



About Vermont's New Farmers

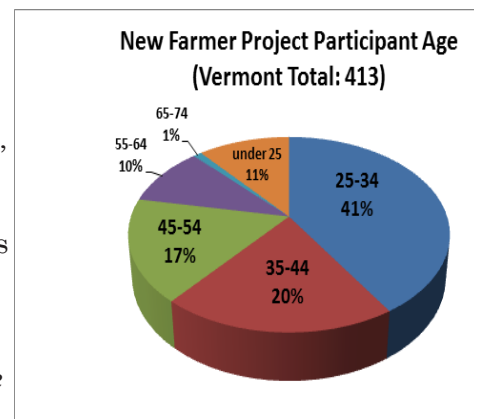
University of Vermont Extension CENTER for SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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.

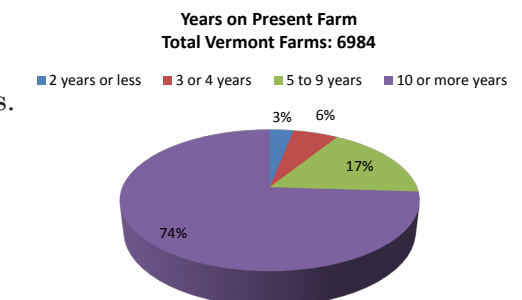
- **Vermont's beginning farmers are a diverse group.** In addition to the "junior generation" taking over existing family farms, many Vermont new farmers come from non-farming backgrounds. They include young people who have chosen farming as their career; individuals seeking a change of profession; people 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>, or call 802-223-2389

This project was supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant # 2011-49400-30500. To find more resources for beginning farmers and ranchers, please visit www.Start2Farm.gov, a component of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

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