



**FARMER COALITION INC.**

2020 Annual Meeting

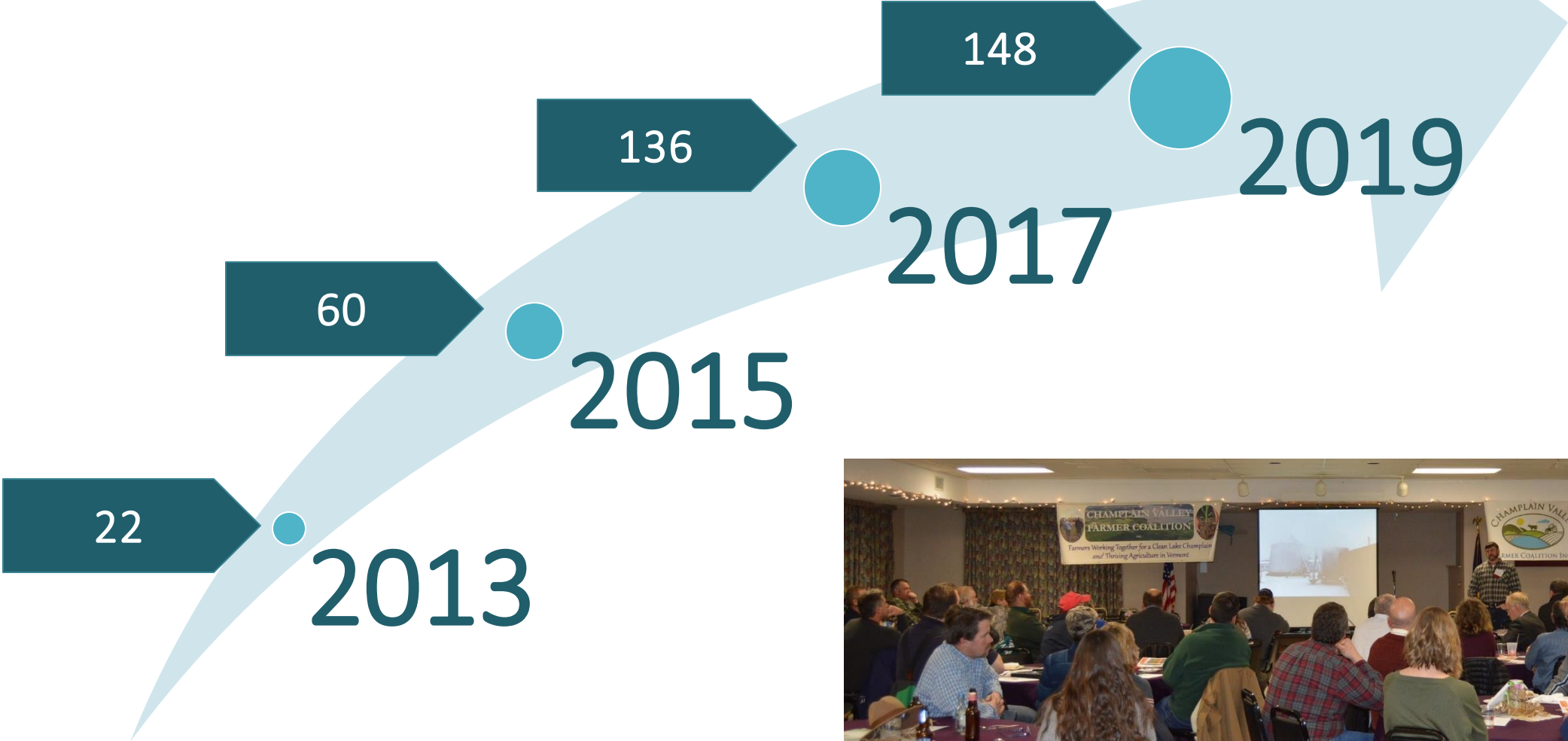
January 22, 2020

# Thank You Sponsors & Supporting Business Members!

Addison County Commission Sales Inc.  
Addison County Dairy Consultants, Inc  
Bronson Transport  
Valleywide Veterinary Services  
Gaines Insurance Agency Inc.



