

Title 6 : Agriculture

Chapter 087 : Control Of Pesticides

(Cite as: 6 V.S.A. § 1102)

§ 1102. Agricultural Innovation Advisory Board established

- (a) The Agricultural innovation Advisory Board is established and attached to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.
- (b) Membership. The Secretary of Agriculture shall convene a group composed of the following members:
 - (1) A member of the farming community that practices organic agriculture
 - (2) A member from the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
 - (3) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Agrichemical Program
 - (4) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Water Quality Program
 - (5) A Certified Crop Consultant
 - (6) A member representing Vermont Dairy Industry
 - (7) A member representing Vermont fruit and vegetable production
 - (8) A member knowledgeable in water management in agriculture
 - (9) A member from an organization involved in land conservation
 - (10) A member representing an environmental advocacy group
 - (11) A health expert familiar with pesticide usage and impact

The chair of the council will be designated by the secretary of agriculture.

- (c) Agricultural innovation Advisory Board members shall be appointed for terms of three years, except initially, appointments shall be made such that one member shall serve for a term of one year and one for a term of two years. Members shall be allowed to serve no more the 3 consecutive terms.

(d) The functions of the Board are:

- (1) Recommend farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improve watersheds, enhances ecosystem services, and waste reduction. Practices and principals must include

ability to capture carbon in soil and aboveground biomass, reversing current global trends of atmospheric accumulation. With the goals of increased yields, resilience to climate instability, and higher health and vitality for farming and ranching communities.

(2) Recommend practices that reduce reliance on pesticides and fertilizers and build healthy soils.

(3) To advise the Executive Branch of State government with respect to legislation concerning the use of various pest control measures.

(4) To suggest programs, policies, and legislation for incentivizing farms to shift toward more sustainable agricultural practices

(5) To recommend studies necessary for the performance of its functions as established under this section.

(6) To recommend to the Secretary policies, proposed rules, or legislation for the regulation of the use of a treated article when the Council determines that use of the treated article will have a hazardous or long-term deleterious effect on the environment in Vermont, presents a likely risk to human health, or is dangerous. In developing recommendations under this subdivision, the Council shall review:

(A) alternatives available to a user of a treated article; and

(B) the potential effects on the environment or risks to human health from use of the available alternatives to a treated article.

(7) The board shall set standards for a Vermont state organic standard. These standards shall include health and environmental standards outlined by the group.