**Jennifer J. Colby, M.S.**

UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture

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**Summary/Background**

A committed and passionate professional connecting agriculture, environment and community interests. Highly experienced in organic and conventional livestock-based agricultural systems including dairy, beef, sheep, swine, and poultry, with more than 24 years of professional expertise and 20 years of farming practice. Professionally and personally invested in understanding the life cycle of livestock products from husbandry and production to slaughter and butchery to preparation and consumption. Proven track record of developing, financing and implementing local, regional and multistate projects. Long-term engagement in youth education and community economic development efforts in the Central Vermont area. Statewide responsibility as point person for Vermont grass-based farming data collection and dissemination. Career experience in for-profit, non-profit and academic settings. Actively engaged in outreach, technical assistance and research, as well as business management. A career defined by the theme of linking practical experience and science-based information with public policy and those affected by it.

**Education:**

**M.S.** University of Vermont, Burlington, VT   
Community Development and Applied Economics 2012

**C.B.** Am. Inst. of Prof. Bookkeepers, MD, Certified Bookkeeper 2000

**B.S.** University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, Animal Science/Env. Studies 1994

**Selected Experience**

*Part-time faculty, Vermont Technical College*

2018-present

* Co-teaching Sheep Production & Management, Spring 2018

*Lecturer, Sterling College*

2013-2017

* Teaching/Co-teaching Livestock Management Systems/Grazing Management summer course
* 2017—Focused week-long intensive on Grazing Management and Soil Building

**Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Vermont**

2011 to present

*Pasture Program Coordinator*

In addition to previous tasks:

* Provide leadership on statewide issues related to water quality, livestock production and processing, and soil health.
* Supervise Pasture Program staff and oversee student interns.
* Engage in short- and long-term budget planning for program.
* Fundraise to support three staff, including self.
* Represent the Center and Extension on numerous state and regional committees, including the VT Farm Show (Secretary), Northeast Pasture Consortium (Executive Committee), State Technical Committee, East Central Vermont Sustainability Consortium, and Farm-to-Plate Network (Production & Processing Working Group Co-Chair).
* Identify, develop and perform original research.
* Coordinate multi-state partnerships and grant proposals.
* Produce Pasture outreach materials including final reports, publications and videos.

2005 to 2011

*Pasture Program Outreach Coordinator:*

* Manage printed, electronic, and audio materials for Pasture program, Vermont Grass Farmers Association and Vermont Pasture Network (VPN) web site. ([www.uvm.edu/pasture](http://www.uvm.edu/pasture)), blog, Facebook page, YouTube channel.
* Staff liaison to Vermont Grass Farmers Association (VGFA). Develop Board educational materials, coordinate and facilitate regular meetings & teleconferences. Support board and membership special projects. Maintain VPN database and process VGFA memberships.
* Organize annual Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference in partnership with VGFA and Vermont Beef Producers Association (~350 attendance). Responsible for content development, speaker management, sponsorships, all conference material design & production, marketing, logistics with host facility, evaluation, reporting.
* Coordinate, facilitate, evaluate pasture walks and workshops in collaboration with partners.
* Extend to partnering agencies and community & statewide organizations, such as VT Sheep & Goat Association, VT Beef Producers, Northeast Organic Farming Association, USDA-NRCS, VT Agency of Agriculture, VT Resource Conservation & Development, Farm to Plate Network and regional planning commissions.
* Field general farmer technical assistance calls. Provide grazing plan development assistance.
* Develop budgets, grant proposals, reporting and research with (then) VPN Coordinator.
* Create marketing imagery and coordinated branding for the Center through web site, printed materials and banner

**Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy**

2000 to 2004

*Project Coordinator*

Organized and facilitated conferences, meetings, and workshops from ten people to 250. Direct project coordination for Randolph Area Family Farms (RAFF) Central Vermont regional community/farming project including community organizing, printed materials, marketing, event organization, reporting . Directly responsible for raising $45,000 to support the RAFF project. Assisted on regional and national indicators and research projects, including New Jersey Comparative Risk Project final report (information assessment & prioritization, design, layout), National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development (event coordination, reporting, web site), Oregon Performance Measures (graphics, reporting).

1997 to 2004

*Office Administrator*

Handled budgets, federal contracts with US EPA and US Forest Service, reporting for all projects with eight program staff. Managed A/P, A/R, travel, salary distribution until 2001. Managed annual external audit with accountant through 2002. Assisted Executive Director with Board of Directors. Redesigned existing web site, constructed two project sites.