# Membership



# Current Membership Snapshot



## Current Membership

### 148 Members

- 98 Farms
  - 60 Small Farms
  - 26 Medium Farms
  - 12 Large Farms
- 40 Businesses
- 8 Individuals
- 2 Special Directors

84,000 acres of Agricultural Land  
46,000 acres of Hayland  
37,000 acres of Annual Cropland  
1,000 acres of Pasture



# Education-Outreach

Workshops for Farmers and Public to learn about conservation practices



## Spring Cover Crop Field Day

Barnes Family Farm  
Addison



## Nat'l CEAP Watershed Study Announcement

Blue Spruce Farm  
Bridport



## Buffers & Grassed Waterways

Mountain Meadows Farm  
Sudbury



*A beautiful field of a 3-way cover crop mix at Mountain Meadows Farm (October 2019)*

# Weekly Legislative Updates

For the fifth year, CVFC has procured the services of **ejc Consulting** to provide our members with weekly Legislative Updates from Montpelier. These updates keep members informed about committees, bills, and other activities happening at the State House that directly affect agriculture, forestry and water quality.

**Check Your Email Inbox!**



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 14, 2019

Issue 1

*ejc Consulting*  
6147 VT RTE 116, Starksboro, VT 05487  
[ejcconsultingvt@gmail.com](mailto:ejcconsultingvt@gmail.com)  
802 233 9563

### WELCOME

Welcome to *ejc consulting* Legislative Update.

I will be providing you with weekly updates to allow you to keep up with what is happening in Montpelier. Some weeks will be livelier than others. My goal is to provide you with information, insight and opportunity for you to become involved in the legislative process.

If at any time during the session you need or would like more information, please contact me.

The updates will be coming out on Mondays.

I hope you find this useful

*\*jane*

### WEEK 1

The first week saw many new faces (40 newly elected legislators) and renewed talks of working together. Governor's Inaugural address and remarks by Mitzi Johnson, speaker of the House and Tim Ashe, president of the Senate reiterated the theme of working together. Time will tell.

### Included this week

Overview of Governor Scott's Inaugural Address

New Employment Laws

Events of Interest

Committee Meetings

FIRST 2020  
Issue in your  
inboxes now!

# Strategic Planning



- Promote & train members on innovative farming practices that are adopted by 100% of CVFC Membership.
- Raise public perception of farmers as worthy environmental stewards of the land and waterways.
- Acquire stable funding for CVFC staff and programming to include Executive Director, Program Manager and Treasurer.
- Expand communications externally and internally.
- Collaborate with other organizations, both agriculture and non-agriculture, to strengthen our voice and expand our understanding of all voices on the water quality topic.
- Continue to grow a well-respected and involved organization whose members participate in organizational activities.



# Recognition of Service

- Marie Audet, Blue Spruce Farm
- Ray Brands, Deer Valley Farm
- Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm
- David Conant, Conant's Riverside Farm
- Ben Dykema, WilCon Farm
- Peter James, Monument Farms Dairy

*6 Directors are culminating their second or third terms of service.*

*All of these farms were instrumental in the founding and successful development of our organization.*



## THANK YOU!

# Board of Director Elections- 2020

## Current Board of Directors:

Brian Kemp, Mt. Meadows Farm (Sudbury) – *President*

Marie Audet, Blue Spruce Farm (Bridport) – *V.President*

Jeffrey Carter, UVM Extension – *Treasurer*

Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension – *Secretary*

Ray Brands, Deer Valley Farm (Ferrisburgh)

Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm (Starksboro)

David Conant, Conant's Riverside Farm (Richmond)

Chase Goodrich, Goodrich Family Farms (Salisbury)

Ben Dykema, WilCon Farm (N. Ferrisburgh)

George Foster, Foster Bros. Farm (Middlebury)

Peter James, Monument Farms (Weybridge)

Tim Kayhart, Kayhart Bros. Dairy (Addison)

Rachel Orr, Orr Family Farm (Orwell)

Lorenzo Whitcomb, No. Williston Cattle Co. (Williston)

Loren Wood, Woodnotch Farm (Shoreham)

- Current Board = 13 Directors (+ 2 appointed Directors from UVM)
- 2019 – 6 Terms ending = 6 open seats
- Vermont Farmer Members (Voting Members) elect directors
- Director can be any *Current* CVFC member





# Nominations

Marie Audet  
Blue Spruce Farm  
*(Bridport)*

“I would be honored to continue to serve as a Director. The level of continuous participation from our agricultural community is the reason I remain committed. The Coalition has become a respected go-to organization for participation in various working groups, for legislative input, and as a source of information to help build good community relations. Every Director has different skills to offer, and I can offer to continue communicating the good work farmers are doing.”



