



## **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 has gained site control of the property and is raising \$300,000 to pay for the purchase. We have \$115,000 to go! Your contribution will help UVLT and VTC create a solution that conserves key land resources, connects trails, supports community-oriented farming and brings new educational opportunities to the Connecticut River Valley.**

July 20, 2015

