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News and Updates

Next Week: Farm Tour at Rockbottom Dairy

Rockbottom Farm, 53 Rockbottom Rd, Strafford, VT 05072

Tuesday, September 22, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Have you registered for the Future-Ready Dairy Farm Tour this Tuesday at Rockbottom Farm in Strafford, VT? You won't want to miss it! Join us for the tour and conversations with second- and third-generation farmers Earl and Jackson Ransom. Learn about the new technologies and pasture management strategies they're using and how they keep things sweet with value-added dairy production and their successful Strafford Organic Creamery business. Plus, enjoy milk from the creamery!

This event is free, but preregistration is required.

Learn More and Preregister Now



CEMA 216 Soil Health Testing Training: A Hands-on Training for Technical Assistance Providers

Wednesday, October 14, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms, 2009 N Gate Rd, Shelburne, VT 05482

Cost: This training is free. An optional catered lunch will be available for an additional $25.

Join UVM Extension, UVM's Soil Health Research and Extension Center (SHREC) team, and Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff for this hands-on training on Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity 216 (CEMA 216) under the USDA NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program. **Participating technical assistance providers will learn about the Qualified Individual (QI) role, understand the requirements to qualify as a QI, and gain hands-on experience collecting and preparing CEMA 216 soil health samples.**

Enroll Before October 7 to Reserve Your Spot



Free Film Screening: ***The State of Farming***

Monday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 20, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Welden Theatre, 104 N Main St, St Albans City, VT 05478

You're invited to a screening of ***The State of Farming***, a new documentary on the story of Vermont agriculture through the voices of the farmers who live it every day.

The film offers an honest, first-hand look at the opportunities and challenges shaping farming in Vermont today. From food production and local economies to water quality, environmental stewardship, regulations, and the future of working lands, the documentary explores the vital role agriculture plays in communities across the state.

The film screening will be followed by a discussion and Q+A with a panel of local farmers. Come enjoy the show and support local agriculture!

The State of Farming is proudly produced by Monument Farms, the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council, the Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance, and Mt. Mansfield Media.

This event is presented by the Franklin and Grand Isle Farmers Watershed Alliance and UVM Extension. Our thanks to Bourdeau Brothers, Inc., for generously sponsoring this event and supporting our agricultural community!

Seats are Limited! Reserve Your Tickets Today!

New Videos Available on the NWCS YouTube Channel

There are five new videos available on our YouTube channel, produced by UVM Extension Outreach Professional Andy Chamberlin. Click below to watch them and learn about agricultural research and new technology being used on Vermont farms.



Forage Quality Research with Amber Blodgett



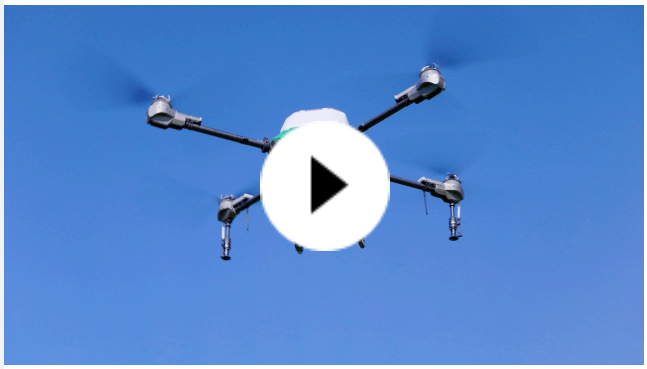
No-Till Planter Overview with Jeff Sanders



Air Seeding a Hay Field with Jeff Sanders



Precision Agriculture at Dodd Farms: Liquid Fertilizer



Interseeding Cover Crops into Standing Corn Using a Drone

SHREC Lab Now Accepting CEMA 216 Soil Samples

The UVM Soil Health Research and Extension Center (SHREC) lab is now accepting soil samples that meet NRCS Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA) 216 requirements. Farmers enrolling in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the new Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) are required by the USDA to complete soil health testing. This standardized testing package measures five core soil health indicators, providing a comprehensive assessment of soil function to support conservation planning and program participation.

SHREC staff are informing technical service providers, practitioners, and soil scientists across the state about testing options and how to integrate soil health data into management decisions.

SHREC CEMA 216 Soil Health Testing Package

Upcoming Events

Tri-State Dairy Exchange Monthly Webinar Series: Advancing Dairy Systems through Technology

Topic: Calf Feeding Technologies

Wednesday, September 30, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join the team of Dairy Extension Professionals from UMaine, UNH, and UVM and guests for live monthly webinars held midday on the last Wednesday of each month. Sessions focus on current dairy research and programs happening in the tri-state region, including interviews, presentations, and roundtable discussions. Tune in live to stay up-to-date and join the conversation.

Watch Previous Webinars **Register Now**

Navigating Funding Opportunities for Vermont Dairy Producers Workshops

Download event flyer

Join the UVM Extension Dairy Team and partners to learn about grants and other funding opportunities available to Vermont dairy producers. Review the 2026–2027 funding schedule and learn what types of projects are eligible for funding. Experts will share tips, strategies, and resources to help you navigate the grant application process, including how to craft your farm's purpose statement and collect supporting data and documentation for your project. Connect with representatives from relevant funding organizations and get answers to your project-specific questions.

The UVM Extension Dairy Team is hosting four identical workshops in different locations. **Each workshop will cover the same content, so please register for the location that is most convenient for you.**

- Workshop #1: Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., People's Trust Company, 59 Franklin Park West, St. Albans, VT 05478
- Workshop #2: Thursday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Middlebury Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT 05753
- Workshop #3: Tuesday, November 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Billings Farm, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock, VT 05091
- Workshop #4: Thursday, November 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Poulin Grain, 3916 US Route 5, Derby, VT 05829

Register Now

Outcroppings Blog



Soybean Production Practices that Maximize Yield and Enhance Environmental Stewardship in Northern U.S. Climates

By Elizabeth M. Seyler and the NWCS Team

Farmers in the Northeast seek ways to increase on-farm feed production and to diversify their operations to increase farm profitability and climate resilience. One promising crop is soybeans because it can be grown for human consumption, animal feed, and/or biodiesel. However, growing it in the relatively short northern growing season can be challenging, and there has been limited research-based guidance for farmers. In addition, when growing soybeans and many other crops, farmers seek management practices that reduce harmful impacts on water quality. In the 2022 to 2023 season, Dr. Heather Darby and the NWCS team conducted trials to: 1) evaluate soybean yield and quality under conventional growing conditions, 2) determine cover cropping management practices that enhance soil health and support high soybean yields, and 3) assess the impacts of reduced and no-till practices on soybean crops. Read our article to learn about highlights from the results.

Read the Full Article



Becoming Future-Ready: Skyline Holsteins' Journey to Organic

By Shannon MacDonald

Forty-five farmers, technical service providers, friends, and community members gathered at Skyline Holsteins on September 1 to celebrate a major milestone for owner and fourth-generation dairy farmer, Sheena Brown, and her partner, Ben Farrow. After almost two years of planning, learning, and transitioning, the farm is now certified to sell its milk to Stonyfield Organic. Read the full article to learn more about their transition to organic.

Read the Full Article

Photos



Daniel Bliss and Roger Rainville chopping corn for our neonic trial to determine whether neonic seed treatments affect yield.



After the corn is chopped, it will be dried down to determine dry matter yield.

Read NWCS Research Reports

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