain management plans for the farm's 140-acre forage crop and pasture lands; maintain a nutrient management plan and pest /weed control strategies; direct manure and compost management; and maintain MREC's mission of education, research, and outreach. This position will assist MREC's Herdsperson and Equipment Operator by driving tractors, operating skid steers, mixing cattle feed, and handling large animals. Additional responsibilities include assistance to the CALS Facilities Manager and Business Office to administer and coordinate processes related to farm equipment, supplies, repair services, and work with contracted farmers. This position will also assist in supervision of temporary employees to ensure completion of relevant duties, operations, and safety training and engage with community partners and subject matter experts to maintain knowledge relevant to the MREC field and farm operations.

Bachelor's degree in Dairy Farm Management, Agribusiness Management, Agronomy or related field and one to three years' experience working with large animals in a farm environment required (or equivalent combination of education and experience). Valid Driver's License and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) required, or ability to obtain within one year. Demonstrated skills in operation of farm equipment, including up to 200hp tractors, skid steers and feed mixers, the ability to work cooperatively with instructors and students and the ability to follow required agricultural management practices required. This position will require a post-offer pre-employment (POPE test) physical examination.

For more information, visit our website [www.uvmjobs.com](http://www.uvmjobs.com), posting #S4498PO. Candidates must submit an electronic application, resume, and cover letter. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until suitable candidates are found. The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

*The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.*

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VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS



# Revitalizing Your Tunnel Vision

## High Tunnel Conference Scheduled for December

By University of Vermont

The University of Vermont, in cooperation with the University of New Hampshire and University of Maine, is holding a conference on high tunnel production in northern New England.

The event, titled “Revitalizing Your Tunnel Vision” will be held December 6 and 7, 2023 in West Lebanon, NH. Speakers from the organizing institutions, along with specialists from Purdue University, and various regional companies and USDA agencies will present the latest best practices for high tunnel production.

Hands-on sessions on insect and disease diagnosis and soil fertility will be offered as well as irrigation technologies, cover cropping, soil sterilization, market strategies, and more. As weather events become more extreme, high tunnel production is becoming the norm for many vegetable farmers. However, growing under plastic presents unique challenges. This conference will help new and experienced growers improve their crop yields and quality through better



Beautiful tomatoes growing in a Vermont high tunnel according to best practices.

production practices.

In the morning of Day 1, a tour will be offered by the farmers of Spring Ledge Farm, in New London, NH. (<https://www.springledgefarm.com>). The afternoon of Day 1 will include hands-on sessions on how to identify insects and diseases and interpret soil tests.

Day 2 will be a full program of presentations on diverse key topics associated with growing the best crops. The event will encourage grower interactions to ensure the program addresses

practical issues and will allow for grower-to-grower exchange of ideas. Pesticide re-certification credits (3 on Day 1; 3.5 on Day 2) will be awarded to attendees from states with reciprocal arrangements with New Hampshire.

The program is available at: <https://www.uvm.edu/~htunnel/High%20Tunnel%20Conference%20Registration%20Flyer%20v9-28-2023.pdf>

On-line registration is at: <https://bit.ly/TUNNEL23>

Contact Cheryl Sullivan at (802) 656-5434, [cfrank@uvm.edu](mailto:cfrank@uvm.edu) for details or to request a disability-related accommodation to participate.

## Online Agrovoltaics Workshop Offered

By University of Vermont

The University of Vermont, in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, is holding an online workshop on agrovoltaics for northern New England.

Agrovoltaics is the combining of agricultural production with solar panels to generate farm revenues from both. The Agrovoltaic research group is hosting a workshop on how to increase revenues from the farm with solar energy while maintaining valuable land for

crop production.

