

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition

May 16, 2012

UVM Extension Office – Middlebury

In attendance:

Jeffrey Carter, UVM Extension

Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension

John Roberts, Butterwick Farm – Lemon Fair

Ted Foster, Foster Brothers Farm – Otter/New Haven

Peter James, Monument Farms - Lemon Fair Otter

Ernie Audet, Audet's Blue Spruce Farm

Brian Kemp, Mountain Meadow Farms – Lemon /Otter

Marie Audet, Audet's Blue Spruce Farm

Rico Balzano, UVM Extension

Ernie Audet, Audet's Blue Spruce Farm

Lorenzo Whitcomb, N.Williston Cattle Co. – Winooski

Justin Brouillard, UVM Extension

Absent:

David Conant, Riverside Farms - Winooski

Tim Kayhart, Kayhart Brothers – Lake Champlain

Ben Dykema, Wilcon Farm – Lewis Creek

CIG/Grant Updates

- Introduce Middlebury Team: Kirsten, Rico, Justin, Cheryl
- CIG
- LCBP
- No-Till Drills, AerWay, Livestock Exclusion, GIS/GPS

CVFC...by-laws, finances, formal organization

- FWA Example
- Not in a huge rush...lets do it right
- Use example, but modify to fit our needs

Cover Cropping 2012

- Tabled until June Meeting

Media/Outreach

- WCAX...Across the Fence, The Thirty
- Not a knee-jerk reaction, well-planned response
- Bigger picture, social topics
- Explain farming to 98% of the population
- Media Training is important

Mission Statement

- Education, outreach
- Audience: general public, Montpelier, farmers who are NOT doing these things
- Legislature...instantaneously need to be able to respond when issues come up
- Advocates: Food Co-op,
- Multiple audiences with a strategy to respond to each
- Unified strategy/response explaining what we do
- Messages: have them at the ready

NEXT STEPS/ACTION ITEMS:

- AgriMark Media Training....candidates??
- Review example by-laws, make changes

- Send out Dave's mission, with brainstorming, submit suggestions...DRAFT Ready by June meeting
- Outreach Topics, ATF first episode
- Farmer Members sharing information about practices...15 minutes each meeting
- Next meeting: JUNE 20, weather adjustable

Two week reminder with notes...Kirsten