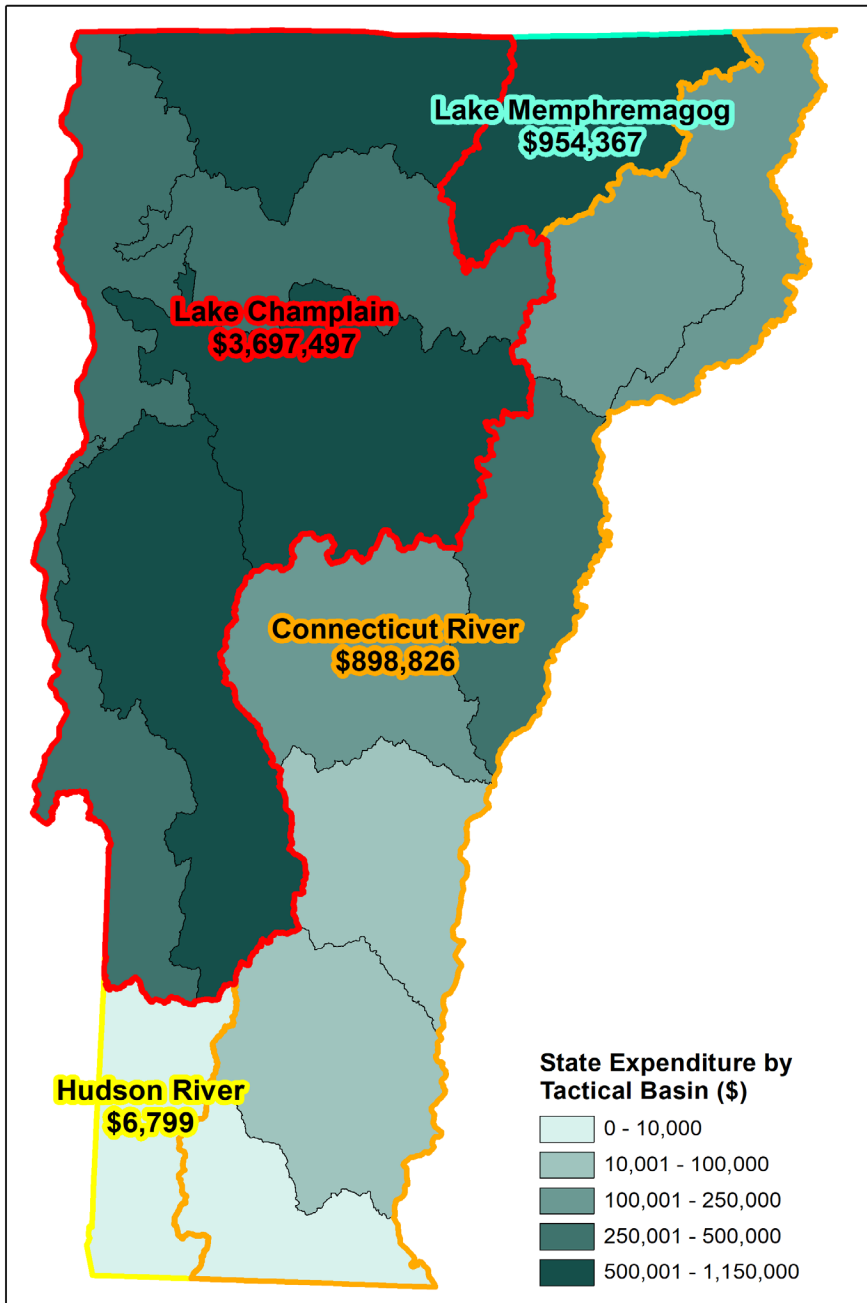


Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality Division FY2020 Financial Assistance for Farmers Summary

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) Water Quality Division regulates farms under the non-point source pollution control program. The overall goal of our work is to improve water quality in Vermont. To meet this goal we administer multiple financial assistance (FA) opportunities for farms in Vermont.

In State Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the Water Quality Division invested more than \$5.6 million of State funds and leveraged over \$4.5 million in Federal expenditure to fund on-farm implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality in the state of Vermont. Farmers invested over \$1.5 million of private funds in cost-share contributions towards implementation of these projects.

FY20 ON-FARM IMPLEMENTATION BY MAJOR AND MINOR BASIN



30,005 ACRES
FIELD CONSERVATION PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED

145 PRACTICES
STRUCTURAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED

\$5.6 MILLION
STATE EXPENDITURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

\$4.5 MILLION
FEDERAL EXPENDITURE LEVERAGED

\$1.5 MILLION
INVESTED BY VERMONT FARMERS



Above: Clean Water Project Sign displayed on the path to a Best Management Practice construction site.

Below: Rotationally grazed land in the Field Agronomic Practice program must have 3" residual vegetation.



Below: Drilled cover crop funded through the FAP program helps reduce erosion from cropland.



SUMMARY OF FY2020 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDITURE	AWARDS	IMPACT
Farm Agronomic Practices	Financial assistance to Vermont farms for implementation of field-based agronomic practices that improve soil and water quality and reduce erosion.	\$575,767	\$759,645	22,205 Acres Implemented
Best Management Practices	Technical and financial assistance to assist farms with on-farm improvements to abate agricultural waste discharges to state waters.	\$3,933,116	\$4,147,750	110 Practices Installed
Conservation Equipment Assistance Program	Financial assistance for equipment to reduce surface runoff, improve manure management, separate phosphorus from manure, or decrease greenhouse gas emissions.	\$938,564	\$1,413,600	27 Pieces of New or Innovative Equipment/Technology
Pasture Surface Water Fencing	Technical and financial assistance for pasture management to improve water quality and livestock exclusion from surface waters.	\$183,040	\$326,300	35 Practices Implemented
Grassed Waterway Filter Strip	Technical and financial assistance for establishing perennially vegetated grassed waterways, filter strips, and critical source area seedings.	\$15,495	\$25,865	14.8 Acres Implemented
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	Technical and financial assistance to reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production and establishing riparian vegetative buffers.	*No new contracts in FY20 due to FSA National Office determination that land subject to environmental regulations is ineligible. CREP is now available to VT Farms in FY21.		

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) PROGRAM

Heavy Use Area Protection on Dry Brook Farm

George Hollister raises 35-40 beef animals each year on Dry Brook Farm in West Pawlet. Prior to applying to the BMP program, the heavy use area for the farm's beef herd was located near a water source at the bottom of a hill. The site was consistently wet and George had trouble managing his manure, especially in the winter and shoulder seasons when his cattle are concentrated in this area.

George was able to remedy this issue with financial and technical assistance from the AAFM BMP program, matched by labor contributed by the farm, alongside funds from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

AAFM engineers worked with Dry Brook Farm to install surface water diversion above the site to exclude runoff from the adjacent hill from the heavy use area, put a roof over the area to keep it drier, and installed concrete so that George can better manage the manure that collects in this area and relocate it to an appropriate stacking site.



Heavy use area before (top) and after (bottom) implementation of a heavy use area protection BMP. This project reduced erosion and surface runoff of agricultural waste.

By the numbers:

250,000 gallons clean water diverted from site per year

“ I think it’s a **good program...**
I would not have done this
project without it. ”

– George Hollister, owner and operator of Dry Brook Farm