

Alissa White, PhD

Senior Manager for Climate and Agriculture, American Farmland Trust
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EDUCATION

PhD in Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont
M.S. in Agroecology, University of Vermont
B.A. in Environmental Studies, University of California Santa Cruz

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Manager for Climate and Agriculture 2022 - current
American Farmland Trust

- Management of AFT's research, staff and outreach portfolio addressing climate change in New England

Research Associate 2021 - 2022
University of Vermont

- *Project manager*, The State of Soil Health in Vermont initiative, UVM Extension
- *Technical research contract manager*, Soil Health & Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & markets
- *Regenerative agriculture postdoctoral research fellow*, Gund Institute for Environment
- *Subcommittee appointee*, Vermont Climate Council, State of Vermont

Research Specialist 2018 - 2020
Center for Sustainable Agriculture Farming & Climate Change Program, University of Vermont

- *Coordinator*, Ecosystem services data integration on long term field trials
- *Field research leader*, Social science linking farm management & ecosystem services

Research Specialist & Operations Manager 2015 - 2018
Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative, University of Vermont

- *Project Coordinator*, New England Adaptation Survey
- *Climate research coordinator & liaison*, USDA Northeast Climate Hub & UVM
- *Grant writing specialist*, Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative
- *Grant writing specialist*, Neher Lab

Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator 2017 - 2019
Cornell University

- Climate Stewards Program, Institute for Climate Smart Communities

Perennial Nursery Operations Manager, Arcana Gardens & Greenhouses 2011 - 2015

Principal Landscape Designer, Perennial Abundance 2008 - 2011

Orchard Manager, Foundation for a Sustainable Future, at Teal Farm 2008 - 2009

Research & Operations Manager 2002 - 2006
University of California Santa Cruz

- *Administrative Assistant*, Program in Community and Agroecology
- *Program Manager*, Global Information Internship Program
- *Research Assistant*, Center for Global, International & Regional Studies

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Teaching Assistant, Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont 2016 - 2020

Instructor, Ceramics studio, Burlington City Arts 2011 - 2018

Adjunct Faculty, Burlington College 2013 - 2015

Instructor, Burlington Permaculture 2009 - 2013

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

White, A.W., Darby, H., and L.Ruhl. (in review). Long term influence of alternative corn cropping practices and corn-hay rotations on soil health and yields. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*.

Lawrence, G. Fernandez, I., **White, A.W.**, Contosa, A., Beier, C., Ross, D., ... & Lane, E., (in review). A Call for Regional Soil Carbon Networks that Promote the Collection and Utilization of Soil Data to Guide Climate Change Mitigation Strategies. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.

Sands, B., Machado, M., **White, A.**, Gould, R., and Zent, E. (in review). A decolonized definition for regenerative agriculture. *Agriculture and Human Values*.

White, A.W., Faulkner, J.W., Conner, D., Niles, M., and Mendez, V.E. (in review). The role of farmer networks in supporting adaptive capacity: Opening the door for innovation and transformation in the Northeastern US. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*.

White, A.W., Faulkner, J.W., Conner, D., Niles, M., and Mendez, V.E. (2022). How can you put a price on the Environment?: Farmer perspectives on stewardship and payment for ecosystem services. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. DOI: 10.2489/jswc.2022.00041

Neher, D., Harris, J., Horner, C., Scarborough, M., Badireddy, A., Faulkner, J., **White, A.**, Darby, H., Farley, J., and Bishop-von Wettberg, E. (2022). Resilient Soils for Resilient Farms: An Integrative Approach to Assess, Promote and Value Soil Health for Small- and Medium-Size Farms. *Phytobiomes 6(1)*. DOI: 10.1094/PBIOMES-10-21-0060-P

Utter, A., **White, A.W.**, Mendez, V.E. and K. Morris. (2021). Co-creation of knowledge in agroecology. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*. 9(1),00026. DOI: 10.1525/elementa.2021.00026

