ROADMAP

- Effective Dates
- Custom Applicator
- Educational Credits
- CSFO Program
- Inspections and Enforcement
- Variances
- Grants
- MFO/LFO Permit Revisions
- Tile Drain Update
LIST OF ACRONYMS

- VAAFM: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- RAP: Required Agricultural Practices
- SFO: Small Farm Operation
- CSFO: Certified Small Farm Operation
- MFO: Medium Farm Operation
- LFO: Large Farm Operation
- GP: General Permit
- WQ: Water Quality
- NRCS: Natural Resource Conservation Services
- NMP: Nutrient Management Plan
- GMP: Grazing Management Plan
RAPS: SUMMARIZED

- Discharges
- CSFO Certification
- Water Quality Training
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Manure and Nutrient Storage
- Manure and Nutrient Application
- Soil Health
- Buffers
- Mortalities
- Livestock Exclusion
- Ground Water
- Farm Structures
EFFECTIVE DATES

RAP Dates:
- Became effective December 5, 2016
  - Pursuant to Act 64, enacted June 16, 2015
- Custom Applicator Certification: Began March 2017
  - Exams every 5 years
  - Annual fee and Certification: January 31
- Winter Spreading Ban: Dec 15-April 1
  - Floodplain extended spreading ban: Oct 16-April 14
  - Secretary may prohibit 12/1-12/15 or 4/1-4/30
- CSFO Certification Program
  - Began July 2017
- RAP tile drainage rules in 2018
CUSTOM APPLICATOR

Learning Goal:
Application methods to minimize runoff and identification of weather or soil conditions that increase risk of runoff.

- Winter Certification Class 2017
- Online Webinar Certification Class
- Seasonal Employee Trainings
- Final Certification Training and Evaluations
  - December 19 - St. Albans
  - December 20 - St. Johnsbury
  - January 5 - Middlebury
CSFOs, MFOs, and LFOs must acquire 4 Water Quality Training Credits every 5 years pursuant to Sec. 5 of the RAPs.

Training events must be approved at least 30 days prior to the event by the Secretary.

Forms: Application, Approval, Sign-In

Awards: Most credit hours annually, and every five-year cycle.
Credits must fall under one of the following categories:

- the prevention of discharges;
- the mitigation and management of stormwater runoff;
- statutory and regulatory requirements of the operation of a large, medium, or small farm and financial resources available to assist in compliance;
- the mechanical application of manure or nutrients and methods or techniques used to minimize the runoff of applied manure or nutrients to waters of the State;
- weather and soil conditions that increase the risk of runoff of manure or nutrients to waters of the State; and
- standards for nutrient management including nutrient management planning.
CERTIFIED SMALL FARM OPERATION PROGRAM

 Estimated 700-800 CSFOs in Vermont:

- Growing more than 50 acres of annual cropland (e.g. corn, sweet corn, soybean, or pumpkin), OR

- Growing more than 50 acres of vegetables, OR

- That house and manage at least the following animal numbers;
  - 50 mature dairy cows
  - 75 youngstock or heifers
  - 75 veal calves
  - 75 cattle or cow/calf pairs
  - 188 swine weighing over 55 pounds
  - 750 swine weighing less than 55 pounds
  - 40 equines
  - 750 sheep or goats
  - 4,125 turkeys
  - 2,250 laying hens or broilers or 375 ducks (w/ liquid manure system)
  - 6,250 laying hens or broilers or 2,500 ducks (w/out a liquid manure system)
  - A combination of animals with total live weight exceeding 90,000 pounds
Requirements for CSFOs

- Must certify by January 31, 2018 using Annual Certification Form
  - Began in July 2017
- Inspection at least once every seven-years
- NRCS Standard 590 Nutrient Management Plan
- Fulfill WQ Training Credits

- 76.4% of All Liveweight
- 93% of all Dairy Cows
- 50% of all Vegetable Acreage
- 93% of all Corn for Silage
INSPECTION PROCESS

- **Farm Inspection**
  - CSFO – 7 years
  - MFO – 3 years (change from 5 years)
  - LFO – Every year

  ***Any farm that receives a complaint will be visited by an Agency staff regardless of inspection status***

- **Inspection Summary**
- **Inspection Reports**

http://agriculture.vermont.gov/SFO-Video
ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Recognizes VAAFM water quality enforcement authority in 6 V.S.A. Chapter 215 Subchapter 10.

