



Overview

The Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) - in partnership with Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts, University of Vermont Extension (UVM) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - is assisting small farm operators in the development of Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). The purpose of the program is to improve water quality by reducing phosphorus, nitrogen, and other nutrient loading from small livestock farm operations in priority watersheds throughout Vermont. The program is supported through agreements with USDA NRCS and the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation, as well as through partner contributions provided by the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation, VACD, UVM Extension and Conservation Districts. The goal of the program is 190 Nutrient Management Plans..



Target Customers: Small Livestock Farm Operations throughout the State of Vermont

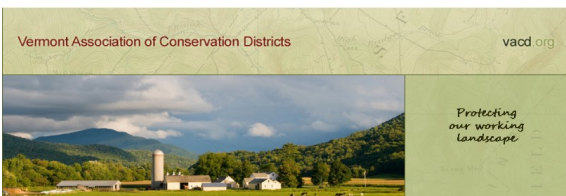
Project Summary: Nutrient Management Plans Developed with 190 Agricultural Producers.

Project Duration: 5 Years: May 1, 2015—Dec. 31, 2019

Project Location: Lake Champlain Basin, Connecticut River Watershed, Lake Memphremagog Basin

Project Goals:

- 1) Help farms reduce phosphorus and nitrogen runoff from their farms.
- 2) Assist farms in meeting requirements for farmstead implementation through NRCS EQIP.
- 3) Help producers to comply with VT's Required Agricultural Practices requiring small farms to develop an NMP.
- 4) Provide follow-up assistance after the NMP.



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VACD RCPP NMP Program Workflow

	<h2>1. Education and Outreach—Farmer Recruitment</h2>	
	Activity: - Mailings, public meetings, phone calls and other outreach to prospective participants. - Farm visits for RAP education, to explain NMP program, and to sign agricultural producer up for NMP Program (CAP or TA).	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD • UVM Extension
	<h2>2. Field Office Map and Document Preparation for Planning Meeting</h2>	
	Activity: - Prepare initial planning visit document package including maps and relevant forms.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACD • NRCD
	<h2>3. Conservation Planning Meeting/Farm Visit</h2>	
	Activity: - Conduct Conservation Planning Interview with farmer and identify all cropland and pasture fields.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD
	<h2>4. On Farm Field Work: Soil and Manure Sampling</h2>	
	Activity: - Soil sample all crop and pasture fields that receive mechanical applications of nutrients. - Manure sample all Waste Storage Facilities.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD
	<h2>5. On Farm Field Work: Resource Assessment and Slopes</h2>	
	Activity: - Conduct and record Resource Assessments of all cropland and pastureland fields, including information for RUSLE2 calculations	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACD • NRCD
	<h2>6. Land Treatment Plan Preparation</h2>	
	Activity: - Prepare Land Treatment Plan finder with the components necessary to take the UVM <i>Digging In</i> Nutrient Management Planning Course	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACD • NRCD
	<h2>7. Nutrient Management Planning Class</h2>	
	Activity: - UVM Extension offers the <i>Digging-In</i> Nutrient Management Planning Course for Farmers across the State. - VACD and NRCD staff assist farmers at the class. NRCS staff are invited to attend.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UVM Extension • NRCD • VACD
	<h2>8. Implementation Follow-Up Visits and Workshops</h2>	
	Activity: - Participant farmers are offered follow-up support after completing their NMP.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD • UVM Extension