White, A.W., Faulkner, J. W., Conner, D., Barbieri, L., Adair, E. C., Niles, M. T., Mendez, V.E., & Twombly, C. R. (2021). Measuring the Supply of Ecosystem Services from Alternative Soil and Nutrient Management Practices: A Transdisciplinary, Field-Scale Approach. *Sustainability*, 13(18), 10303. DOI: 10.3390/su131810303

Birthisel, S.K., Soucy, A., Paul, M., Clements, R., **White, A.**, Eastman, B., Errickson, W., Zhu, L., Allen, M., Acquafredda, M., Mills, S., Dimmig, G., and Dittmer, K. (2020) Convergence, continuity and community: a framework for enabling emerging leaders to build climate solutions in agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture. *Climatic Change 162(4)*, 2181-2195. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-020-02844-w

Mason, R., Anderzen, J., Bucini, G., **White, A.**, Merrill, S., and Mendez, V.E. (2021). The Evolving Landscape of Agroecological Research. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 45. DOI: 10.1080/21683565.2020.1845275

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS, WHITE PAPERS & POPULAR PRESS

White, A. Darby, H & D. Ross. (2022). *Soil carbon storage and sequestration in Vermont agriculture*. Research Brief. University of Vermont Extension, Gund Institute for Environment, and Department of Plant & Soil Science. [https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Northwest-Crops-and-Soils-Program/Articles and Factsheets/Soil carbon and sequestration 2022 Research brief.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Northwest-Crops-and-Soils-Program/Articles%20and%20Factsheets/Soil%20carbon%20and%20sequestration%202022%20Research%20brief.pdf)

Dube, B., **White, A.** Darby, H., & T. Ricketts. (2022) *Valuation of soil health ecosystem services*. Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Technical Research Report #5. The University of Vermont. https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Water_Quality/PES/Valuation%20of%20soil%20Health%20ecosystem%20services_VTPESTask5_V1.pdf

White, A., Darby, H., Ruhl, L., Sands, B., Ziegler, S., Alvez, J., and S. Brickman. (2022). Field scale soil health scenarios. Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Technical Report #2. University of Vermont. https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Water_Quality/PES/Soil%20Health%20Scenarios%20for%20Vermont_%20VT%20PES%20Task%202022%20Report.pdf

Bonasia, C., Ruhl, L., Dube, B., **White, A.**, and H. Darby. (2022). Whole Farm Net Zero: approaches to quantification of climate regulation ecosystem services at the whole farm scale. Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Technical Report #7. University of Vermont.

https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Water_Quality/PES/Whole%20farm%20net%20zero_VTPES%20Task%207.pdf

White, A. Darby, H., Dube, B., Sands, B., Faulkner, J., Albers, M., & Payne, M. (2021). *Measuring ecosystem services from soil health*. Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Technical Research Report #1. The University of Vermont.

https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Water_Quality/PES/Measuring%20Ecosystem%20Services%20from%20Soil%20Health_%20VT%20PES%20Task%201%20Report.pdf

Vermont Climate Council (over 50 contributing authors). (2021). *Vermont Climate Action Plan*. Contributing lead author of chapters on ‘*Agriculture Pathways for Mitigation*’, ‘*Pathways for Adaptation and Building Resilience in Natural and Working Lands*.’ and ‘*Pathways for Sequestering and Storing Carbon*.’ Available from <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/readtheplan>.

Neher, D., Horner, K., von Wettberg, E. B., Scarborough, M., Harris, J., Darby, H. M., Badireddy, A., Farley, J., Faulkner, J. & **White, A.** (2021). Resilient Soils for Resilient Farms: An Integrative Approach to Assess, Promote and Value Soil Health for Small-and Medium-Size Farms. *USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Center*. 7.

Everhart, N. and **A. White**, (2020). *Vermont Food System Plan Issue Brief: Payment for Ecosystem Services*. Farm to Plate and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Faulkner, J.W., **White, A.**, and A. DePillis. (2020). *Vermont Food System Plan Issue Brief: Climate Change*. Farm to Plate and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Hammond Wagner, C., Gourevitch, J., Horner, K., Kinnebrew, E., Madden, R., Recchia, E., **White, A.**, Wiegman, A., Ricketts, T., and Roy, E. (2019). *Payment for Ecosystem Services for Vermont*. Issue Paper 19-01. Burlington, VT: Gund Institute for Environment.

