

## 2019 District Highlights



## Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District

*Promoting sound conservation practices since 1946*

### Board of Supervisors

**Tim Buzzell**  
*Private Engineer*  
Chair

**Dexter Randall**  
*Dairy Farmer*  
Vice Chair

**Stephanie Mason**  
*Dairy Farmer*  
Sectary

**Joanna Lidback**  
*Diary Farmer*  
Treasurer

**Jared Nunery**  
*County Forester*  
Board Member

**Walter Medwid**  
*Biologist*  
Associate  
Member

**Brad Maxwell**  
*Dairy Farmer*  
Associate  
Member

### Staff

**Sarah Damsell**  
District Manager

**Emily Irwin**  
Technical Staff

**Steve Mengel**  
Bookkeeper

### Conservation Equipment Program New Addition



Did you say improved forages, crop rotations and cover crops....what the conservation district now has a **No-Till drill available for rent?** Yes! The drill was purchased this past summer with a matching grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Conservation Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP). We are excited to offer the Sunflower 9412 10ft wide drill with two seed boxes to support landowners in meeting their conservation and production goals. The drill will be housed at one of our board members farm in Troy and will be available for rent at \$7/acre spring 2020.

### Natural Resources Outreach



**Hemp is happening!** On April 19th almost 200 people attended our "What to Know Before you Grow" workshop. *Check out the videos on our website*

**Improved soil health in pastures can improve climate resiliency!** 30 folks gathered at Butterworks farm in Westfield on August 27<sup>th</sup> for a Vermont's Changing Climate and Pasture Resiliency Workshop.

**Showcasing Farmers!** On April 3rd 10 Vermont artists toured three Orleans County farms to see ecosystem services in action and be inspired to submit art to our April 2020 Art Exhibit at the Memphremagog Arts Center in Newport.

**Two NEK FARMERS highlighted in NRCS conservation videos** at Waterfront Cinema in Newport. 8252 people saw it! *Check out the videos on our website.*

### Soil and Water Quality Assistance



✓ Assessed **1654 acres** of cropland and pasture for potential soil and nutrient runoff.

✓ Took **73 soil samples** and **8 manure samples**



✓ Worked with **42 farmers**, including assisting **7 farmers** in writing their own nutrient management plan in the UVM class and assisted **14 farmers** to update their NMP.



✓ Supported installation of **5000ft** of livestock exclusion fence and **1100ft** of laneway.

✓ Facilitated establishment of **460 acres** of cover crops

✓ Soil Aeration equipment rental used on **701 Acres**

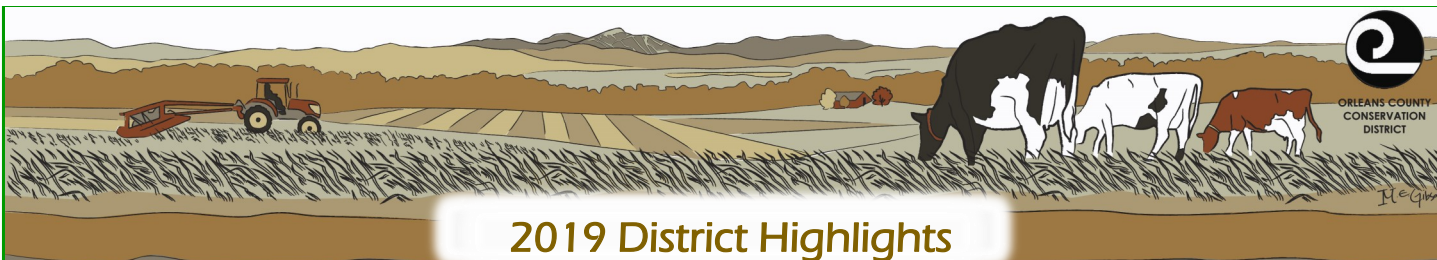
✓ Assisted with **3 BMP implementation** projects and **21 farmers** with grant applications.

✓ Worked with 4 municipalities including erosion assessment of over **400 road segments** and **4 project grant proposals**.

✓ Highlighted conservation practices through out the county with **21 conservation road signs**

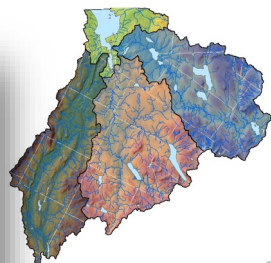


Orleans County NRCD is a public, non-profit organization that was created by state statue to assist landowners in a non regulatory role in applying conservation practices to the land. Our mission is to protect and enhance the waters of Orleans County by providing education, leadership and services to implement sound land stewardship practices.



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### Water Quality Monitoring in Rivers and Around Farms



*The Lake Memphremagog Watershed, divided into its major river basins: the Black River (olive green), Barton River (pink) and the Clyde River (blue).*

With grants from VT DEC and Franklin County NRCD Orleans Conservation District continued our water quality sampling work by **collecting 390 samples at 54 sites monthly** across the Memphremagog and Missisquoi watersheds. These samples bracket seven farm conservation projects, are taken from tile drains and are on the Memphremagog watershed main stem rivers. The sample data will be used to inform tile drainage rules, to inform the Lake Memphremagog TMDL **documenting phosphorus reductions and installation before and after project** to verify the project's realistic possible effects on local waters.

### Annual Conservation Tree Sale



In early spring, Orleans Conservation District offers a variety of native bareroot trees and shrubs for purchase. Orders are due in early spring (contact us for a catalog!) This year the District distributed **771 trees and shrubs** to local landowners to add beauty, pollinator habitat and ecological value to their land!



We also partnered with the Orleans County Future Farmers of America to build **5 Bee Boxes** for order to raise funds for their program. Thanks to the student's hard work, who helped local landowners provide a safe nesting location for neighborhood bees.

### Artists Painting at Conserved Farms

The Lake Memphremagog TMDL estimates that phosphorus loading from a well-managed acre of farm land is half that of an acre of developed land. This year we partnered with the Memphremagog Watershed Association to host Northeast Kingdom Plein Air artists to **honor 4 Vermont Land Trust conserved dairy farms in the Memphremagog watershed**. The 20 piece exhibit was at the Eastside Restaurant in Newport, North Country High School Cafeteria and at the Greater Barton Arts, displaying farm renditions and write ups on soil and water quality benefits of farm conservation practices.



### Thank you landowners

Your partnership makes protecting Orleans County resources possible! We look forward to continuing our work and making new partnerships in the community in the coming year!

### Other services and programs offered by the District:

Non regulatory Required Agricultural Practices assessments, tree planting along rivers and streams, grant writing services, fee for service soil and manure sampling and more! Contact us for more information.



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[www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/orleans-county](http://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/orleans-county)