

# FY18 Water Quality Grants Program Overview



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

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 start the new Water Quality Grants Program. 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.

In its first year, the Water Quality Grants Program received over \$1 million in funding requests and **awarded \$647,573 in grant funds to 22 farms**. These **grants leveraged \$5.3 million**, a ratio of 8:1, in farm cash, loans, and state, federal and other grant funds. Seventeen 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 who have received grants from this program **manage a total of 15,797 acres**. Farms are located across Vermont, with a majority in Addison, Franklin, and Orleans counties. **19 farms are located in the Lake Champlain watershed, 2 are located in the Lake Memphremagog watershed, and 1 is located in the Connecticut River watershed**. Many farms are located in high priority areas within the Lake Champlain basin: 6 in Missisquoi Bay, 2 in St. Albans Bay, and 3 in South Lake. The farms range in size: 6 are small farm operations, 13 are certified small farm operations, 2 are medium farm operations, and 1 is a large farm operation. 9 (41%) of the farms are organic.

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



*Brian and Cindy Kayhart operate a 30-cow dairy and raise 75 head of beef cattle at Chalker Farm in Vergennes, VT. They received an \$11,829 Water Quality grant to install a rotational grazing system designed in partnership with staff at UVM Extension and partially funded by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The long-term investment will convert cropland along the river back into sod, thereby reducing erosion and soil compaction. The project will have positive impacts on soil health, cattle health, and farm profitability.*

## Water Quality Grant Awards:

**Andy & Sarah Birch, Maple Grove Farm, Derby**

*\$40,000 for a manure storage facility and barnyard improvements*

**Greg Bouchard, Bouchard Family Dairy, Franklin**

*\$40,000 for a dragline manure injection system to reduce nutrient loss and soil compaction*

**Laurie & Daniel Brooks, Wayward Goose Farm, West Pawlet**

*\$40,000 to build a covered barnyard and manure storage facility*

**Dana & Wendy Burkewitz, Breezy Valley Farm, Westfield**

*\$34,375 for a manure pit, runoff capture, and barnyard improvements*

**Marc & Cheryl Cesario, Meeting Place Pastures, Cornwall**

*\$20,450 for a bedded pack barn, barnyard improvements, and animal trails to reduce erosion*

**AnnMarie Gillilan, Quarry Hill Farm, Jeffersonville**

*\$16,750 for a covered manure storage structure*

**Melanie & Patrick Harrison, Harrison's Homegrown, Addison**

*\$25,000 for a bedded pack heifer barn with a runoff collection system*

**Brian, Chanin, Ronald, Brian, Joanne, & Kevin Hill, Four Hills Farm Partnership, Bristol**

*\$20,000 for two manure storage facilities*

**Richard Hulett, Stonebroke Farm, Pawlet**

*\$40,000 for a bedded pack heifer barn with a leachate collection system*

**Matt & Jennifer Hull, Dalestead Farm and Maple, Enosburg Falls**

*\$40,000 for a manure storage facility and manure management equipment*

**James Jones, Jones Farm, Craftsbury**

*\$39,469 for heifer barn manure storage and fencing at stream crossings*

**Brian & Cindy Kayhart, Chalker Farm, Vergennes**

*\$11,829 to implement a rotational grazing system*

**Jennifer & Jesse Lambert, Lambert Farm, Washington**

*\$10,000 for a milkhouse wastewater improvement project*

**Seth & Brian Leach, Woodlawn Holsteins, Pawlet**

*\$25,000 for no-till planting equipment*

**Julie Longway, Longway Farms, Swanton**

*\$40,000 to relocate a silage bunker and capture leachate runoff*

**Ramsay & Caroline Mellish, Standard Milk, Cornwall**

*\$35,000 for a water quality and manure management project*

**Patrick & Karen O'Donnell, O'Donnell Farm, Westfield**

*\$14,200 for manure injection equipment to reduce runoff from nutrient application*

**Justin & Angeline Poulin, Poulin & Daughters Family Farm, Brookfield**

*\$10,500 for two manure storage facilities*

**Jamie & Laura Rivers, J & L Dairy, Troy**

*\$40,000 for manure pit upgrades and barnyard improvements*

**Caleb & Jessie Smith, Dorset Peak Jerseys, Danby**

*\$40,000 for a covered barnyard, manure storage, and pumping & waste transfer facilities*

**Ron Sweet, Jr., Bedrock Farm, St. Albans**

*\$25,000 for a wastewater and manure storage farmstead project*

**Chris & Annie Wagner, Green Dream Farm, Franklin**

*\$40,000 for a covered barnyard area and bedded pack heifer barns with runoff collection*