

**Agricultural Easement Management Plan for  
Walter and Diane Berthiaume / James and Dawn Blodgett  
VHCB# 2015-080-001  
NEST# 5416441401G35/01GXQ**



**Farmstead along Rt. 104 looking north, James Blodgett hauling manure**

Section 1265B(4)(C) of the 2014 Agricultural Act (2014 Act) introduced statutory requirements for various types of plans under ACEP-ALE enrollments. This Agricultural Easement Management Plan is being developed for the Berthiaume Farm as required by the 2014 Act.

This Agricultural Easement Management Plan, and all attached component plans, are intended to be a living document. The grantee is responsible for maintaining and updating this Agricultural Easement Management Plan as management types and land uses change and shall not restrict NRCS access to the Agricultural Easement Management Plan or to the easement property for monitoring purposes.

**Agricultural Easement Management Plan Minimum Requirements:**

**A conservation plan will be followed which:**

- 1- provides conservation practices and management to maintain all cropland at or below tolerable soil loss levels (T),
- 2- provides conservation practices and management to prevent ephemeral gully erosion,
- 3- provides conservation practices and management to meet all current state laws and regulations for water quality protection.

This Agricultural Easement Management Plan will be reviewed on-site by NRCS staff once every 5 years and updated if necessary to protect soil and water quality and to assure the farm management meets state regulations. All conservation practices identified in the conservation plan must be fully implemented within 10 years of the easement closing date. Practices to meet Food Security Act Highly Erodible Land provisions and/or State Law must be implemented immediately.

## **Table of Contents**

**Section I – Farm Setting: Agricultural and Ecological Landscape**

**Section II – Overall Management Goals & Long Term Viability**

**Section III – Agricultural Management Objectives and Management Actions**

**Section IV – Additional Agricultural Features and Operations**

**Section V – Other Management Opportunities and Limitations**

**Section VI – Monitoring**

**Section VII- Updates to the Agricultural Easement Management Plan**

## **List of Component Plans Referenced in this Document**

Component 1: Conservation Plan

Component 2: Forestry Management Plan

Component 3: Vermont Land Trust Baseline Documentation Report

Component 4: VHCB Farm Viability Business Plan

## **Section I – Farm Setting: Agricultural and Ecological Landscape**

The Berthiaume Farm is a 329 acre dairy farm with 70 milking and dry cows and 55 heifers and calves owned by Walter and Diane Berthiaume. The farm is operated by James and Dawn Blodgett. The Blodgett's are in the process of transitioning their herd of Jersey cattle to meet organic certification standards. The Blodgett's will purchase the farm from Walter and Diane at the conservation easement closing.

The milking barn is a conventional tie-stall barn with a gutter cleaner. A round earthen manure storage pond was installed shortly after Walter purchased the farm. Manure is transferred from the barn to the earthen manure storage pond by way of a hopper and gravity transfer pipe. Milkhouse waste is pumped from a pump station west of the milkhouse into the manure gutter where it is handled with the manure collected in the barn. An existing concrete slab on the south side of the barn is used for winter exercise. Runoff from this slab is not collected because the small settling area at the SW corner (with a drain to the manure pond) no longer functions. Roof runoff from the southwest portion of the barn roof drains onto the barnyard area. Barnyard and roof runoff flows south and west toward Beaver Meadow Brook. Livestock mortalities are composted or buried with the farm's excavator in an area south of the far east end of the cattle lane on the east side of Rt. 104 (east of field 10 on the FSA tract map). Manure is applied to the hayland and pastureland by honey wagon from the manure storage pond. The open land on the farm is used to produce hay and pasture for the dairy herd. There are 2 remote fields (7 and 8) that are used for hay production. There is a pasture complex on the west side of Rt. 104 north (field P1) and south (field P2) of the barn that is used solely for pasture. The fields east of Rt. 104 are used for both hay and pasture production. Field 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8 are all determined to be non-highly erodible (NHEL). James and Dawn move the cattle across Rt. 104 in order to access the cattle/farm lane located directly across from the house and barn. They both commented on the care that must be taken to alert vehicles approaching from the north and south to prevent an accident. They have explored installing a cattle culvert under Rt. 104 and have discussed looking into whether a flashing light could be installed to get the attention of the approaching traffic. The area of the farm on the west side of Rt. 104 that is not excluded from the easement includes approximately 56.5 acres of managed forestland. A forest management plan was written for all of the farm's woodland in January of 2014 by Greenleaf Forestry. The farm is enrolled in Vermont's Use Value Program. The farm is situated on the southeast side of the St. Albans Reservoir. The west edge of field 7 is located 160 feet upslope of the reservoir. The north ½ of the farm lies within the surface water source protection area for the reservoir. The northwest corner of field 1 lies within zone 3 of the groundwater source

protection area for a public well located about 3000 feet NE of the Rt. 104/Brick Church Road intersection. The farm's water source is a well located at the SW corner of the farm house. There is one neighboring well located about 20 feet south of the southeast corner of field P1. There is a shallow well with water rights for the neighboring home due north of the farmstead located at the far north end of field P1.

The farm is located in Franklin County in the town of Fairfax, Vermont. The 206 acre easement area consists of 110.5 acres of tillable land (used for hay and pasture), 17 acres of open land (used for pasture), 56.5 acres of woodland, 8.5 acres of wetland (in the wooded areas), and a 13.5 acre building envelope which includes the farmstead, and a portion of the pastureland on the west and east side of Rt. 104. 123 acres of the farm have been excluded from the easement area. This includes a 77 acre wooded parcel at the far southwest corner of the farm and a 46 wooded and pastured parcel at the southeast corner of the farm. There is right of way to the western exclusion area along the far south side of the pasture south of the farmstead. There is a right of way to the eastern exclusion area by way of the cattle/farm lane across Rt. 104 opposite the house and barn.

Soils on field 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8 consist predominantly of Westbury Stony Fine Sandy Loam - 0 to 8%, Cabot Silt Loam - 0 to 3% slope, and Peru Fine Sandy Loam - 3 to 8%. Pasture field P1 consists of Cabot Silt Loam - 3 to 15%, very stony, and Peru Fine Sandy Loam - 3 to 15%. Pasture field P2 consists of Cabot Silt Loam - 3 to 15% and Westbury Stony Fine Sandy Loam - 3 to 8%. The woodland areas within this easement consist predominantly of Cabot Silt Loam - 3 to 15% with a small amount of Terric Medisaprists. Most of the forested areas within the easement boundary are located on soil mapped as hydric. The farmland terrain is generally gently to moderately sloping.

The Berthiaume Farm is located in St. Albans Bay and Malletts Bay Watershed. Runoff from the northwest portion of the easement area drains about 8.5 miles by way of the St. Albans Reservoir and the Mill River into the St. Albans Bay of Lake Champlain. Runoff from the south and south east portion of the easement area drains about 20 miles into the Malletts Bay portion of the Lake Champlain by way of Beaver Meadow Brook and the Lamoille River. Erosion control and water quality protection are the primary environmental concerns for this watershed, the Berthiaume and Blodgett families, as well as for neighbors and the public at large. Refer to the Baseline Documentation Report (component 3) for additional information regarding this farm and the environmental setting.

The Berthiaume farm is a small family farm. Its location on the landscape provides the general community and travelers visiting the region with views of the Green Mountains, the Adirondack Mountains, and the northern Champlain Valley. Protection of this property ensures that the farm will have an economically viable future and that it is protected from future development. Conserving this property protects the natural resources on the farmland as well as further protecting the Pike River Watershed. Conserving the property also protects the scenic values that the farm provides and helps maintain the 'pristine image' of Vermont.

## **Section II – Overall Management Goals & Long Term Viability**

The goal of the Easement and of this Plan is to protect the agricultural use and provide for future viability and related conservation values of the easement by limiting nonagricultural uses of the land.

