

**Vermont USDA**  
**State Technical Committee Meeting**  
*October 17, 2018, 9:30 a.m., Colchester*

Call-In Information: (888) 844-9904

Access Code: 2099277



<b>Welcome from NRCS</b>	-Update on NRCS activities and roundtable introduction of partners present  -Farm Bill- <i>What's Ahead?</i>	<b>Vicky Drew</b> , NRCS State Conservationist
<b>FSA Update</b>	-Update on FSA activities	<b>Wendy Wilton</b> , FSA State Executive Director
<b>Legislative Update</b>	-Update from Capitol Hill	<b>Tom Berry</b> , Agriculture Policy Advisor to Senator Patrick Leahy
<b>NRCS Conservation Programs Update</b>	-Review of 2018 Farm Bill Contracting Activities  -EQIP Subcommittee Reports  -2019 Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC's)	<b>Obediah Racicot</b> , NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
<b>Soil Health Indicators and Lab Procedures for Assessing Soil Health—<i>Public Comment Period</i></b>	-An overview of proposed standardized measurements to provide consistency in scientifically assessing soil health	<b>Brandon R. Smith, Ph.D.</b> , Acting National Team Leader, Northeast Region Team Leader, NRCS National Soil Health Division, Dover, NH
<b>Resource Conservation Discussion</b>	-Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) 2019- <i>Ideas from partners on potential topics of focus</i>	<b>Sandra Primard</b> , NRCS State Agronomist
<b>Partner Presentation</b>	-Overview of water quality programs at VAAFM	<b>Nina Gage</b> , Agricultural Water Quality Specialist, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
<b>Final Discussion and wrap up</b>		<b>Vicky Drew</b>