



Water Quality Division

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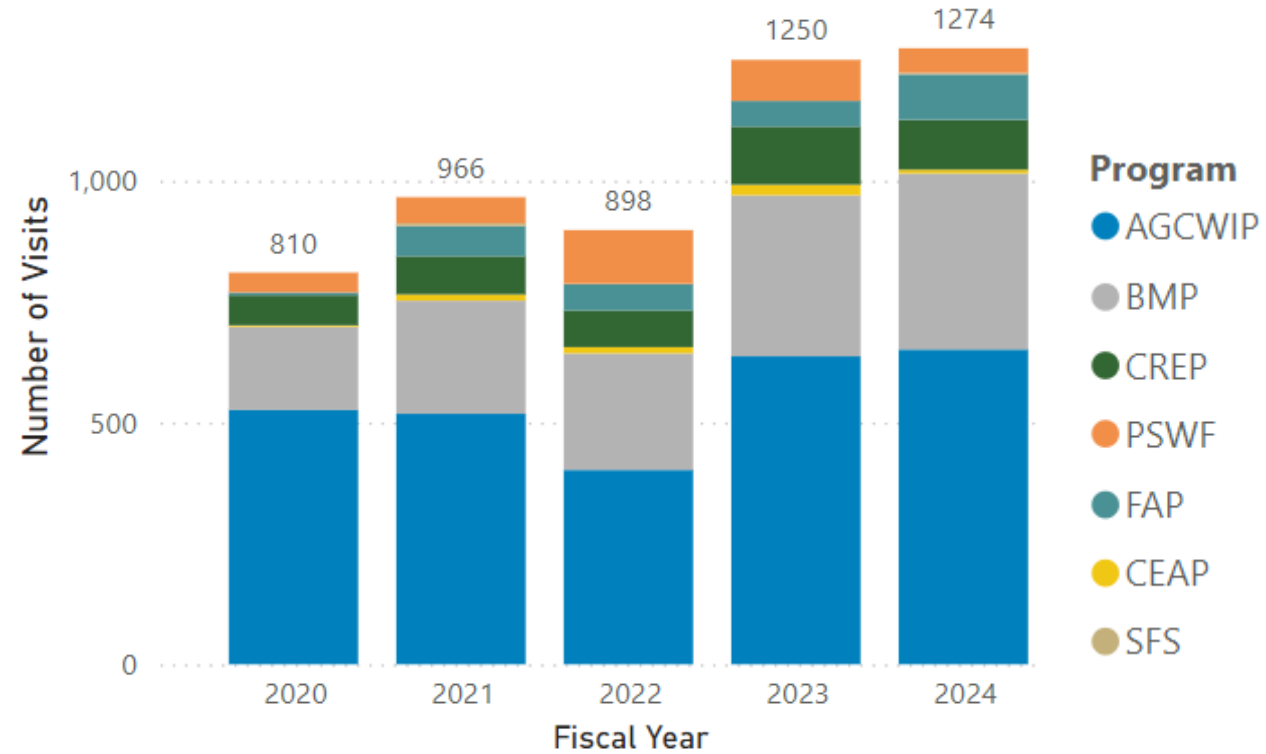
Overview

