UVM Extension’s Center for Sustainable Agriculture is offering a hands-on workshop on practical food safety for small and diversified farms who market directly and locally.

With the increase in food borne illnesses associated with fresh produce, produce buyers and consumers are increasingly aware of and concerned about produce safety and on-farm food safety practices. Growers who understand how to identify potential food safety risks and take practical steps to address them on their farms are not only better able to protect their markets, but will also improve produce quality and the overall efficiency of their operations.

**Join us for the following day-long workshop** to see how practical -- and affordable -- food safety practices are being implemented on a diversified farm. In the morning, we will examine and learn the specifics of how contamination can happen on small farms. You will identify aspects of your own operation that may need attention.

In the afternoon, we will visit Jericho Settler’s Farm to observe and discuss their on-farm food safety practices, how they were implemented, and their impact on produce safety and farm management. By the end of the day, **you will have created a two-page draft of your own On-Farm Food Safety Plan** with specific action-steps needed to implement it. This can be shared with interested retail customers, local and wholesale buyers.

**Note:** Although this workshop lays the foundation to help you prepare for a Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) audit certification, it is designed for farmers who do NOT intend to become GAP certified in the near future. The workshop is appropriate for both organic and conventional growers.

**DATE:** April 10, 8:30 – 4:00
**LOCATION:** Richmond Free Library Community Room, 201 Bridge St., Richmond VT

*Afternoon visit to Jericho Settlers Farm, Jericho, VT*

Christa Alexander and Mark Fasching grow vegetables and raise grassfed beef, pork, lamb and chickens (for eggs and meat) on 165 acres in Jericho and Richmond. Hoop houses are used for year-round vegetable production and overwintering the farm's laying flock. Christa and Mark market their products through a CSA, on-site farm-stand, farmers' markets, local stores and restaurants.

**Instructors:** Lynn Blevins (UVM Extension Produce Safety Program and epidemiologist), Hans Estrin (UVM Extension Local Foods Buying Program and Windham Farm and Food Network Coordinator), Ginger Nickerson (UVM Extension Produce Safety Outreach Coordinator), Christa Alexander and Mark Fasching (Farmers)
REGISTRATION FORM: Practical Food Safety

Space is limited, sign up now! Fee of $30 includes handouts and lunch**

Name and Farm Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________________________________________________________

E-mail: _____________________________________________________________________________

What to bring: We will be writing the farm plans on laptop computers. You can either borrow a laptop from UVM Extension, or bring your own. If you choose to use your own laptop, we will e-mail you documents to download prior to the workshop. If you choose to borrow a laptop, please bring a thumbdrive so you can save your documents. Please let Ginger know beforehand if you are not comfortable with computers and would like assistance.

Will you need to borrow a laptop? Yes No

Lunch will consist of a sandwich and a side dish.

Please circle the type of sandwich you would like: Meat Vegetarian

Please let Lynn.blevins@uvm.edu know if you have special dietary needs

Please tell us about your farm to help us tailor the workshop:

- Do you have livestock on your farm? Yes No
- Do you have on-farm visitors through an on-farm farmstand, a CSA, or agritourism? Yes No
- Is your farm certified organic? Yes No

On-farm follow-up: Would you be interested in having us visit your farm later in the year to evaluate the workshop’s effectiveness in helping people improve operations on their farms? Yes No Not sure

To register: complete this registration form and mail by April 3, 2012 with a check for $30** (made out to UVM) to: Cheryl Herrick, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 106 Highpoint Center, Suite 300, Colchester, VT 05446, or else call Cheryl with a credit card at 802-656-5459.

**If two people are attending from one farm, the cost is $15 per person. Scholarships are available upon request. To request a scholarship or disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Ginger Nickerson at (802) 505-8189 or gnickers@uvm.edu by April 3, at the latest so we may assist you.