This Plan will ensure that the property remains agriculturally viable for future generations by promoting active conservation of the landscape.

James and Dawn Blodgett have devoted substantial time to farm and business planning to ensure that this conservation easement is a success. The Blodgett's have invested in the future by completing the business planning program with VHCB's Farm Viability program (See Component 4). The acquisition of this parcel is a key component of this business plan and will allow for long-term viability of the farming operation.

Even though a firm foundation exists to ensure continuity of operations, should the landowner not be able to make farming a financial success, the Vermont Housing and Conservation board has incorporated an Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) in the easement deed. This provision gives the easement co-holders (VHCB) the right to intervene in any future sale to a non-family, non-farmer, and to buy the property at its appraised commercial agricultural value. This provision helps to ensure that farmland stays in active agricultural production, providing a strong incentive for farm owners to sell the protected property to other farmers.

## **Section III – Agricultural Management Objectives and Management Actions**

At the time of enrollment James and Dawn Blodgett are operating the farm as a dairy. The Jersey herd is being transitioned to organic at this time. Long term objectives are to maintain farm viability while protecting soil and water quality.

Cattle are pastured during the summer months and fed hay harvested from the property during the winter months. The farm consists of hay fields with pasture and forestland. Most of the hayland third cut is grazed. For a thorough description of the farm management at the time of enrollment see the attached Baseline Documentation Report compiled by the Vermont Land Trust (Component 4).

### **Hayland Management:**

All open land on this parcel is currently managed as hayland and pasture which meets the Food Security Act, Vermont AAPs and ACEP-ALE erosion requirements. Manure is applied to the land by honey wagon from the home farm's manure storage pond. If annual crops are grown on these fields erosion will need to be kept at or below allowable soil loss or "T". Field 1N, 3, 6, 7, 8 are used for hay production. Hay is removed as wrapped round bales and stored south of the barnyard. With the exception of field 7 and 8 all of the remaining hay fields have their 3rd cut removed by grazing the dairy herd late in the hay season. Soil tests are planned for the upcoming crop year for all fields. A 2016 EQIP application for assistance with the development of a nutrient management plan is on file with the St. Albans NRCS office.

Immediate Required Action: 1) File an updated AD-1026 for any field or area that will be plowed up to plant an **annual commodity crop** where an HEL determination has not been completed. File an updated AD-1026 for any drainage improvements or land clearing prior to starting the work. Refer to the conservation plan (Component 1).

Immediate Required Action: 2) Obtain new soil tests for all fields that will receive mechanically applied manure beginning in 2016. Vermont AAP's require soil tests once every 5 years. The AAP's require that nutrients be applied according to the needs identified by the soil test. Maintain the soil test records for 5 years. Refer to the conservation plan (Component 1).

Immediate Required Action: 3) A minimum 10 foot wide permanent grass buffer is required along the east and west side of the tributary to Beaver Meadow Brook that flows south between field 1 and 6 to stop sediment and nutrients from running into the water course along the field edges in those locations and to meet State of Vermont AAP requirements (if State AAPs change in the future, this required buffer may need to be increased in width). Manure should not be applied within this vegetated buffer area. Refer to the attached Conservation Plan Map for location. **This area is currently in grass, maintain a 10 foot manure application setback when applying manure.** Refer to the conservation plan (Component 1).

### **Grazing Land Management:**

Milkers and heifers are pastured from mid-May through mid-November. Within the easement area there are 3 primary pasture areas...field P1-18.1 acres north of the farmstead, field P2-19.3 acres around the farmstead and south and 21 acres in the south half of field 1. With the exception of field 7 and 8, the remaining areas of hayland are grazed late in the season, 3<sup>rd</sup> cut is removed from field 1N, 3 and 6 as pasture rather than hay. Part of the pasture adjacent to the north side of the barn is used for heifer pasture year round. Water is provided to the grazing livestock from the farm well located SW of the farm house by way of plastic pipeline and water tubs. Water is also accessible in the ponds and ditches running through the pastured areas. Vermont AAP's require that adequate vegetation shall be maintained on streambanks by limiting livestock trampling and equipment damage in order to protect streambanks from excess erosion. In general it appears this requirement is being met, however some of the farm ditches would benefit from exclusion during wet periods allowing grazing to keep vegetation under control when the ground is dry. Cattle access south and east of the barn is in reasonable shape. Access north of the barn is in need of some improvement to improve water quality and animal health. 2 wells supplying neighboring homes are within 50 feet of the grazing livestock.