- Education, Technical and Financial Assistance
- Inspection and Enforcement

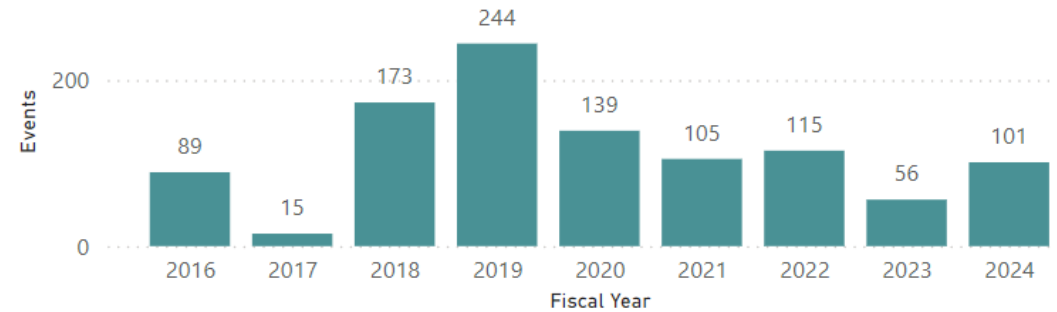
Technical Assistance & Education








Visits by Fiscal Year and Program



Events by Fiscal Year



Financial Assistance Programs

| PROGRAM | PROGRAM FOCUS | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Farm Agronomic Practices Program</p> <p>FAP</p> | <p>Per acre payments for agronomic practices that improve soil quality and reduce runoff and erosion. Support for educational or instructional activities also available.</p> |  |
| <p>Best Management Practices Program</p> <p>BMP</p> | <p>Technical engineering consultations, financial assistance, and federal project cost assistance for structural on-farm improvements to protect or improve water quality.</p> |  |
| <p>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</p> <p>CREP</p> | <p>Technical and financial assistance for removing land from agricultural production and establishing vegetative buffers.</p> |  |
| <p>Capital Equipment Assistance Program</p> <p>CEAP</p> | <p>Financial assistance for new or innovative equipment that will improve water quality, improve manure management, or decrease greenhouse gas emissions.</p> |  |
| <p>Seeding and Filter Strip Program</p> <p>SFS</p> | <p>Technical and financial assistance to address erosion and surface runoff through the establishment of perennially vegetated and harvestable filter strips, seedings, and grassed waterways.</p> |  |

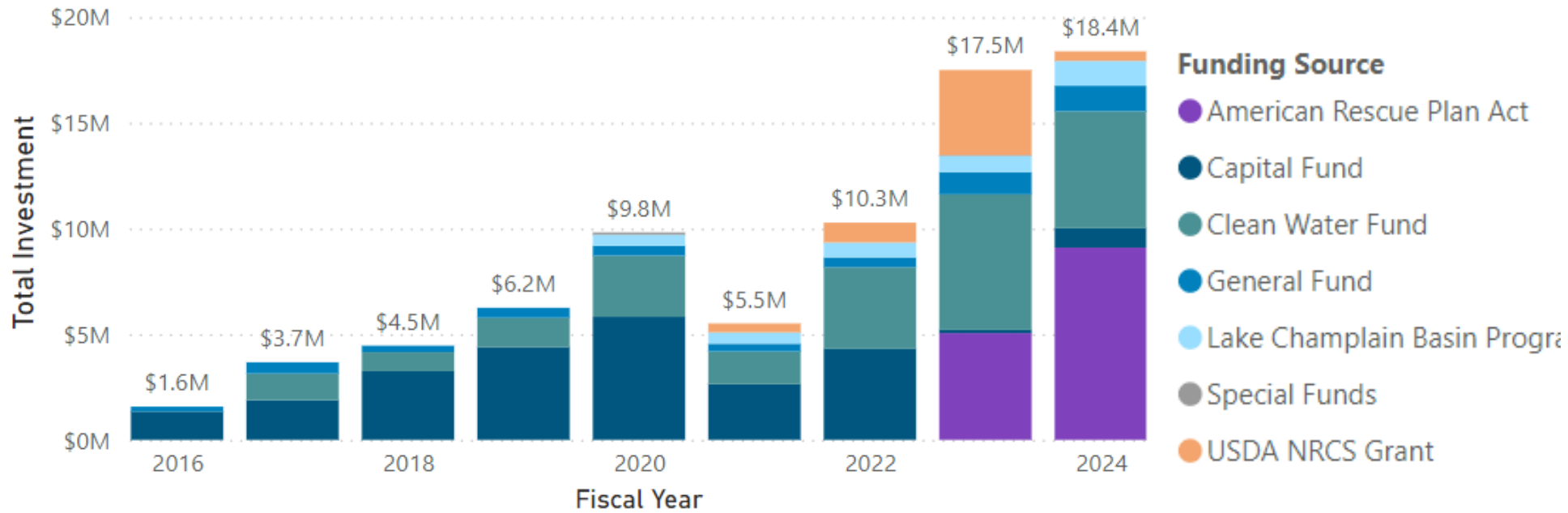
Financial Assistance Programs

| PROGRAM | PROGRAM FOCUS | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program</p> <p>PSWF</p> | <p>Pasture management technical and financial assistance for livestock exclusion from surface waters and grazing system improvements.</p> |  |
| <p>Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program</p> <p>VFESP</p> | <p>Supplemental financial assistance to support farmers to enroll in the USDA-NRCS Conservation Stewardship program (CSP).</p> |  |
| <p>Vermont Pay for Performance Program</p> <p>VPPF</p> | <p>Innovative, performance-based program which provides financial compensation for reducing phosphorus (P) losses from farms.</p> |  |
| <p>Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program</p> <p>AGCWIP</p> | <p>Funding for local and regional partners to improve water quality through education and outreach, technical assistance, organizational capacity development, and conservation practice surveys.</p> |  |

