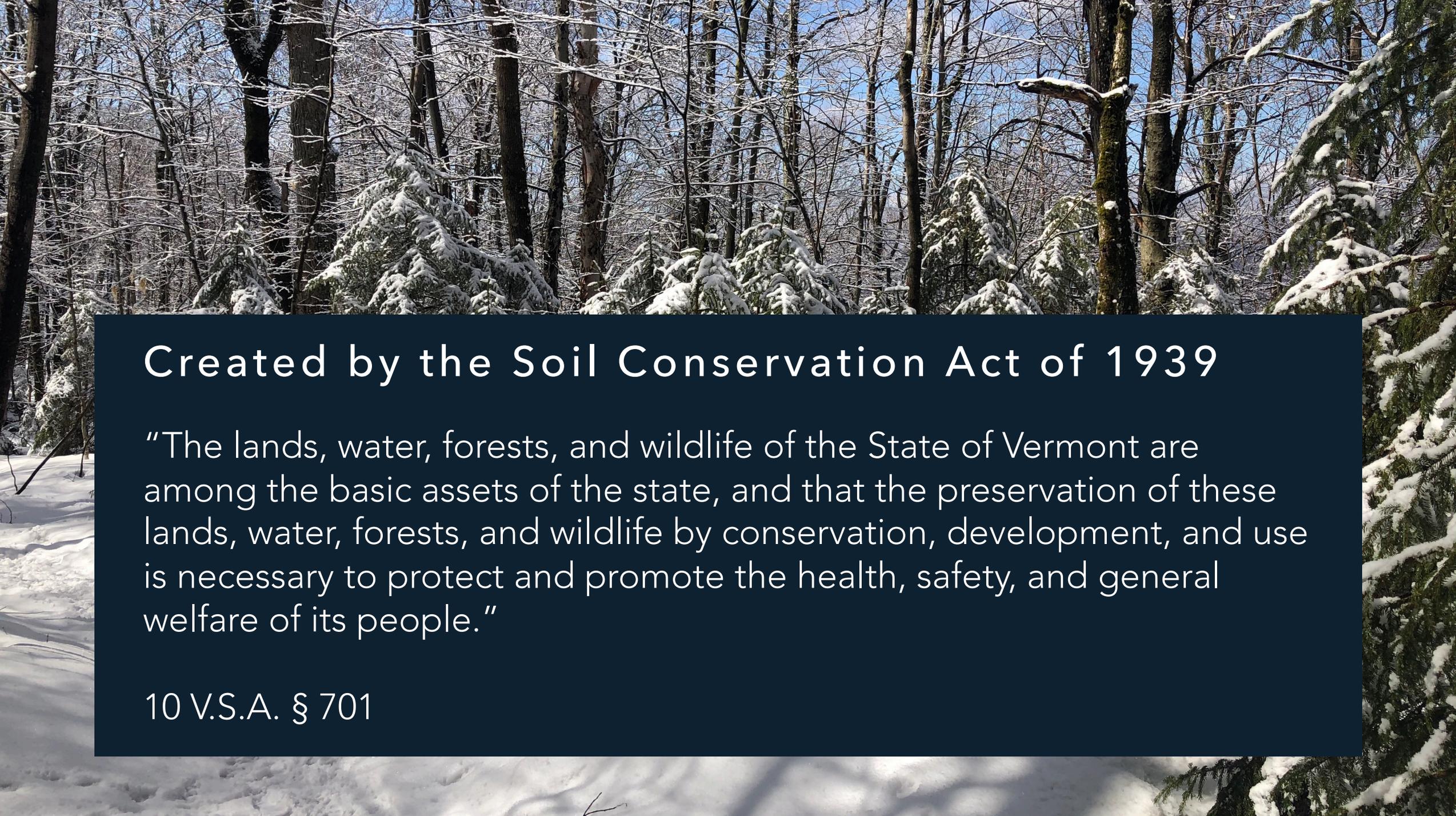


# Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts



JILL ARACE, VACD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vermont Senate Committee on Agriculture  
February 5, 2021