# Nominations

Ray Brands

Deer Valley Farm Partnership

*(Ferrisburgh)*

“Thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent the farmers of the Champlain Valley. I hope to continue to be a voice of reason in an environment that continues to encroach on our livelihoods. I enjoy and will continue to work with UVM Extension on agronomic practices that will provide science based data. My hope is through research and stewardship, we can protect our future.”



# Nominations

Eric Clifford  
Clifford Farm  
*(Starksboro)*

“I have been involved with CVFC from the start. My emphasis (if re-elected) will continue to be water quality, the public perception of agriculture, education and outreach, and ensuring the ag community has a place at the table in Montpelier to help steer public and state policy. I ask for your vote.”



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# Nominations

David Conant

Conant's Riverside Farms

*(Richmond)*

“For the last couple of years, the Coalition has been focused on government policy and defending our achievements of better water quality. We seem to be constantly pulled from our original Mission statement of interaction between farmers and landowners. I feel that it is important for our members to migrate back to sharing innovative strategies in crop management that ultimately promotes high yields and sound environmental practices. I think that was our original idea when we formed the Coalition. Perhaps we could all benefit from creating more forums that will achieve these goals through on farm and open meeting group discussions.”



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# Nominations

Ben Dykema  
WilCon Farm  
(N. Ferrisburgh)

“Forty years ago, I memorized the FFA Creed and always find it worth a read and as a reminder for everyone to keep up the good work. If it was only about me and the modern farm generation, we all would have probably done something different.”

## The FFA Creed

**I believe** in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds – achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

**I believe** that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

**I believe** in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

**I believe** in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

**I believe** that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task



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# Nominations

Peter James

Monument Farms Dairy

*(Weybridge)*

“I like serving on the board because it allows me to hear other board members’ opinions, concerns and ideas and being able to pass that along to the membership so that as stewards of the land, we can continue to protect our water quality together as a strong group.”