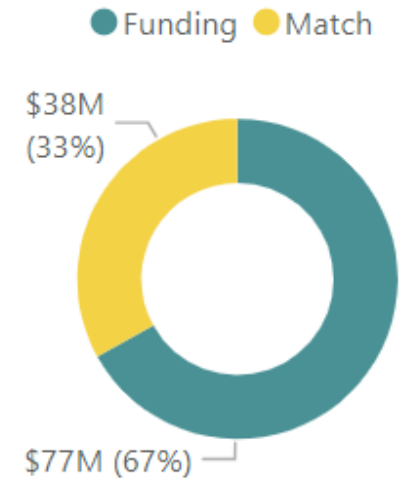
Financial Assistance



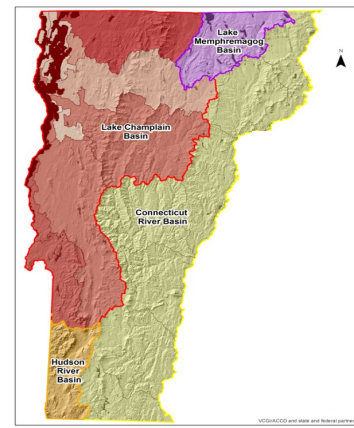
Total Investment by Fiscal Year and Funding Source



