

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FARMER COALITION INC.



Accomplishments of 2014

CVFC Annual Report

Farmers working
together for a clean
Lake Champlain &
thriving agriculture
in Vermont

- **Total Membership is at 38, an increase from last year by 40%.** As we continue to host events, reach out to our community, and support our farms in adopting innovative farming practices, we hope that we can continue this growth into the future.
- **We were just awarded \$80,000 over 3 years** by the High Meadows Fund. This funding will help provide our organization with the support needed for us to grow membership, increase adoption of innovative farming practices, and improve farm viability.
- We started a program to **co-write water quality articles in the Addison Independent** with the Addison County River Watch Collaborative. As these articles become published, the public will gain a better understanding of what farmers are doing to try to improve water quality on their farms while also increasing their financial viability.
- We **Sponsored events** with UVM Extension—No-Till and Cover Cropping Conference, the Soil Health Field Day, 3 Cover Crop Field Days, and a No-Till On Clay Field Day. These events helped educate farmers on practical ways to implement field based practices. A result of these meetings were several farms successfully implementing field-based practices and others are planning on trying them next season.
- We held a **Water Quality Educational Meeting** at the Old Lantern in Charlotte on October 15th with nearly 50 attendees, most of whom were local political candidates and farmers.
- We held a **meeting with Watersheds United Vermont at Conant's Riverside Farm** to break barriers and find ways to have water quality organizations effectively work with farmers to address issues. This meeting was very informative to all who attended. A direct result of this meeting was our members meeting and connecting with organizations that we wouldn't normally have the opportunity to connect with.
- **The Board of Directors joined USDA Secretary Vilsack** in Burlington as he announced funding for agricultural Best Management Practices to protect Lake Champlain.
- Many farmers **testified at the State House** regarding practical approaches to water quality regulations.
- Many members have partnered with UVM Extension and NRCS to conduct research and demonstration projects on their farms, host field days, etc. As more farms try and successfully implement practices that benefit water quality, we hope to expand the number of demonstrations and field days.