

## VERMONT FARM VIABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

### FARM VIABILITY PROGRAM FARMER ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The Farm Viability Advisory Board at a meeting on 8-25-09 adopted the following:

#### **Farmer Enrollment Selection Process:**

Staff will consider the following factors in selecting farms for business planning enrollment, along with related existing VHCB policies (such as using geographic distribution as a consideration in awarding funds):

- **Enthusiasm for and commitment to the planning process** – as demonstrated by the description in their application and/or discussion with staff or service providers.
- **Need, impact and quality** – this is the basis for all VHCB decisions in grant-making, and can be applied to the selection process as well, for example projects that won't be able to proceed without the planning assistance, the impact of a project on the farm business as well as the greater community, and quality of the application.
- **Clear project and concept** – as demonstrated by the application and/or in discussion with staff or service providers.
- **Geographic distribution of farms served** – based on geographic distribution of farms in the state.
- **Planning that best utilizes the program's resources** – as described in the application, specifically farmers looking to:
  - Develop a plan for a new enterprise or value-added product
  - Develop a plan for transferring the farm business
  - Develop a plan to transition to organic
  - Develop a plan for expansion or new facilities
- **Availability and interest of service providers to work with the farm**