

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition

April 11, 2012

UVM Extension Office – Middlebury

In attendance:

Jeffrey Carter, UVM Extension

Brian Kemp, Mountain Meadow Farms – Lemon /Otter r

Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension

David Conant, Riverside Farms – Winooski

John Roberts, Butterwick Farm – Lemon Fair

Rico Balzano, UVM Extension

Ted Foster, Foster Brothers Farm – Otter/New Haven

Tim Kayhart, Kayhart Brothers – Lake Champlain

Peter James, Monument Farms - Lemon Fair Otter

Ben Dykema, Wilcon Farm – Lewis Creek

Absent:

Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm LLC (at FSA County meeting)

Lorenzo Whitcomb, Winooski

Alan Curler...Yankee Farm Credit Services funding for groups...~\$5000...will look into it.

Jeff...others interested: Tom Audet, Marie Audet

So many things going on...legislature, East Creek meeting,

NRCS CIG Grant Opportunity

Form group

Aerial/high clearance winter rye seedings on corn/soy ground when corn is 6' high

Mixed with drop tube nitrogen, does spray affect?

Need to try something new to get grant funding.

Equipment vs. non-equipment eligible?

Incentive payments for early cover crop seedings

Education/outreach to: farmers, general public, policy makers

 Newsletter

 News articles

 Across the fence – 4 part series highlighting farms

 Invite public to a farm...

 Field Days for Farmers

FAP program doesn't pay enough to even cover seed costs (Ted)

What about spring field activity....how to kill it effectively without additional costs and/or

What about oats as cover crop...winter kill, doesn't get of you

Be inclusive of cover crop varieties: rye, oats, triticale, legumes, Italian rye, tillage radishes

Every situation/farm will be different

MAIN ISSUE: cover crops with different options, side issues of education etc.

 Incentives for earlier seeding

Support extension work with airway/no-till

Rotary harrow, roto-tiller @ Blue Spruce

EARLY START TO GET COVER CROPS SEEDED IN 2012

Identify watershed representation

Counties: Chittenden, Addison (Rutland, Lamoille, Washington)

Grant funding vs. self-sufficiency,

Need to work together

Use funding that is available, may be able to use better than someone else

Who will run the organization...manage activities, facilitation, project coordination

Dues, equipment rental

Farmers Watershed Alliance...coordinate the message...do not want to work against each other...meet with them and unify the voice...

PRACTICES:

- Manure management
- Cover crops
- Inputs into cows
- Tillage

NEXT STEPS/ACTION ITEMS:

- Start small, adopt practices, then invite other farms
- Apply for CIG Grant
- Get FWA bylaws example
- Outreach at Bridge Opening.....
- Next meeting: May (bring commitment of alternative practices, begin the mission statement process)

Two week reminder with notes...Kirsten