Total Investment by Type

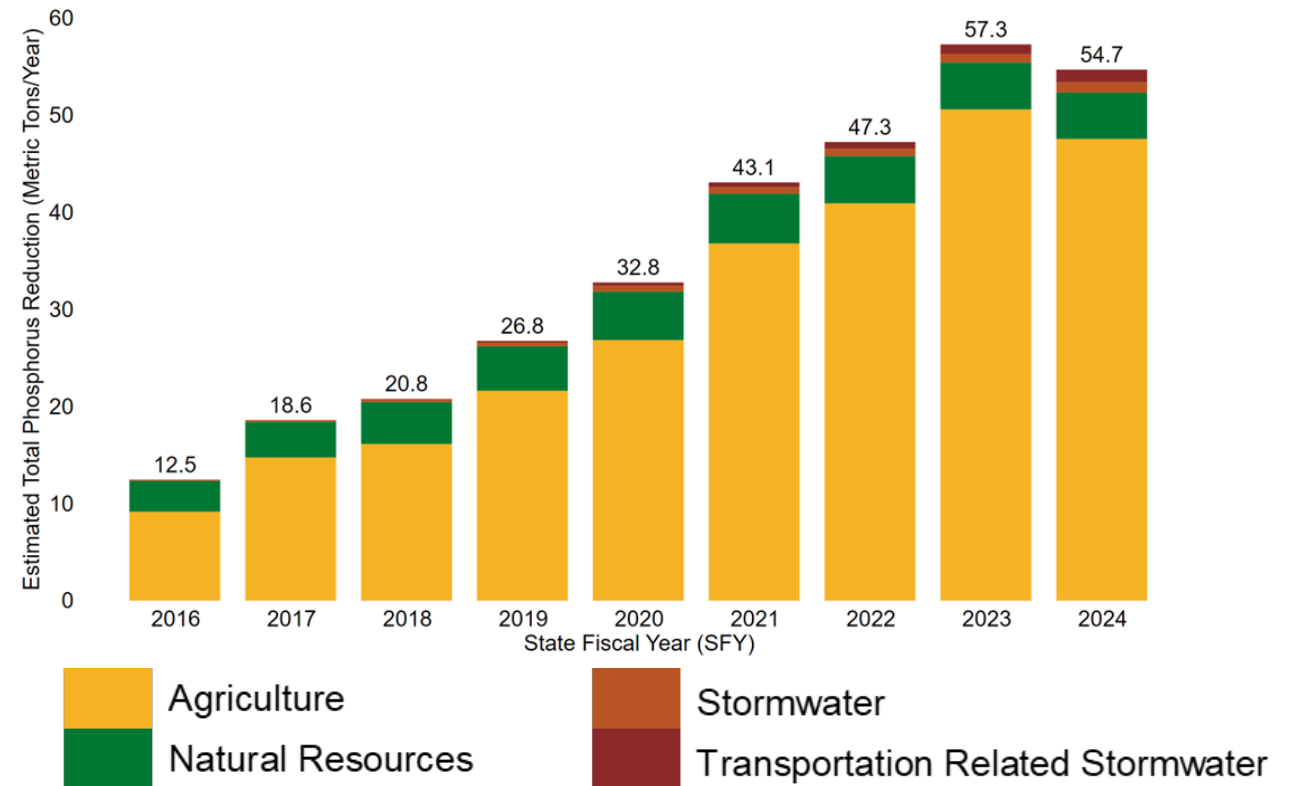


Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Progress – Lake Champlain

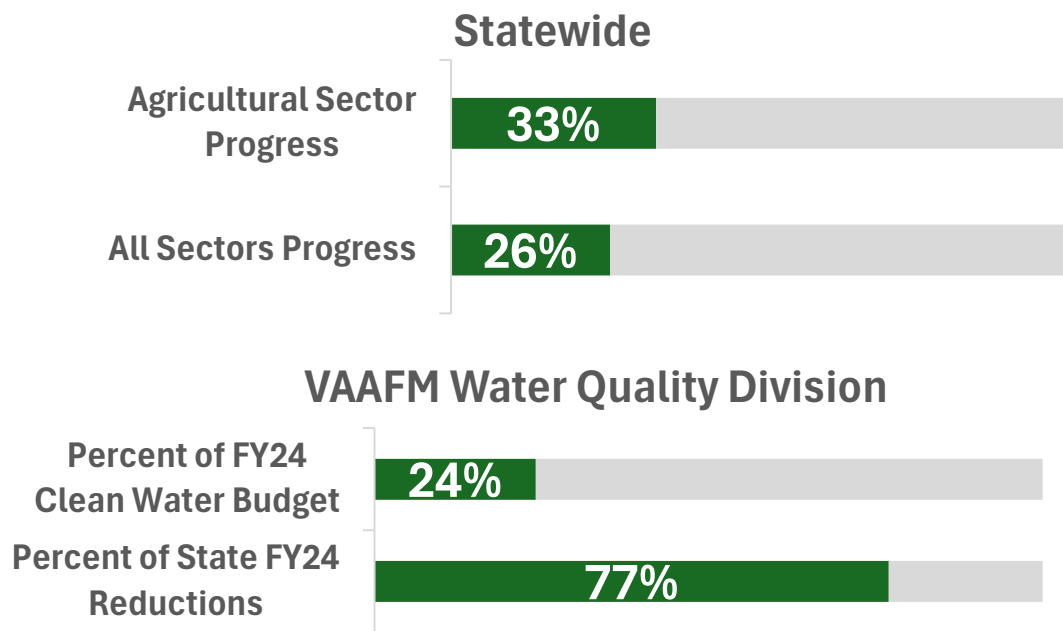
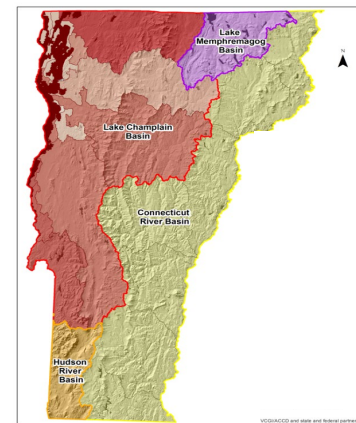