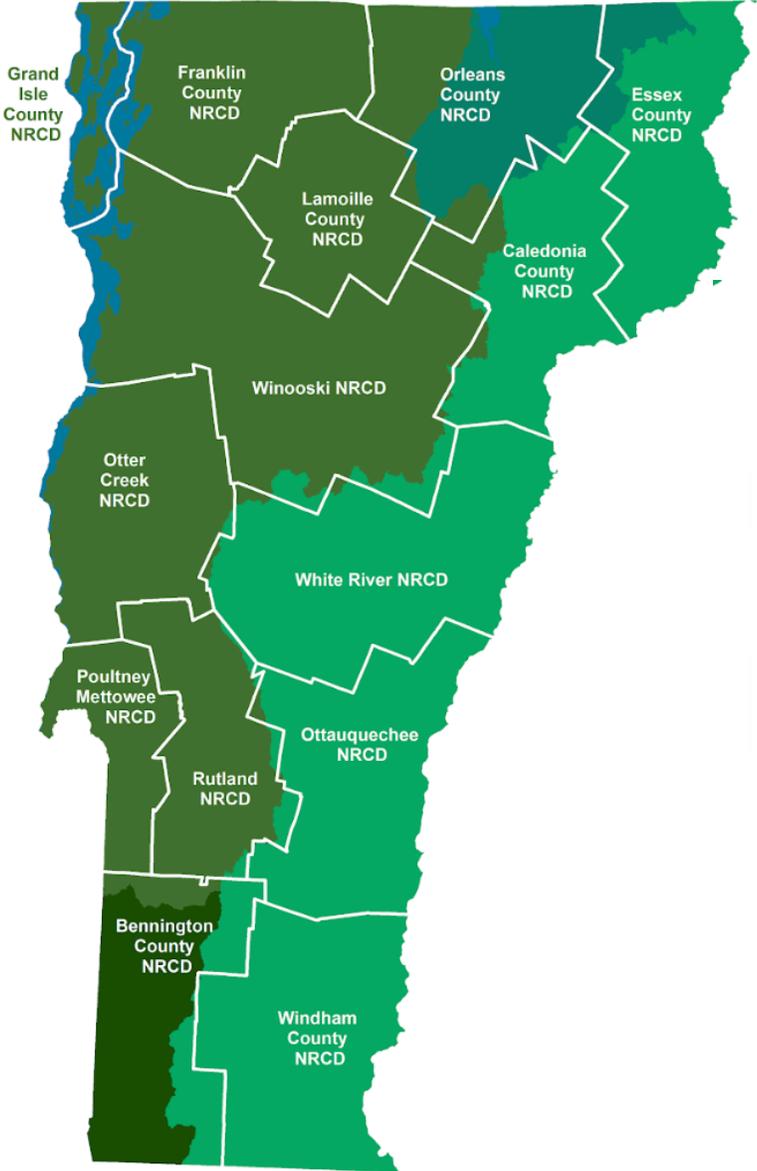


## Created by the Soil Conservation Act of 1939

“The lands, water, forests, and wildlife of the State of Vermont are among the basic assets of the state, and that the preservation of these lands, water, forests, and wildlife by conservation, development, and use is necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its people.”

10 V.S.A. § 701

# Vermont's 14 Conservation Districts Serve the Entire State



-  Conservation District Boundary
-  Connecticut River Basin
-  Hudson River Basin
-  Lake Champlain Basin
-  Lake Memphremagog Basin
-  Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog

- Bennington County NRCD
- Caledonia County NRCD
- Essex County NRCD
- Franklin County NRCD
- Grand Isle County NRCD
- Lamoille County NRCD
- Orleans County NRCD
- Ottaquechee NRCD
- Otter Creek NRCD
- Poultney Mettowee NRCD
- Rutland NRCD
- White River NRCD
- Windham County NRCD
- Winooski NRCD

# Conservation District Programs & Methodologies





# STORMWATER REMEDICATION



# RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

# NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION & CONSERVATION





# AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS



**GROWING GRASS**  
For my land  
For our wa

Thank our farmers  
for the view!  
@lamoillecountycd  
www.lcnrcd.com

**EDUCATION & OUTREACH**



# Conservation Districts Engage in Planning, Prioritization and Policy

Vermont Tactical Basin Planning

NRCS Local Working Group

Nutrient Management Commission

Soil Conservation Practice & Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group

NRCS State Technical Committee

Vermont Clean Water Network

Farm to Plate Farmland Access & Stewardship Working Group

Working Lands Coalition

Dairy & Water Coalition

Farm Bill & Agriculture Appropriations Advocacy

# Cooperation for Conservation

The Partnership seeks to:

Improve water quality and wildlife habitat on Vermont farms

Deliver technical and financial assistance in the most efficient and effective manner