White, A., and Faulkner, J. (2019). *Enhancing participation in payment for ecosystem services program: understanding farmer perspectives*. Research update for Vermont Policy makers. University of Vermont Extension brief. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.31552.40961>

White, A., Faulkner, J., Sims, S., Tucker, P., & Weatherhogg, K. (2018). *Report of the 2017-2018 New England Adaptation Survey for Vegetable and Fruit Growers*. Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont. Burlington, VT. <https://doi.org/10.13140/rg.2.2.14154.21440>

White, A. (2018). *Social Learning, Resilience & Land Management Transformations in the Northeast US: A Literature Review for the Climate Adaptation Fellowship Curriculum Design Project*. Climate Adaptation Fellowship. <https://www.adaptationfellows.net/s/Social-Learning-Resilience-and-Land-Management-Transformations-in-the-Northeast-US.pdf>

White, A., Faulkner, J. & Mendez, V.E. (2018). *Social learning & peer-to-peer exchanges for outreach and extension program development*. University of Vermont. <https://www.adaptationfellows.net/s/Social-Learning-Two-Pager.pdf>

White, A. (2018). Conservation buffers contribute to farm resilience. *Agriview*, 82 (1)

White, A. & Schattman, R. (2017, July). *How do farmers think about climate risk? A study of on-farm decision making in an era of climate change*. USDA Northeast Climate Hub Research Brief (July 2017).

White, A. (2017, May). *Evaluating Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Promising Tillage and Manure Application Practices at Borderview Farm*. USDA Northeast Climate Hub Research Brief (May 2017)

White, A. (2017, July 6) Adapting Farm Management to a Changing Climate: Butterworks Farm, Vermont [blog post]. *Farming and Climate Change Adaptation Blog*. UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture. <http://blog.uvm.edu/farmclim/2017/07/06/adapting-farm-management-to-a-changing-climate-butterworks-farm-vermont/>

White, A. (2011). Growing Backyard Gourmet Mushrooms. *Vermont's Local Banquet 17 (1, June)*.

INVITED TALKS

“Payment for Ecosystem Services in Vermont: Current conditions & emerging programs in 2022.” National Soil Health Leadership Lab. June 27th, 2022

“The State of Soil Health in Vermont.” Vermont Agriculture and Water Quality Partnership Science Advisory Meeting. March 4^h, 2022. Virtual meeting.

“Soil health, water quality & climate change mitigation in the Lake Champlain Basin: exploring and agroecological approach.” Joint meeting of the New York and Vermont Citizen Advisory Committees of the Lack Champlain Basin Program. November 8th, 2021,.Virtual meeting.

“Soil carbon stocks in Vermont and the State of Soil Health in Vermont.” Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council. July 9th, 2021. Virtual meeting.

“The State of Soil Health in Vermont.” Vermont Agriculture and Water Quality Partnership. April, 15th, 2021. Virtual meeting.

“Transdisciplinary research on Payment for Ecosystem Services in Vermont.” Northeast Healthy Soils Network. April, 2nd 2021. Virtual meeting.

“Climate change, water quality and payment for ecosystem services.” Vermont Farm 2 Plate Annual Gathering. November 12, 2020. Virtual meeting.

“Agricultural Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in New Hampshire.” New Hampshire Food System Statewide Gathering: Climate & Community Resilience. March 10th, 2020, Plymouth NH.

“Payment for Ecosystem Services: innovative policy for supporting environmental stewardship in agriculture.” Soil health policy panel. Northeast Organic Farming Association Vermont Winter Conference. February 15th, 2020. Burlington VT.

“Farmer Resilience & Adaptation to Climate Change in the Northeast.” Webinar for the New Hampshire Food Alliance. November 21, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXBwyVtcngY>

“Climate Change Effects on Local Farming.” Accompanied by a farmer panel discussion. Transition Town Jericho, November 18, 2019 in Jericho VT.

