

Summary for Ag Senate Committee – UVM Extension updates

- Transitions in Middlebury/commitment to agronomy and water quality work in the Champlain Valley. Includes sustained support for the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition
- Just applied for a new AgCWIP grant to pay for water quality work: agronomy in NW VT and Champlain Valley; nutrient management for veggie and fruit producers; ag business work to support water quality; increased tech assistance in grazing
- We have multiple NE Dairy Business Innovation Center grants, providing direct support/TA to dairy farmers
- Two extension faculty have been participating in the ongoing payment for ecosystems services work at a statewide level (Juan Alvez, Joshua Faulkner)
- The Newport office now has three staff, not just one. (4-H educator, EFNEP Coordinator HR person). Bobby Starr is from that area of the state.
- Agritourism – Dr. Lisa Chase, hosting the international conference end of August. Will be in person and virtual.

Big steps forward in farmworker health

- vaccination education – farmworkers and all others at a farm - (\$ originates in CDC)
- 1.3M from Vt Dept of Health hiring 6 community health workers who will work in ag settings all over the state
- Two new faculty hires in process (first faculty hires since 2014): Comm Dev and Forestry
- New \$645,000 3 year 4-H grant for [AgroTek](#) summer academies and innovation slam to support 7-12 graders getting into new technology to support the future of ag.
- Specialty crop innovations: saffron with Dr. Margaret Skinner
- New pollinator program launched – Dr. Vern Grubinger and Laura Johnson

75 yrs of Proctor Maple Research Center!

- Our forest business person (Chris Lindgren) recently got a \$500,000 USDA Acer grant. Focuses on producers who produce sap only... emphasis on forest management and business management