SFY2024 Progress – 26%

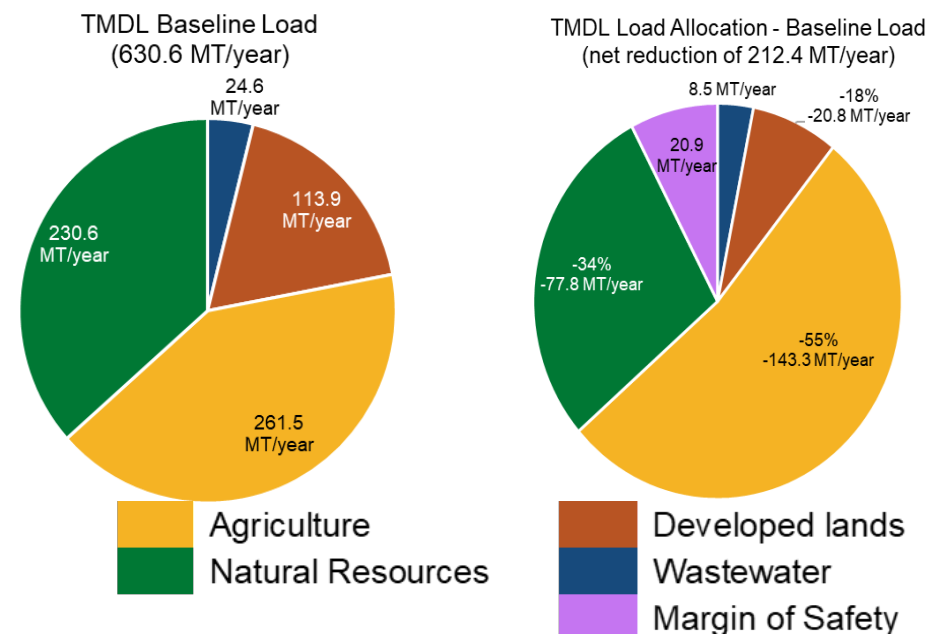
Estimated total phosphorus load reductions in effect during SFY 2016–2024.



TMDL Progress – Lake Champlain



Lake Champlain TMDL Baseline Load, and Modeled Load Increase (+) or Reduction (-) by Sector. Percentage indicates percent reduction from baseline for sectors with a required reduction.





Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Before (left) and after (right) installation of a heavy use area protection BMP project on a small farm in Swanton, VT to reduce livestock impacts to nearby waters and provide an area that is more easily managed for livestock barnyard area.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Riparian area pre- restoration, post-restoration and 14 years after restoration through the CREP Program. Additional conservation practices supported included livestock exclusion and fencing, a reinforced cattle crossing, riparian forest buffer planting and water source development for cows to replace stream access.



Pasture & Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Before (left) and after (right) of a riparian area restored through the PSWF Program. This project included implementation of a grassed filter strip, fencing, and watering sources.



Seeding and Filter Strip (SFS) Program

Before (left) and after (right) installation of a 50-foot-wide grass filter strips along a corn field in the Memphremagog watershed.

Regulatory



AAFM Rules for Water Quality

Required Agricultural Practices (1986)

Medium Farm Operations (2006)

Large Farm Operations (1999)

Technical Service Providers (2024)

Best Management Practices (1996)

