

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture  
Presents

# AGRICULTURE IN VERMONT

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



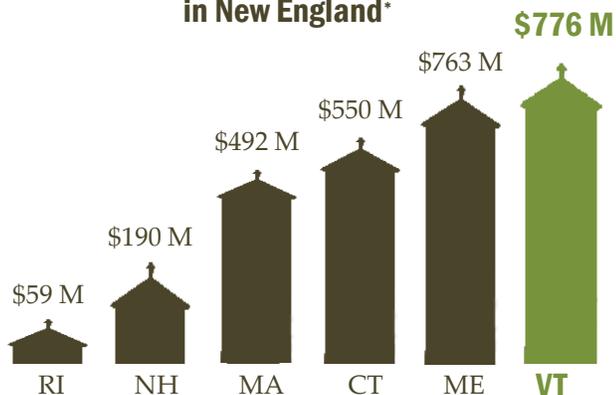
AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

[www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov](http://www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov)

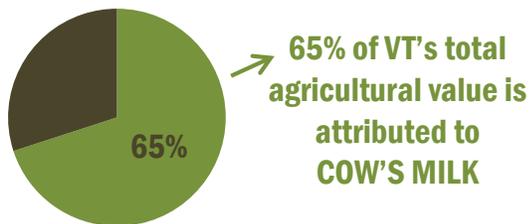
Agriculture lives at the core of Vermont's culture, its heritage, and its economy. With an unwavering commitment to quality, integrity, and sustainability, Vermont is a national leader in many agricultural sectors, and world-renowned for its food and forestry products. As it has been for centuries, agriculture is an essential part of the Vermont way of life.

## VERMONT'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

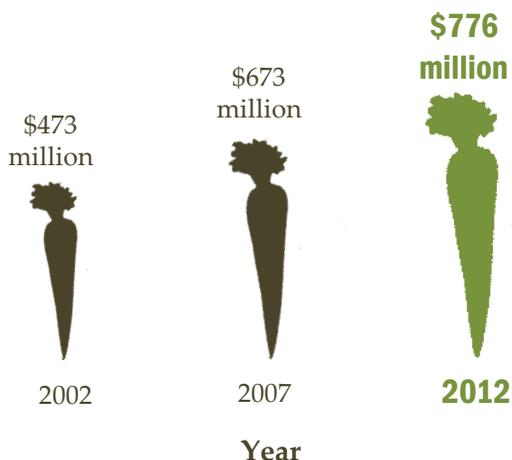
Vermont's agricultural economy is the largest in New England\*



In 2012, the total market value of all Vermont agricultural products sold was \$776 million\*



Vermont's agricultural economy is growing: The market value of Vermont agricultural products increased 64% between 2002 and 2012\*



## VERMONT IS AN AGRICULTURAL LEADER



42% of all domestic maple syrup produced in 2013 came from Vermont\*



63% of all milk produced in New England comes from Vermont<sup>2</sup>



94% of VT schools reported purchasing local food in 2014, serving over 80,000 students<sup>3</sup>



48+ VT cheese makers  
150 VT cheese varieties<sup>4</sup>  
44 awards won

at the 2015 American Cheese Society Conference, more than any other state per capita<sup>5</sup>



Over 90 farmers' markets (more than any other state per capita) provided access to fresh, local foods in 2015<sup>6</sup>



\$189 million spent on local food purchases in 2014 represented 6.9% of food spending statewide<sup>7</sup>



17 manure digesters (more than any other state per capita & per COWpita) produce enough energy to power 3,000 households<sup>8</sup>



583 certified organic farms<sup>9</sup> were operating in VT in 2011, more than any other state per capita<sup>10</sup>

# VERMONT AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS BY SECTOR

## DAIRY<sup>11</sup>



Vermont is home to **850+ dairy farms** owned and operated by Vermont families



And over **134,000 dairy cows**



Which produce over **321 million gallons** of milk annually (enough to fill 16,000 swimming pools)



