



# 2025 UPDATE

## Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2025, it was a year of both progress and challenge for Vermont's agricultural community. The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition (CVFC) advanced conservation, shared practical knowledge, and elevated farmers' voices to strengthen the environmental and economic resilience of our farms. We also navigated leadership transitions on our staff and Board of Directors.

Through our Water Quality Program, we completed more than 40 on-farm technical assistance visits to support soil health and water quality. Our Workforce Development Program placed 11 high school interns on farms and engaged more than 200 students across Addison County. Our Young Farmer Program supported farmers across the state in accessing conservation and business viability cost-share programs. This work was made possible through support from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Clean Water Initiative Program, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, and our generous business sponsors.

We worked hard to expand our regional partnerships through farmer roundtables and in-field workshops. These collaborations proved critical during a summer of severe drought, reinforcing the importance of strong farmer networks, adaptive management, and continued investment in conservation. CVFC members also played an active role in statewide policy discussions, with multiple farmers participating in the Vermont CAFO stakeholder group to help shape new water quality regulations. We've also launched weekly legislative updates to keep farmers informed and engaged on agricultural policy.

As we enter 2026, the importance of a trusted, farmer-led organization like CVFC has never been greater. Thank you for your continued commitment and partnership as we support Vermont's farmers and steward the land for generations to come.

**Kate Longfield** **Tim Kayhart and Brian Kemp**  
Executive Director Board Co-Chairs

## 2025 by the Numbers

It's been a year of growth and change for the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition. We're proud of what we've accomplished together and are excited for the year ahead!

**133**

farmer members

**10+**

farmers newly enrolled in conservation programs

**100+**

on-farm technical assistance visits

**554**

newsletter subscribers

**35**

farmers received on-farm technical assistance

**64+**

local businesses & individuals who believe in our mission

**14**

water quality events hosted

**11**

interns working on member farms

## Water Quality Program

We supported farmers in implementing and expanding conservation practices like cover crops, no-till, and manure injection. We also assisted farmers in navigating, enrolling in, and reporting to government conservation programs. Our Water Quality Program Manager conducted 40+ on-farm technical assistance visits with 23 unique farms across the region.



We hosted 6 farmer roundtables and field-based educational events and co-hosted 8 additional events throughout the year.

## Young Farmer Program



Our Young Farmer Program Manager conducted 60+ on-farm visits, supporting farmers in buying and selling equipment, applying to grants, and trying out new crops. We helped farmers work with Efficiency Vermont to save energy and reduce costs on their farms. We collaborated with University of Vermont Extension staff and local equipment dealers to share best management practices and technologies. We toured farms and connected farmers to see new practices and innovations in the field.

## Workforce Development Program

Our Lake Champlain Sustainable Ag Program reached and impacted over 200 elementary, middle, and high school students. We provided hands-on learning opportunities in fields, farms, rivers, and classrooms across Addison County.



Eleven high school students completed on-farm internships. The students learned about the intersection of water quality and agriculture with cows, goats, ducks, rice, flowers, bees, and vegetables.

## Our Supporters

Our mission to assist all farmers in implementing innovative agricultural practices that enhance water quality, soil health, climate smart farming, and their economic resiliency in the Champlain Valley is generously supported by:



We are also grateful for support from our business members.

**Platinum**  
Salem Farm Supply

**Gold**  
Champlain Valley Apiaries  
Champlain Valley Equipment

**Silver**  
Agricultural Consulting Service  
Gaines Insurance Agency  
Vermont Economic Development Corporation

**Bronze**  
Agri-Mark/Cabot Creamery Cooperative  
Champlain Valley Grain Center  
Lawes Agricultural Service  
Philo Ridge Farm & Livestock  
United Ag & Turf Northeast



### NEW in 2026!

#### Legislative Updates: A View from Montpelier to the Farms

This month, we launched a new weekly legislative update newsletter to help farmers stay informed about policies affecting agriculture and water quality. The updates are written by Jackie Folsom, who closely monitors activity at the Statehouse each week. The newsletter provides clear, timely summaries of key bills, testimony, and opportunities for engagement, delivered directly to your inbox each Friday. Contact [info@cvfc-vt.com](mailto:info@cvfc-vt.com) to receive these legislative updates.

#### A special thank you to our Annual Meeting sponsors:

Bourdeau Brothers  
Champlain Valley Equipment  
Poulin Grain  
Phoenix Feeds & Nutrition  
Salem Farm Supply