Immediate Required Action: 1) Vermont AAP's (section 4.03 (g)) requires that livestock shall not be pastured within 50 feet of a private well without permission of the well owner. In lieu of moving the perimeter pasture fence obtain written permission from neighbors to pasture within 50 feet of wells on their property. This would include the well with water rights supplying the house due north of the barn (the Varil property) and the well in the front yard of the house at the Southeast corner of field P2 along the west side of Rt. 104.

The pasture system is currently managed without a formal Grazing Management Plan.

Recommended Action: 1) Contact the NRCS for technical and financial assistance to install additional animal trail, access road, temporary fence, and perhaps some reseeding of the poorer producing paddocks. Refer to the conservation plan (Component 1).

Recommended Action: 2) Contact NRCS regarding development of an approved Grazing Management Plan. This plan would identify additional grazing management strategies, components or considerations to help ensure grazing on this property meets the needs of the grazing manager as well as the grazing livestock. Refer to the conservation plan (Component 1).

Recommended Action: 3) Contact the NRCS for technical assistance in evaluating the benefits of establishing a riparian forested buffer along the water course between field 1 and 6. A variety of USDA and Vermont Agency of Agriculture Programs are available to provide financial assistance. Refer to the conservation plan (Component 1).

### **Forest Land Management:**

The 56.5 acres of forestland associated with this parcel exceeds the 40 acre / 20 percent threshold requiring that the management of the forestland on the easement property will be conducted in accordance with the current approved Forestry Management Plan. Follow the general management and stewardship principles and practices as outlined in the plan prepared by Greenleaf Forestry in January of 2014 for Walter and Diane Berthiaume (Component 2). This property is currently enrolled in Vermont's Land Use Appraisal under the guidance of the previously mentioned plan.

### **Agricultural Waste Management:**

This farm does not currently have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) nor a Nutrient Management Plan. The farmstead manure storage pond while it appears to be adequately sized, it does appear to have soils that might not meet current design standards for permeability. The barnyard at the southwest side of the barn does not direct runoff into the manure storage pond but rather out into the pasture south of the barn. The roof that drains onto barnyard is not diverted. The milkhouse could be drained directly to the manure storage pond but because the existing pipe is plugged, Jamie and Dawn pump the waste into the barn's manure gutter which contains and stores the milkhouse waste. Livestock mortalities are composted or buried with the farm's excavator in an area south of the far east end of the cattle lane on the east side of Rt. 104 (east of field 10 on the FSA tract map). The soil in this area is mapped as Cabot Silt Loam which normally has a water table within 18" of the soil surface.

Vermont AAP's require that all sources of manure and nutrients shall be accounted for when determining recommended application rates for crops. Nutrient applications shall be based on soil testing by field. All fields receiving mechanical application of manure shall be soil tested at least once every five years. Records of soil tests shall be maintained for five years. Vermont's AAP's also require that mechanically applied manure shall not be applied within ten feet of adjoining surface waters or within twenty five feet of adjoining surface waters at points of runoff, or applied in a manner as to enter surface waters. Vermont AAP's also requires that all agricultural wastes (including animal mortalities) shall be disposed of so as to minimize the adverse water quality impacts. Animal mortalities buried on the farm property shall be sited so as to be:

- at least 150 feet from property lines, wells, and surface waters
- at least 3 feet above the seasonal high water table.
- covered with a minimum of 24 inches of soil.