Dairy contributes **\$2.2 billion in economic activity** to Vermont every year, the equivalent of



**\$3 million** in circulating cash every day



Dairy products bring in **\$1.3 billion** in sales annually

## VEGETABLES, FRUITS & CROPS\*



**Roughly 800 farms and 4,000 acres** are dedicated to vegetable farming in VT. In 2012 the value of all veggies and fruits sold was **\$34.8 million**



Apples, VT's largest fruit crop, are worth **\$12-\$15 million every year**  
Apple products, like cider & sauce, bring in another **\$10-\$12 million every year**<sup>12</sup>



Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas comprise Vermont's top crop, valued at over **\$26.3 million in 2012**



Corn, VT's second most valuable crop, was worth **\$23.5 million in 2012**

## MAPLE\*



Vermont is the leading producer of maple syrup in the U.S., producing 1.48 million gallons of syrup in **2013, valued at \$49.4 million**

## FORESTRY<sup>13</sup>



Forests cover more than **78% of Vermont** (4.6 million acres)



Economic output of forest products industry was **estimated to be \$1.4 billion in 2013** employing 10,555 people



In 2012, Christmas trees alone brought in **\$2.8 million\***

## LIVESTOCK\*



In 2012, the value of VT livestock sold was over **\$82.6 million**

Of Vermont's 22 commercial slaughterhouses, **100% have written humane handling plans<sup>14</sup>**

## PEOPLE & JOBS\*



In 2012, Vermont was home to over **12,000 farm operators** representing ~3.6% of the workforce<sup>15</sup>



While the average age of farm operators was 55, **21% were under the age of 45**



**27% were "new" farmers (<10 years) and 39% of operators were women**

## The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

is comprised of four divisions that work collaboratively to carry out its mission:

To facilitate, support and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers, and the environment.

### ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The **Administration Division** oversees and coordinates agency policy and promotes interests of consumers and producers.

#### Secretary Chuck Ross



Chuck Ross was appointed as the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture in January 2011 by Governor Shumlin. Secretary Ross' priorities include advancing agricultural literacy, clean water, and developing Vermont's agricultural economy. Prior to serving as Secretary, he worked as Senator Leahy's State Director, farmed, and served in the Vermont Legislature.

#### Deputy Secretary Jolinda LaClair



Jolinda has served as Deputy Secretary of Administration for the Agency of Agriculture since 2011 and has been instrumental in growing the agency's agricultural development programs, including the Working Lands Initiative, Domestic Export, and Local Food Systems. Previously, Jolinda was State Director of USDA Rural Development for VT and NH.

#### Deputy Secretary Diane Bothfeld



Diane has served as Deputy Secretary for the Agency of Agriculture since 2009 with a focus on dairy policy. Previously, Diane was an assistant professor with UVM Extension and Cooperative Relations Manager for the St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.

**Division Contact Information:**  
Email: [AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov)  
Call: (802) 828-2430

### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The **Agricultural Development Division** provides technical, financial, and educational resources to Vermont's agricultural community and works to develop new economic opportunities for farmers, land owners and agricultural businesses.



#### Agriculture Development Programs Include:

**Farmer Wellness: Healthy Farmers, Healthy Farms**  
Prioritizing farmer health and safety

**Food Systems**  
Supporting viable ag businesses so all Vermonters have access to healthy, local, safe, and affordable food

**Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses**  
Providing financial support, planning tools and resources to VT farmers, producers, and ag businesses

**Labor Management Resources**  
Providing tools and resources to help agricultural employers understand and uphold state/federal labor laws and create safe work environments for employees

**Land Use**  
Providing resources and expertise to help agricultural land owners understand and uphold state/federal land use laws and sustainably manage Vermont farmland

**Market Access & Development**  
Developing and promoting new tools, resources, markets, sales avenues, and distribution channels for Vermont farmers, producers, and ag businesses

**On-Farm Energy Initiatives**  
Promoting sustainable energy technologies on farms

**Working Lands Enterprise Initiative**  
Strengthening the economies, cultures, and communities of Vermont's working landscape by making essential, catalytic investments in the VT farm and forest economy

**Division Contact Information:**  
Email: [AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov)  
Call: (802) 828-2430

"Vermonters are deeply connected to the land, and many enjoy a close relationship with agriculture. Today, more than ever, consumers across the country are interested in the "who, what, why, and how" of where their food comes from, and Vermont answers these questions in compelling, innovative, and sustainable ways."