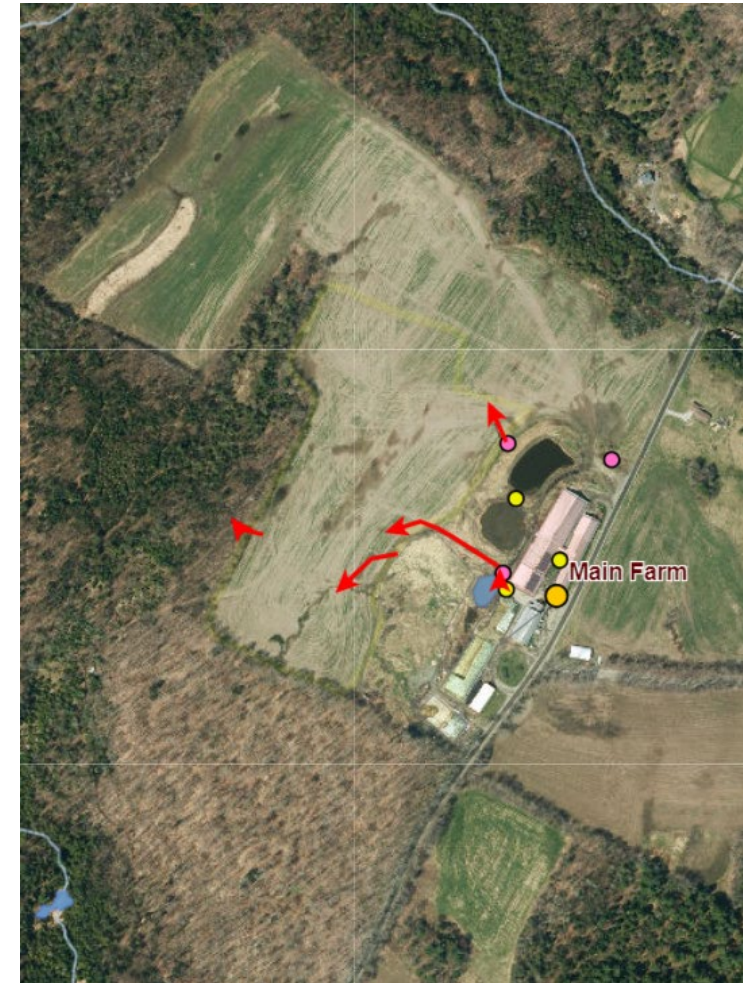
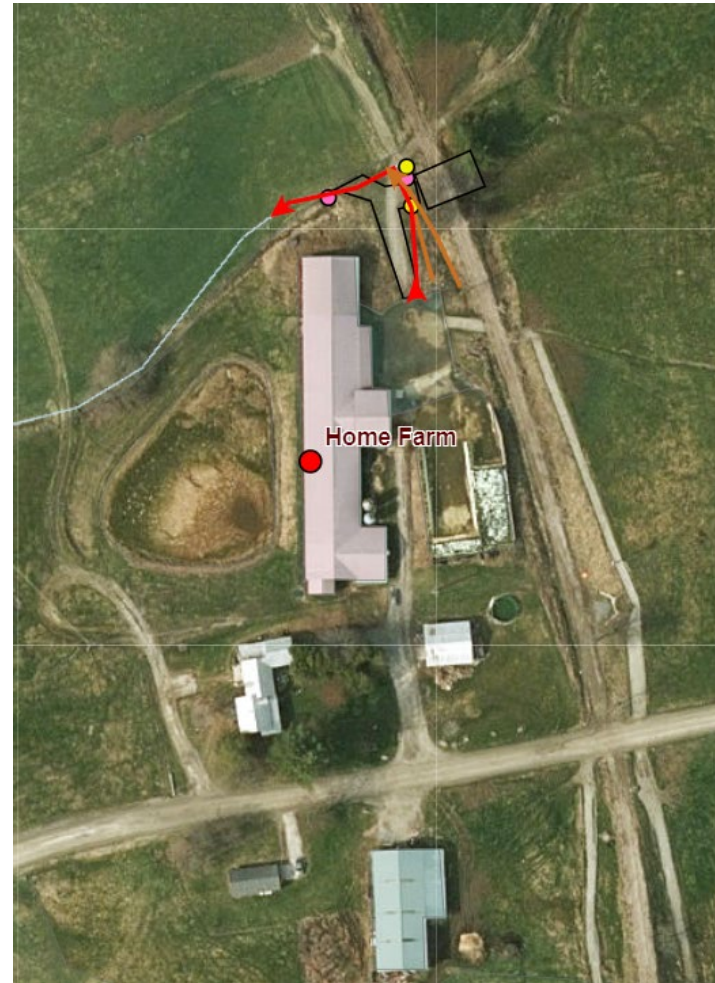


Vermont Regulatory Framework

ANR CAFO (actual discharges)

MFO and LFO (prevent discharges)

RAPs (prevent discharges)



Legal Decisions of Federal CAFO

2003 CAFO Rule

Included a duty to apply for a CAFO permit for “**potential**” to discharge.

Waterkeeper decision

“the regulatory scheme enacted by Congress; the Clean Water Act gives the EPA jurisdiction to **regulate and control only actual discharges** – **not potential discharges**, and certainly not point sources themselves.”

Revised CAFO Rule 2008

Included that CAFOs “**propose to discharge**” if they are “designed, constructed, operated, or maintained such that a discharge would occur.”

National Pork Producers decision

“we conclude that the EPA **cannot** impose a duty to apply for a permit on a CAFO that “**proposes to discharge**” or any CAFO before there is an **actual discharge**.”

Regional State Examples

Vermont

DEC manages CAFO permits, no permits issued to date. VAAFMs issues MFO (97) permits with minimum 3 year inspections, and LFO (36) permits with annual inspections.

