



Travis Thomason, State Conservationist

Vermont NRCS, led by our State Conservationist and our State Leadership Team, serves diverse agricultural needs through 10 field offices across the Green Mountain State. We provide voluntary, cost-effective program and technical assistance to landowners to conserve, protect and improve soil, water, air, plants and animals. In doing so, we enable farmers and landowners to better steward and manage their property and remain economically viable.

NRCS Mission: *We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.*

NRCS Vision: *A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.*

Vermont USDA NRCS Service Centers

Berlin	802-828-4493
Brattleboro	802-689-3037
Middlebury	802-388-6748
Morrisville	802-888-4935
Newport	802-334-6090

Rutland	802-775-8034
St. Albans	802-527-1296
St. Johnsbury	802-748-2641
White River Junction	802-295-7942
Williston	802-288-8155

To our NRCS Vermont family and valued Conservation Partners,

Thank you for the resilience, dedication, persistence, collaboration, and heart you bring to conservation every day. Through changing priorities, challenging conditions, and growing needs, your daily commitment continues to strengthen our mission and serves both the land and the people who depend on it. Together, we're not only meeting the moment; we're building momentum for generations to come. Thank you, again.

With sincere appreciation,

NRCS VT Leadership Team

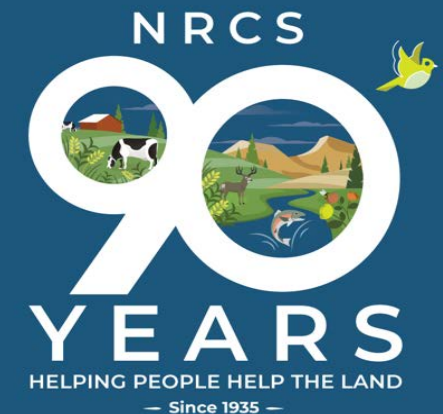


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Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NRCS-VT Conservation Delivery Rollout, Fiscal Year 2026



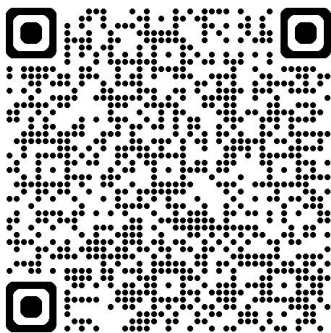
Vermont

nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/vermont



AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Arrivals/Networking
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Strategic Priorities - Travis Thomason, STC
- 9:40 a.m. FY25 Outcomes and Success
- 10:00 a.m. VT NRCS LT Updates - (Programs, Engineering, Resources)
- 12:00 a.m. Lunch & Networking
- 12:45 p.m. VT NRCS LT Updates - (Management & Strategies, RCPP/Partnerships)
- 1:30 p.m. Partner Round Robin
- 2:00 p.m. Q&A/Wrap Up
- 2:30 p.m. Departure



NRCS Partner Updates

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

Vermont's Conservation Districts support conservation work by providing technical assistance to farmers and other landowners, helping them to identify conservation needs and areas where management changes can benefit their operation, as well as having a positive impact on resource conservation. This year, 13 of the districts will have local funding pools within the NRCS EQIP program to address conservation needs identified within their individual districts through a public process. Additionally, the districts assist with buffer installations, flood plain restorations, upgrading culverts, removing dams and other improvements needed to address the increase in intense storms and rainfall which Vermont is experiencing. For more information, go to <https://www.vacd.org/>.

Farm Service Agency

Vermont FSA has been focused on disaster recovery programs addressing the impacts of the 2023 and 2024 floods and continue to do so with the roll out of the Supplemental Disaster programs this summer and fall of 2025. Yet, Vermont FSA completed 15 offers for CRP under the continuous sign up this year under the number of acres allotted nationally with the last Farm Bill authorized ceiling. Without a new Farm Bill reauthorization of CRP and additional acreage added to the ceiling, we would then look to NRCS to do status and compliance reviews for the projects we have enrolled until those contracts expire, rather than help generating new offers. If CRP expansion were to occur, then development of offers under Grasslands CRP enrollments, may also be possible in addition to the current types of CRP usage. For more information go to <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/vermont>.

American Farmland Trust

American Farmland Trust partners statewide in Vermont to advance conservation at multiple levels. In 2026 we are excited to continue supporting the following conservation opportunities and programs in Vermont:

NRCS Partner Updates

American Farmland Trust (cont'd)

Implementation support through implementation specialist support to NRCS, Soil Health Testing (Kevin Antoszewski/kantoszewski@farmland.org), RCPP 2311 (Sarah Heller/sheller@farmland.org), Soil Health Management Planning Cohort (Caro Roszell/crozell@farmland.org), Grazing Technical Assistance (Cheryl Cesario/ccesario@farmland.org), and Resilience Planning (Alissa White/awhite@farmland.org). AFT's Farm Viability national program is piloting a fee-for service TSP program called Prosperity Partners (Jeff Hoodlet/jhoodlet@farmland.org). For more information, go to <https://farmland.org/>.

VT Department of Environmental Conservation

The VT Department of Environmental Conservation coordinates closely with NRCS by sharing priorities, funding and support for programs. Highlights for 2025-2026 include active collaborations through regional conservation partnership programs. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation provides funds through several other programs for agricultural, forestry and natural resource related projects. The Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation also has programs that could help support NRCS planners and landowners. For more information, go to <https://dec.vermont.gov/>.

VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Water Quality Financial Assistance Programs include: the Farm Agronomic Practices Program (FAP), Best Management Practices Program (BMP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP), Seeding and Filter Strip Program (SFS), Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program (PSWF), Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program (CSP Assist), and Vermont Pay for Performance Program (VPFP). For more information, go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/>.