# Nominations

Marie Audet

Ray Brands

Eric Clifford

David Conant

Ben Dykema

Peter James

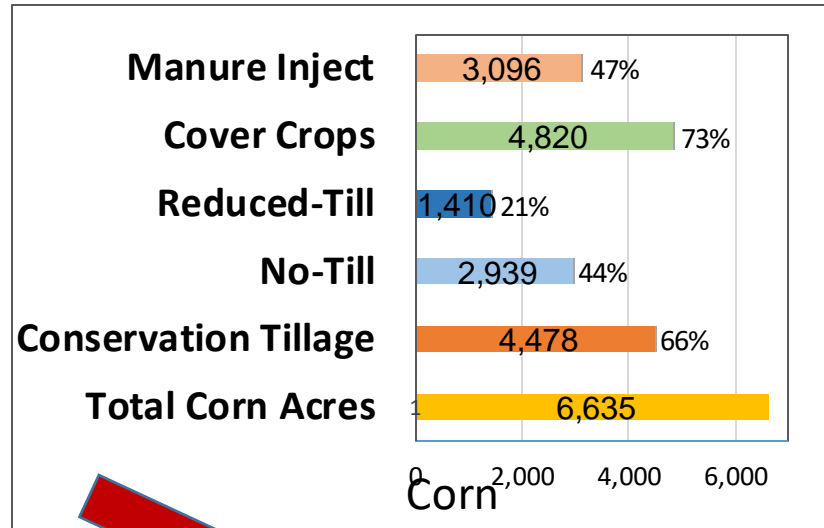


Other Nominations from the Floor?		Name		Why do you want to be a Director?
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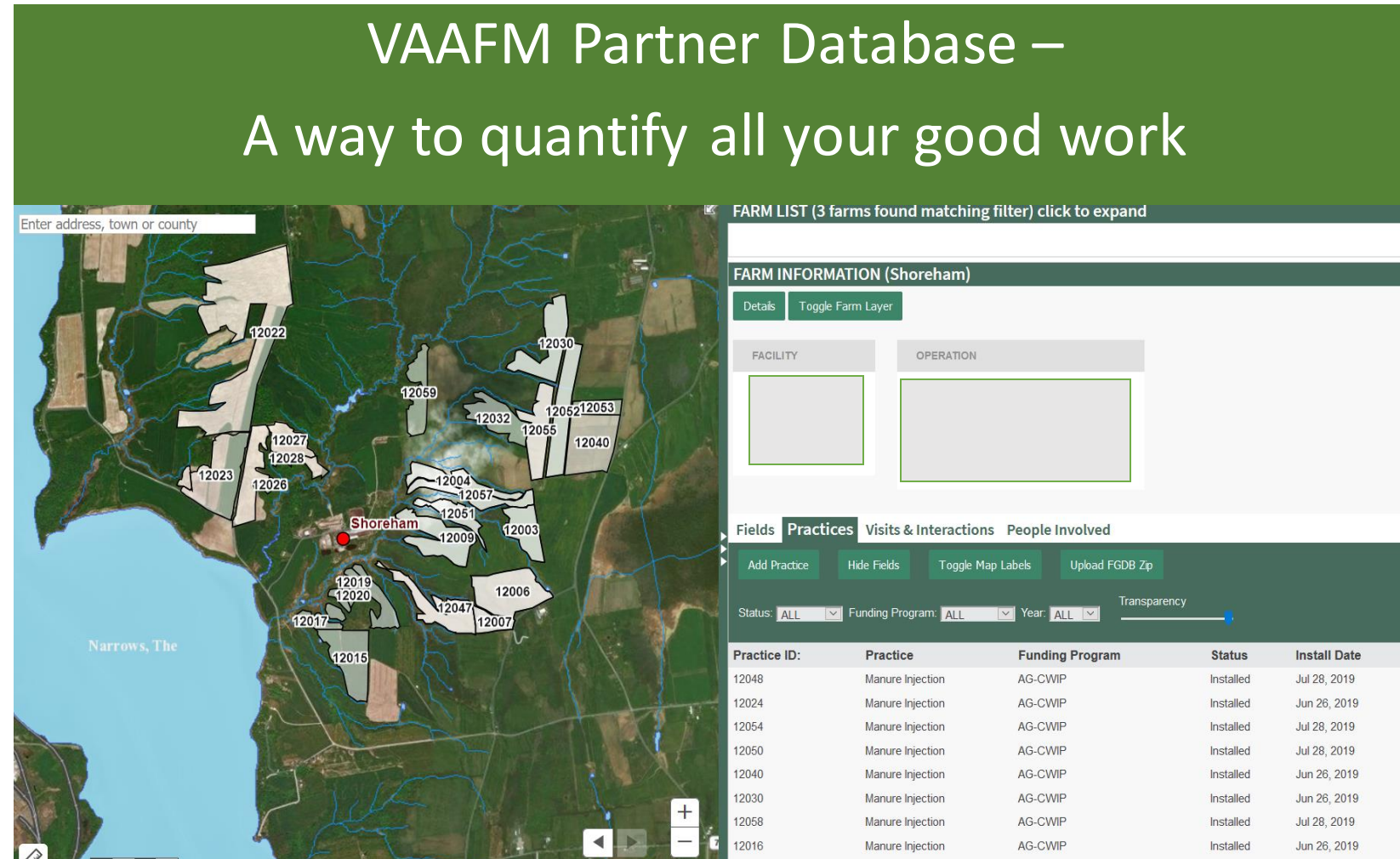
# Making YOUR Conservation Count!



