



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

EVENT TITLE: 2016 Cover Crop Field Day
EVENT DATE: April 21st, 2016
EVENT TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (2 hours)
EVENT LOCATION: Vorsteveld Farm
Panton, VT
AUDIENCE: 18 total attendees
(7 farmers, 5 agribusiness service providers,
6 Extension/University)



SUMMARY:

The UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team hosted a cover crop field day at Vorsteveld Farm in Panton, Vermont. The farm was host to a NE SARE and USDA NIFA funded research project in cooperation with UVM Extension called, “Evaluating the use of forage radish to enhance winter rye cover crops”.

Kirsten Workman, CV Crops team member, described the project that is also the basis for Master’s thesis in Plant & Soil Science. We discussed and looked at the different winter rye and radish treatments in the field. All plots had good growth, as a warm fall and mild winter really favored cover crops this year. A handout from the field day is attached with some preliminary data from the project and a plot map.

Josef Gorres, UVM Soil Science Professor, also discussed how to identify Vergennes clay soil, described a project looking at the K Factor and erosion rates of this common Champlain Valley soil, and what some of the management implications are.

In addition to the research plots, we talked with Gerard Vorsteveld, one of three brothers who operate the farm about their reduced tillage system, and the Winter Rye/Oat/Radish cover crop mixture that they implemented on over 800 acres this last fall.

A good discussion was had about ways farmers approach phosphorus reductions, practices they are implementing, and how economics play a role in managing environmental stewardship.

SPONSORS:

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