

Farm Management Teams

Farm Management Teams (FMTs) offer a management strategy for Vermont farms that employ a team approach to problem solving.

Farmers select their own team of professionals to provide information and advice in all areas of farm management. Team input helps the producer set priorities and implement changes to improve practices, efficiency and profitability.

Farmers develop goals and present farm challenges to the group and, in concert with each other, team members help identify potential solutions and offer recommendations based on each team member's specific area of expertise. The producer then decides on the best course of action.

The farmers and their teams work with a trained facilitator who assists with managing the team meetings, taking notes, assigning tasks, following up and monitoring progress.



Farms that can benefit from a FMT are those who...

- Receive recommendations and advice from outside sources such as consultants and service providers
- Want to implement best agricultural practices
- Strive to improve productivity, efficiency, profitability, soil and water quality, and conservation
- Could benefit from assistance to learn about outside programs available and to choose best options for supports such as financial management, conservation practices, funding sources, and crop insurance
- Are considering changes to their enterprise, such as diversification, expansion, farm transition or succession planning, and modifications requiring significant capital
- Want to take a more comprehensive approach to managing the farm enterprise

The Farm Management Team (FMT) program assists producers interested in a team approach to planning and problem solving for their farm enterprise.

What is a Farm Management Team?

- A Farm Management Team is an advisory group that meets periodically, made up of a farmer and their most trusted advisors and consultants. There is no cost to the farmer.
- The team's primary purpose is problem solving for any farm related challenges.
- The core team typically has 4-8 team members.
- Additional experts may be invited to participate in a meeting to help address some specific problem or issue.



Team meetings

- Regular, scheduled meetings, usually 1 - 1.5 hours in length. Meetings are typically held quarterly, as determined by the farmer and facilitator.
- Written, shared agenda created by the farmer and the team facilitator
- Structured format
- Focused, productive discussion; notes taken and distributed by facilitator
- Systems for monitoring progress on action taken and results



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