-Agriculture Secretary, Chuck Ross

## AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Agricultural Resource Management Division provides technical, financial, and educational resources to Vermont's agricultural community, regulates pesticides, feed, seed, and fertilizers, and oversees Vermont's agricultural water quality programs and enforcement of environmental and safety laws.



### Agricultural Resources Management Programs Include:

#### Feed, Seed, Fertilizers & Lime

Ensuring the integrity of commodities regulated under the Commercial Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws

#### Pesticide Regulation

Ensuring that all regulated pesticide products are sold, handled, stored and used properly and in accordance with state and federal laws

#### Plant Health & Pest Management

Protecting Vermont's plant, human and animal health from invertebrate threats both foreign and domestic.

Conducting product inspection and certification services for interstate and international export, and ensuring plant product quality.

#### Water Quality

Protecting Vermont waters from pollution caused by agricultural operations and ensuring compliance with all levels of state and federal water quality regulations that may apply to farming operations

#### Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab (VAEL)

The VAEL serves the Vermont public, environmental, and agricultural industries by conducting regulatory testing of water, soil, and air samples, as well as providing technical services and routine monitoring of agricultural products

#### Division Contact Information:

Email: [AGR.Agrichemical@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.Agrichemical@vermont.gov)

Email: [AGR.PlantIndustry@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.PlantIndustry@vermont.gov)

Email: [AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov)

Call: (802) 828-2431

## FOOD SAFETY & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

The Food Safety & Consumer Protection Division provides technical, financial, and educational resources to Vermont's agricultural community, and oversees regulation in the areas of: livestock health, consumer protection and assurance, dairy inspection, and meat inspection.



### Food Safety & Consumer Protection Programs Include:

#### Animal Health & Welfare

Protecting the health and welfare of livestock and the economic viability of Vermont's livestock-related industries

#### Apiary & Pollinator Resources

Providing technical assistance to Vermont beekeepers.

#### Consumer Protection/Metrology

Inspecting and testing devices and products in commerce, such as scales, gas pumps, heating oil and propane delivery truck meters, retail store scanners, and firewood

#### Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

Implementing new rules established by the FDA to regulate many types of food production, processing, and distribution in order to prevent foodborne illness and protect public health

#### Meat & Poultry Inspection

Ensuring meat and poultry products are wholesome, unadulterated, properly labeled and packaged

#### Milk & Dairy

Overseeing Vermont's dairy industry and ensuring that sanitation standards are followed to minimize the risk of unsafe products entering the marketplace

#### Division Contact Information:

Email: [AGR.AnimalHealth@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.AnimalHealth@vermont.gov)

Email: [AGR.MeatInspection@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.MeatInspection@vermont.gov)

Email: [AGR.Dairy@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.Dairy@vermont.gov)

Email: [AGR.ConsumerProtection@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.ConsumerProtection@vermont.gov)

Call: (802) 828-2426

**The Vermont Agency of Agriculture**

**116 State Street**

**Montpelier, VT 05620**

**Phone: 802-828-2430**

**Email: [agr.helpdesk@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.helpdesk@vermont.gov)**

**[www.agriculture.vermont.gov](http://www.agriculture.vermont.gov)**

**Twitter: [@vtagencyofag](https://twitter.com/vtagencyofag)**

**Facebook: Vermont Agency of Agriculture**

**Subscribe to our monthly Agriview print and  
email newsletters at:**

**[agr.agriview@vermont.com](mailto:agr.agriview@vermont.com)**



**AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS**

**[www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov](http://www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov)**