



# House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

April 20, 2023

# Vermont Housing & Conservation Board Statutory Purpose



“the dual goals of creating affordable housing for Vermonters, and conserving and protecting Vermont’s agricultural land, forestland, historic properties, important natural areas, and recreational lands of primary importance to the economic vitality and quality of life of the State.”

10 V.S.A.15 §302



# Capital Bond Funding for Housing and Conservation

## Section 10 Clean Water

Agricultural water quality  
projects: \$800,000

Land Conservation and  
Water Quality Projects:  
\$2.0M

## Section 16 Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

Housing and Conservation Projects:  
\$1.8 M



**Hopkins St. Family Housing, Rutland**



**Hubbard Park, Montpelier**

# Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

- 20 years of in-depth advising
- 900+ farm, food & forest products businesses served
- 1/3 clients engage in transition planning
- In FY22, 154 enterprises engaged in business advising
  - 70% of clients reported increased gross sales & 61% increased net income
  - Nearly \$2.85M in loans & grants accessed



*Tim & Janet Taylor, founders of Crossroads Farm in Post Mills, with advisor Mike Ghia*

Viability Program Initiatives include: REDI, Farm Viability, Forest products, Implementation Grants and Water Quality Grants



# Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

## Water Quality Grants

- Support lasting on-farm investments in water quality improvements
- FY22 Awards totaled \$601,368
- These awards leveraged at least \$3,206,952 from farmer, state and federal funds.
- Funded through the Capital Bill since 2017
- Standard annual investment of \$600,000
- Funded through ARPA in 2023



**Ben, Nancy & Helm Notterman of Snug Valley Farm in Hardwick used a \$40,000 Water Quality Grant for winter bedded pack hog housing, reducing the amount of bedding used and the need to store manure outside**



**At Pigasus Meats in South Hero, Phelan & Kelsey O'Connor will use a \$40,000 Water Quality Grant for winter pig housing.**



**Richard & Mandy Hulett, operating Deer Flats Farm in Pawlet, were awarded a \$40,000 Water Quality Grant for a new heifer barn.**

## Status of FY 23 ARPA Allocation for Water Quality Grants

- \$600,000 in ARPA funding is included in the FY23 budget for the Water Quality Grant program.
- Ag. Water Quality Grant applications were due in January, to align with farm schedules
- VHCB received 30 requests totaling \$968,555 for \$755,041 in available funds
- In March VHCB awarded 22 farms \$755,041 in water quality grants





**Bread & Butter Farm, Shelburne: \$40,000 Water Quality Grant for regenerative grazing**



**Adrian Fortin, God's Country Farm, Holland: \$40,000 Water Quality Grant for a new cement manure pit to prevent run off.**

## Plan to fully expend ARPA allocation for Water Quality Grants

- VHCB has fully awarded the Ag. Water Quality Grant ARPA allocation.
- Farms will have 19 months to expend their award funds, with extensions if needed.
- Flexibility is important: farms often need to secure multiple funding sources for large water quality projects.
- VHCB will work with farms to ensure the ARPA funds are fully expended ahead of the 2026 deadline.

# FY23 Water Quality Grants

**Funds: \$600,000 ARPA and \$155,041 bond funds**

- **Boyden Farm - \$40,000 for a no-till planter**
- **SVTFarm - \$17,009 for winter livestock shelter & compost site**
- **Cornerstone Dairy - \$40,000 for manure injection system**
- **Richville Farm - \$40,000 for a replacement hoop barn**
- **Wolf Ridge Dairy - \$35,000 for a no-till drill**
- **McGarry Dairy - \$30,175 for silage drainage**
- **Morin Farm - \$40,000 for manure storage**
- **Four Girls Dairy - \$40,000 for a hay merger**
- **Rogers Farmstead - \$40,000 for a composting manure barn**
- **Bridgemanview Farm - \$40,000 for a feed bunk**
- **Taconic End Dairy - \$25,000 for a bedded pack system**
- **John & Tammy Thibeault - \$40,000 for a waste storage structure**
- **Rainville Bros. Dairy - \$40,000 for a feeding storage pad**
- **L.F. Hurtubise and Sons - \$40,000 for a dragline system**
- **Shadagee Farm - \$15,125 for manure loading modifications**
- **Riverview Dairy - \$40,000 for feed storage**
- **Sanders VI LLC - \$40,000 for cover cropping equipment**
- **Sawmill Brook Farm - \$40,000 for a covered barnyard and manure storage**
- **Bryce Farm - \$40,000 for a silage bunk, barnyard and lined manure pit**
- **Sylvain Farm - \$40,000 for a manure management system**
- **Nelson Farms - \$21,080 for a no-till drill**
- **Sykes Hollow Land and Livestock - \$11,651 for organic fertilizer equipment**





**Dorset Peak Jerseys, Danby: \$38,500 Water Quality Grant for Baleage Equipment**



Vermont Housing &



Conservation Board

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