



## Norwich Farm

### Conservation, Stewardship and Agricultural Education

*a collaboration of the Upper Valley Land Trust and Vermont Technical College*

**Conservation: The Upper Valley Land Trust will purchase approximately 352 acres of hay land, pasture and forest and will hold the property for long term conservation stewardship.**

- Very large block of managed woodland, connecting several previously conserved parcels to create a much larger conservation bloc in an area prioritized in the Town's Open Space Plan.
- Abuts Fire District lands (on Beaver Meadow) that has trails and trailhead, this parcel will provide access/parking from Turnpike Road
- Long, scenic road frontage, views of meadows and pasture.
- Important agricultural soils (prime and statewide) in active farm use, will be managed to support agricultural education program delivery and sound farm stewardship.

**Education: Vermont Technical College will operate educational programming focusing on dairy operations and community farm management using the facilities previously owned by the non profit "Norwich Farm".**

- Farm activities at similar scale to Andrew Sigler's management (30-40 milkers) to be managed by a young farmer to support start up enterprise.
- On site curriculum, 10-12 students per semester.
- Provide experience for students in community-oriented farm operation including public programming and farm visits.

**An opportunity for innovative non profit collaboration to meet community needs through shared programming and service delivery.**

- UVLT and VTC share a mutual interest in developing a broad partnership that includes social service agencies and other educational institutions so that farm products, employment and training opportunities, stewardship activities improve the well-being of the whole community.
- UVLT and VTC will be building that partnership over the next year –the key step now is to secure the land and get VTC located on site.
- UVLT will retain an option to purchase the buildings in order to protect/sustain charitable community farm and educational use of the property in the event that VTC's needs were to change at some point in the future.

**UVLT is raising \$300,000 to buy the land from VTC. This conservation solution will enable VTC and UVLT to conserve key land resources, bring new educational opportunities to the Connecticut River Valley, and develop stronger non-profit networks across sectors to serve critical community needs.**

