

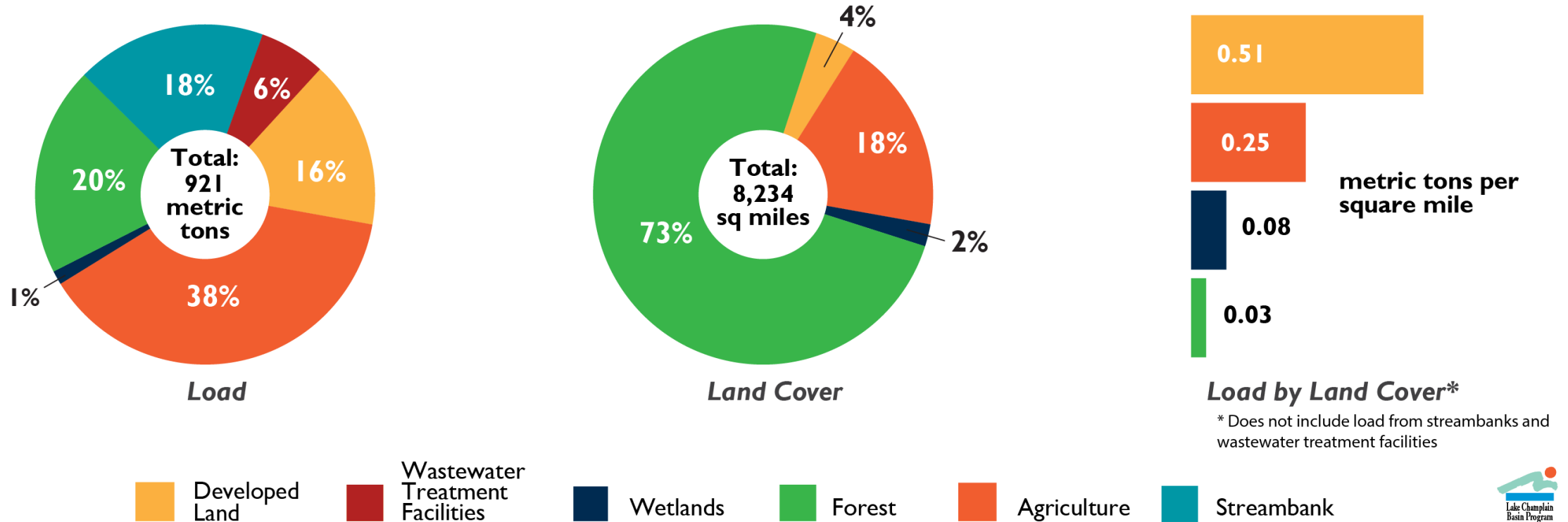
Agriculture and Water Quality

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Everyone eats, and everyone wants a clean lake



DATA SOURCES Long Term Monitoring Program (LCBR/YT/ANR, NYSDEC)



38% of the load is 38% of the solution

Who's who in VT Agriculture?



Federal



Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Offers funding for conservation projects like:
 - Cover cropping
 - Grassland bird protection
 - Updating manure storage infrastructure
- Offers technical assistance and one-on-one site visits
- Non-regulatory organization



Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Keeps records of farming practices in VT – field by field maps
- Offers crop insurance and other loans to farmers
- Offers disaster relief assistance programs and some conservation assistance

State



Agency of Agriculture

- Regulatory agency that creates guidance and laws about farming practices
- Created Required Agricultural Practices “RAPs”
- Conduct farm inspections
- Provide funding assistance for conservation practices through their BMP (Best Management Practices) Program and others
- Supports research to learn more about the impact of the agricultural community on water quality (ex. Tile Drain Study)
- Publishes monthly newsletter with information about rules, regulations, funding and news (Agreview)



Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)

- Provides business planning advice through the Farm and Forest Viability Program
 - Farmers receive one-on-one consultations about their business venture from partners at UVM Extension, the Intervale Center and others.
 - Consultants can help farms diversify their crops, measure the costs and benefits of investing in infrastructure or changing their farming practices and much more

Other Resources



Conservation Districts

- Non-regulatory organizations
- Offer one-on-one visits for technical assistance
- Can help farmers navigate available funding opportunities and pick which one is right for them
- Help farmers write their own Nutrient Management Plan for free
- Help coordinate and fund tree planting projects along streams
- Host continuing education events about conservation in agriculture for farmers and professionals
- and much more!

UVM Extension

- Completes research projects to help farmers make the best decisions based on VT-specific research rather than national research.
- Offer one-on-one visits for technical assistance
- Hosts continuing education events about conservation in agriculture for farmers and professionals

How can you help?

- Connect individual farmers with Conservation Districts or any of the other agencies that provide advice, funding and technical assistance
- Spread the word about program offerings. Join mailing lists of the agencies discussed and share information about events and programs that are relevant to your community
- Celebrate farmers that are making strides to be more lake friendly

