



**Farmers  
Working Together**

**For a Clean  
Lake Champlain &  
Thriving Agriculture**

**Fall 2017**

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**Photos:**

(above) Savoy cabbage growing at The Farm at VYCC in Richmond, Vt.  
(below) Chopping corn research plots at Vorsteveld Farm in Panton, Vt.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Fellow CVFC Members,

As most of you know there have been two tragic accidents in the past weeks that have impacted our agriculture community—the loss of Jim Foster Jr. in a farm accident and the loss of Paul Boivin in a motorcycle accident.

Our hearts are with the families of both men, each of whom made significant contributions to not only the farming community, but the larger Addison County community as whole. Each was, in their own right, a pioneer in our ag industry. Jim was an owner of Foster Brothers Farm and Vermont Natural Ag Products, Inc., where he managed the operations of their MOO™, Foster Brothers, Allied and Nutripeat® compost products. He also served as a leader of Addison County Fair & Field Days, Vermont FFA Foundation, the Central Cemetery Association and was a devoted father. Paul and his brother Mark, whom were dairy farmers in the past, were some of the first in our area to adopt no-till and zone till practices in their current grain operation. Paul was constantly looking into the future of ag production, seeking how to do things better and looking for what we could learn along the way. He also served his community through the planning commission, Town Line First Response, Addison Fire Department, Vergennes Rescue Squad, Mad River Glen Ski Patrol, the Farm Medic Program and the Knights of Columbus.

Both will be missed by many, and I encourage all of us to be safe in our own day to day lives.

**Brian Kemp, President**



**Paul Boivin**  
1952—2017




**James Foster Jr.**  
1970—2017

*CVFC has support from the UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team, the High Meadows Fund, and the Keep Local Farms Fund*



## CALENDAR— Fall 2017

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- Oct 10** Small Farm Mock Inspection: 1-3 pm, Hall & Breen Farm (Orwell)
- Oct 12** Senate Ag Committee Public Hearing. 2-4 pm, Salisbury Town Office
- Oct 18** Small Farm Mock Inspection: 10-12, Chalker Farm (New Haven)
- Oct 26** Addison Co. Conservation Farm of the Year: Fall Bus Tour and Award Ceremony. 1– 6:30 pm, met @ Vergennes American Legion
- Oct 27** Small Farm Mock Inspection Series: 10-12, DeGraaf Dairy (Richmond)
- Oct 31** Conversations that Connect: Training on how to lead positive conversations about tough farming issues in all types of settings (*for members only, please call to RSVP*)
- Nov 2** CVFC Monthly Meeting (10:00—12:00) and meeting with VAAFM Secretary Anson Tebbetts & staff (1:00) @ Middlebury UVM Extension Office
- Nov 2** MFO Permit Revision Public Hearing. 3-6 pm, Auditorium Pavilion, Montpelier
- Nov 8** Small Farm Mock Inspection Series: 10-12, Woodlawn Farm (Pawlet)
- Nov 9** Addison County Ag Forum. A public forum to discuss ag issues in Addison County. Farmer Panelists (including CVFC members) will present followed by a question & answer period. 6:30—8:30pm @ Middlebury College's Twilight Hall.
- Dec 6** CVFC Monthly Meeting. 10:00—12:00 @ Middlebury UVM Extension Office

**Want more information about any of these events? Call Nate @ (802) 388-4969 x348**

### Farm Safety Resources Available

Thanks to our Outreach Coordinator, Louise Waterman, we have some great farm safety resources available to members. Give us a call and we can mail them to you, or swing by the UVM Extension office and pick them up. Here's a list of what's available:

- **Fire Safety on Vermont Farms** (DVD & printable resources) *English and Spanish*
- **Dairy Cattle Handling** (DVD and printable resources)
- **Silage Safety** (DVD)
- **Four Videos to Help You Stay Safe on the Farm** (DVD) *English and Spanish*
- **Agriculture Safety Video & Resource Guide** (DVD and printed guide)

Contact Kirsten if you are interested at (802) 388-4969 x347 or [kworkman@uvm.edu](mailto:kworkman@uvm.edu)



### Supporting Business Member Spotlight: *Redline Drainage, LLC*



Redline Drainage was founded in 2008 by operator Steven Roy. Redline uses the most up to date GPS technology and machinery available for pattern tile drainage installation. Their main focus is on customer service and a quality install for their customers. Steven and his crew are dedicated to working with farmers so they are getting the most out of their land consistently and he offers advice on how to manage a field once the drainage is installed. Steven is an active member of the Tile Drainage Advisory Group in the state of Vermont and attends various meetings throughout the state every year to promote tile drainage and the benefits it has for farms.

