

Food Systems



UVM Transdisciplinary Research Initiative “Spires of Excellence”

The University of Vermont

The Food Systems Spire focuses on the critical role of our local, regional, national and global food systems as they, in turn, affect soil and water quality, human health and nutrition, global economics, packaging and transportation interests, and overall food and energy security. Food Systems is a nascent field of study nationally and an emerging strength at UVM that is particularly well-suited to the UVM Land Grant mission of research and engagement in the 21st century.

The focused investment in a UVM Food Systems Spire is intended to give our University the ability to inform complex 21st-century issues — in Vermont and around the world — surrounding food production, the environment, nutrition and public health, food security, food safety, rural economic development, biofuels, and more.



Student	Title	Advisor	Presentation Location
Juan Alvez	Dairy management, ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods	Jon Erickson	Poster: 70, Morning
Colin Arisman	Ecological and Economic Sustainability through Cooperative Agriculture: Scaling up agroecology through payments for ecosystem services in the Intag Region of Ecuador	Joshua Farley	Oral: Chittenden, 4:15
Jordan Armstrong	Ovipositional ability of geographic poulations of Colorado potato beetle <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> on native and novel host	Yolanda Fanslow	Oral: Mildred Livak, 8:00
Joshua Bakelaar	Impacts of Season Extension Pasture Management in Vermont	Deborah Neher	Oral: Chittenden, 1:30
Florence Becot	Economic Impact and Policy Implications of Food Safety Certification on Produce Farms in Vermont	David Conner	Oral: Chittenden, 9:00
Monica Beers	Effect of Compost Treatments on Generalist Predator Abundance in Agroecosystems	Yolanda Fanslow	Poster: 49, Afternoon
Rebecca Calder	Expression and biological activity of recombinant bovine IL-22: a key cytokine in mucosal defenses	John Barlow	Oral: Mildred Livak, 10:15
Lily Calderwood	Evaluation of mixed cover crop as organic, biological pest control in hops	Heather Darby	Oral: Frank Livak, 1:45
Sebastian Castro	Evaluation of sampling methods and statistical models for predicting fruit load on individual Coffee arabica trees	Victor Mendez	Oral: Frank Livak, 1:30
Tad Cooke	Feedstock Development and Analysis for On-Farm Compost Energy Systems	Allen Matthews	Oral: Chittenden, 12:45
Chelsea Davidoff	Creating Taste of Place for Vermont: An Analysis of Consumers’Willingness to Pay	Jane Kolodinsky	Oral: Chittenden, 8:00
Meagan DiVito	Evaluating the Physical Activity Levels of Head Start Children Using the CATCH Curriculum	Jean Berino	Poster: 36, Afternoon
Simonne Eisenhardt	Effectiveness of an Online, Interactive Energy Balance Curriculum for Young Adults	Stephen Pintauro	Poster: 2, Afternoon
Marigo Farr	Soil Quality and Climate Implications of Agroecological Practices on Vermont Farms	Joshua Farley	Oral: Chittenden, 3:45
Erin Flynn	Media Discourse Analysis of Sugar Sweetened Beverage Taxes	Richard Watts	Poster: 61, Afternoon
Danika Frisbie	An Evolutionary Analysis of the “Organics Recycling” Industry in the U.S.	Rocki-Lee DeWitt	Oral: Mildred Livak, 11:45
Anya Gedrath-Smith	Time for Tea: The Sustainable Development of Tea Tourism in Nepal	Pablo Bose	Oral: Frank Livak, 4:15
Jonathan Gonzalez	The influence of ungulate grazing history and soil biota on plant tolerance to simulated herbivory	Alison Brody	Poster: 90, Afternoon
Samuel Gorton	Ecological Design and Evaluation for Integrated Food-Energy Systems	Mary Watzin	Poster: 82, Afternoon
Victor Izzo	Plant-mediated diapuse initiation in <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> , the Colorado potato beetle.	Yolanda Fanslow	Oral: Mildred Livak, 8:30
Michael Kirk	Opportunities and Obstacles in Accessing Local Markets for Small and Medium-Scale Livestock Producers in Vermont	David Conner	Poster: 33, Morning
Joseph Labrum	Phylogeography of Colorado Potato Beetle (<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>): inferring the history of an agricultural pest	Yolanda Fanslow	Poster: 20, Morning
Katherine Leugers	Incorporation of a Skills-Based PA Curriculum in a High School Health Class	Connie Tompkins	Poster: 59, Afternoon
Qiong Liu	Examining spatial autocorrelation for obesity in northern new England	Brian Lee	Oral: Jost, 12:45
Catherine McGoldrick	Post-Relocation Analysis of Compost Runoff at the Intervale Composting Facility, Burlington, VT	Donald Ross	Oral: Mildred Livak, 11:00
Alexandra Miller	Laboratory Rearing of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug for Biological Control Research to Benefit Vermont Growers.	Bruce Parker	Oral: Jost, 8:00
Alison Nihart	Identifying a cohesive urban agriculture policy for Burlington, VT	Stephanie Kaza	Poster: 72, Morning
Tharshani Nishanthan	Role of soil microbial extracellular enzymes in soybean cyst nematode suppressive soil	Deborah Neher	Oral: Williams, 10:30
Peter Oswald	Exploring Marketing Strategies and Their Effectiveness for Vermont Wine and Cheese Farmers	Chyi-Lyi Liang	Poster: 43, Morning
Mital Pandya	Molecular characterization of bovine major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I & II genes	John Barlow	Poster: 1, Afternoon
Matthew Pescatore	Multifunctional Agriculture in the Northeast: Motivations and Impacts of Diversified Farm Activities	Chyi-Lyi Liang	Poster: 26, Afternoon
Meagan Pharis	Evaluating Nutrition Intervention Programs: A Social Cognitive Theory Approach	Jane Kolodinsky	Oral: Chittenden, 8:15
Matthew Putnam	Leverage Points for a Healthier Future: Using Structural Equation Modeling to Understand Obesity	Jane Kolodinsky	Oral: Chittenden, 8:30
Olivia Saucier	A social history of organic dairy production in the United States	Robert Parsons	Poster: 28, Afternoon
Noelle Sevoian	How farm to institution actors make sense of the supply chain they are a part of: Interviews of buyers, distributors, and farmers in Vermont	David Conner	Poster: 34, Morning
Rebecca Standish	Importance of Biosecurity on Vermont Farms	Julia Smith	Oral: Jost, 3:30
Todd Stanley	Evaluating the Nutritional Status of the Thru-Hiking Community	Jean Berino	Oral: Mildred Livak, 10:30
Christopher Tardie	Determining Water Content in Snow-packs through Gamma Radiation Measurements	Jeff Frolik	Poster: 39, Afternoon
Leslie Turner	The State of Food Systems Planning and Implementation Network Governance in the United States	Christopher Koliba	Poster: 58, Morning
Laurel Valchuis	Exploring the Relationship between Engagement with the Food System and Healthy Eating	David Conner	Oral: Chittenden, 9:15
Chloe Wieland	Evaluation of Growing Vermont Store	David Conner	Oral: Chittenden, 9:30
Abigail Zuckerman	Food Justice in Vermont: Exploring Community Awareness of Bias-Free Policing Initiatives in Franklin and Addison County Vermont	Victor Mendez	Poster: 47, Morning