**The Organic Cow of Vermont, LLC**

1994 to 1997

*Office Assistant/Farmer Liaison*

Managed bulk and packaged milk flow for 40 VT, NY, ME, and MA dairy farms; federal reporting. Worked directly with farmers on payroll issues and performed bacteria counts. Assisted business owners with pricing, package design, marketing materials, new product development. Performed monthly inventory reporting to accountant. Responsible for package and raw materials ordering. Assisted with cheese making, packaging and shipping when needed. Performed outreach via phone and in-person store events and trade shows.

**Howling Hog Barbecue**

2005 to present

*Founding Member*

Competition barbecue team specializing in Kansas City Barbecue Society-sanctioned barbecue contests and New England Barbecue Society grilling events. Winner of over 45 trophies and ribbons for competition cooking. Barbecue catering services offered for selected community and private gatherings.

**Howling Wolf Farm**

1998 to present

*Farmer Owner*

Diversified livestock farm selling pastured poultry, pork, lamb, baked goods and pottery directly from the farm and at selected special events. Finishing and direct marketing Tamworth hogs for over ten years. Since 2009, developing a registered and commercial Katahdin sheep flock. Offering on-farm workshops and educational events. Providing land reclamation and custom grazing services since 2015.

**Additional Training:**

* *Ground Work Tractor Education Training,* New Farmer Network, 2014-present.
* *Social Media Training,* SARE Professional Development, 2012-2014
* *Holistic Grazing Planning course,* regional coordinator and participant, 2010-2014
* “*Tilling the Soil of Opportunity*” UVM Extension agricultural business management course, 2005
* “*Growing Places*”, UVM Extension pre-business planning course, 2004
* *“Leadership Training in Multifunctional Agriculture”,* Center for Sustainable SystemsTaproot Leadership Retreat, 2001
* *“Working with Conflict in Community Groups”,* Woodbury College seminar, 2001
* *Software:* Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Acrobat, InDesign; UVM web template; SPSS; wiki; blog; Macromedia Dreamweaver; Microsoft Suite, YouTube, Twitter

**Presentations and Posters**

Numerous grazing-related presentations for students and the public, on topics ranging from pasture management basics to animal behavior to elements of soil health.

*Top Ten Things to Know About Good Pasture Management,* presented at NE In-Service for Agricultural Service Providers, January 2018; and Extension Professional Improvement Conference, May 2018.

*Strategies for Winter Management*, presented at Granite State Graziers Winter Conference, February, 2018.

*Using Small Ruminants as Pasture Improvement Tools,* presented at Northeast Organic Farming Association Winter Conference, February, 2018.

*Recommendations & Considerations in a Custom Grazing Relationship with special emphasis on organic dairy,* presented atNortheast Organic Farming Association Winter Conference, February, 2018.

*Long Island Sound Watershed Resource Conservation Partnership Program (LISW-RCPP): Partnerships for Water Quality*, variations presented through UVM Extension online staff/faculty meeting (2016), Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) partner training (Woodstock, 2016) and Connecticut River Watershed Farmer Alliance annual meeting (White River Junction, 2017).

*Organic Dairy Custom Grazing: A SARE Partnership Project,* presented at the Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference, Fairlee, VT 2017.

*Lessons Learned From Standing Out in the Field: Pasture-Based Farms in Vermont,* presented to the UVM Extension Program Staff & Faculty Meeting, Stowe, VT, 2016.

*Farm to Plate Meat Processing Task Force: Working on a Wicked Problem,* presented at the New England Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) annual meeting, Hartford, CT, 2016.

*Ellis Grazing Partnership: Observations and Lessons*, presented to the Randolph Conservation Commission, Randolph, VT, 2016.

*Ecologically Responsible Eating: Production of Animal and Plant-Based Foods*, presented with Juan Alvez, Ph.D. at University of Vermont Food Systems Summit, Burlington, VT, 2016.

*A National Grazing Tour of Texas,* presented at the Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference, Fairlee, VT 2016.

*Grant Writing 101,* presented with Jeralyn Heraldsen and Joshua Faulkner, UVM Extension Professional Improvement Conference (EPIC), Vergennes, VT, 2015*.*

*Harnessing the Potential of Transdisciplinary Action Research: Generalizable Lessons Learned From the Vermont Farm Resilience in a Changing Climate Initiative*, presented with Katherine Westdjik and Emil Tsao at the IARSLCE Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2014.

