

DAVID WARDROP - GIS & FIELD TECHNICIAN



ECO member David Wardrop is serving at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture this year. A bulk of David's service has been assisting with grant application reviews from farmers for the Farming Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program. This review process consists of using GIS to check the acreage of the farm fields in question as well as visiting the farms for a look at the implemented practice. The purpose of the program is to help Vermont farmers implement strategies that allow them to improve their soil quality, increase their crop production, and reduce erosion on their farm. Also, in the intersection of farming and GIS, David has been assisting with the compilation of a database of farms and their strategies for natural resource management. This database is shared throughout several entities related to conserving farmland and natural resources on farms. Populating the database with information across organizations allows for an analysis of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of phosphorus and how farms across the state are addressing their output of phosphorus in order to stay within the TMDL. Since the service year started, David has also had the opportunity to participate in farm inspections for small dairy farms. Now that field season is over and farm visits have slowed, David is going to be attending events, such as the Vermont Farm Show, to conduct outreach and education about water quality to farmers and consumers. Another outreach item to farmers that David will be involved in is updating them on their continuing education credits status and making sure that farmers have the resources to participate in the courses that are required. Judging by all the food that is produced in Vermont, David is providing an invaluable service by adding capacity to The Agency of Agriculture! Keep it up, David!