

**Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry**  
Created by 2020 Acts & Resolves No. 129, Sec. 31

Questions for Vermont Farmers Testifying August 24, 2021

1. Introductory information about your farm
  - How many cows do you milk, and dry stock?
  - Is your barn tie or free stall? What is your milking system set up?
  - How many acres do you farm; meadow and pasture; how much woodland?
  - Other info about the farm?
2. Farm income and sustainability
  - What is your cost of production over past 5 years?
  - What has been your pay price over past five years?
  - Do you have income from forest land; maple; other farm products?
  - Do you have off-farm income; do other household members have off-farm jobs?
  - Is the price paid for your milk the biggest challenge you face for farm sustainability?
  - What other challenges are you facing as a farm - availability of labor, equipment servicing, other
3. Farm Management and Innovation
  - How do you integrate risk management programs into your farm? What programs do you use (FSA, Crop Insurance, VHCB, UVM Extension, private contractor)?
  - Has risk management helped? How? Does it outweigh the cost or vice versa?
  - Do you participate in the Dairy Margin Coverage Program? At what level? Has it been of significant help?
  - Has your cooperative has instituted a Base Excess Plan? If so, how has that affected your farm operation?
  - What would you like to do to improve your farm operation if you could?
  - What innovations in barn and field have you employed in past ten years?
    - Do you crop yourself or hire out custom cut?
    - No till? Drag-lining? Cover crop?
  - Have you installed efficiency measures, such as a variable speed pump?
  - Have you installed a solar array or solar hot water?
  - Have you considered advanced technologies such as robotics, computerized animal and feed information management, no-fence fencing, drones?
  - What can the state do to help you take more innovative steps, if you wish?
4. State Water Quality Improvement Programs
  - Which State Water Quality Improvement Programs do you participate in; what suggestions do you have for their improvement?
5. New Task Force State Action
  - What 3 issues should the Task Force address, and what new legislative action to address these issues should the Task Force propose?