Learn more at their website: <http://www.redlinedrainage.com>

**REDLINE DRAINAGE**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, STEVEN!**

## Farmer Member Spotlight: *Deer Valley Farms*

by Kirsten Workman

Deer Valley Farms and the Brands family have quite a streak going. For four years in a row, they have won Best of Class in the Corn Plants category at the Crops Contest at Addison County Field Days. In 2017, they also won Best in Show for the entire exhibit with numerous blue ribbon winning entries and multiple Best of Class awards. If you ask Ray Brands, he'll say that award winning crops start with the soil. "You've got to take care of it," according to Ray. For him that means managing water with bedded fields and tile drainage, good nutrient management, fertility, and organic matter. He was quick to point out that this year's top three entries in the corn category were all cover cropped the fall before. As he's learned by attending the annual UVM Extension No-Till & Cover Crop Symposiums, you need water management, warm soil and organic matter. A high yielding corn crop uses a lot of organic matter, which is why he thinks cover crops are important. In his modest way, he'll also tell you that he's no better of a farmer than the many other farmers in Addison County, but he will admit that details count when it comes to winning that rosette.



**Ray & Donna Brands with their Best in Show Corn at 2017 Addison County Field Days.**

Deer Valley Farm started in Waltham, Vermont in 1968 when Ray's parents, Casey and Clara, moved there from southern New York. In 1976, the dairy farm was victim to a barn fire. The following year the farm moved to its current home town of Ferrisburgh. With 60 cows at that location, the farm gradually grew through the 80's and 90's, expanding as Ray and his brother Pete came back to the farm and added the Atkins Farm location to aid in that expansion. Ray and his wife, Donna, are now the primary owners along with Casey & Clara. The farm is currently home to 600 Holstein cows and 1200 acres of cropland. Ray and Donna are joined by their son, Ryan, who is the farm's Herdsman and his wife, Brittany. Their daughter Rachel and her husband Zachary Sullivan raise all natural pork locally alongside their landscape business. Their daughter Jamie is a respiratory therapist and her husband Steve Roorda works at Middlebury College. If you ask Ray about his approach to seeing future generations be successful farming, he'll tell you that giving them responsibility is the key. Just as his father did with him, letting the younger generation make mistakes is often the way to let them learn with their wallets the importance of every decision. "If you say no all the time, you'll just curb their enthusiasm."

A founding CVFC member and Director, Ray believes an organization like ours is important because the public is losing touch with agriculture and he feels that dairymen can and do demonstrate a stewardship of the land that their neighbors need to know more about. He also values the role the organization plays in advocating at the statehouse with a positive, unified farming voice and the importance of providing education to Vermonters about what farmers are doing to protect water quality. Reflecting on a recent interaction, he shared that once neighbors know what we are doing and why, they have a whole different way of looking at it. While those conversations can be hard, they can also be very valuable.



**Deer Valley's award winning corn in the field. You may recognize this picture from our CVFC newsletters and website.**



### Program Highlight: Clean Water Week Field Day

CVFC in cooperation with the UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil, and Pasture Team hosted a Crop Patrol at Bonaspecta Holsteins in Addison, Vermont on August 23, 2017. This field day was part of the State's Clean Water Week promotion that highlighted workshops across the state. After a barbeque sponsored by SeedWay, George Tucker (NRCS), Nate Severy (CVFC/UVM), Jeff Carter (UVM), Kristin Williams (UVM), and Jeff Sanders (UVM) led a discussion with the over 40 participants about water quality in

McKenzie Brook watershed. The focus of the conversation was on what farmers in the area are doing including stream sampling, weather monitoring, and conservation practices. Everyone then drove to a demonstration field where corn was no-till planted with a roller-crimper into 5-foot tall cover crops. People enjoyed walking in the field and looking under the thick mulch and seeing the fine roots at the surface and the large amounts of earthworm castings. Overall, this was a very successful event and people left knowing about the good work farmers are doing in the McKenzie Brook Watershed and that there are solutions to dealing with cover crops during a very adverse year.

## Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition Inc.

### Board of Directors

**Brian Kemp**, *President*— Mountain Meadows Farm Inc.

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**Rachel Orr**, Orr Family Farm

**Lorenzo Whitcomb**, No. Williston Cattle Co.

**Loren Wood**, Woodnotch Farm, Inc.

### Staff

**Nate Severy**, Program Coordinator

**Louise Waterman**, Outreach Coordinator

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



*It takes a TEAM...packing the bunk as the sun sets at Vorsteveld Farm—Corn Harvest 2017. Photo by K. Workman Sept. 21 2017*

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