

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Water Quality Division

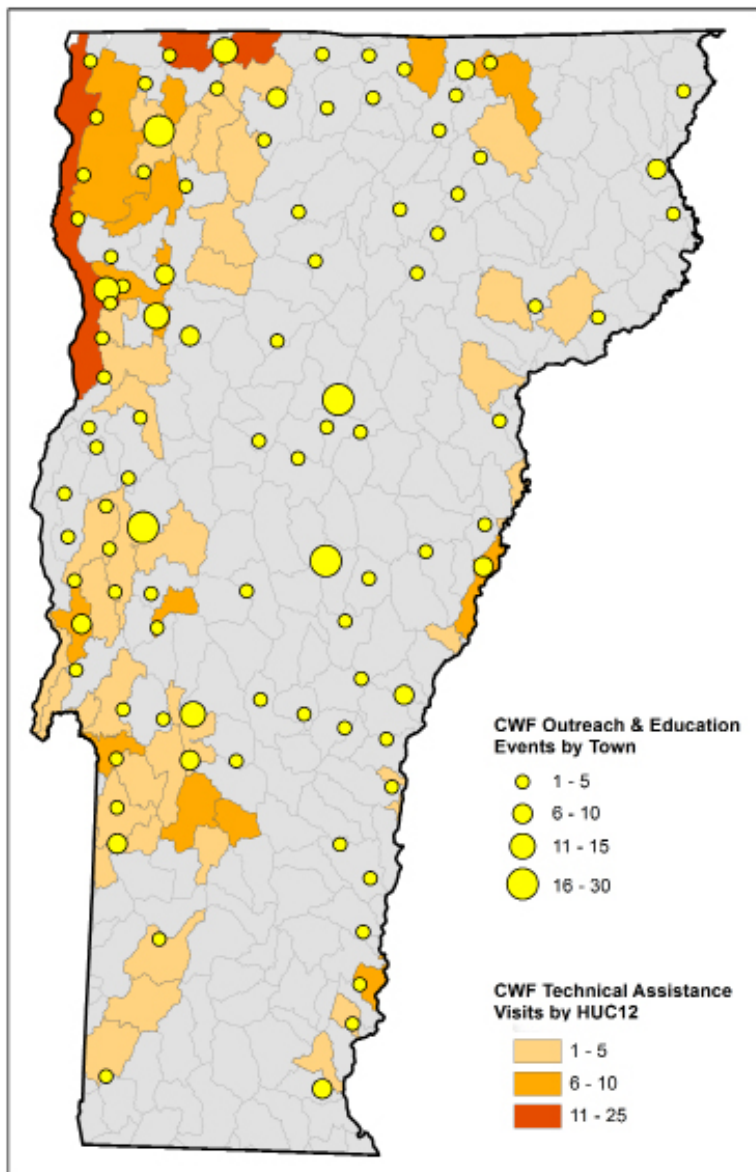
FY 2018 Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance Summary

The Water Quality Division within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM or the Agency) is responsible for ensuring farms meet the State agricultural water quality non-point source regulations. The Agency performs this task through the use of regulatory, technical, and financial assistance programs provided to farmers and partner organizations.

Made possible by the Vermont Clean Water Fund, The Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (Ag-CWIP) represents the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' effort to reduce nonpoint source nutrient pollution from agricultural land through grant awards for educational programs, innovative phosphorus reduction strategies and technical assistance to agricultural landowners.

In FY2018, the Water Quality Program invested \$1.3 Million in funding for local conservation efforts, educational programs, as well as technical assistance for Vermont farmers.

AGRICULTURAL CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STATEWIDE



PROGRAM IMPACT*:

15,420 ATTENDEES

REACHED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

1,112 HOURS

OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VT FARMERS

366 EVENTS

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS HELD STATEWIDE

5.8 FTE

PARTNER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) EMPLOYEE

CAPACITY INCREASE

80 SERVICES

NEW OR EXPANDED PARTNER PROVIDED SERVICES

AVAILABLE TO VT FARMERS

**Program impact includes results from FY16-FY18.*



VAAFAM Engineer provides educational outreach to members of the general public at Breakfast on the Farm event in the Lake Champlain Basin during the summer of 2018.



