

November 6th, 2023

Candice Huber
Grant Program Coordinator
802-651-8335 x554
candice.huber@uvm.edu

Dear Candice

We are writing with regard to our SARE 2022 Partnership Project Number: ONE22-426, titled "Farm-scale Urine Fertilizer Implementation: Refining Application Methods, Gathering Buyer and Consumer Perspectives, and Producing Farmer Guide."

We would like to make a change to our project plan with respect to the farm field day that we had planned to host at one of the farm application sites "to facilitate farmer-to-farmer" knowledge exchange and gather feedback for the farmer guide" which we are producing as part of the project. For several reasons we found that a field day at either site was not possible this season – at one partner site the farmer didn't have time to host a field day; at the other site, the results of the experiment were still unknown (evaluation is scheduled for later this month), but issues with germination of the seeds used for the experiment suggest that results may be less meaningful that we had hoped.

Therefore, we propose that instead of the field day we host a webinar in the Burlington area this winter. Currently a business called Wasted* with whom we work closely is promoting urine diversion in the Burlington region, and is eager to make contact with farmers there who would like to apply urine as a fertilizer. We propose to include as panelists for this webinar representatives from Wasted* as well as the two partner farmers for this project (Yellowbud Farm and Pete's Stand) to share their experiences, as well as several other farmers who have partnered with us on previous SARE projects.

This would be an opportunity to reach new potential partners for urine applications. We also note that Yellowbud Farm, with whom we are working this year in Northfield, MA, plans to locate their long-term nursery in the Champlain Valley south of Burlington. For this reason, a webinar geared to farmers in that region may be more useful than another field day here in Southern Vermont, where we have previously hosted a number of urine-related field days.

With regard to the farmer application guide, while we are fairly far along with our work on this, it is not yet ready for farmer feedback. Instead of seeking feedback at the field day or webinar, we propose to consult with four farmers for specific feedback. We had already included in the budget compensation for these farmers.

Please let us know if this plan is acceptable.