*Holistic Planned Grazing in the Northeast: Addressing Production, Profitability and Free Time*, presented at the Women in Agriculture Educators National Conference, Indianapolis, IN, 2014.

*Developing Economic and Energy Tools to Aid Farmer Decisionmaking*, presented at Northeast Pasture Consortium, State College, PA, 2013.

*Alternative forages formerly known as weeds?,* Rachel Gilker, Sid Bosworth, Jennifer Colby, Kathy Voth. Poster at the Northeast Pasture Consortium, 2013.

*Benefits of Tillage Radish and Keyline Plowing for Pasture Management,* Rachel Gilker, Josef Gorres, Jennifer Colby. Poster at the Northeast Pasture Consortium, 2013.

*A Comprehensive Assessment of Factors Affecting Success on Vermont Grass-Based Livestock Farms,* presented at the VT Grazing & Livestock Conference and VT Organic Dairy Conference, 2012. Posters presented at the UVM Student Research Conference in 2009, 2010, 2011, at the Northeast Pasture Consortium and National Grazing Lands Coalition Annual Conference in 2012.

*Background and Principles of Rotational Grazing*, presented at multiple venues, including Women's Agricultural Network Beginning Farmer workshops in 2008 and 2010, Northeast Animal-Powered Field Days events in 2008, 2009 and 2010, a UVM Ecological Agriculture class in 2011, and beginning farmer Pasture Program event in 2012.

*Vermont Pasture Network: Partners to Support Successful Livestock Farming*, presented in multiple venues and dates, 2005 to present.

Sample venues include:

* State of Vermont House Agriculture Committee
* Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Meeting, multiple locations
* UVM Extension quarterly agriculture staff meeting

*Randolph Area Family Farms Community Project*, presented in multiple venues and dates, including:

* 2004 Annual Meeting of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Portsmouth, NH
* 2004 Randolph, VT Rotary lunch

**Selected Publications (Peer Reviewed)**

Qingbin Wang, Robert Parsons, Jennifer Colby, Jeffrey Castle. *Value-Added Dairy Products from Grass-Based Dairy Farms: A Case Study in Vermont.* Journal of Extension, June 2016, Vol. 54, No. 3.

Jennifer Colby. *A Comprehensive Assessment of Factors Affecting Success on Vermont Grass-Based Livestock Farms*, University of Vermont Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, Master’s Thesis, January 2012.

Kenneth Jones, Jennifer Colby. *Healthy Communities—Beyond Civic Virtue*, National Civic Review, National Civic League and Jossey-Bass, Vol. 90, No. 4, 2001, pp.363-374.

**Selected Publications (Non Peer Reviewed)**

Jennifer Colby. *The Progressing Farmer Buys a Farm* article series. On Pasture online newsletter. 2017.

Lou Simms, Matt Smith, Juan Alvez, Jenn Colby, and John Aber. *New England Dairy Farm Survey: Rising Bedding Costs and Potential Alternatives.* UNH Extension Cooperative Quarterly Newsletter, December 2014.

Jennifer Colby. *An Assessment of Vermont Grass-Based Farmers, Technical Assistance, Pasture Education, and Federal Programs*. 2014.

Josef Gorres, Rachel Gilker, Jennifer Colby. *Addressing Pasture Compaction: Weighing the Pros and Cons of Two Options.* 2014.

Matthew Peters, David Brynn, Jenn Colby, Cecilia Danks, Tara Hamilton, Susannah McCandless, and Eva Wollenberg. 2010. *The Role of Loggers in Providing Vermont’s Wood Energy.*

Matthew Peters, Eva Wollenberg, David Brynn, Jenn Colby, Cecilia Danks, Tara Hamilton, Susannah McCandless. 2009. *2005-2008 Forest Harvest Summary for Selected Towns in Addison and Washington Counties, Vermont.*

Jones, K., Witten, M., Thomas, S., Colby, J. 2001. *A Manual for Developing Environmental Assessments and Comparing Risks: A Supplement to the “Guide to Implementing Local Environmental Action Programs in Central and Eastern Europe”*, Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy.