Animal mortalities composted on the farm property shall be sited so as to be:

- at least 100 feet from property lines, wells, and surface waters.
- not on land subject to annual overflow from adjoining surface waters.
- at least 300 feet from neighboring wells.

Immediate Required Action: 1) see Hayland #2) Work with a crop consultant to obtain new soils tests for all fields that will receive mechanically applied manure in 2015.

Immediate Required Action: 2) see Hayland #3) Maintain the required manure setbacks (application buffers) as outlined in the Conservation Plan (component 1) and attached maps.

Immediate Required Action: 3) Ensure handling of livestock mortalities is according to VT AAP requirements. Request NRCS assistance to evaluate the current mortality composting/burial site and request an evaluation of suitable sites if the current site does not meet requirements. Refer to the Conservation Plan (component 1).

Recommended actions: 1) It is recommended that the agricultural waste management on this property to be conducted in accordance with an NRCS approved Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and all sub-components thereof (Manure and Waste Water Handling Plan, Land Treatment Plan, and Nutrient Management Plan). This practice will address any ground water, surface water, fertility, and erosion resource concerns that exist on the farmstead, hayland and pasture. A properly planned and applied CNMP with proper recordkeeping will meet Vermont AAP's and Vermont's Medium and Large Farm operation requirements should the farm decide to add onto the herd in the future.

#### **Section IV – Additional Agricultural Features and Operations**

N/A.

#### **Section V – Other Management Opportunities and Limitations**

##### **Impervious Surfaces:**

As described in the deed, impervious surfaces will not exceed 2% of the protected land, excluding NRCS-approved conservation practices described in this Agricultural Easement Management Plan.

Impervious surfaces are defined as material that does not allow water to percolate into the soil on the parcel. This includes, but is not limited to, residential buildings, agricultural buildings with or without flooring, paved areas, and any other surfaces that are covered by asphalt, concrete, or roofs. This limitation does not include public roads or other roads owned and controlled by parties with superior rights to those rights conveyed to Grantee by this Agricultural Land Easement.

##### **Restricted Areas:**

The easement designates three Surface Water Protection Zones (SWPZ) located in the woodland area northwest of the farmstead including 2 which abut field 8 on west and east side (see the attached plan map for the approximate location). The principal goal within the SWPZ is the protection of surface waters and wetlands, in part through the establishment and maintenance of a high quality naturally vegetated buffer. The SWPZ provides an array of ecological benefits including but not limited to:

- a) protecting aquatic and wetland plants and animals from disturbance;
- b) preventing wetland and water-quality degradation;
- c) providing important terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal habitat; and
- d) providing organic matter, nutrients, shade, and large diameter coarse woody debris for the benefit of wetland, riparian, and aquatic systems.

Within the SWPZ, Grantor shall obtain Grantees' prior written approval for any **agricultural**, forest management or recreational activities, such approval to be granted, conditioned or denied in Grantees' sole discretion. Without limiting the foregoing, all activities within the SWPZ shall be consistent with the goals set forth above. The zone has been established for the protection of surface waters and wetlands, in part through the establishment and maintenance of a high quality naturally vegetated buffer.

## **Section VI - Monitoring**

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### **Monitoring Requirements:**

On-site Monitoring of the easement by the Grantee (VHCB/VLT) will occur on a yearly schedule as described in the easement deed. NRCS shall make an on-site visit, at a minimum, every 5 years for monitoring purposes. Monitoring may be more frequent if NRCS becomes aware of a landowner changes, a change in management style, or any other change that could impact the easement. During monitoring the Agricultural Easement Management Plan will be reviewed by NRCS staff, if necessary, to ensure that soil and water quality are being protected.

### **NRCS Rights to Egress & Ingress:**

The easement is bounded by two public roads. Vermont Rt. 104 bisects this parcel from north to south. Rt. 104 abuts field P1, P2, 1, 3 and the farmstead. Brick Church Road abuts the north side of field 1 and 6. The existing entrance to field P1, leading to field 7 and 8 is through the NE corner of the neighbor's property (the Varil residence). Over the years Walter Berthiaume worked out a deal with the neighbors to do it this way, but the access off and on Rt. 104 at this location is not owned by the farm.