Maine

EPA approved delegation including a MOU between the Agriculture and Environmental Departments. Agricultural Department inspects majority of farms and issues LOP permits. Environmental Department manages 6 CAFO permits in 2023. They had 33 farms that were greater than 200 mature cows in the 2022 census. Inspect at least once every 5 years.

New York

No CAFO permits in 2023. There were 633 farms with more than 200 mature cows in 2022 census. All alternative state “no discharge” permits issued by Environmental Department. Farms greater than 300 cows inspected once every 5 years. Farms between 200 and 300 cows are not inspected, complaint based.

New Hampshire

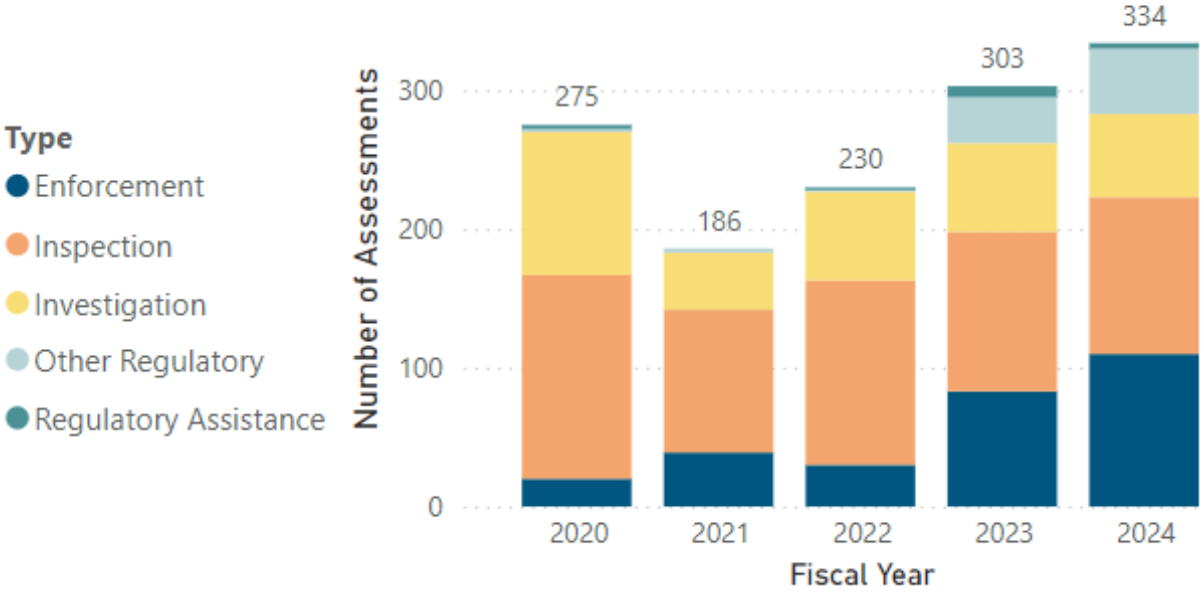
One permit managed by EPA in 2023. 14 farms greater than 200 cows in 2022 census. EPA inspects once every 5 years. No inspection or alternative permit on remaining farms, complaint driven.



