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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL SELECTS NORTHEASTERN VERMONT REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND HARVEST HILL FARM FOR 2011 VERMONT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AWARD

Colchester, VT – The Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council has announced their selection of St. Johnsbury’s Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital and partner Harvest Hill Farm for their partnership. The award was presented to farmer Bill Half at the NOFA-VT Winter Conference on February 12 at UVM’s Davis Center.

According to Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets Chuck Ross, “The Council was impressed by the work that both partners have done to support agriculture in the Northeast Kingdom, and we appreciated the fact that this is a relationship that not only benefits one farm, and the community who uses the hospital, but also has helped other farms find a market for their products. It’s a partnership that truly benefits the whole region.”

The nominating letter described the effect of their work:

Bill has been an active member of his community for the past 10 years, working with schools in Walden as well as Saint Johnsbury. He has had a relationship with NVRH since 2005, when he started selling them potatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, summer squash, broccoli, carrots, radishes, kale, and many other types of fresh and storage vegetables.

In 2008, NVRH signed onto Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge. As part of the pledge, NVRH works to source as much local food as they can (including vegetables from Harvest Hill Farm), coordinate an employee CSA (which has just completed its 3rd year, and is also supplied by Harvest Hill), and educate patients and staff about the importance of healthful eating.

Past recipients of the Sustainable Farm of the Year award include: Post Oil Solutions, Does Leap Farm, Bakersfield; Shelburne Vineyards, Shelburne; Shelburne Orchards, Shelburne; Harlow Farm, Westminster; Intervale Community Farm, Burlington; Butterworks Farm, Westfield; Lilac Ridge Farm, West Brattleboro; and Adams Farm, Wilmington; Golden Russet Farm, Shoreham; Blue Spruce Farm, Bridport, Someday Farm in East Dorset, La Platte River Angus, Shelburne and Choiniere Family Farm, Highgate.

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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