

*Farmers  
Working  
Together*



*For a Thriving  
Agriculture and  
a Clean Lake  
Champlain*

## **2016 Annual Report**

### **Membership**

- Total Current Membership is at 84, with 61 farm-members representing 30 Small Farms, 23 Medium Farms, and 8 Large Farms. Our members represent all types of agriculture including dairy, beef, vegetable, and small grains/cash crops. Member farms operate over 40,000 acres of corn, beans, vegetables, hay and pasture in the Lake Champlain watershed.

### **Funding**

- We utilized three previously awarded grants to fund our programs. A grant from the High Meadows Fund awarded in 2015 provides us with support to grow our organization. A grant from the Working Lands Enterprise Board enabled us to work with seven CVFC members to design and carry out Crop Management Implementation Plans. Lastly, funding from Keep Local Farms allowed us to hire Louise Waterman to assist us with membership recruitment. With these funding sources, along with cost-share from UVM Extension and base-support from membership dues, we are able to have an organization that provides a complete and effective set of programs for its members.

### **Legislative Education**

- Collaborated with the Otter Creek Conservation District and UVM Extension to put on the 2016 Addison County Agriculture Conservation Bus Tour.
- We gave direct input and guidance throughout the RAP rulemaking process to agencies and legislators.

### **Public Education**

- Helped host grade school field trips on member farms to learn about farming practices.
- Participated in the second "Breakfast on the Farm" at Nea-Tocht Farm, a CVFC member-farm.
- "Tour de Farms" bicycle tour stop for non-farmers at the Four Hills Farm to learn about agriculture.
- Members worked with UVM-Extension to assist Middlebury College students on school projects.



## Farmer Education - Partner with UVM Extension Crop, Soil & Pasture Team

- We organized three Mahure Trainings at member-farms in Richmond, Shoreham, and Pawlet. 166 individuals attended these meetings and resulted in increased awareness of manure and nutrient application techniques to minimize environmental losses.
- Five crop patrols at member-farms looking at nitrogen management in No-Till Corn in Addison, No-Till on Clay Crop Tour in Orwell, No-Till Alfalfa, Ryegrass, and Corn in Danby, and two Short Season Corn Variety Trials in Panton and Starksboro. Total attendance was 111 individuals.
- Two no-till corn planter clinics with UVM Extension in Weybridge and Colchester with 37 attendees.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meetings for formal organization business, open member meeting for presentations and discussion about the latest in water quality and farm viability issues.
- We were an exhibitor to promote CVFC at events including the VT Farm Show, No-Till and Cover Crop Symposium, Legislative Dairy Reception, and Addison County Ag Showcase in Middlebury.
- Weekly Legislative Updates to CVFC members about weekly activity in Montpelier.

## Farmer-member Assistance

- 19 Farmers were directly assisted with implementing and problem-solving field-based practices totaling more than 44 acres of No-Till Alfalfa, 250 acres of No-Till Corn, 173 acres of Cover Cropping, and 68 acres of Alternative Crops.
- We worked with seven farms to develop and carry out individualized Crop Management and Implementation Plans for their farms.
- As an organization, CVFC members planted over 9,100 acres of cover crops in 2016. The impact for Vermont is in the range of 10,000 tons of topsoil saved from loss by erosion, keeping 22 tons of Phosphorus out of the lake to improve water quality, increasing cover crop seed sales income for agribusiness by nearly \$364,000 and starting a new opportunity for local cover crop seed production by member farms.



**Thank you members for your support!**

[www.champlainvalleyfarmercoalition.com](http://www.champlainvalleyfarmercoalition.com)