Farmers Working Together



For a Thriving
Agriculture and
a Clean Lake
Champlain

2015 Annual Report

Membership

 <u>Total Membership is at 63</u>, with 45 farm-members representing 33 Dairy Farms, 5 Beef Farms, 2 Vegetable Farms, and 5 Crop Farms. Membership increased by 25 from last year, a 60% increase!

Funding

We received three grants in 2015. A grant from the High Meadows Fund provides us with support to grow our organization. A grant from the Working Lands Enterprise Board has enabled us to write Crop Management Implementation Plans for members. Lastly, funding from Keep Local Farms will aid us in organizational support and membership recruitment. With these funding sources, along with cost-share from UVM Extension, we are able to have an organization that provides a complete and effective set of programs for its members.

Legislative Education

- Testifying and educating legislators for Act 64 in spring 2015.
- Assisted in Watershed Planning activities with the NRCS and other organizations.
- We gave direct input about the draft RAP's.

Public Education

- Helped host school field trips on member farms, and helped participate in the first "Breakfast on the Farm" on a CVFC member-farm.
- Rented a stream table and rainfall simulator for the Addison County Fair and Field Days to use as tools to talk to the public about water and farming.



Farmer Education

- Seven Crop Patrols at farms spanning from Shelburne to Pawlet highlighting innovative or important practices aimed at protecting water quality and improving farm viability.
 124 people attended these field meetings.
- Three water quality-specific meetings in Pawlet, Middlebury, and Shoreham with 53 attendees.
- Two no-till corn planter clinics with UVM Extension in Bridport and Starksboro with 38 attendees.
- Twelve Board of Directors Meetings where in addition to attending to the organizations formal business requirements, we also spend the last hour discussing or bringing in a guest to present on the latest in water quality and farm viability issues.
- We were an exhibitor for events including the VT Farm Show, No-Till and Cover Crop Conference, AgrAbility Conference, and the Legislative Dairy Banquet.
- 4 issues of "CVFC Newsletter Update" to better inform our members.

Farmer-member Assistance

- Four farmers were assisted in planting no-till corn on their farms.
- We assisted farmers in planning and planting cover crops.
- We starting working with farms to develop individualized Crop Management and Implementation Plans for their farms.
- As an organization we collectively planted 6,735 acres of cover crops in 2015.



Thank you members for your support!

www.champlainvalleyfarmercoalition.com