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Who is Newtrient?

Newtrient was created by fourteen organizations that represent most of the dairy farmers in the U.S., including Agrimark (owner of Cabot Creamery). The company was formed to help agricultural operators identify and implement the most innovative and cost-effective nutrient management technologies. The company has created a clearinghouse to identify and evaluate promising technologies to enable farmers to make the best decisions in managing manure. It also promotes research into new products.

Newtrient's role in Vermont

Newtrient has received federal and State of Vermont grants to create a modeling tool that will allow Vermont agricultural operators and regulators to measure the effectiveness of various phosphorus-reducing technologies and practices as they are implemented on specific farms.

Through the use of this modeling tool, Newtrient will be able to help the State, as well as municipal governments, agricultural producers and other property owners, to identify the most cost-effective investments to reduce nutrient loading into impaired waters in Vermont.

The modeling tool will also help to identify the funding gap that exists between the cost of implementing particular technologies and practices and their value to farms. This will enable farmers and the State to quantify the financial investment needed to implement the most cost-effective phosphorus-reduction projects.

Newtrient's Environmental Services Program

Newtrient is working with the Vermont agencies of Natural Resources and Agriculture to establish a pay-for-performance mechanism to create and verify phosphorus-reductions on Vermont farms for purchase by the State. This program is consistent with programs established around the U.S. and the globe for a variety of pollutants, including cap-and-trade programs for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

"Credits" would be created when farmers voluntarily implement phosphorus-reduction projects that exceed required regulatory obligations. Farmers could then sell those credits to the State as part of TMDL implementation for Champlain or Memphremagog. Newtrient has also begun conversations with Vermont ANR and EPA about the efficacy of allowing other entities (e.g., businesses or municipalities) to purchase phosphorus-reduction credits to help offset regulatory obligations that could only be met through costlier, less effective investments.