

February 12, 2020

FY19 Water Quality Grants Program Overview

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board's Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program used funding from Vermont's Capital Construction and State Bonding Act to continue the Water Quality Grants Program for a second year. This program offers grants of up to \$40,000 to help Vermont farmers make capital investments in water quality-related farm infrastructure. Grants are available to all Vermont farmers who meet the eligibility criteria: farms must be commercial scale businesses and be required to comply with Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices.



Vermont Housing &
Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST
VIABILITY PROGRAM

In FY19, the Water Quality Grants Program received over \$1.2 million in funding requests and **awarded \$702,377 in grant funds to 22 farms**. These **grants leveraged nearly \$5.3 million**, a ratio of **7.5:1**, in farm cash, loans, and state, federal and other grant funds. Twenty of the 22 grants assisted farms in completing projects where the majority of funding is coming from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and/or Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Best Management Practices or Capital Equipment Assistance Programs. The Water Quality Grants typically support farmers in paying for project components that state and federal grant programs cannot cover or assist farmers who are otherwise unable to meet their required match for state and federal funding.

Farms are located across Vermont, with a majority in Addison, Rutland, and Orleans counties. **17 farms are located in the Lake Champlain watershed, 4 are located in the Lake Memphremagog watershed, and 1 is located in the Connecticut River watershed**. The farms range in size: 7 are small farm operations, 11 are certified small farm operations, 3 are medium farm operations, and 1 is a large farm operation. 9 (41%) of the farms are certified organic and 16 (73%) of the farms own or manage conserved land.

These grants supported many different types of projects, including production area improvements, manure management projects, farm equipment, and pasture management.



James and Nicole Jones own and operate an 80-cow dairy at Jones Farm in Craftsbury, VT. In FY18, they received a \$39,469 Water Quality grant to install covered heifer manure storage, which was designed and also funded by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. The project allows the farm to store manure until conditions are optimal for spreading it, and has resulted in improved soil health, animal management, farm efficiency, and reduced runoff.

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Water Quality Grant Awards:

Joseph, Claudia & Rebecca Allen; Allendale Farm;
Panton

\$40,000 for equipment to manage manure

Jennifer & Andy Andrews; JASA Family Farm;
Newport and Coventry

\$40,000 for a new manure pit

Ernest, Eugene & Earl Audet; Blue Spruce Farm
Inc.; Bridport

*\$40,000 for a feed bunker runoff collection and
containment system*

Jill & Amerigo Balzano; Walnut Hill Farm; Pawlet
*\$20,000 for manure management equipment and
barn drainage improvements*

Joe & Emily Donegan; Donegan Family Dairy;
Charlotte

\$8,500 for a new manure pond

Tina Durrance & Peter Decker; New Venture Farm;
Morgan

*\$40,000 for a concrete barnyard to capture waste,
reduce erosion, and provide animals with outdoor
access in winter*

Kitty & Lyle Edwards and Sebastian Latraverse;
Spring Brook Farm; Westfield

\$40,000 for new manure storage capacity

George Foster; Foster Brothers Farm; Middlebury,
VT

\$40,000 for a no-till grain drill

Harold Howrigan; HJ&A Howrigan and Sons, Inc.;
Fairfield, VT

\$8,191 for a no-till planter*

Niko & Lianna Horster; Shire Beef; Vershire
\$11,500 for a woodchip barnyard

Logan, Bradley & Gigi Judd; Judd Dairy, LLC; Derby
*\$40,000 for manure management & barn
infrastructure improvements*

Ken Leach & Joanne Chickering, Ken Leach Farm,
N. Rupert

*\$40,000 for a new barn for young and dry cows
that will improve manure management*

Seth & Brian Leach; Woodlawn Holsteins; Pawlet
*\$40,000 for infrastructure related to transitioning
to more grass-based production*

Joanna & Adam Lidback; The Farm at Wheeler
Mountain; Westmore
*\$22,000 for purchase of a manure spreader to
complement manure management infrastructure
improvements*

Marc & Tiffany Marquis, Marquis Organic Dairy
Farm, Newport Center
*\$3,686 for materials needed to implement a new
rotational grazing plan*

Phelan & Kelsey O'Connor; Pigasus Meats; S. Hero
*\$40,000 for a composting winter hog production
facility*

Jacques & Roberta Royer, J&R Family Farm, N. Troy
*\$40,000 for manure management infrastructure
improvements*

Pat Saltis; Saltis Farm Inc.; Poultney
*\$38,500 for purchase of a round bale wrapper and
silage baler to eliminate nutrient runoff from feed*

Joe & Nate Severy; Severy Farm LLC; Cornwall
*\$40,000 for improved cow facilities and manure
storage infrastructure*

Dave Seward; Seward Farm; E. Wallingford
\$40,000 for construction of a covered barnyard

Tracy & Glen Tupper, Tupper Farm, Brandon
*\$30,000 for exclusion fencing, barnyard and
manure management improvements*

Mark & Cecile Vosburg, Vosburg Farm, Swanton
*\$40,000 for new manure storage infrastructure to
eliminate groundwater contamination*

*Farm was awarded a total of \$40,000: \$8,191 in water quality
grant funds and the balance in dairy improvement grant funds.