As part of the ACEP-ALE agreement, 2 right of ways (ROW) are provided to access the excluded portions of the farm. The exclusion area east of Rt. 104 will use the existing farm access road/cattle lane as a ROW. The exclusion area west of Rt. 104 will have access by way of a ROW along the south boundary of the farm directly from Rt. 104. See the plan map for locations.

## **Section VII – Updates to the Agricultural Easement Management Plan**

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NRCS recognizes that an ACEP-ALE easement is in perpetuity, therefore a plan developed at the time of easement closing may not be applicable 30 years down the road. Landowners are encouraged to take ownership of their Agricultural Easement Management Plan and to update them within one year of a change in management style or landownership. As such, Agricultural Easement Management Plan are considered "living documents".

# Agricultural Easement Management Plan

I (we) have reviewed this ACEP-ALE Plan and agree to content included therein:

## CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS:

_____	_____
Customer Signature	DATE

_____	_____
Customer Signature	DATE

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I have provided a review of the content of this plan with the NRCS ACEP-ALE customer:

## CERTIFICATION OF NRCS CONSERVATION PLANNER:

_____	_____
Conservation Planner	DATE

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The content of this plan meets the requirements of the ACEP-ALE Program:

## CERTIFICATION OF NRCS CERTIFIED CONSERVATION PLANNER:

_____	_____
Conservation Planner	DATE

# Conservation Plan

## (ALE Component 1)

For the Berthiaume Farm VHC# 2015-080-001

**The following conservation practices must be applied immediately, if not already in use, to meet Food Security Act provisions:**

File an updated AD-1026 for any field or area that will be plowed up to plant an annual crop where an HEL determination has not been completed....this would include the pastured areas (P1 and P2). Update the farm's AD-1026 if any drainage improvements or land clearing is planned. **Farm is currently in compliance with HEL and Wetland provisions of the Food Security Act.**

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**The following conservation practices must be applied immediately to meet Vermont State Regulations:**

### **Nutrient Management (590):**

Work with a crop consultant to obtain new soil tests for all fields that will receive mechanically applied manure in 2016 and have soil tests currently older than 5 years. Apply nutrients according to the soil test recommended rates or the recommendations in an approved nutrient management plan if one is developed. **Necessary when manure is to be applied to one of these fields.**

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	1,3,6,7,8,P1,P2	114.1 acre	4	2016		

### **Livestock Mortality Composting/Disposal (317):**

Ensure future handling of livestock mortalities is done according to VT AAP requirements. Have soils and setbacks evaluated by the NRCS for suitability for future mortality disposal.

**Necessary if livestock mortalities will be disposed of on the farm.**

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	SE of fld 10	0.1 acre	1	2016		

### **Filter Strip (393):**

A minimum 10 foot wide permanent grass buffer is required along the east and west side of the water course that flows between field 1 and 6 to stop sediment and nutrients from running into the water course along the field edges in those locations and to meet State of Vermont AAP requirements (if State AAPs change in the future, this required buffer may need to be increased in width). Manure should not be applied within this vegetated buffer area. Refer to the attached Conservation Plan Map. **This area is currently in grass, maintain manure setback when applying manure.**

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	1, 1E	0.35 acre	5	2016		

# Conservation Plan

**The following conservation practices must be applied immediately to meet Vermont State Regulations if the pasture (Fld P1 and P2) is grazed within 50 feet of the existing onsite water supply.**

(Vermont AAP’s section 4.03 (g) requires that livestock shall not be pastured within 50 feet of a private well without permission of the well owner.)