Save the date, November 28, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The program is currently being developed and more information will be available soon. Presenters from Vermont and Europe will



Vertical, bifacial solar arrays in a European agrovoltaic system.

be there. This agrovoltaic initiative is supported by funds from the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program and the University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Contact Margaret Skinner at (802) 656-5440, [miskinner@uvm.edu](mailto:miskinner@uvm.edu) for details or to request a disability-related accommodation to participate.

## The Pesticide Applicator Report is going digital.

This change will allow:

- Fast delivery,
- Easy click links to resources,
- Electronic fillable quizzes for CEU credit submission, and
- Saving time and money.

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets wants to ensure you receive the Pesticide Applicator Report (PAR). Please confirm your email address with the Agency using the link, <https://forms.office.com/g/fNFGigN3FF>.

If you have any questions, please email [agr.pest@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.pest@vermont.gov) or call 802-828-1732.

Please adjust your email settings so that email coming from [agr.pest@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.pest@vermont.gov) will make it to your inbox and avoid it arriving in your Junk email box. You can also always find the latest, and past PARs with quizzes by scanning the QR code.





## Farm First

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

**F**arm First is a Vermont-based program that tries to tackle issues that farm owners and their families might be facing, including but not limited to financial and family concerns, alcoholism, and illness. These services are free and confidential



in order to best suit their needs. Farm First provides professional and personal support to address a wide range of issues.

One of the programs that Farm First Provides is The Farm First Peer Network. The Farm First Peer Network is a group of diverse farmers from around the state who have been trained in active listening and accessing resources. Sometimes, it's only having another farmer who can understand what you're going through that can make a difference. These

trained peers can be a first call when things start to go sideways. They can help talk you through a situation, build on your past successes, brainstorm possible solutions, or make a referral for accessing other resources or counseling.

Farm First also provides up to 12 free counseling sessions with a counselor that would fit your needs, situation, and insurance after

the first initial phone call. If one does not have insurance, The Farm First Resource Coordinator, Eva Griffin, can help find counselors who have reasonable and affordable prices.

If you need resources or support on other issues like legal or, disaster relief, Farm First can help research resources that one can contact. You are not alone in this process. Farm First is

only a phone call away.

For more information on Farm First, please call or visit our website:

**Call:** (802) 318-5538 during daytime work hours (8:00AM-4:30PM M-F)

**Call:** 877-493-6216 outside of daytime work hours

**Email:** Eva Griffin at [EvaG@farmfirst.org](mailto:EvaG@farmfirst.org)

**Website:** <https://www.farmfirst.org/>

### 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)

## Advanced Wood Heating Program Assistance Available

By Molly Willard, VT  
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

**V**ermont Energy Investment Corporation and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation have partnered to offer a program that supports Advanced Wood Heating assessment for businesses in Vermont. The program pays for experts/engineers to provide outreach and technical assessment services to Vermont businesses to evaluate installing modern wood heating systems. The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and the Rural Economic Development Initiative programs can provide the grant writing needed for the businesses to get funds for the Architectural Heavy-Duty Wall Heater system installation and purchase after the technical assessment is complete.

### What does the Advanced Wood Heating Program provide?

- **Offering no-charge initial assessments:** Just send us three years of heating fuel records and we will provide a "first look" assessment of the savings opportunity
- **Providing in-depth "prefeasibility" studies at no charge:** We can also conduct a site visit and a prepare more in-depth

report detailing the costs, savings, and specific design considerations.

- **Connect to project funding:** If you decide to pursue a project, we can help you access funding opportunities and grant writing assistance with partner organizations and agencies.

For more information, contact Molly Willard via email at [molly.willard@vermont.gov](mailto:molly.willard@vermont.gov) or by phone 802-261-1681.



