



**LaMountain Farm, 140 acres**

Stevens Road, Thetford VT

*Conserved in 1989*

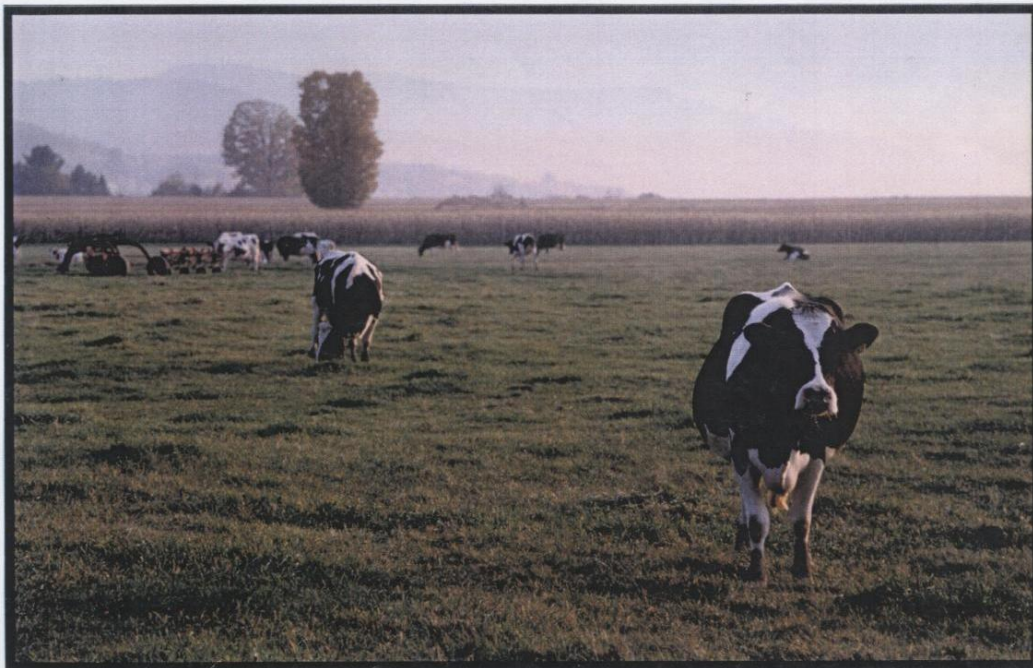
*Conservation Easement purchased by UVLT with funding from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board*

***Project Story (from UVLT archives)***

Some farms in the Upper Valley have been passed down through as many as five generations. Rita and Earl LaMountain have been farming and raising their family in a quiet corner of Thetford, Vermont overlooking the Connecticut River and the mountains of New Hampshire since the 1940's. In 1988, like many Vermont farmers, Rita and Earl LaMountain were caught between low milk price and high farming costs, and needed to raise some capital. An obvious choice was to sell some land. But the LaMountains were reluctant to break up productive farmland.

The LaMountains sold the development rights on 147 acres of tillage, pasture and woodlot and received funds from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The conservation easement enabled them to significantly reduce their debt while retaining ownership and use of the land and protecting a fine farm in the Connecticut River valley. Though the LaMountains have retired from farming and sold their herd, their farmland is leased to a neighboring farmer. Their land is protected for farm uses now, and in the future.

Most important, says Rita LaMountain is the open land. "We love to look at it and we want to think that it'll always be open."



LaMountain Farm, Thetford

