Linda Berlin, Director of UVM’s Center for Sustainable Agriculture, announces that the New Farmer and Pasture Programs have expanded with the addition of staff.

Juan Alvez became the Pasture Program Technical Coordinator in early June. Juan recently received his Ph.D. from UVM in Natural Resources, with a dissertation focused on livestock management, ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods. Juan was born in Uruguay and spent time in Brazil pursuing his undergraduate education. He came to Vermont to study management-intensive grazing with Dr. Bill Murphy and has enjoyed Vermont so much that he and his family are here to stay.

Kimberly Hagen is the new Pasture Program Outreach Coordinator, familiar to many Vermont grazing farmers as the most recent president of the Vermont Grass Farmers Association and owner of Osprey Hill Farm in Middlesex. She is focusing on helping farmers write and implement grazing plans.

Ali Zipparo is a temporary employee working with both the New Farmer and Local Food programs this spring. She comes to the Center with wide-ranging experience in sustainable agriculture, including work with VHCB Farm Viability Program. She also has experience working on an organic farm, and started an urban community garden in Connecticut.

Established in 1994, the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture provides timely information to Vermont communities and the UVM campus. The Center cultivates partnerships, supports innovative research and practices, and informs policy to advance sustainable food and farming systems.

For more information, contact Linda Berlin at the Center: 656-0669 or linda.berlin@uvm.edu.

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