VAAFM now has the authority to
- issue emergency orders to protect water quality;
- require the implementation of mandatory corrective actions; and
- remove livestock when the volume of waste exceeds farm capacity.

Under 6 V.S.A. Chapter 215, when VAAFM identifies a small, medium, or large farm in violation of the LFO, MFO, or RAP requirements, VAAFM shall initiate the enforcement process.
### INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN ENFORCEMENT: NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final 2016</th>
<th>Preliminary 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>379 total inspections/investigations</td>
<td>218 total inspections/investigations</td>
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<tr>
<td>103 complaints (investigations)</td>
<td>118 complaints (investigations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187 compliance checks/enforcement action follow-ups/routine inspections</td>
<td>100 compliance checks/enforcement action follow-ups/routine inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>48 enforcement actions</td>
<td>81 enforcement actions</td>
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***Does not include routine inspections conducted that DID NOT result in an enforcement action***
Frequently flooded soils – began 2017:
- Extended manure spreading ban October 16 - April 14
- Must cover crop (broadcast by 10/1, drilled by 10/15)
## VARIANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEVELOPED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Frequently Flooded</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Stacking Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Site Specific Buffers</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ NMP Alternative for Vegetable Growers</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REMAINING TO BE DEVELOPED</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ RAP Grazing management plans</td>
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<td>▪ Allowing grazing in areas where GMP cannot work</td>
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<td>▪ Alternatives to the floodplain maps</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Seasonal spreading plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Management plan to determine whether RAPs apply</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Alternative cover crop planting dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Winter spreading exemptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Removing a farm from SFO certification</td>
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GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS

- Best Management Practices (BMP)
  - Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP)
  - Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)
  - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
FAP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FY 2017
- 24 Recipients
- $76,575.39
- 3,211 Acres

FY 2018
- 58 Grant Recipients
- $204,5909 Funds Obligated
- 7051 Acres
FY17 Acreage Enrolled in FAP

- Cover Crop: 901.7 acres (28%)
- Alternative Manure Application: 1304.9 acres (41%)
- Conservation Tillage: 585.3 acres (18%)
- Aeration Tillage: 112.5 acres (3%)
- Rotation: 112.5 acres (4%)
- Nurse Crop: 195 acres (6%)
$5,323,734.32 Ask
61 Applicants
112 Pieces of Equipment Requested
GRANTS FOR PARTNERS

- Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program
- Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program
- Ag-Clean Water Initiative Program Grants (Ag-CWIP)
  - FY 2018 RFP CURRENTLY OPEN
  - Agriculture.Vermont.gov/WQ-RFP
MEDIUM FARM OPERATION GENERAL PERMIT REVISION

- Medium Farm Operation General Permit
  - All MFOs in Vermont are covered under one GP
  - Required by Rule (2006) to be updated every five years
  - First GP was effective in 2007, and then amended in 2012 → The current GP
  - Now due for revision in 2017
  - Draft GP:
    - Public Hearing November 2, 2017
    - Public Comment Period started October 2, 2017 and concluded on December 1, 2017

- Now: Reviewing comments, will formulate responses, make amendments to permits and post Final Updated MFO GP and Responsiveness Summery (estimated January 2018)
CHANGES TO MFO GP

- Removal of redundant language covered by the RAPs and USDA 590 Standard
- Importation of Substrates
- Electronic submittal of shapefiles
- Removed transfer of permits
- Inspections every 3 years, annual fees: April 30
- Improved clarity of language surrounding nutrient management
LARGE FARM OPERATION RULE REVISION

- Annual Report and Fee due by February 15

- Beginning the process to revise LFO Rule
  - Many steps in Rule revision process

- Currently engaging in PIVOT / LEAN Process for overview of LFO Rule
  - What is the current programmatic process
Ongoing Research

- VAAFM RFP:
  - Sampling analysis: ~40 Sites
  - Biweekly sampling December 2017 - ?
  - Working through contracts

RAP Rulemaking for Tile Drains: Prefiling in January 2018
THANK YOU!

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