

# Marquis Organic Dairy Vermont

Delivering Conservation Results through RCPP



## RCPP helps small, conserved farms in the Lake Champlain Watershed

The **Marquis Organic Dairy** is located in Lake Champlain's Upper Missisquoi Watershed, a critical source area for phosphorus loading. The family milks seventy cows on Route 100 in Newport.



Marc and Tiffany Marquis purchased the farm in 2011 and began operating a small, grass-based organic dairy. Their land has certified

organic pasture and hayfields which help sustain the couple's dairy herd.

With the assistance of RCPP coordination, and programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), they installed conservation practices to protect soil and water quality and conserved two parcels (totaling 246 acres).

In order to protect wildlife habitat and water quality, land along the streambanks of a Missisquoi River tributary will not be used for farming. The Marquis family also worked with the state to utilize the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to establish a riparian buffer along this tributary. They planted 5,698 trees on 14 acres.

## Partnerships and Contributions



It takes a village—or in this case, a dedicated group of conservation entities.

- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)
- Vermont Land Trust (VLT)
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFMM)
- Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
- University of Vermont (UVM) Extension
- USFWS *Partners for Fish and Wildlife* Program

Marc wrote his own Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) with assistance through an RCPP project spearheaded by VACD in partnership with VAAFMM and UVM Extension. This also helped farmers meet state Required Ag Practices (RAP's). This has assisted the Marquis family by enabling them to fully understand and implement their own nutrient management practices to protect water quality.

## The State of Vermont Lake Champlain RCPP

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received a \$16 million RCPP grant from NRCS in 2015.

The objective was to provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forest landowners to help develop and implement site-specific farm and forest projects that directly improved water quality in streams that flow toward Lake Champlain.

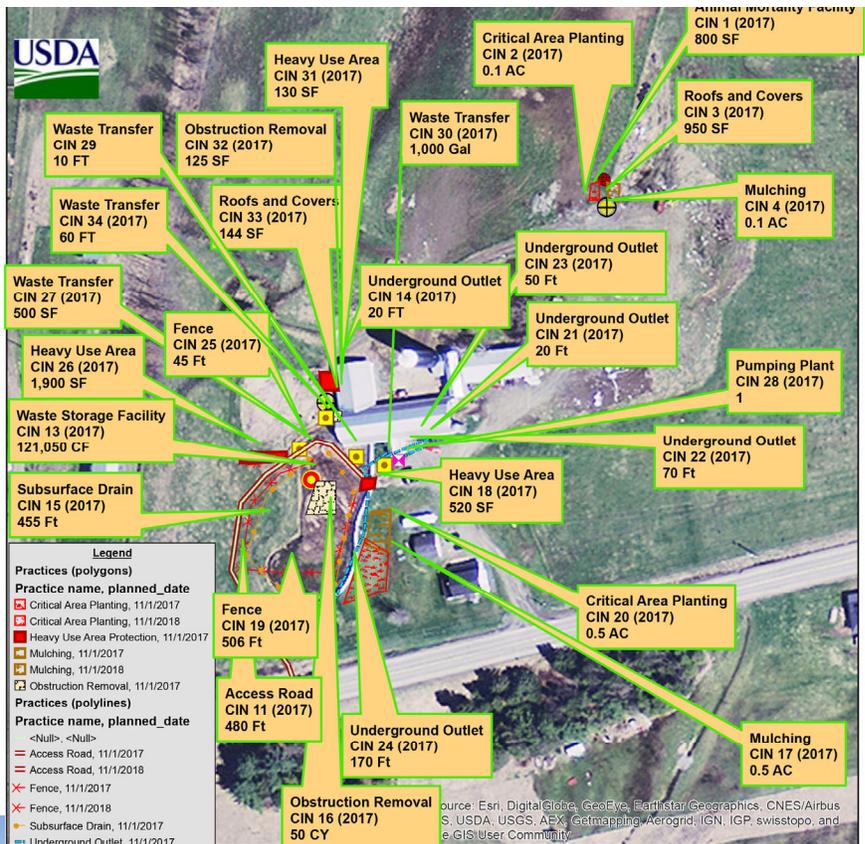
RCPP funds also helped conserve important and environmentally critical agricultural lands and restore and protect wetlands that are crucial to absorbing runoff and slowing floodwaters.



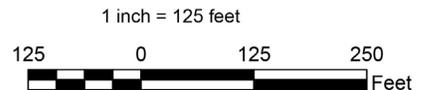
## Additional soil and water conservation practices implemented at the Marquis Organic Dairy through RCPP include—

- Trails and walkways
- Composting facility
- Critical area planting
- Fencing
- Heavy use protection area
- Mulching
- Roofs and covers
- Subsurface drain
- Waste transfer
- Grazing plan
- Stream crossing

### Marquis RCPP Nutrient Management Map



District: ORLEANS CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 Field Office: NEWPORT SERVICE CENTER  
 Agency: USDA-NRCS Assisted By: Justin Michaud  
 Date: 7/21/2016



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