

*Farmers
Working
Together*



*For a Thriving
Agriculture and
a Clean Lake
Champlain*

2017 Annual Report

Membership

- Total Current Membership is at 136, with 92 farm-members representing 52 Small Farms, 28 Medium Farms, and 12 Large Farms. Our members represent all types of agriculture including dairy, beef, vegetable, and small grains/cash crops. Member farms operate over 84,000 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 Agency of Agriculture's Clean Water Initiative Program allowed us to host on-farm meetings covering topics pertaining to farm conservation. Lastly, funding from Keep Local Farms allows Louise Waterman to work with member farmers/businesses and help 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 UVM Extension and received support from the OCNRCD and WNRCD to put on the 2017 Spring Farming Celebration and Bus Tour where we visited 6 farms to look and talk about conservation across different farms.
- We gave direct input and guidance to agencies and legislators around pressing topics.

Public Education

- Helped host grade school field trips on member farms to learn about farming practices.
- Participated in the third "Breakfast on the Farm" at Blue Spruce Farm, a CVFC member-farm.
- Members worked with UVM-Extension to assist Middlebury College students on school projects.
- We worked with New England Dairy Promotion to create Public Service Announcements on cover crops and manure management that are now being shown on local TV and movie theaters.
- We worked with Perspectives Magazine to create an article featuring member-farms and what they are doing to improve water quality on their farms.



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

- We organized three Manure Trainings at member-farms in Richmond, Shoreham, and Pawlet.
- Three crop patrols at member-farms looking at No-Till Roller-Crimper Corn in Addison, Woodchip Heavy-Use Areas in Waitsfield, and a No-Till corn planter clinic in Addison.
- We organized four “Mock Inspections” at small farms in Orwell, New Haven, Richmond, and Pawlet for neighboring farmers to come learn about the VAAFM small farm inspection process.
- Leadership training, “Productive Conversations”, that helped farmers learn how to communicate to various audiences.
- **Total Farmer Educational Outreach through farmer meetings was 204 attendees from 12 events**
- 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.



Thank you members for your support!