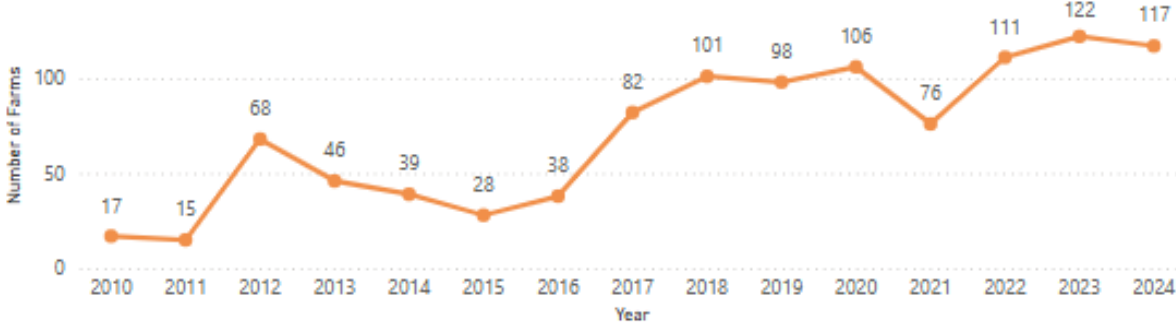
Inspection & Enforcement



Assessments by Fiscal Year and Type



Farms Receiving Enforcement Actions by Year

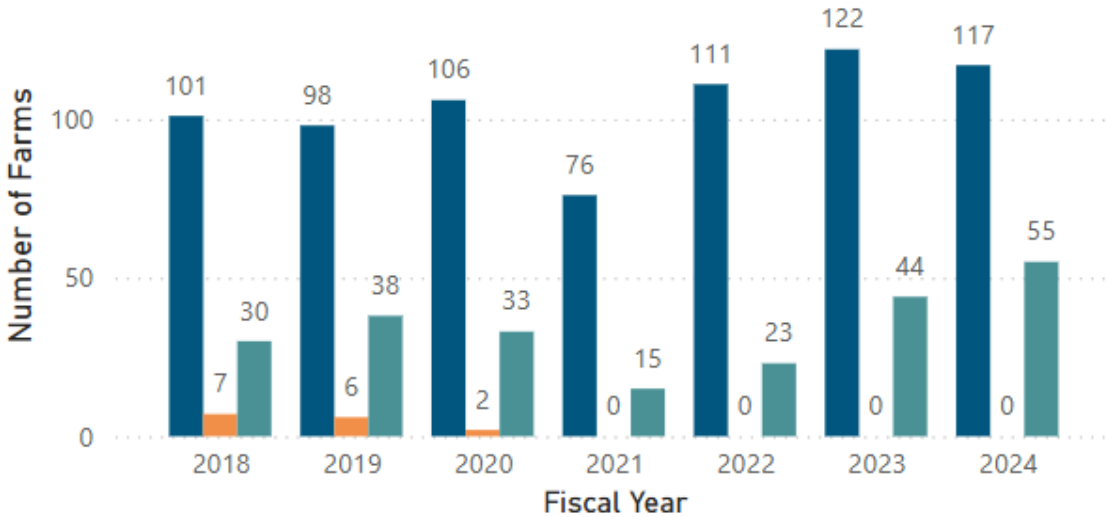


Inspection & Enforcement

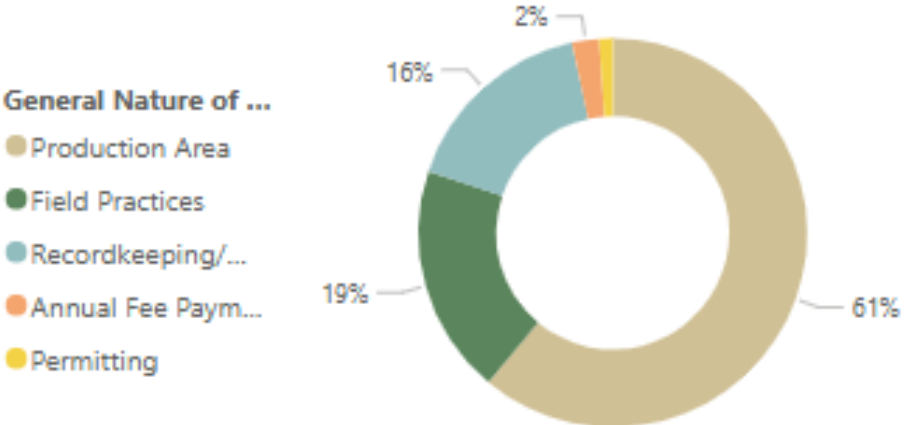


Farms Receiving Enforcement Actions and Referrals

● Farms Receiving Enforcement Actions ● Referrals to AGO ● Referrals to DEC



Counts/Violations by General Nature of Violation



From 2016 – 2024, Vermont agriculture has lost:

350 dairy farms

14,000 dairy cows

72,000 acres of cropland and pasture

In 2022, 57% of all Vermont farms were unprofitable and lost a combined \$85 million

From 2016 – 2024, Vermont farmers have implemented:

500,000 acres of new conservation practices to cleanup Lake Champlain which include: cover crop, no-till, rotational grazing.

Take a Drive through PowerBI

Contact Us!

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