## 2018 Conservation Practices for TMDL



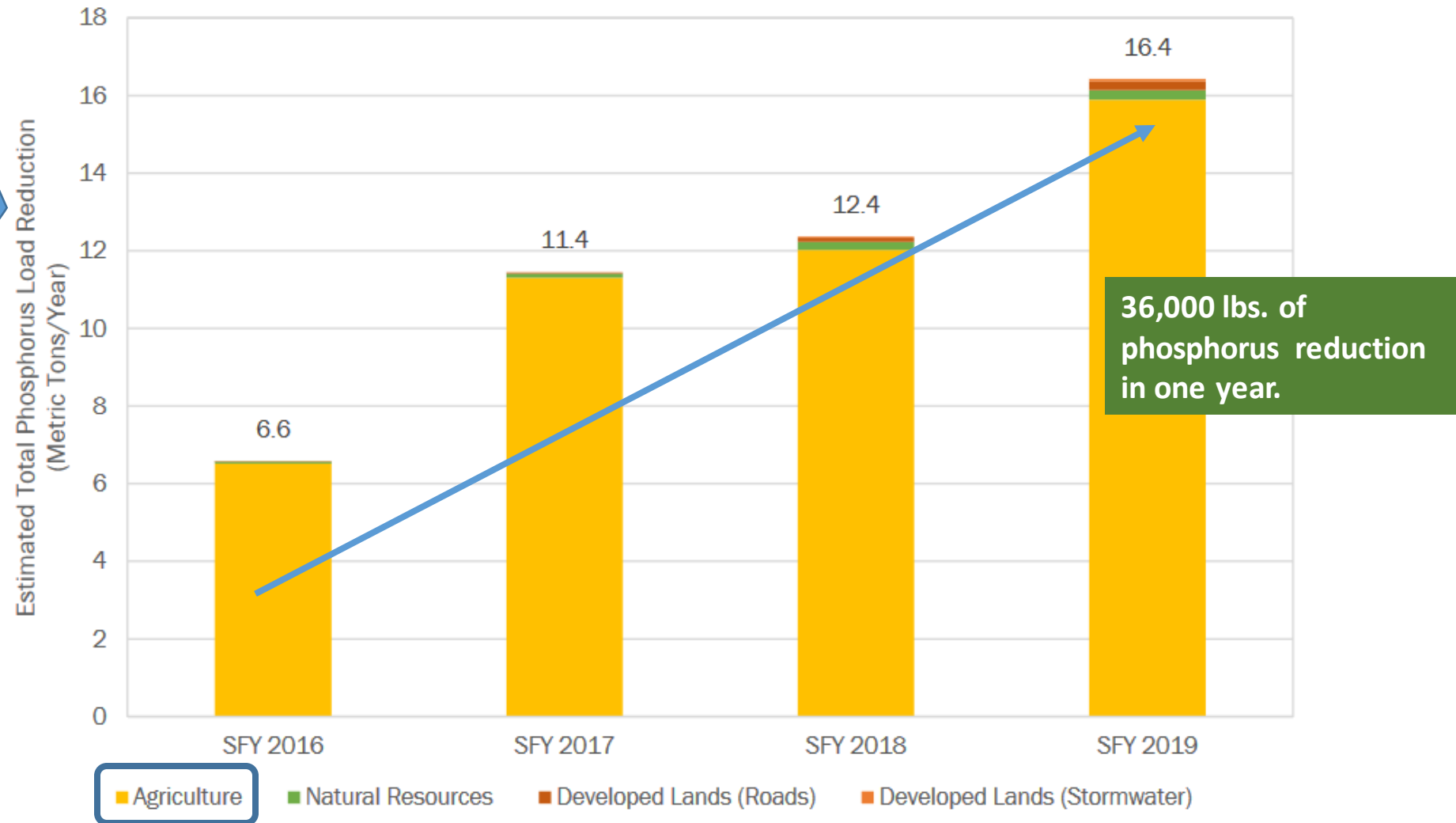
**P Reduction =  
13,218 lb./Year**



**Annual estimated total phosphorus load reduction (metric tons per year) achieved by clean water projects that support implementation of the Lake Champlain TMDL completed SFY 2016-2019,**

**We are making an  
IMPACT!!**

**Taken from the  
Vermont Clean Water Initiative  
2019 Performance Report**



<sup>14</sup> Federal funding programs through USDA-NRCS agricultural practice data represent practices applied July 1, 2015 (beginning of SFY 2016) through December 31, 2018 (halfway through SFY 2019). Practice data for the remainder of SFY 2019 will be provided next year in the SFY 2020 Annual Performance Report.



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**WELCOMES...**

Nick Richardson  
President  
*Vermont Land Trust*





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Pierre Vachon  
a.k.a.  
*Pierre the Beast*





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