

STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

with the Agroecology & Livelihoods Collaborative

Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change & Farmer Networks in Northern New England

We are seeking highly motivated ENVS seniors looking for a thesis or internship capstone project in agroecology, climate change and farming in the Northeast to join a research team led by a graduate student in the Plant and Soil Science Department.

What information do farmers and outreach professionals need to best support vegetable and berry growers in adapting to the impacts of climate change? This research project seeks to identify emerging trends and innovative strategies which farmers are using to successfully adapt to extreme weather on vegetable and berry farms in New England. The purpose of this study is to generate usable information, and is based on the idea that many farmers are actively and successfully adapting to severe weather to sustain the economic viability and ecological health of their farms.

In this first year of this project, the research team will go to farmer meetings and conferences across Northern New England to administer a survey on adaptive management.



Scope of Work:

- Travel to 4-8 Farmer Conferences in VT, NH, ME & MA
- Assist in administering a survey to 250 farmers in VT, NH, ME & MA
- Assist in outreach of UVM Ext & USDA Climate Hub Materials
- Assist in transcription & cleaning data
- Assist in ALC literature reviews

Applicants Should Have:

- interest in PAR & Agroecology
- Familiarity & passion for sustainable agriculture
- Interest in climate change
- Interest in qualitative methods
- Comfortable talking to farmers
- Interest in outreach

- **Dates:** October 20th 2017– May 1st 2018
- **Time Commitment:** Approximately 100 hours. Some compensation is available at a rate at \$10/hour for up to 60 hours of paid time in data processing. Travel costs to farmer conferences will be covered.
- **Student will gain skills** in communicating with farmers, qualitative data collection and management, ODK, outreach to farmer groups, collaborative writing projects with graduate level writers, PAR.

Graduate Research Supervisor: Alissa White

Faculty Advisors: V. Ernesto Mendez & Joshua Faulkner

Interested? Contact Alissa.White@uvm.edu