



# Conservation Report: The Farm at Wheeler Mountain

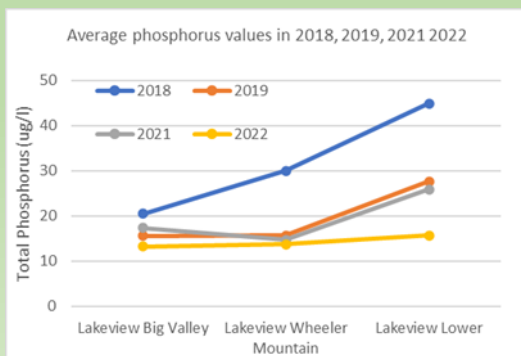


**The Farm** Adam and Joanna have always loved farming. They are first-generation farmers who have been farming since 2009 and have been working with OCNRCD since 2017 to meet the RAPs. Joanna has been on the OCNRCD board since 2019 and currently works as chief financial officer for Adirondack Farms, LLC. Adam and Joanna have three children and milk a mixed breed herd of 70 milking cows, crop about 170 acres of hay, 30 acres of corn and pasture 50 acres.



## Accomplishments

- ✓ Completed Land Treatment and Nutrient Management planning.
  - Recollected calf hutches from stream terrace edge.
  - Discontinued heavy use area supplemental feeding next to the stream.
  - Signed up for Memph RCPP, EQIP and VTAAFM
  - Participated in creating RAP Quiz videos.
  - Completed annual updates of their NMP
- ✓ Completed a new laneway, heavy use protection area, alternative watering and 2800ft of livestock exclusion fencing.
- ✓ Discontinued feed mixing and the use of feed bunks in the farmstead area adjacent to the road which had caused runoff into the town road drainage system.
- ✓ Worked with the town to disconnect and upgrade farmstead/roadway drainage culverts that were out letting with in 25ft of the stream and installed a sediment retention basin.
- ✓ Improved heifer manure storage that is located uphill within 50ft of a drainage ditch including improved waste utilization with a new spreader.
- ✓ Seeding all 32 acres of corn fields with fall cover crop
- ✓ No Tilling all 32 acres of corn fields
- ✓ Planting 1 acre of livestock exclusion riparian area
- ✓ JOANNA BECAME A OCNRCD BOARD MEMBER



## Water Quality Monitoring – Project Improvements

Dry and Heifer Pasture Surface Water Exclusion Work Results show improvements in water quality with P average phosphorous values in 2018 increasing 46.6% to 3.5% in 2022. In total the good work in both pastures has resulted in less of an increase as we look at the sample results from upstream to downstream!

## Grant Funding Totaling - \$212,601.56

- **\$25,209 Federal-USDA/NRCS:** Orleans County NRCD Memph RCPP funded Nutrient Management Plan, Laneway, livestock exclusion fence and water system and a 1-acre riparian planting. Plus, technical assistance funds for OCNRCD staff time to coordinate projects and assistance with land treatment and nutrient management plans.
- **\$463.56 – US Partner for Fish and Wildlife:** Cost share for tree planting project.
- **\$3,519 Federal- USDA/NRCS:** Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funded Forest Management Plan
- **\$90,000 State-VT Agency of Agriculture:** Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) funded purchasing a baler for discounting chopping and storing in the feed bunk. Best Management Practices (BMP) funded replacing the transfer pipe to the manure pit, roof gutters and improvement on the heifer barn yard.
- **\$22,000 State- VT Housing and Conservation Broad:** Water Quality Grant funded the purchase of a solid manure spreader for improved manure management of heifer manure storage and nutrient utilization.
- **\$18,000 State- VT Better Roads:** Category B water quality improvement construction grant to install new road drainage system and sediment retention basin.
- **\$22,387 State- VT Agency of Agriculture Best Management Practices Farmstead Improvement** for milking barn manure transfer/diversion, roof gutters, and heifer manure storage access.
- **\$19,823 Federal-USDA/NRCS:** Orleans County NRCD Memph RCPP funded soil health testing, riparian area tree plantings, cover crops, No Till.
- **\$11,200 Local- Farmer Funds:** matching funds for the state agriculture grants many hours of admin and labor

## Farm Map and Water Sampling Sites

