



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

**EVENT TITLE:** Fall 2015 - Soil Health Workshop & Field Day  
**EVENT DATE:** October 28, 2015  
**EVENT TIME:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (4 hours, plus lunch)  
**EVENT LOCATION:** Middlebury American Legion & Foster Bros. Farm (Middlebury)  
**AUDIENCE:** 82 total attendees including:  
 40 farmers, 11 agriculture industry professionals,  
 17 agency staff and 14 Extension and University

### SUMMARY:

The UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team (CVCSPT) hosted a soil health workshop and field day in Middlebury, Vermont. The day started with presentations from members of the CVCSPT on projects from the previous season including: no-till corn yields, cover crops, grazing, alternative forages, soil health testing, and an update on the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition. We were then joined by Ray Archuleta, NRCS Conservation Agronomist who gave the audience a great ‘big picture’ look at soil health and sustainability. Ray utilized many hands on demonstrations during his presentation, including the Vermont NRCS Rainfall Simulator, slake tests and more. As lunch was ending George Foster, Foster Brothers Farm, shared their farm’s story utilizing cover crops and no-till practices. Four Certified Crop Adviser credits were offered.



After lunch, we headed out to one of the Foster’s corn fields, also host to multiple UVM Extension research and demonstration projects. Ray and UVM Extension staff gave participants an up close look at 16 different cover crop plots made up of different combinations of species, no-till corn interseeded with winter rye, and subsoiling as a comparison. Joshua Faulkner, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, shared his newest CIG project comparing impacts of subsoiling and cover crops on compaction. There was also a no-till corn planter, a no-till grain drill and a high clearance cover crop seeder on display.

The event was a very successful. We had good attendance and about half of the attendees were farmers. We were even joined by folks from Quebec and New York. There was a good mix of folks who have been to events like this before and others who have not. Ray’s presentation really got people thinking about the big picture concepts of soil health, and the presentations from CVCSPT gave attendees reliable local information about how these practices are working in the Champlain Valley. Despite the bad weather, folks were engaged and asking great questions even through the field portion of the day.

### Support Provided by:

Ben & Jerry’s Caring Dairy  
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