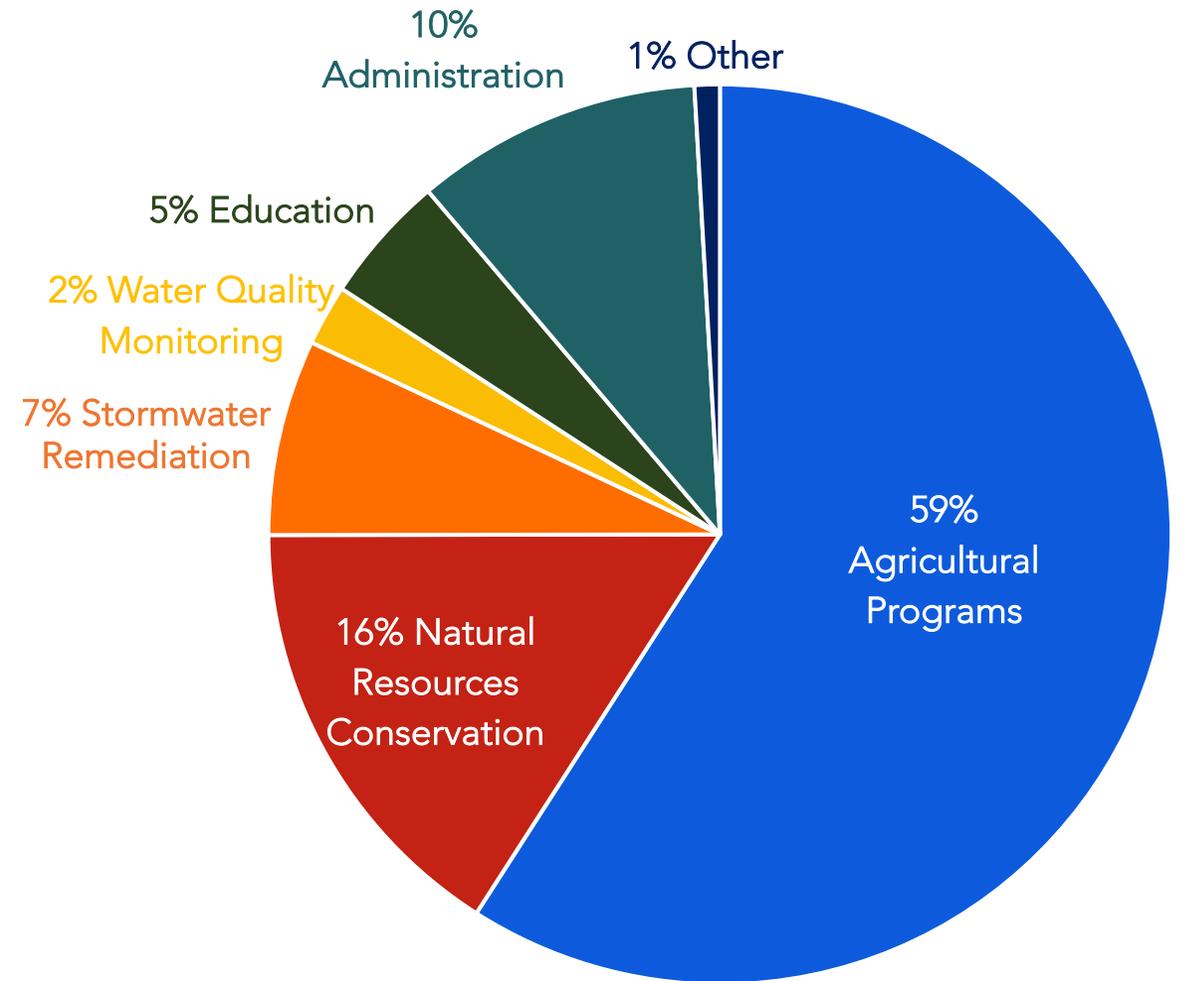
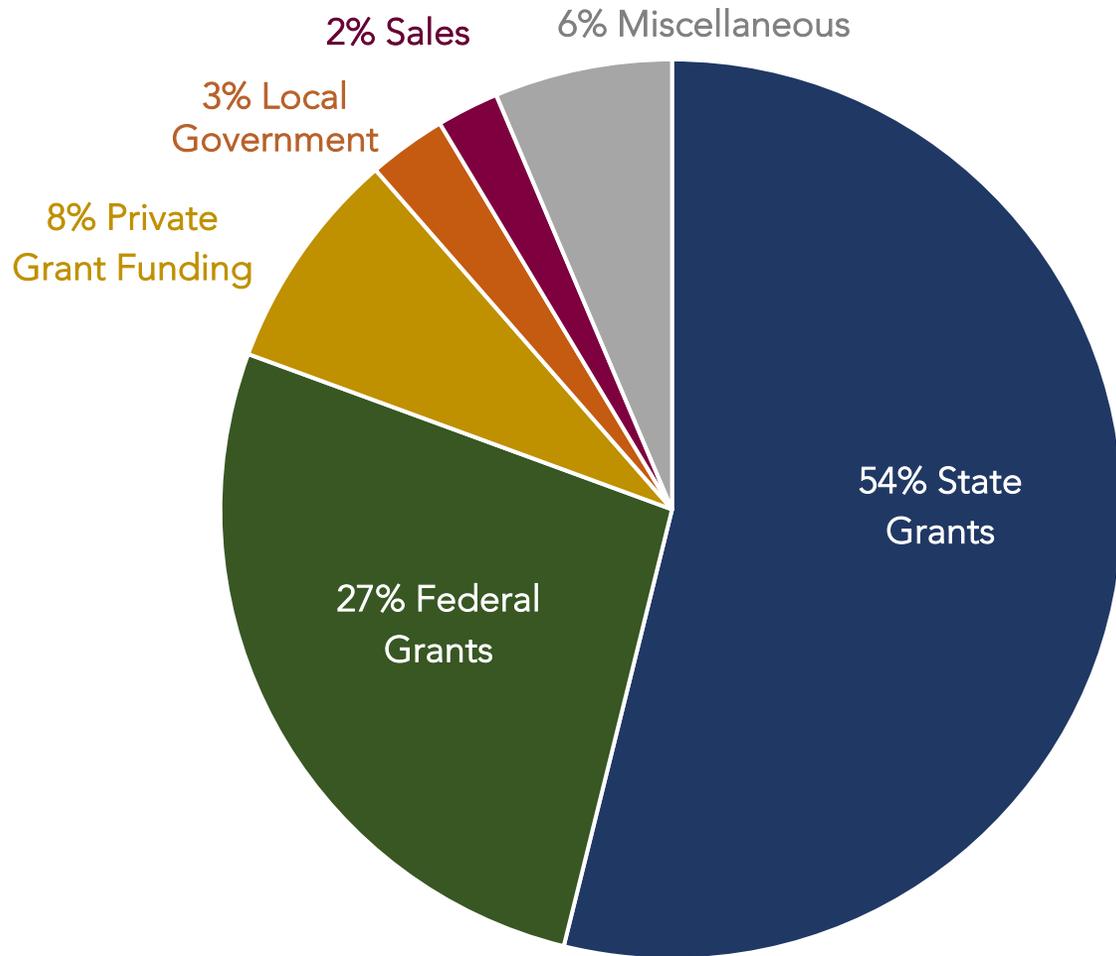
Provide the best service experience possible for the landowner

**V**ermont Agricultural  
Water Quality Partnership



# TOTAL FISCAL YEAR 2020 FUNDING = \$3.7 MILLION

## 140 GRANTS WRITTEN



# Thank You Conservation District Partners

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Lake Champlain Basin Program

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

PUR Projet

Vermont Division of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

U.S. Forest Service, Green Mountain National Forest

USDA Farm Service Agency

National Association of Conservation Districts

Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation

University of Vermont Extension

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions

Watersheds United Vermont

...and landowners, towns, communities, students, watershed groups, and land trusts.

# Conservation Districts Support Vermont's Working Landscapes

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

ACCESSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SOIL SAMPLING

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

INSTALLING CONSERVATION PRACTICES

CONSERVATION PLANNING

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

# Agricultural Programs Fiscal Year 2020 by the numbers...

**610**

Farms assisted by  
Conservation Districts across  
Vermont

**47**

Best Management Practices  
installed to reduce sediment and  
pollutants from agricultural land

**95**

Nutrient Management Plans  
developed and updated

**12,527**

Acres of agricultural land assessed  
for water quality concerns

**1,091**

Soil samples collected and analyzed

**9,128**

Tree & shrub stems planted to  
filter runoff from agricultural land

**861**

Water quality monitoring  
samples collected and analyzed

**13,264**

Linear feet of fencing installed to  
keep livestock away from streams to  
improve water quality

**32.63**

Acres of protective vegetative  
plantings completed on farms

# THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?



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