

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Date: September 7, 2016
Contact: Sarah Janson, Winooski Conservation District
www.winooskinrcd.org
janson@winooskinrcd.org or info@winooskinrcd.org
802-228-2155 x104

Winooski District Enrolling Small Farms for Nutrient Management Plan Class

The Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District, in conjunction with the Vermont Association of Conservations Districts, UVM Extension and USDA-NRCS, is offering a program to help small farms write Nutrient Management Plans (NMP). NMPs have been required for large and medium farm operations, but under the upcoming Required Agricultural Practice, additionally small farms will be required to account for the use of their manure and other amendments. Implementing an NMP will reduce phosphorus runoff and other nutrient loading, improving water quality in Vermont's streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, as well as maintaining the health of soils.

Through the Nutrient Management Plan class, offered in six sessions through January and February, participants will better understand the nutrient needs of their soil, learn how to best use manure on the land, learn how to improve water quality and soil health on their farm, and meet a requirement of the state's Required Agricultural Practices. Sarah Janson, WNRCD Agricultural Water Quality Specialist, says, "By writing your own NMP you get a plan that is very easy to use and you are ahead of the curve in terms of meeting the proposed state law."

WNRCD is pleased to have been awarded funding to undertake outreach within the District to small farms from multiple partners including The Lake Champlain Basin Program, USDA/NRCS, VACD, NESARE, UVM, public donations and funds from our annual tree and trout sales. Farmers interested in participating in the NMP class or learning more about Agricultural Best Management Practices that can be implemented please email: info@winooskinrcd.org For more information on WNRCD projects and initiatives, please visit our website at: www.winooskinrcd.org

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District is one of 14 conservation districts throughout Vermont. It encompasses all of Chittenden and Washington County as well as parts of Orange County (Orange, Williamstown and Washington). The district relies on grants and individual donations to complete its conservation work. The WNRCD focuses its resources on completing conservation projects within the areas of agricultural assistance, forestland enhancement, urban conservation and watershed stewardship.

#