

NoteWorthy

VERMONT COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

Summer 2011

The Loan Fund Links Farm to Plate

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catering business. (Their other son, John, manages the farm operations.) The Clark family's passion for Vermont agriculture and local foods has led to expansion on the farm. Applecheek now raises and sells pork, veal, chicken, beef, ducks, turkeys, and a wide variety of produce through seasonal CSA shares (consumer supported agriculture) while also welcoming tours and events on site.



Applecheek Farm

The roster of Loan Fund borrowers who come from the local foods and agricultural sectors is a long one — including **American Flatbread**, the **Bee's Knees**, **Cavendish Game Birds**, **Fresh Farm Beef**, **Champlain Valley Rabbitry**, **High Mowing Organic Seeds**, **Neighborly Farms**,



Vermont Smoke & Cure, **Westminster Dairy** and several more throughout the state. Additionally, VCLF has granted Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) to the **Vermont Cheese Center**, **Champlain Orchards**, **Kingdom Creamery** and more, and Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to **Fat Toad Farm** and **North Branch Vineyards**.

"We're proud of the work VCLF has been doing for years to promote Vermont's agricultural economy and localism," said Belongia. "And we're all the more excited now that Farm to Plate is helping advance our shared goals."



Anjali Farm

In every corner of our state, VCLF investors strengthen Vermont. They create and preserve jobs for themselves and their neighbors, ensure that single adults, seniors and families have homes that are both safe and affordable, provide critical community services, preserve our working landscape, and provide quality child care, creating healthy beginnings for Vermont's youngest citizens.

It's easy to help. VCLF offers a variety of investment options to accommodate your social and financial goals. Call Jake Ide at 223-4423 for more information about all of the benefits you receive when you invest in VCLF.

Current Investment Rates*

Social Investment Term Account				Social Investment Cash Account
1-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-9 Years	10+ Years	No term, Withdrawals on Demand
1.0%	1.5%	2.5%	3.0%	.5%

* Rates as of April 1, 2011. Lower interest rates allow us to keep financing affordable to borrowers, increasing the impact your investment has in Vermont communities. Rates are subject to change.

The Loan Fund Links Farm to Plate

In 2009, the Vermont legislature passed the Farm to Plate (F2P) initiative to foster economic development through creation of jobs in the food and farm economy, and to improve access to healthy, locally grown and raised foods.

One of the key F2P strategies is bolstering Vermont's 'Buy Local' movement, supporting local food producers and increasing Vermonters' access to local, healthy foods. In spite of our strong agricultural roots, a 2009 study showed Vermonters still purchasing 97% of all their food from out of state, spending an estimated \$2.6 billion annually. F2P believes that we should do what we can to keep that money right here at home...and the Vermont Community Loan Fund couldn't agree more!

For Will Belongia, VCLF's Executive Director, F2P is a natural extension of the work that the Loan Fund has been doing. "The Loan Fund has been lending to Vermont food producers and processors, farm and agriculturally related businesses for over 15 years, precisely for the reasons cited in Farm to Plate. It's good for Vermont's economy, for tourism, for building wealth and well-being throughout our state. Plus, it's delicious and healthy," he added.



Hollister Hill Farm

Hollister Hill Farm in Marshfield is a prime example of Farm to Plate related work, says Belongia. Owned by Bob and Lee Light, Hollister Hill addresses multiple goals of the F2P initiative. The Lights raise pigs, chickens and beefalo that they process and sell throughout the state to individuals and restaurants. As early pioneers in the agritourism sector, the Lights have also found success in marketing their farm vacations, offering a charming B&B experience to families who want to observe and even help out with chores at a working farm.

"We produce naturally raised food for our community, care for our land with sustainable practices and educate people about small farm care of land and animals," says Lee Light. The Lights first worked with VCLF in 2005, and again in 2009 when they wanted to expand their operations. "Today we are happily supplying an ever increasing number of localvores from all over the state with our delicious, naturally raised beefalo, pork, chicken and turkey, milk, vegetables, and maple syrup," she adds.

Judy Clark of **Applecheek Farm** in Hyde Park believes the Loan Fund gave her family an important boost early on. The Clarks used a VCLF loan to help start their son Jason's on-farm



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Dear Friends,

For so many Vermonters, living here is a deliberate lifestyle choice. For many, it's the only choice. Why do we love Vermont in spite of all the challenges we face here? Why do we choose to endure mud season with its alternating April snows and flood watches? Summer black flies? Winter heating bills?

One answer I hear again and again is the landscape. It nurtures us in so many ways. It produces our prized Vermont foods. And, let's not forget: the landscape is what feeds our important tourism sector, one of our state's primary economic drivers.

Here at VCLF, when we talk about social impact and investing in Vermont, we know there's no more valuable investment than in the landscape that makes Vermont a remarkable home, tourist destination, and truly a place unlike any other.

That's why the Loan Fund continues to support Vermont's farms, local foods production and processing, agritourism, and landscape-related endeavors. This newsletter tells the stories of just a few of the dedicated Vermonters, borrowers from the Loan Fund, whose farms and businesses help keep our extraordinary landscape vital and beautiful.

Sincerely,

Will Belongia, *Executive Director*



Will Belongia
Executive Director



Small Business Lending

Fat Toad Farm, Brookfield

FTF, a farmstead processing plant for goat's milk caramel and flavored chevre cheeses will use a VCLF loan to pay off a credit line, creating jobs for its principals plus three interns annually. www.fattoadfarm.com

Harry's Hardware, Cabot

Harry's has stood on Main Street in the center of Cabot for over 100 years. Owners Julie and Walter Ackerman will use a VCLF loan for working capital, and to restructure existing debt, reducing monthly expenses.

Hudak Farm, Swanton

In operation for 38 years, this 30+ acre farm located in the village center of Swanton will use a VCLF loan to expand production with an on-farm composting site. www.hudakfarm.com



North Branch Vineyards, Montpelier

NBV has grown significantly since starting operations in 2007. They have purchased grapes from Vermont and New York growers, and are now ready to start their own vines; they will use a VCLF loan to purchase vines and equipment. www.northbranchvineyards.com

Outdoor Gear Exchange, Burlington

Since 1993, OGE, a retailer specializing in quality technical outdoor equipment, accessories and clothing, also has been a leader in the community in their environmental efforts and their commitment to providing quality jobs and livable wages. This VCLF loan will help finance their move to a new, expanded location at the heart of the Church Street Marketplace. www.gearx.com

Agritourism Lending

Snow Farm Winery, South Hero

SFW will use a VCLF loan to start a joint venture with successful Vermont restaurant chain The Skinny Pancake, which will have a presence at the farm. The loan will also be used to expand the vineyard, which currently employs five full-time and five part-time workers. www.snowfarm.com

Child Care Lending

Suzy's Little Peanuts Preschool, Springfield

This for-profit, full-day, full-year, 4 STARS-rated child care facility will use two VCLF loans to finance an expansion that will add an infant/toddler program for eight children and increase the preschool program by up to ten slots. The first loan will be used to purchase real estate and make improvements to the facility; a second loan will be used to cover additional renovation costs.

Round Hill Kids, Hyde Park

Round Hill Kids, LLC (Round Hill) is a for-profit, full-day, full-year, child care offering a full infant/toddler program, a full-day full-year preschool program and school age program as capacity allows. RHK will use one loan from VCLF to consolidate debt and reduce monthly debt service. A second loan will provide capital to support serving children receiving financial assistance from the state.

Housing Lending

Addison County Community Trust, Vergennes

A VCLF loan will be used to help the buyer finance the purchase a modular home and relocate it to the ACCT-owned Otter Creek Mobile Home Park in Vergennes. www.addisontrust.org

Addison County Community Trust, Williston

This developer of modular homes will use a VCLF loan to finance the reconstruction/relocation of modular classrooms into six single-family affordable homes. Mobile units will be relocated from the Allen Brook School in Williston to mobile home parks in Starksboro, Bristol, Middlebury and Huntington. www.addisontrust.org

Capital City Housing Foundation, Montpelier

CCGF will use a VCLF loan to cover pre-development and due diligence costs for construction of 14 subsidized residential units of senior housing on Montpelier's Barre Street.