University of Vermont Extension Service and the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain hold a meeting in Franklin County to inform producers about regulatory requirements, best practices, and opportunities for technical and financial assistance.

AGRICULTURAL CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAM GRANT SUMMARIES

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION:

Comprehensive Extension Programming for education and outreach, certification programs, technical assistance for conservation implementation and funding opportunities, business planning, as well as research and development to support educational programs.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS:

Education and outreach, technical assistance, land treatment planning, and organizational capacity development.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION COUNCIL:

Education and outreach for increased awareness of water quality regulations and best practices, technical assistance regarding conservation practices and funding opportunities, in addition to organizational development and capacity building to increase organizational effectiveness across ten state Natural Resource Conservation Districts.

VERMONT GRASS FARMERS ASSOCIATION:

Educational programming for Vermont farmers to undertake, improve and/or expand their grass-based livestock production, strategic planning and expanded membership benefits as well as outreach to increase Vermonters understanding, appreciation and adoption of livestock grazing best management practices that improve water quality.

VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE: AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE:

Education and outreach to Vermont Technical College students regarding nutrient management planning. This work will support regulatory compliance with Required Agricultural Practices and Medium and Large Farm Permits and Rules as applicable.

FARMERS WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF FRANKLIN AND GRAND ISLE:

Education and outreach activities to improve water quality focused on precision agricultural tools and technologies, conservation practices for water quality improvements, and regulatory compliance as well as organizational capacity development.

POULTNEY METOWEE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Support for the Agronomy and Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) in providing technical assistance in nutrient management planning and implementation of farm conservation practices, particularly targeted at small farms, to provide direct outreach to small producers who did not receive regular regulatory oversight prior to the Required Agricultural Practices, have limited on-farm labor and are less able to attend off-farm workshops or meetings.

FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE:

Education and outreach regarding agricultural practices and their role in achieving TMDLs for Lake Carmi, the Pike River and Lake Champlain to help bring together a divided community of stakeholders, farmers, environmental entities, and the general public through enhanced understanding, goal setting, and improved communications about the role of agriculture and its ability to work in harmony with soil and water resources.

MISSISSQUOI RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION:

Outreach programs to schools and community groups ensuring the importance of clean water is expressed to a wide range of watershed residents, one-on-one outreach through site visits, and focused on farm water sampling.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FARMERS COALITION:

Education and outreach, technical assistance, and leadership development and strategic planning to expand organizational capacity and development.

FRIENDS OF NORTHERN LAKE CHAMPLAIN:

Organizational capacity development to support existing and new services to farmers.

SCOTT MAGNAN'S CUSTOM SERVICE:

Education and outreach as well as technical assistance to producers in implementing and utilizing precision agricultural tools and technologies to more precisely apply and track nutrients applications.

Fiscal Year	State Expenditure
2016	\$112,000
2017	\$642,599
2018	\$1,321,928

Funding for education, outreach and technical assistance has significantly increased with the Clean Water Fund since FY2016.



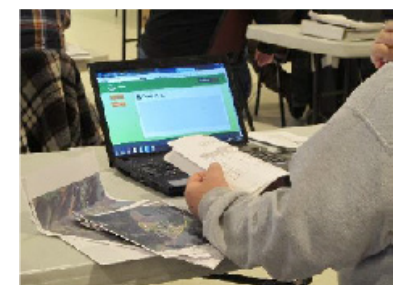
Technical assistance provided by the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District to a small farmer in the Lake Memphremagog watershed.



University of Vermont Extension Service hosts an on-farm educational event to discuss conservation practices and results with agricultural operators.



Participants review outreach materials at an on-farm workshop in Fairfax, VT



Farmer participant enters data into the goCrop program as they develop their farm Nutrient Management Plan through the UVM Extension course.