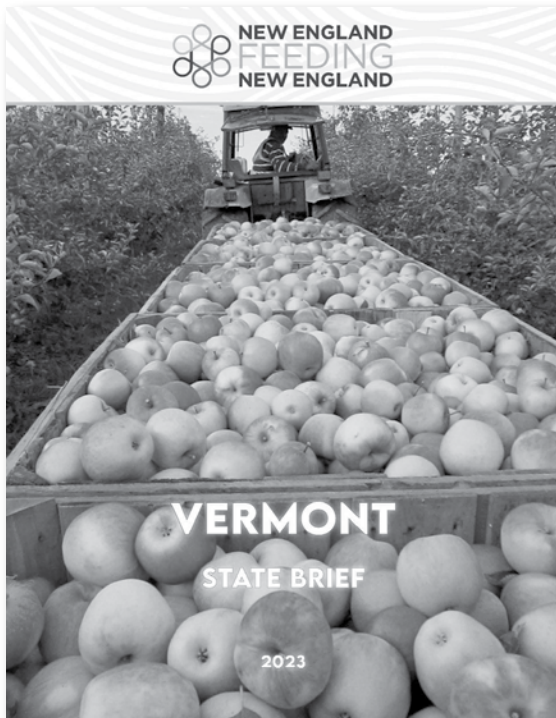
# Vermont's Role in Feeding New England

By Kelly Nottermann,  
Vermont Sustainable  
Jobs Fund

The New England State Food System Planners Partnership and Vermont Farm to Plate announce the release of Vermont specific data from the *New England Feeding New England* report. What can each New England state do to increase food security and access and build resilience for the whole region? What strengths does Vermont's food system possess and what opportunities can be pursued? What weaknesses persist and what threats loom? This State Brief contextualizes important characteristics of Vermont's food system for consideration.

## Can the six New England states provide 30% of their food from regional farms and fisheries by 2030?

*New England Feeding New England* explores this question and what it will really take to grow, raise, produce, harvest, and catch more regional food and move it through a complex supply chain to our homes and other places where we eat. The research presents an opportunity for the region: significant changes in diet (e.g., dramatically reducing consumption of ultra-processed foods and increasing fruit and



vegetable consumption), a significant increase in land in agriculture, stopping the decrease in farmers and fishermen, and finding a way to actually get local/regional food in the places people shop are daunting challenges, but addressing them will leave our food system stronger and more resilient.

## Vegetable & Berry News *continued from page 10*

with excellent sugar levels and few squash rotting in storage. Sales are strong and prices are higher than last year, so I consider myself lucky. My potato crop, however, was not so good with 65-75% loss. The soil was just too wet to cultivate and standing water from the rains for weeks didn't help at all!

Tomatoes are still pumping out of the tunnel. Ginger, a new crop for us,

## Next steps: what can Vermont do to meet the 30% by 2030 goal?

To meet the region's 30x2030 goal Vermont needs to aggressively implement priority strategies from the *Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030* related to market development, climate resilience, food security, and racial equity. Vermont will need to closely coordinate

with partnering New England states on policy innovation, consumer engagement, and financing and funding.

Areas of priority include:

- Production, processing, and distribution infrastructure and supply chain investment
- Cultivating viable wholesale grocer market oppor-

has done well enough to continue growing it next year. Folks really like it at farmers' market. Nice crops of cabbage, leeks, celery, carrots, and beets along with strong garlic sales are keeping market sales way up over last year. Wholesale very steady with squash and potatoes leading the charge. Cabbage worms on Napa have been a beast and twice a week spraying was really needed. Getting the garlic field ready for planting next week already!



tunities within the state and New England

- Supporting and accelerating land access and land affordability with a particular focus on equitable access for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and BIPOC farmers
- Creating synergies between climate policy and resilience and food system development
- Leveraging cross-sector coalitions to stimulating

systemic solutions to food access and security.

