

## Event Summary – UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team

**EVENT TITLE:** Manure Injection Demonstration

**EVENT DATE:** September 15, 2015

**EVENT TIME:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 am (2 hours)

**EVENT LOCATION:** Vorsteveld Farm, 4351 Jersey St, Panton, VT.

**AUDIENCE:** 13 total attendees (6 farmers, 2 Agribusiness, 1 Service Provider, 4 Extension)



### SUMMARY:

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, UVM Extension Crop, Soil, and Pasture Team and the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition hosted a two hour Crop Patrol from 1:00pm-3:00pm at the Vorsteveld Farm in Panton looking at new manure injection technology. The event had thirteen total attendees, of which six were farmers. People were notified of the event the week prior via email and phone calls.

The event started in a field on Jersey St where we introduced everyone and Eric Severy of Mathew's Trucking LLC gave background information about how manure injection works and its potential benefits for farm profitability and water quality. Farmers who currently inject manure described their happiness with the system because there is no manure on the surface, no foul odor, and the act of injecting is equivalent to light tillage, so it saves them a pass with tillage equipment in the future.

After introductions, we walked across the road and looked at a field that Eric injected the previous day with a new injector called a Dietrich injector. The farmer had Eric apply 6,000gallons/ac of manure, yet there was no evidence of it other than narrow slits in the soil. The farmer had also just applied his cover crop, so we were able to look for them and see them starting to germinate.

Finally, after walking back to our vehicles, we drove down the road to see the manure injector as it was operating. Eric had an employee driving the tractor, so he was able to talk to us about his machine and his plans for the future. Eric believes that manure injection for liquid manure is significantly better for water quality and more economical for farmers than just broadcast spreading manure in the fall. Also, while this new Dietrich injector was a great step forward from his old injectors, he is very interested in applying for a grant to acquire a shallow grassland injector. Currently, his injectors inject manure 6-8inches below the surface every 22inches. If he was able to buy a grassland injector, he could inject manure 4 inches below the surface every 7inches. This would put the manure in the root zone where the cover crop could more easily utilize the nutrients from the manure, and cutting slits every seven inches instead of every twenty two would spread out the manure more so he would no longer be applying manure in bands.

This event was a great success. We are hoping to continue the discussion with Eric about applying for a grant for a grassland injector. The Farmers and Service Providers who attended were able to see and learn a lot about how manure injection works and how it could benefit their farm.

### SPONSORS:

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition

