



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM



FARMERS FEED THE WORLD WE HELP THEM DO IT

Water Quality Grants

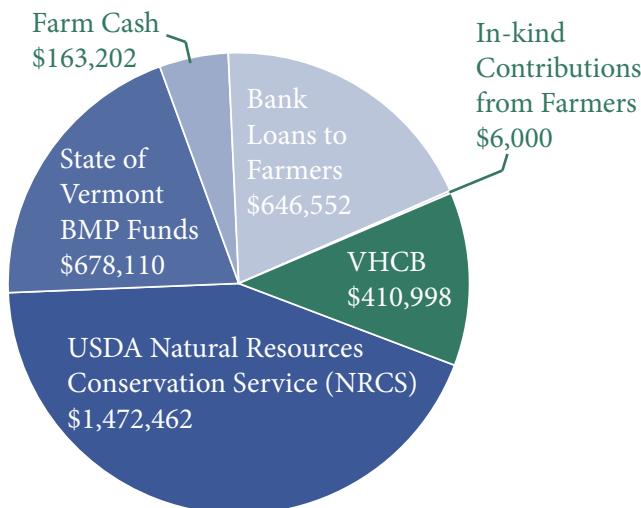
Brian and Cindy Kayhart operate a 30-cow dairy and raise 75 head of beef cattle at Chalker Farm in Vergennes, VT. They received an \$11,829 Water Quality Grant to help them implement a rotational grazing plan designed in partnership with staff at UVM Extension and partially funded by the USDA Natural 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.

The Water Quality Grants, funded by the State of Vermont's Capital Construction and Bonding Act, help farmers make water quality related capital improvements to on-farm infrastructure. As of January 2018, the Viability Program has awarded \$410,998. Grantees are located across the state, including in the high priority south lake portion of Lake Champlain, St. Albans Bay, and Missisquoi Bay watersheds. Anticipated outcomes include improvements in compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices, soil health, environmental stewardship, labor efficiency, sales, animal welfare, energy efficiency, job creation, and employee safety. Grantees include one medium farm, seven certified small farm, and six small farm operations.

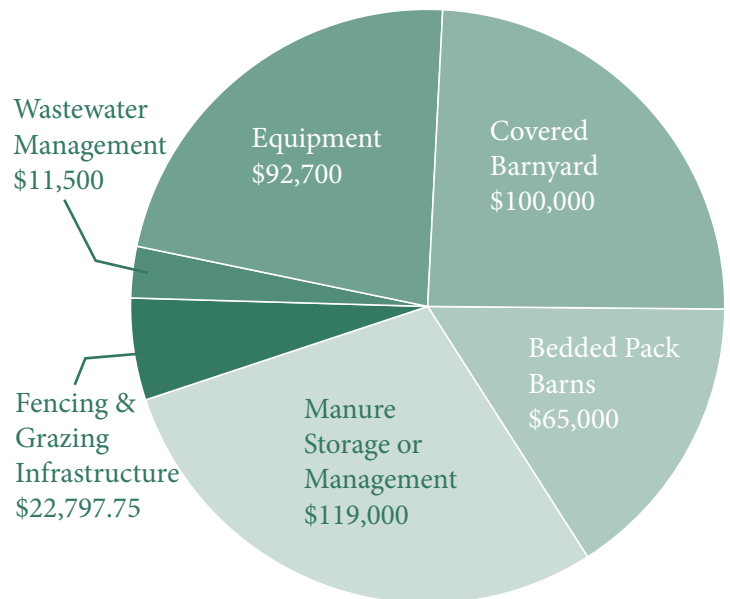
14 Farms Awarded \$410,998

Leveraging 7:1
An additional \$2.96 million investment
&
Impacting 7,000 acres

Total funding for all projects



Uses of grant funds



Dorset Peak Jerseys Danby



Credit: Jessie Smith

Caleb and Jessie Smith run Dorset Peak Jerseys in Danby. They milk 65 cows and sell milk to AgriMark and at their farmstand. Water Quality Grant funds will support a project also funded by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets to build a freestall barn and covered barnyard for heifers and milk cows, year round manure storage, and associated pumping and transfer facilities. The project will improve manure collection and storage for the farmstead and will keep precipitation out of the waste stream. Housing animals in a freestall barn will also allow full mechanization of the feeding and cleaning of the new building, making the farm operation much more efficient. This farm is located in the Otter Creek subwatershed of Lake Champlain.

Greg Bouchard, Bouchard Family Dairy, Franklin
\$40,000 for a dragline manure application system

Jennifer & Jesse Lambert, Lambert Farm, Washington
\$10,000 to renovate milkhouse wastewater system

Laurie & Dan Brooks, Wayward Goose Farm, West Pawlet
\$40,000 to build a covered barnyard & manure storage facility

Ramsay & Caroline Mellish, Standard Milk, Cornwall
\$35,000 to renovate manure management system

Melanie & Patrick Harrison, Harrison's Homegrown, Addison
\$25,000 for a new heifer barn to reduce runoff

Karen & Patrick O'Donnell, O'Donnell Farm, Westfield
\$14,200 to purchase manure injection equipment

Richard Hulett, Stonebroke Farm, West Pawlet
\$40,000 to build a bedded pack barn with a leachate collection system

Justin & Angeline Poulin, Poulin and Daughters Family Farm, Brookfield
\$10,500 to build two manure storage facilities

Matt & Jennifer Hull, Dalestead Farm and Maple, Enosburg Falls
\$40,000 for a waste storage facility & manure management equipment

Caleb & Jessie Smith, Dorset Peak Jerseys, Danby
\$40,000 to build a covered barnyard & freestall barn

James & Nicole Jones, Jones Farm, Craftsbury
\$39,469 to build heifer manure storage & exclusion fencing

Ron Sweet, Bedrock Farm, St. Albans
\$25,000 to build wastewater & manure storage system

Brian & Cindy Kayhart, Chalker Farm, Vergennes
\$11,829 to create a rotational grazing system

Annie & Chris Wagner, Green Dream Farm, Enosburg Falls
\$40,000 for a covered barnyard to reduce runoff