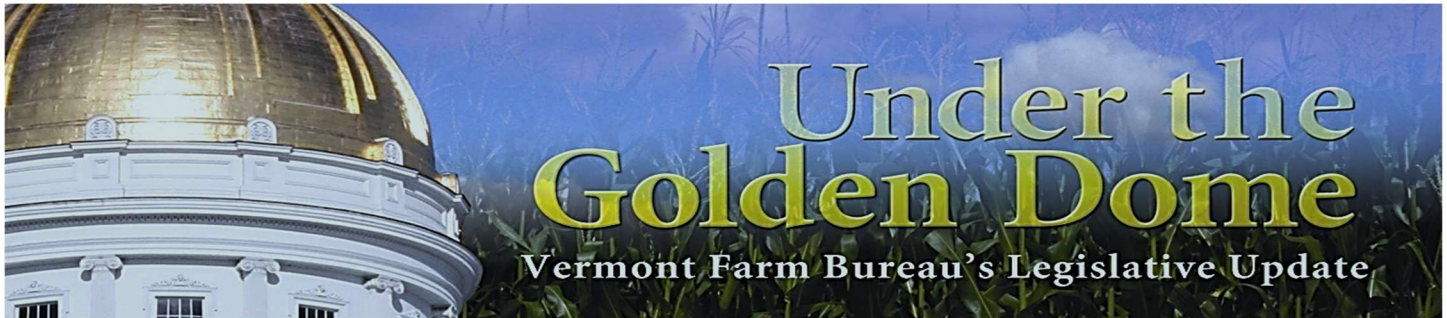


When you call the Sergeant-at-Arms: Please leave your name & phone number

Say, "I'd like to leave a message for __," Leave a clear message, such as:

"I do **not** support..." **OR** I am asking for your vote on __"

Please refer to a bill number or name whenever possible.



CORRECTION ON H.697 CURRENT USE REPORT

Many thanks to the sharp eyes that caught our error in the report last week about the progress of H.697, the Current Use changes to include reserved forestland.

The bill did NOT pass the House and head to the Senate as reported; it is actually on the Action Calendar on March 8, 2022, for a Third Reading. The recorded vote of 83-43 was after a floor debate, which sends it to the next step. If the House passes the language on March 8, it will THEN head to the Senate, probably Senate Natural Resources.

Also, a quote attributed to Commissioner Michael Snyder about being less than 10 parcels that would qualify actually occurred during the floor debate and was mentioned by one of the representatives. The Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation report actually suggests there are more than 7,700 parcels in Vermont that could qualify for the new program if they met the criteria mentioned below.

This is the reference for "Considerations for a Reserve Forestland Category in Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program""

To ensure that if this approach (H.697) were implemented, it would result in only a negligible expansion of parcels eligible for enrollment in UVA; only those parcels that have a minimum of 25 total enrolled forestland acres and 20 acres of forested productive soils would be eligible for enrollment of Reserve Forestland. This would mean that only a very limited expansion of eligibility would occur by making eligible those parcels that are currently prevented from enrolling due to existence of a forever wild easement, that also satisfy the acreage thresholds, AND meet the Significant Sensitive Conditions thresholds. Though there has not been a parcel by parcel accounting, it is likely that the number of additional parcels that meet these criteria, and would become eligible if this approach were implemented, is in the single digits, less than ten.

Sincere apologies to Commissioner Snyder for attributing a quote that was not only misleading but something he didn't say!

AND WHILE WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION . . .

Congratulations to Sara Griswold for her nomination to the National Young Farmers and Ranchers Board at American Farm Bureau!

Sara just returned from Louisville, Kentucky, where she spent several days in leadership development, listening to great speakers and taking a tour of Churchill Downs – dressed to the nines, of course, with the great hat as required of the Kentucky Derby!!

Sara has been president of Grand Isle Farm Bureau and rejuvenated the group with members who are busy hosting scoop-a-thons (benefiting the local food shelf) and working to revitalize 4H. She'll be bringing back great ideas, lots of information and an amazing amount of energy!

The announcement is also on the VTFB website, and Sara has some great photos of her time in Louisville on her Facebook page.

Great job, Sara! Vermont is so proud of you!!

Next Addison County Farm Bureau meeting is scheduled for March 10th – please get in touch with AnnaJo Smith for more information.

Next Washington County Farm Bureau meeting is scheduled for April 11th – please contact Jackie Folsom for more information.

Please get in touch with your legislators during the Town Meeting break – the next UTGD will be dated March 11!

Thanks for supporting Vermont Farm Bureau!