Gilman Housing Trust, Derby, Lyndon, Newport, St. Johnsbury

This nonprofit rural regional housing service owns 69 properties, providing 670 units of affordable housing to Vermont families in sites throughout the Northeast Kingdom. They'll use a VCLF loan for permitting, inspections and other predevelopment costs, for four separate sites. www.myvtbhome.org

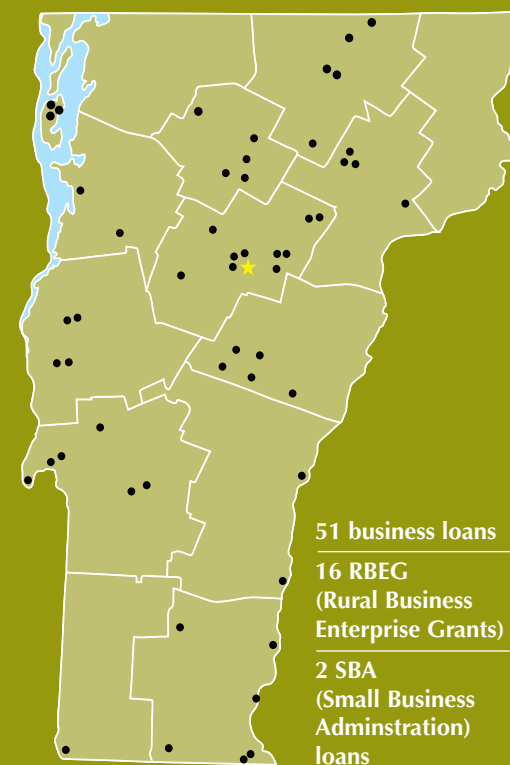
Hedding Drive Housing LP, Randolph

HDH will use a loan from VCLF for refinancing of capital improvements to 16 units of existing affordable housing, focusing on energy efficiency.

FARM TO PLATE-RELATED BORROWERS AND GRANTEES

Adams Farm, *Wilmington*
 Allenholm Farm, *South Hero*
 American Flatbread Company, *Waitsfield*
 Anjali Farms, *South Londonderry*
 Applecheek Farm, *Hyde Park*
 Bee's Knees, *Morrisville*
 Cavendish Game Birds, *Springfield*
 Champlain Orchards, *Shoreham*
 Champlain Valley Rabbitry, *West Haven*
 Circle Saw Farm, *Braintree*
 Darling Dairy, *North Pownal*
 Farmer's Diner, *Barre*
 Fat Toad Farm, *Brookfield*
 Fermented Ideas, *Duxbury*
 Food Works at Two Rivers Center, *Montpelier*
 Fresh Farms Beef, *Rutland*
 Hidden Meadow Farm, *Waterville*
 Highgate Farm, *Morrisville*
 High Mowing Organic Seeds, *Wolcott*
 Hollister Hill Farm, *Marshfield*
 Hunger Mountain Cooperative, *Montpelier*
 Intervale Center, *Burlington*
 Kelley View Farm, *Newport*
 Kingdom Creamery, *East Hardwick*
 Lazy Lady Farm, *Westfield*
 Local Agricultural Community Exchange (LACE), *Barre*
 Lussier's Farm, *Benson*
 Middlebury Natural Foods Coop, *Middlebury*

Mikasa Farms, *Tunbridge*
 Neighborly Farms of Vermont, *Randolph Center*
 North Branch Vineyards, *Montpelier*
 Olivia's Crouton Company, *Hinesburg*
 Over the Hill Farm, *Benson*
 Paul's Sugarhouse, *Derby*
 Pete's Greens, *Greensboro*
 Pride of Vermont, *Westfield*
 Putney Cooperative, *Putney*
 Randolph Cooperative Market, *Randolph*
 St. Johnsbury Community Food Coop, *St. Johnsbury*
 Scholten Farm, *Shoreham*
 Snow Farm Winery, *South Hero*
 Upper Valley Food Coop, *White River Junction*
 Vermont Cheese Center, *Westminster*
 Vermont Milk Company, *Hardwick*
 Vermont Mystic Pie, *Brattleboro*
 Vermont Natural Ag Products, *Middlebury*
 Vermont Quality Meats Cooperative, *North Clarendon*
 Vermont Smoke & Cure, *South Barre*
 Vermont Soy, *Hardwick*
 Wells Family Farm, *South Hero*
 Wellspring Organic Produce, *Marshfield*
 Westminster Dairy, *Westminster*
 Woods Market Garden, *Brandon*



Total Lending January 1- May 31, 2011

Small Business:	
5 loans	\$212,300
Agritourism:	
1 loan	\$50,000
Child Care:	
4 loans	\$423,000
Housing and Community Facilities:	
5 loans	\$951,000

Total Loans:
 15 loans \$1,636,300