

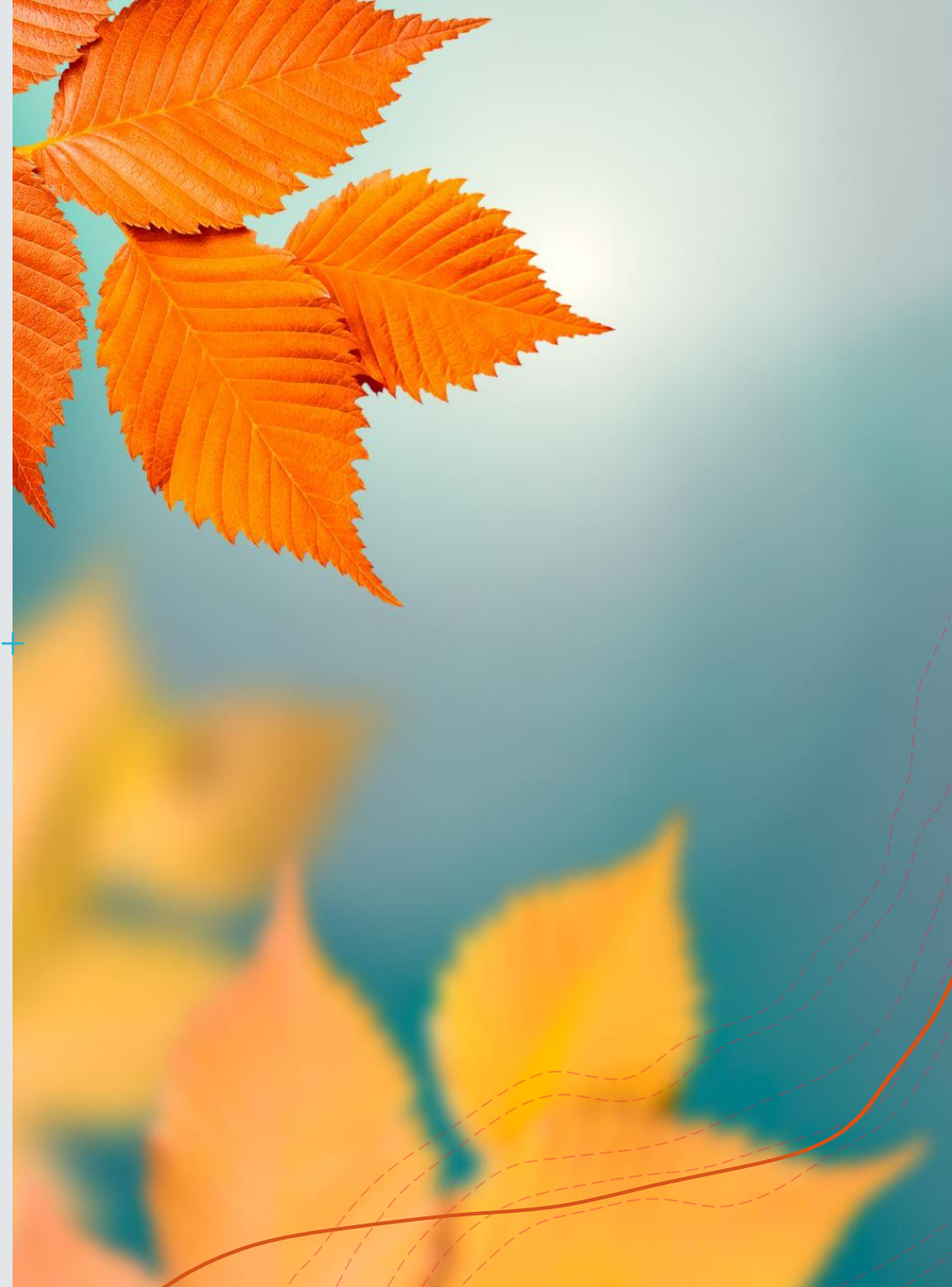
Task Force to Revitalize the Dairy Industry

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Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and
Markets

Danone Horizon Task Force

September 13, 2021



Danone Horizon Task Force

+ Task Force members represent:

- Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Agri-Mark, Inc.
- Agriculture Service Provider
- Dairy Farmers of America
- Morrison Feeds
- NOFA-Vermont
- Organic Valley
- Stonyfield
- VEDA/VACC – lender
- Vermont Cheese Council
- Vermont Congressional Delegation
- Vermont Farm Bureau
- Vermont Farm and Forest Viability

Danone Horizon Task Force

+ Task Force Goals:

- **Farmer Centered**
- **Provide reviewed options to farmers by January/February 2022**
- **Allow farmers time to work with Vermont Farm and Forest Viability to determine which option works best for their farm**

- **Task force will review options**
 - **Best information and specific contact information**
 - **Legitimate options not just exploratory**
 - **Determine a wide range of possible options – potential options**
 - **Possible organic buyer**
 - **Processor interested in expanding production**
 - **Goat's milk demand**
 - **Diversification into other livestock/crops**

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+ Task Force work to date:

- **Farmer survey to collect pertinent data on farms that will be useful in future discussion with buyers or processors**
- **Web page on the Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets web site – resource for farmers as well as interested parties**
- **Resource list for farmers – provided**
- **Draft survey for processors – to be launched week of September 20**
- **Regional discussions – Farm Bureau, Congressional Delegation**
- **USDA – Secretary Tebbetts working with Secretaries and Commissioners from other impacted states on this issue**

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+ Task Force on-going work:

- Continue to collect farmer data
- Finalize processor data, launch survey and collect data
- Follow-up with interested processors that respond to the survey
- Review and develop options for farmers