**Awarded Grants**

* 2017 Colby. *Managing Pastures to Achieve Vermont Clean Water Goals.* Funder: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets. $149,824.
* 2017 Vermont Grass Farmers Association (Colby). *Strengthening Vermont’s Network of Grass-based Farmers to Protect Soil and Water*. Funder: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets Clean Water Fund. $18,634.
* 2017 Vermont Grass Farmers Association (Colby). *Grass-Based Farming Outreach and Education.* Funder: Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets Clean Water Fund. $17,294.
* 2017 Colby, Bosworth. *2017 Northeast Pasture Research Consortium and Conference*. Funding: USDA. $42,242.
* 2016 Colby. *Organic Dairy Custom Grazing*. Funder: NE-SARE. $14,957.
* 2015 Colby (UVM subcontract). *Long Island Sound Watershed (LISW)-RCPP*. Funder: USDA-NRCS. UVM subcontract $1.82M. Total budget: $20M.
* 2014 Colby, Fuller, Emenheiser. *Swine Industry Development*. Funder: Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, $42,446.
* 2012 Colby, Hudson, et. al. *Using Grass-Based Livestock Farms to Demonstrate Regenerative Agriculture*. Funder: VT-NRCS CIG, $149,233.
* 2012 Colby, Parsons, Cannella, et. al., *Energy savings through holistic planned grazing and management*. Funder: USDA-NRCS CIG, $123,144.
* 2011 Colby. *Grazing Education for Farmers: Innovations and Classic Practices.* Funder: VT ANR, $31,500.
* 2011-present, Colby. *Grazing Lands Education/Vermont Pasture Network*. Funder: VT-NRCS, $140,000 direct, $140,000 matched by Smith-Lever Funds (UVM Extension).
* 2009, Parsons, Colby. *Evaluating VT Grass-Based Livestock Farms and Agricultural Policy Implications.* Funder: Hatch, $29,694.
* 2003, Colby. *Randolph Area Family Farms.* Funder: NEGEF, $2,000.
* 2002, Colby. *Randolph Area Family Farms*. Funder: Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, $14,500.
* 2002, Hafner, Colby. *Randolph Area Family Farms.* Funder: USDA-RD RBEG, $30,000.

**Formal Memberships/Service**

* 2016-present Randolph Technical Career Center Agriculture Program Advisor
* 2015-present (elected in November, 2014) Co-chair, Farm to Plate Network Producers and Processors Working Group
* 2014-present East Central Vermont Economic Development District board member
* 2012-2015 East Central Vermont Sustainability Consortium (UVM designated representative)
* 2012-present Vermont Beef Industry Council (UVM designated representative 2012-2014, 2016-present, VT Beef Producers Association alternate 2012-2015)
* 2012 UVM Extension Faculty Search Committee: Diversified Livestock
* 2012 UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture Staff Search Committee: Farming & Climate Change
* 2013-present Treasurer, East Randolph Prudential (Fire District #2) Committee
* 2011-present VT Farm Show Trustee (UVM Extension designated representative) Secretary, 2016-2018
* 2011-present USDA-NRCS State Technical Committee (UVM Extension designated representative)
* 2010-present Agricultural at-large Advisory Member, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional [Planning] Commission
* 2008-2018 Board member, VT Beef Producers Association (Secretary 2010-present)
* 2008-2014 Board member, Northeast Organic Farming Association-VT (NOFA-VT)
* 2008-2012 Randolph Elementary School local food initiative
* Continuing member: VT Grass Farmers Association
* 2005-2007 Randolph Area Family Farms Steering Committee
* 2005-2007 Chair, Randolph Conservation Commission (Secretary 2004-2005)
* 2004-2007 Board member, Randolph Farmers Market
* 2003-2010 Randolph [Town] Representative to the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional [Planning] Commission
* 2003-2005 Secretary, VT Agricultural Museum
* 1990-1992 Student rep, UVM Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (1991: College of Agriculture & Life Science student award)

**Awards & Recognition**

* 2017 UVM College of Agriculture & Life Sciences New Achiever Alumni Award
* 1991 College of Agriculture & Life Science student award

**Ad Hoc Volunteering**

* 2014-present Randolph Union High School senior project panel member
* 2010-2016 Randolph Union High School music and theatre program(s) booster
* 2009-present Randolph Elementary School Sixth Grade Challenge
* 2008-2013, 2018 Farmer-in-the-Classroom (Randolph and Braintree Elementary Schools)
* 2003-2004 Randolph Elementary School classroom volunteer