Barn Preservation Grant Program 2020

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Division for Historic Preservation administers state-funded matching grants for the repair of Vermont's historic agricultural buildings. These grants are awarded by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. To qualify, buildings must be at least 50 years old and/or listed, or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The maximum amount for each grant is $15,000, with many recipients spending more than the required match.

Website: http://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/barn-grants

Awarded Project Summaries

Brownington, Lawrence Barn (Old Stone House Museum) - $1,000
The Lawrence Barn, constructed c. 1830, is one of seven structures owned by the Orleans County Historical Society and maintained as part of the Old Stone House Museum. The barn is used by the museum to interpret farming history and currently houses an exhibit called "A Hard Row to Hoe: Two Centuries of Farming in Orleans County." This modest grant will allow the museum to replace a section of the barn's deteriorated front sill and to repair the front wagon doors.

Chittenden, Baird Farm - $15,000
This 560-acre farm has been owned by the Baird family since 1918. The historic barn complex is comprised of two main structures dating from the mid-nineteenth century with several additions added over the years to accommodate changing and expanding farming operations. Initially a dairy, the farm is now focused on maple syrup, producing 6,000 gallons annually. State grant funds will now allow the family to replace failing metal roofs on several of the connected barns and sheds.

Chittenden, Wardwell Farm - $15,000
The Wardwell farm has been in the family since the early 1820s and was initially a subsistence farm. In 1900, 500 acres of the farm were taken by eminent domain when the power company developed the nearby Chittenden Dam. The main barn supporting the subsistence farm also sheltered horses leased or exchanged along a nearby stagecoach line. Grant-funded repairs will include replacement of a deteriorated sill at the barn's east elevation and other structural repairs.

Fairfield, Misty Maples Farm - $15,000
An organic dairy and maple syrup operation, this working farm includes 240 acres and multiple agricultural buildings. State grant funds will focus on the property's horse barn, which continues to house the farm's horses. A matching barn preservation grant will support work to repair this barn's foundation and frame and will enable replacement of deteriorated siding and window elements.

Hartland, Lemax Farm - $15,000
Lemax Farm includes a complex of agricultural buildings dating from c. 1790 through the mid-1960s. Originally a sheep operation, the property is still an active dairy farm with 300 acres and 909 milking cows. The owners also host school programs and apprenticeships, including the Farm to School program in partnership with the local elementary school. Having previously undertaken two grant projects, the owners will use this third matching grant to address deterioration on the big barn and the freestanding horse barn. This work is the culmination of more than five years of rehabilitation.

Marlboro, The Colonel Williams Barn - $4,300
Formerly part of a 600-acre farm founded by Colonel William Williams, this large barn was constructed in two phases (c. 1769 and 1821). In 1945, the property was subdivided, and the barn was acquired by Marlboro College. Over the next several decades it served as an art gallery, school theater, inn, tavern, restaurant and event venue. Today, the barn sits on nine acres once again under private ownership. This small matching grant will support work to repair areas of failure at the barn's foundation.

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Mount Holly, Crowley Cheese Factory - $11,000
Constructed in 1881-1882 for a cheese-making operation, this building is the oldest continuously operating cheese factory in the country. The property includes roughly 15 acres and the building serves all aspects of this active operation, including manufacture, packaging, sales and shipping. It is a significant tourist destination. The matching grant will provide funding to replace the building's asphalt-shingled roof.

Mount Holly, Perry Farm - $ 9,715
The Perry Farm was formed by the joining of two dairy farms in the 1940s. Although dairy operations ceased roughly 10 years ago, the farm is still in active use as a beef cattle pasture. State grant funds will support work to replace a failing section of the north farm's English barn roof. No longer used as part of farming operations, the barn is to be opened to the public with displays of farm machinery and tools. The owners have been collaborating with the local Mount Holly Barn Preservation Association on this exhibit.

Mount Holly, Tarbell Farm – $15,000
This farm was settled by Edmund Tarbell in the 1790s. His son Marshall Tarbell erected a sawmill in the 1820s and began a business making wooden rakes. His farmstead also had three barns, two carriage houses, a repair shop, storeroom, and tool house. Today, two agricultural buildings remain: a horse barn and a c. 1820 English threshing barn. A matching grant from the Division for Historic Preservation will support work on the threshing barn, including repairs to the failing stone foundation and deteriorated sills, installation of a new rough-sawn wooden floor, and replacement of the metal roof on the south slope of the barn.

