



About Vermont's New Farmers

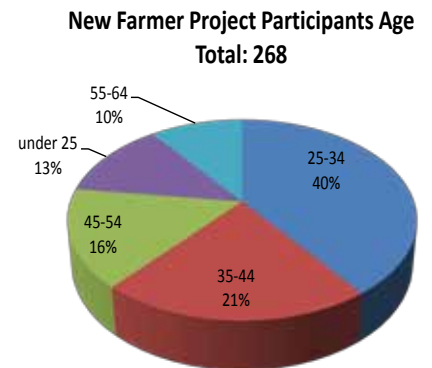
University of Vermont Extension CENTER for SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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.

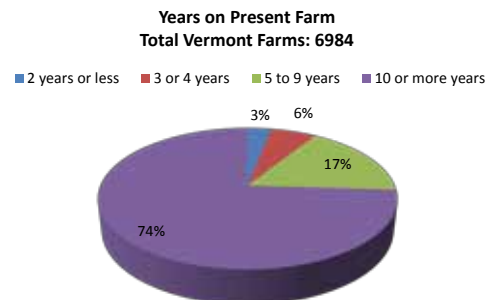
- **Vermont's beginning farmers are a diverse group.** In addition to the "junior generation" taking over existing family farms, many Vermont new farmers come from non-farming backgrounds. They include young people who have chosen farming as their career; individuals seeking a change of profession; people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

Of the 268 New Farmer Project participants in 2010 and 2011, 40% were under 35, and 39 percent were over 45. Of the total, 65 percent 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 268 New Farmer Project participants in 2010 and 2011, 71% 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 UVM New Farmer Project helps people** overcome the initial and substantial challenges of establishing a successful farm business. Working with partnering organizations, we assist farmers with access to financial capital, land, markets and production and business management information and expertise.

For more information:
visit <http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer>, or call 802-223-2389

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