



Documenting Farmer-Led Conservation in Vermont

Our staff record and field-verify state-funded and farmer-funded conservation practices in the Vermont Partner Database throughout the year. These practices include cover cropping, manure injection, no-till and reduced-till planting, rotational grazing, crop-to-hay transitions, and no-till pasture and hayland renovation.

Practice acres are recorded as *farmer-funded* when farms implement them without receiving cost-share payments, or when practice acreage extends beyond what is supported through conservation programs. One commonly used cost-share program administered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture is the Farm Agronomic Practices Program (FAP). While many farms choose to enroll in programs like FAP, farmers across Vermont are voluntarily self-funding thousands of acres of conservation practices each year.

Documenting these farmer-funded practices is critical. The data collected through this effort provides the State of Vermont and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with a more accurate accounting of conservation practice adoption and associated nutrient reductions to regional waterbodies. Without annual documentation, these acres and the environmental benefits they deliver are not captured in state or federal reporting, and the progress being made by Vermont farmers is effectively lost.

This work ensures that agriculture's contributions toward Lake Champlain watershed clean water goals are fully and accurately represented. The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition is one of the primary organizations conducting this field-based documentation in Vermont. Since 2022, CVFC has recorded **13,502 acres of conservation practices across just 24 farms** in the Champlain Valley.

13,502 Acres of Farmer-Funded Practices

from 24 farms since 2022

3,278 acres

No-Till

3,504 acres

Cover Cropping

3,550 acres

Manure Injection

148 acres

Rotational Grazing

2,710 acres

Reduced-Till

252 acres

Crop to Hay

Our Mission

The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition assists all farmers in implementing innovative agricultural practices that enhance water quality, soil health, climate smart farming, and their economic resiliency in the Champlain Valley.

We accomplish this through a positive, unified voice that provides targeted education and outreach to farmers and the public; advocates on behalf of farmers' environmental interests; and collaborates with community partners to achieve common goals.

Since our inception, we have worked tirelessly to grow our membership, participate in difficult conversations around agriculture, water quality, soil health, and climate, and educate each other and our communities.



Staff

Kate Longfield

Executive Director; Water Quality Program Manager
kate@cvfc-vt.com

Shawn Goodfellow

Young Farmer Program Manager
shawn@cvfc-vt.com

Brooke Gannon

Workforce Development Program Manager
brooke@cvfc-vt.com

Francis Guarascio

Office Administrator
francis@cvfc-vt.com

Board of Directors

Tim Kayhart, Co-Chair

Kayhart Brothers Dairy, Addison

Jon Lucas, Treasurer

Lucas Dairy, Orwell

Brian Kemp, Co-Chair

Mountain Meadows Farm, Sudbury

Shawn Lucas, Secretary

UVM Extension, Middlebury

Marie Audet

Blue Spruce Farm, Bridport

David Conant

Conant's Riverside Farm, Richmond

Ray Brands

Deer Valley Farm, Ferrisburgh

George Foster

Foster Brothers Farm, Middlebury

Eric Clifford

Clifford Farm, Starksboro

Peter James

Monument Farms, Weybridge

LeAnna Compagna

Scholten Family Farm, Whiting

Lorenzo Whitcomb

North Williston Cattle Co., Williston