Who are Vermont’s Aspiring and New Farmers?

The USDA definition of beginning farmers includes all farmers with less than 10 years in business in their current operation.

- **Vermont’s beginning farmers are a diverse group.** In addition to the “junior generation” taking over existing family farms, many Vermont new farmers come from non-farming backgrounds. They include young people who have chosen farming as their career; individuals seeking a change of profession; people establishing farms after early retirement; and immigrants and refugees.

  Of the 413 New Farmer Project participants from Vermont between 2010-present, 52% were under 35, and 28% were over 45. Of the total, 63% were women.

- **Vermont’s beginning farms produce many different products for diverse markets.** Today’s new farmers operate a variety of full- and part-time enterprises, and they tend to be more market-oriented and entrepreneurial than their historic counterparts.

  Of the 413 New Farmer Project participants from Vermont between 2010-present, 73% are interested in developing value-added enterprises.

Why are Beginning Farmers Important?

- **New farms make a significant contribution to Vermont’s agricultural economy and working landscape.** Of Vermont’s 6984 farms, about 26% are beginning farms. These businesses have an estimated market value of $85 million, about 12% of the market value of agricultural products sold in Vermont.

Where Can New Farmers Find Assistance?

- **The Vermont New Farmer Project helps people** overcome the initial and substantial challenges of establishing a successful farm business.

  Visit [http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer](http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer), or call 802-223-2389