

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality Division FY2019 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.

VAAFAM also works to reduce nonpoint source nutrient pollution from agricultural land through education and outreach programs, as well as grant awards to partners through the Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (Ag-CWIP). Ag-CWIP, which is made possible by the Vermont Clean Water Fund, supports partners to provide educational programs, innovative phosphorus reduction strategies, and technical assistance to Vermont farmers.

FY2019 PROGRAM IMPACT:

8,541 ATTENDEES

REACHED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

627.3 HOURS

OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VT FARMERS

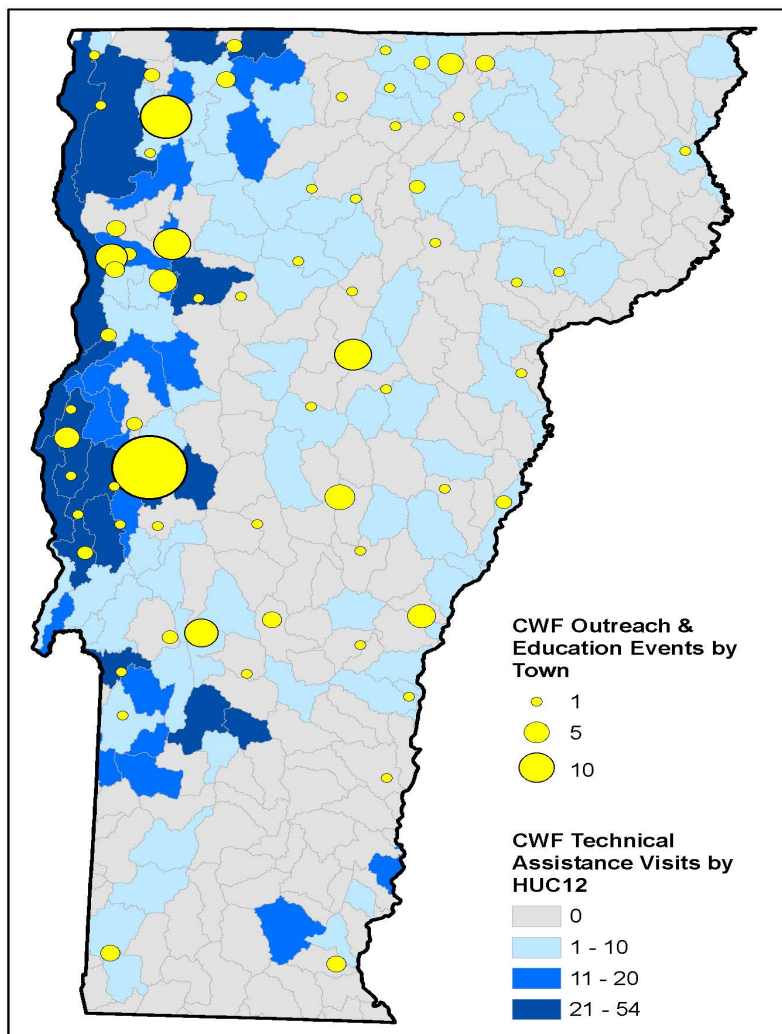
230 EVENTS

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS HELD STATEWIDE

1,448 TA VISITS

BY VAAFAM STAFF AND PARTNERS

AGRICULTURAL CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STATEWIDE



Map of VT showing TA visits by HUC12 and the number of outreach and education events by town. Darker blue regions received more TA, and bubbles are proportional to education and outreach events in each town. TA from VAAFAM staff is not included.



VAAFAM staff train agricultural service providers about water quality regulations for farms and Required Agricultural Practices compliance and inspections.



University of Vermont Extension Service and Champlain Valley Farmers' Coalition hold an on-farm workshop to discuss the benefits of grassed waterways and filter strips in reducing field erosion.

AGRICULTURAL CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION:

Comprehensive extension programming for education and outreach, certification programs, technical assistance for conservation implementation and funding opportunities, business planning, and 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, as well as 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 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 direct outreach to small producers.

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 collaborative goal setting and improved communications.

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.

NEWTRIENT LLC

Research and development for strategic pathway for inducing phosphorus extraction and removal technologies on Vermont dairy farms.



Staff from the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District provide technical assistance to a farmer for Land Treatment Planning.



University of Vermont Extension Service soil specialists use a rainfall simulator to demonstrate the effects of cover crops on runoff and infiltration.



Farmers and custom operators in the Otter Creek Watershed learn about grassland manure injection technology at an event hosted by the University of Vermont Extension.



Farmers in the Northeast Kingdom learn about methods to improve grazing management and wastewater collection and irrigation systems at an event hosted by the Orleans County Conservation District.