**Fencing (382):**

Install a fence in the pasture in a manner that provides a 50 foot buffer between the pasture and the onsite shallow well north of the farmstead and the pasture and neighboring well 20 feet south of the southeast corner of Field P2. In lieu of an exclusion fence written permission from the neighbors to the north and south of the farmstead to graze within 50 feet of their water supplies will meet this requirement.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	P1, P2		4	2016		

**The following conservation practices are recommended to improve water quality, soil quality, and feed quality. These practices are not required for a farm of this size at this time with the Current State AAP regulations:**

**Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan:**

Work with NRCS or a consultant to develop a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP). A CNMP consists of a Manure and Wastewater Handling Plan (MWWHP), A Land Treatment Plan (LTP) and a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). The MWWHP will address all manure production, handling, runoff, collection, transfer and storage issues on the farm. The LTP will address all soil erosion and soil quality issues. The NMP will address the nutrient management of the entire farm system including manure, fertilizer, plant nutrient uptake, and inherent soil fertility. The NRCS can provide financial assistance for the development of a CNMP. Items recommended for further evaluation are:

- 1) Analysis of the existing manure pond soil permeability and the need for a liner or concrete/steel storage structure.
- 2) Collection and storage of the existing barnyard runoff.
- 3) Diversion of the roof runoff that falls onto the existing barnyard.
- 4) Replacement of the gravity transfer pipe from the milkhouse collection tank to the manure pond.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	All	1				

# Conservation Plan

## Prescribed Grazing System (528):

Work with a consultant or NRCS grazing personnel to develop an approved Grazing Management Plan. A grazing management plan can help the farm improve feed quality and quantity, as well reduce soil erosion and improve water quality while meeting the needs of the grazing manager.

Items recommended for further evaluation:

- 1) Exclude livestock from the SWPZ zones in the woodland NW of the Farmstead and on the east and west side of field 8 if the woodland will be grazed. Refer to section VI of the Forest Management Plan for Agricultural Conversion and Pasturing restrictions.
- 2) Limit grazing in the open ditches in field P1 and P2 during wet periods, graze to clean up vegetation during dry periods.
- 3) Request NRCS assistance for the improvement of the laneway north of the farmstead leading to field P1.
- 4) Request NRCS assistance with reseeding of the poorer producing paddocks.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	P1, P2, 1, 3, 6	104.5 ac				

## Riparian Forest Buffer (391):

Establish a forested buffer along water courses on the farm. This practice will provide bank stability, nutrient recycling, and improvements to upland and aquatic habitat on the farm. A variety of USDA, USFWS and Vermont Agency of Agriculture cost share programs are available to assist with the establishment of a forested riparian buffer including the woody plant material, plant protection materials, and labor to plant the trees and/or shrubs. Recommended 35 feet wide along the sections of the stream between field 1 and 6 where an adequate woody buffer does not exist.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Scheduled Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
463	1, 6	0.75 ac				

# Conservation Plan

## Additional information:

If the landowner, or subsequent landowner, decides to change cropping systems or grow annual/commodity crops on fields which have no history of annual crop use, they must contact the local NRCS office and the grantees of the easement to determine if new crop fields will be considered Highly Erodible Land and to determine what proper cropland management practices will be required based on crop field changes.

If State of Vermont regulations change regarding management requirements for small farm operations, those regulations must be adhered to.

## (ALE Component 1)

I (we) have reviewed this Conservation Plan and agree to content included therein:

### CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS:

_____	_____
Customer Signature	DATE

_____	_____
Customer Signature	DATE

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I have provided a thorough review of the content of this plan with the NRCS ACEP customer:

### CERTIFICATION OF NRCS CONSERVATION PLANNER:

_____	_____
Conservation Planner	DATE

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The content of this plan meets the requirements of the ACEP-ALE Program:

### CERTIFICATION OF NRCS CERTIFIED CONSERVATION PLANNER:

_____	_____
Conservation Planner	DATE

Customer(s): JAMES A BLODGETT  
 Approximate Acres: 206 ACEP-ALE easement  
 Date: 11/30/2015

### ACEP-ALE plan map 2015-080-001

Field Office: RUTLAND SERVICE CENTER  
 Agency: USDA - NRCS  
 Assisted By: KEITH HARTLINE

