



Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership

2019

Vermont's Agricultural Water Quality Partnership

It takes a strong alliance of dedicated entities to address all the issues associated with Lake Champlain's impaired water quality. Each agency or entity involved in the partnership offers unique and effective resources, funding mechanisms, technical experts, and outreach techniques. They each bring something valuable to the table. No one agency is going to fix this problem. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), each partner contributes skills, knowledge, and services that help private landowners in Vermont achieve measurable water quality and wildlife habitat improvements in the most efficient, cost-effective way.

The Goal

The VT Agricultural Water Quality Partnership (VAWQP) seeks to accelerate improved water quality by collaborating to provide outreach, education, and technical and financial assistance directly to agricultural producers with respect for each partner's vision, role and capacity.

Partnership activities

- ◆ Locally-led farmer engagement
- ◆ Technical assistance for farmers
- ◆ Development of watershed specific action plans
- ◆ Financial assistance for farmers
- ◆ Outreach and education
- ◆ Conducting agricultural research projects

The VT Agricultural Water Quality Partnership

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM)

United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

University of Vermont Cooperative Extension (UVM Extension)

United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (VANR- DEC)

Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)

The leadership of the VAWQP meets quarterly to coordinate goals, report on progress, and facilitate and enhance conservation work throughout the state.

All the employees of the partnership meet annually to enhance communication and coordinate strategy.