Pawlet, Old Mason Farm - $13,100
Locally known as the Mason Farm, this 5.3-acre property includes a c. 1875 bank barn that is currently in poor condition due to a leaking roof and deteriorated flooring. Once the barn is repaired, the owners hope to rent/donate space in the barn to local non-profits for storage or education outreach activities. Grant funds will address the most important work to preserve and stabilize this barn, including addressing a deteriorated roof plate and the leaking roof, along with grading/drainage work.

Peacham, Gold Shaw Farm - $15,000
This farm was established in 1829 by John Hendry. Richard Shaw bought the farm around 1871 to raise dairy cattle. The current owners acquired the property in 2016 and have planted a seven-acre orchard with chestnut, hazelnut, elderberry, mulberry, apple, butternut and black locust trees. The three-story dairy barn is currently used for storage and a work area, while the first floor supports a duck-laying operation. The owners plan to more fully use the rehabilitated barn for farm operations, including hay and animal storage with the future addition of cattle. Grant funds will allow the owners to replace the barn's leaking metal roof.

Plainfield, East Hill Tree Farm - $15,000
This L-shaped barn includes two main sections. The first running perpendicular to East Hill Road was constructed c. 1830 and the second section was added in the 1850s. Formerly the Dix Farm, it was operated as a dairy until 1968. The current owner purchased the property as part of a homesteading commune in 1973. East Hill Tree Farm began in 2008 with the growing and selling fruit trees, nuts, and berry plants. Grant funds will allow for repairs to the barn's failing foundation and lower sections of the timber frame.

Rochester, Liberty Hill Farm - $15,000
Liberty Hill Farm's main barn was constructed by Charles Wesley Emerson, the founder of Emerson College. The property is part of the Cabot Creamery Co-operative with the barn used as part of an active dairy operation with 120 milking cows. Major foundation work was completed in 2018 by the owners. They will now use matching grant funds to restore the barn's iconic cupola and complete repairs at the high drive.

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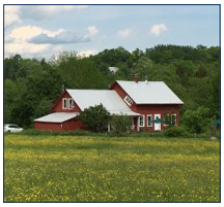
Shoreham, Willey Farm - $15,000
Willey Farm has been operating continuously as a farm since 1815, with the current owners running an organic dairy with 300 cows. The c. 1815 English Barn, currently not used due to its poor condition, will be rehabilitated for storage of the farm's apiary equipment and as future rental space for farm products. Grant funds will support repairs to the timber frame, metal roof, siding, windows, and doors.

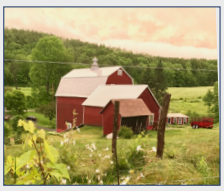
Stowe, Keeywadin Farm – $15,000
This farming operation has served as a dairy since it was purchased by the applicant's grandparents in 1921. Located on Route 100 near Stowe village, the large bank barn on the property was converted from a tie-up cow barn to a free-stall heifer barn in 1965; it is still used to house heifers and hay/feed. Grant funds will allow the family to install a new standing seam metal roof on the west slope of the barn.

West Haven, Otter Point Farm - $3,882
This 48-acre organic vegetable farm was purchased by the current owners in January 2018. The owners have begun hosting youth groups and students through the Rutland "Farmacy" program, which provides produce to families in need. This modest grant will support repairs to two historic agricultural buildings on the farm: a machine shed and corn crib important in supporting the farming operations.

Wilmington, Snow Moon Farm - $5,700
This 52-acre farm was established in 1848 by the Haynes Family, who raised livestock. Farming ceased over 40 years ago and the property was used as a lumberyard until the current owners purchased it in 2017. The pasture for hay has been restored, Christmas trees planted, and owners have begun to operate a sugar shack. A grant will support replacement of the c. 1860 dairy barn's leaking roof, enabling the storage of hay and the operation of the retail outlet for the Christmas Tree Farm.



Wolcott, Leichter Barn - $13,500
Located half a mile from Lake Elmore State Park, this mid-nineteenth-century barn was part of a small farming operation until the late 1980s. A rare two-story milking parlor and stable, dating from the late 19th or early 20th century, is attached to the main part of the barn. Stabilization work to prevent collapse of the barn was undertaken in 2017. Additional site work and major foundation work was completed in 2019. The owners will now use grant funds to complete structural repair work on the timber frame, replace the metal roof of the rear milking parlor, and re-coat the metal roof on the main part of the barn.



Woodstock, Mackenzie Farm - $15,000
This farm, half a mile outside of Woodstock, includes multiple agricultural buildings, including a corn crib and icehouse. Acquired in 2015, the property is used for The Mackenzie Inc., a vineyard, mushroom operation, orchard, and apiary. Grant funds will support work on the farm's main barn, an example of transitional agricultural construction with a timber frame and gambrel roof. Repairs will include addressing the deteriorated sills, reconstruction of a stone retaining wall, and window repairs.

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