Read the Vermont report at <https://nefoodsystemplanners.org/wp-content/uploads/NEFNE-VERMONT-State-Brief.pdf>. Access the *New England Feeding New England* report components at <https://nefoodsystemplanners.org/projects/report-components/>

## 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



# A Local Vermont Holiday Feast Is at Your Fingertips

*Find a local farm for fresh turkeys and local Thanksgiving dinner ingredients!*

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

The trees are rapidly shedding their foliage glory which helps turn our attention to the next big holiday feast. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and the Vermont Fresh Network (VFN) once again encourage those looking towards a traditional Thanksgiving dinner understand that Vermont's local farms are ready to help. Ingredients from the turkey to the stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, pies, and local beverages spirits can be found at a farm, farmers market or store near you! The time to order your local bird is now!

Vermont is home to many turkey farms and diversified farming operations raising turkeys across the state, just in time for Thanksgiving and the holiday season. According to the National Turkey Federation, nearly 88 percent of Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving. The



average weight of turkeys purchased for Thanksgiving is 16 pounds, meaning that approximately 736 million pounds of turkey were consumed in the United States during Thanksgiving in 2016. In Vermont, nearly 48,000 turkeys and chickens were produced in 2016.

To help locate your dream bird and other ingredients to grace your holiday table, check out Vermont Fresh Network's Local Holiday Meal Finder

"Buying a Vermont Turkey supports our rural communities. We are grateful for our farmers for their commitment to producing fresh food during this season of giving thanks," said Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts. "Thank you, farmers, for feeding us on this day and every day."

The Vermont Fresh Network can help connect you to a local farm and farmer near you, for a fresh Thanksgiving feast for your family. You can also find farm fresh dinner ingredients for your turkey dinner at the same time.

"Thanksgiving is a time for us to celebrate with our family, our friends, and our farmers. A Vermont farm locally raised grown turkey and a locally sourced Thanksgiving dinner offers the freshest ingredients for a truly delicious meal and celebrates the best of the working landscape," said Tara Pereira, Executive Director of the Vermont Fresh Network,

"And food grown in Vermont pairs perfectly with our local wine and cider."

Along with local turkey and produce, the Vermont

Fresh Network can connect you with a local wine and cider pairing guide and a list of Vermont Thanksgiving-week farmers markets by vis-

iting [DigInVT.com](http://DigInVT.com) - an interactive website for authentic agricultural and culinary events and experiences in Vermont.

## 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

### November

#### Agricultural Fairs & Field Days Capital Grants and Operational Stipends

Grants for 20-year capital improvements and operational stipends for fairs and field days.

Drew Watson

[Andrew.Watson@vermont.gov](mailto:Andrew.Watson@vermont.gov)

802-636-7793

#### 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.

Ali Boochever

[ali.boochever@vermont.gov](mailto:ali.boochever@vermont.gov)

802-261-5740

#### Working Lands Business Enhancement Grant

Grants for farm and forest businesses to support infrastructure, workforce, marketing, and research.

Clare Salerno

[clare.salerno@vermont.gov](mailto:clare.salerno@vermont.gov)

802-917-2637



# The Big E Recap for 2023

By Trevor Lowell, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Eastern States Exposition, known as the Big E, one of the country's largest fairs, takes place every

year in West Springfield, Massachusetts from mid-September to early October. The 2023 fair saw close to 1.5 million people come through the gates over 17 days. As the nation's only multi-state fair, Vermont was well represented,

with over 30 Vermont businesses selling their products at the Vermont Building, a public market style building located along the fair's Avenue of the States. Everything from Vermont staples like cheese, maple, and craft beer, to

honey, wool, chocolate, and poutine was on offer. The Vermont Building provides a little slice of the Green Mountain State for fairgoers from all over the region. It also provides an incredible opportunity for Vermont businesses to get their

quality products in front of millions of customers. The Agency is proud to manage the Vermont Building and to support the numerous food, forestry and agricultural businesses that vend there during the Big E.



## Vermont 4-H'ers Compete in Dairy Events at the Big E

Competing for Vermont in the clipping contest at Eastern State Exposition, September 15, were (left to right) Brailey Livingston, Isabella Wilbur and Lorynn Trujillo. (photo: Cady White)



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