“Forum on Climate and Agriculture: Challenges & Opportunities”. Windsor VT Farm Bureau. November 20th, 2019. Hartland VT

“Adapting to Extreme Weather on Diversified Vegetable & Berry Farms: Results from the 2017-2018 New England Adaptation Survey.” Resilient Vermont Conference, Norwich University, June 7th 2019

“Adapting to Extreme Weather on Diversified Vegetable & Berry Farms: Results from the 2017-2018 New England Adaptation Survey.” Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network Annual Conference. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. November 26, 2018

PRESENTATIONS

“Building Local Food Sovereignty in Jericho VT.” Transition Town Panelist. NOFA Vermont 2022 Winter Conference Session. March 2nd, 2022

“The State of Soil Health in Vermont”. NOFA Vermont 2022 Winter Conference Session. March 4th 2022

“Participatory research for addressing complex challenges in agriculture.” Within panel on Partnerships for Food Systems Solutions in the Northeast United States. Bold Actions for Food as a Force for Good. World Economic Forum remote pre-event of the UN Food Systems Summit. November 23rd, 2020.

“Enhancing Participation in Payment for Ecosystem Services Incorporating farmer perspectives & concerns.” Pay-for-performance advisory board meeting. Vermont NRCS Office. March 5th, 2020. Colchester VT

“The Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group.” Soil and Ecosystem Health: The Northeast Healthy Soil Network Symposium. February 20, 2020. Tufts University, Medford MA.

“The Use of Crop Insurance for Climate Resilience on Vegetable and Fruit Farms in the Northeast: Insights from the New England Adaptation Survey.” Northeast Specialty Crop Water Symposium. Dec 18-19, 2019. Burlington VT.

“What do we mean by Payment for Ecosystem Services?” Vermont Farm 2 Plate Annual Gathering. November 7th, 2019, Killington VT

“Adaptation and Resilience on Fruit and Vegetable Farms in the Northeastern US.” Poster. New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference. December 10-12, 2019. Manchester NH

“Payment for Ecosystem Services Proposal for Vermont.” A public presentation from the Gund Institute's student seminar to the Lake Champlain Steering Committee. June 6th 2019, Essex VT

“Sustainability transitions on farms in the Northeast: What drives the adoption of emerging agroecological strategies?” Gund Slam, March 25th, 2019. Burlington VT

“Farmer networks and the nature of change in the Northeastern US: opening the door for agroecological transitions”. Presentation to the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Part of a session called: Examining Place-Based Initiatives and Networks in Agroecology Transitions-Transformations. April 3rd, 2019 in Washington DC.

“Adapting to weather extremes on diversified vegetable and berry farms.” Presented at farmer conferences across the northeast in Winter 2018-2019. NOFA New York, NOFA Mass, NOFA NH, MOFGA, ACORN, PASA, NOFA VT

“Farms and farmer decisions: Adaptive management on vegetable and berry farms in the northeastern US.” USDA Northeast Climate Hub GradCAP webinar series. October 31, 2018.
<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/northeast/events/gradcap-webinar-farms-and-farmer-decisions>

“Participatory Action Research for Applied Methods” Invited lecture to Community Development and Applied Economics Course at UVM. November 2018. Burlington VT.

“Linking adaptive management to climate change impacts on diversified vegetable and berry farms in northern New England.” Our Farms, Our Future; the Next 30 years of Sustainable Agriculture. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE). April 3-5, 2018. Saint Louis, MO.

