

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between
Secretary Anson Tebbetts of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
and
Secretary Julie Moore of the Agency of Natural Resources
and
Caroline Gordon of Rural Vermont
and
Kurt Ericksen of Poultry Farmers for Compost Foraging
and
Rep. Carolyn Partridge

This is an agreement between the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM), the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Rural Vermont, Poultry Farmers for Compost Foraging (PFCF), and Rep. Carolyn Partridge.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize and formalize the agreement between AAFM, ANR, Rural Vermont, PFCF, and Rep. Carolyn Partridge (hereinafter called the parties) to convene and collaborate as a group. The parties have agreed, pursuant to this MOU, to convene in order to create by consensus a draft legislative proposal or proposals to amend and improve the statutory requirements for the management of food residuals and compost on farms as part of poultry operations. The parties agree that they may designate representatives to fulfill their responsibilities under this MOU. The meetings of the parties are intended to be educational, informative, productive, and collegial for all participants with the purpose of moving toward the goals stated herein.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES UNDER THIS MOU

- (a) Each of the parties takes responsibility for contacting their constituents in order to receive input and feedback on the proposal or proposals.
- (b) Each of the parties takes responsibility for engaging relevant stakeholders and interested parties in the discussion.

III. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

- (a) The parties agree to meet at least three times prior to December 1, 2019.
- (b) The parties agree to have Representative Charen Fegard act as both a facilitator and coordinator of the meetings between the parties.
- (c) The parties agree to have Representative Carolyn Partridge act as a liaison between the parties and legislative counsel.

(d) The parties will come to an agreement through consensus on what proposal or proposals will be made to the Vermont General Assembly.

(e) Any proposals shall be transmitted to Rep. Carolyn Partridge no later than January 1, 2020.

(f) The parties agree to consider existing standards for the management of food residual and organic materials on farms, such as the organics management requirements of the Agency of Natural Resources' Solid Waste Rule and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Animal Feed System rules 4.

(g) The parties have agreed to address the following questions with their proposal:

(1) What are the appropriate statutory requirements for the management of food residuals and other organic materials on farms?

(2) Should the existing statutory requirements for the management of food residuals and other organic materials on farms be amended?

(3) How will the farmers be educated about the requirements for the management of food residuals on farms, including any proposed changes resulting from this MOU?

(4) How and by whom will any proposed change to statutory requirements be enforced?

(5) What are the appropriate penalties for violation of the statutory requirements for the management of food residuals and other organic material on farms?

(6) What legislative changes are necessary to implement any recommendations of the parties?

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of authorized representatives of the parties. The parties indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

X _____
Secretary Anson Tebbetts of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets *Date*

X _____
Secretary Julie Moore of the Agency of Natural Resources *Date*

X _____
Caroline Gordon of Rural Vermont *Date*

X _____

Karl Ericksen of Poultry Farmers for Compost Foraging

Date

X _____

Rep. Carolyn Partridge

Date