



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

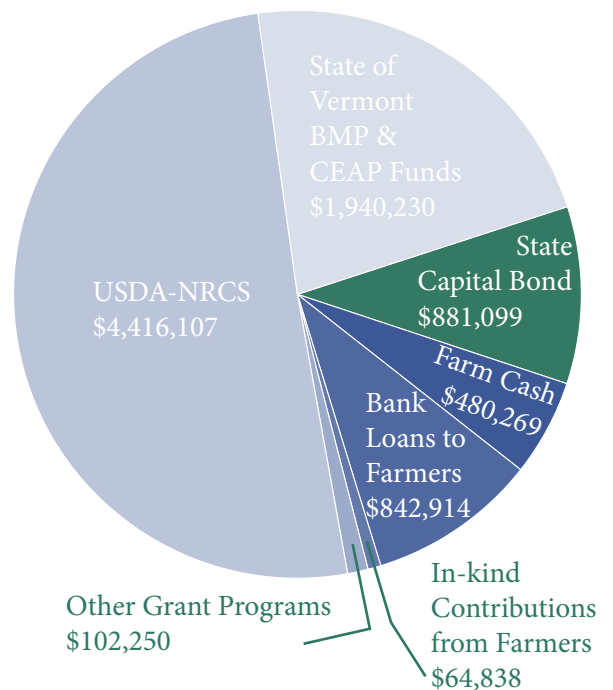
Water Quality Grants

Karen and Patrick O'Donnell milk Holstein cows on their farm in Westfield, located along the headwaters of the Missisquoi River. In October 2017, the O'Donnells were awarded a VHCBC Water Quality Grant to purchase a manure injection system. This will help the farm manage phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the soil, reduce nutrient runoff, and increase crop yields. In 2017, the O'Donnells were also awarded a Dairy Improvement Grant to construct a new manure storage facility, a project which also received funding from USDA-NRCS and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

The Water Quality Grants Program, funded by the State of Vermont's Capital Construction and Bonding Act, helps farmers make water quality-related capital improvements to farm infrastructure. As of the end of 2018, the Viability Program has awarded \$881,099 in grants to 29 farms. Grantees are located across the state, including in the high priority St. Albans Bay, Missisquoi Bay, and South Lake portions of Lake Champlain. Water Quality Grants typically support farmers in paying for projects or project components that state and federal grant programs cannot cover, or in some cases assist farmers who are otherwise unable to meet all of their required match for state and federal funding. Anticipated outcomes include improvements in compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices, soil health, environmental stewardship, labor efficiency, animal welfare, energy efficiency, job creation, and employee safety. Grantees include a range of farms: dairy and livestock; small and large; organic and conventional.

Total funding of all projects

\$8,727,708 of VHCBC & leveraged funds



“Using a concrete barnyard with runoff collection rather than old barnyards with old curbs or animal access to muddy fields, we will improve water quality in the Dead Creek watershed.”

—Melanie Harrison, Addison

Photo: VLT

Melanie and Patrick Harrison own Harrison's Homegrown, a conserved, organic dairy located on 432 acres in Addison. In 2017, the Harrisons used a construction loan and a \$25,000 Water Quality Grant to build a bedded pack barn to be able to bring their heifers, boarded off-site at the time, back to the farm and to facilitate management of their cows and their waste in accordance with the RAPs. Concurrently, the Harrisons have made barnyard and wastewater management improvements with assistance from USDA-NRCS EQIP and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Best Management Practices program. The new barn has resulted in increased labor efficiencies for the farm, as well as simpler and more effective waste management and increased cow comfort.

Water Quality Grantees

*29 farms awarded a total of \$881,099,
leveraging an additional \$7,846,609 in investments, nearly 9:1.
(Jul. 1, 2017 - Dec. 31, 2018)*

Equipment

Greg Bouchard, Bouchard Family Dairy, Franklin,
\$40,000

Seth & Brian Leach, Woodlawn Holsteins, Pawlet,
\$25,000

Patrick & Karen O'Donnell, O'Donnell Farm, Westfield,
\$14,040

Barnyard Structures & Improvements

Chris & Annie Wagner, Green Dream Farm, Franklin,
\$40,000

Marc & Cheryl Cesario, Meeting Place Pastures,
Cornwall, \$20,450

Composting Bedded Pack Barns

Laurie & Daniel Brooks, Wayward Goose Farm, West
Pawlet, \$40,000

Melanie & Patrick Harrison, Harrison's Homegrown,
Addison, \$25,000

Richard Hulett, Stonebroke Farm, Pawlet, \$40,000

Nate & Jessie Rogers, Rogers Farmstead, Berlin, \$40,000

Fencing & Grazing Infrastructure

Brian & Cindy Kayhart, Chalker Farm, Vergennes,
\$11,829

Marc & Tiffany Marquis, Marquis Organic Dairy Farm,
Newport Center, \$3,686

Wastewater Management

Jennifer & Jesse Lambert, Lambert Farm, Washington,
\$10,000

Julie Longway, Longway Farms, Swanton, \$40,000

Manure Storage & Other Manure Management

Andy & Sarah Birch, Maple Grove Farm, Derby, \$40,000

Dana & Wendy Burkewitz, Breezy Valley Farm, Westfield,
\$34,375

Ken Leach & Joanne Chickering, Ken Leach Farm, North
Rupert, \$40,000

AnnMarie Gillilan, Quarry Hill Farm, Jeffersonville,
\$16,750

Brian, Chanin, Ronald, Brian, Joanne, & Kevin Hill, Four
Hills Farm Partnership, Bristol, \$20,000

Matt & Jennifer Hull, Dalestead Farm and Maple,
Enosburg Falls, \$40,000

James Jones, Jones Farm, Craftsbury, \$39,469

Ramsay & Caroline Mellish, Standard Milk, Cornwall,
\$35,000

Justin & Angeline Poulin, Poulin & Daughters Family
Farm, Brookfield, \$10,500

Jamie & Laura Rivers, J & L Dairy, Troy, \$40,000

Jacques & Roberta Royer, J&R Family Farm, North Troy,
\$40,000

Jeremy & Jennie Russo, Southwind Farm, North Rupert,
\$40,000

Caleb & Jessie Smith, Dorset Peak Jerseys, Danby, \$40,000

Ron Sweet, Jr., Bedrock Farm, Georgia, \$25,000

Tracy & Glen Tupper, Tupper Farm, Benson, \$30,000

Mark & Cecile Vosburg, Vosburg Farm, Swanton, \$40,000