“Bridging the Climate Information Usability Gap in Agricultural Communities.” American Meteorological Society's 98th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, January 8th 2018, Austin TX

“The co-production of knowledge: Perspectives of agricultural outreach professionals in Vermont.” University of Vermont Student Research Conference, April 27th, 2017, Burlington VT

“Vermont Agricultural Resilience in a Changing Climate”. Panel. Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources Seminar: From Research to Practice and Back, March 8th 2017, Burlington VT

“Stakeholder Input on Outreach and Engagement: An Update from the University of Vermont” USDA Northeastern Climate Hub University Network Meeting, January 11th 2017

“Connecting Research to Practice: An Update from the Vermont Agricultural Resilience in a Changing Climate Initiative.” Vermont Farm to Plate Land Stewardship Working Group Meeting, December 9th, 2016

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- National Soil Health Leadership Lab, 2021-2022
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Regenerative Agriculture, Gund Institute for Environment, 2021
- 2020 Emerging Leader in Food and Agriculture, USA
- Gund Graduate Student Fellow, University of Vermont
- GradCAP Scholar, USDA Northeast Climate Hub
- Northeast SARE Graduate Student Grant Recipient, USDA SARE
- Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Program Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz
- Leader in Campus Sustainability Award, UC Santa Cruz
- Merrill College Service Award, UC Santa Cruz

FUNDRAISING & GRANT RECORD

State of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, 2022. *(Co-PI) Additional Technical Services for the Payment of Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group. \$18,691*

U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), 2022. *(Co-I) Agricultural Digesters as Biorefining Hubs: Food Waste Co-Digestion Focused on Farmers. \$199,941*

State of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, 2021. *(Co-PI) Technical Services for the Payment of Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group. \$74,736*

The Nature Conservancy, 2021. *(Co-PI) Establishing a Soil Health Baseline in VT Agriculture. \$11,868*

Davis Conservation Foundation, 2021. *(PI) Huntington Community Forest Acquisition. \$10,000*

Gund Institute for Environment, 2020. *Regenerative Agriculture Postdoctoral Fellowship. \$124,000*

USDA Northeast Climate Hub, 2018. *(Co-PI) New England Climate Adaptation Outreach and Impact, joint venture agreement. \$15,000*

USDA SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) Graduate Student Grant, 2017. *(PI) #GNE17-163 Linking adaptive management to climate change impacts on diversified vegetable and berry farms in northern New England. \$13,385*

Private donors, 2017. *International student scholarships to the 17th International Agroecology Course at UVM. \$5,000*

New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, 2010. *(PI) Cover crop demonstrations at the Huntington Community Garden. \$1,000*

2010, Doroteia Pathways. *Post-earthquake support to Men nan Men Orphanage, in Port au Prince, Haiti. \$5,750*

Vermont Community Foundation, Kokoro Fund, 2010. *Emergency Shelter Relief in Haiti. \$1,000*

Vermont Community Foundation, Kokoro Fund, 2008. *Huntington Community Garden Workshop Series. \$3,500*

UCSC Campus Sustainability Fund, 2005. *(PI) Student gardening and sustainability advocacy. \$3,500*

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Vermont Climate Council, appointed to Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee, 2021-present
- Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group Member, 2019-present
- Northeast Healthy Soils Network Steering Committee, 2021-present
- Vermont Farm to Plate Climate, Soil, and Environment Topic Exchange Curator, 2022 - present
- Vermont Soil Health Policy Network steering committee, 2021 - present

- State of Vermont “Pay-for-Performance” advisory board, 2020 - 2021
- Town of Huntington, Community Forest Proposal Development, 2020
- UVM CALS Dean Search Committee, 2019-2020
- UVM Graduate Student Senator, 2018-2019
- Huntington Historic and Community Trust, Co-Chair, 2015 - present
- Burlington Community Seed Swap, Founding organizer, 2011- 2014
- Men Nan Men, Post Earthquake Development Coordinateur, Port au Prince, Haiti, 2010
- Mon P'tit Village, Earthquake Disaster Relief Volunteer, Leogane, Haiti, 2010
- Huntington River Water Quality Testing Volunteer, 2009-2011
- Vermont Permaculture Fund, Founding Council Member, 2009
- Northeastern Permaculture Convergence, Coordinator, 2009
- Huntington Community Garden, Founding Board Member, 2008 - present
- Burlington Infoshop, Library coordinator, 2008 - 2009
- Sierra Club Service Trips: Big Sur 2007, Mount Shasta 2000