

<b>Unit Topic</b>	Dairy Farming in Vermont-Grade 7
<b>Overview</b>	Students will visit between two or three local farms to discover ways in which farming has changed from the past, present and future within Vermont. This will accompany a unit taught in English for the novel <i>As Long As There Are Mountains</i> by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock.
<b>Enduring Understanding</b>	Vermont's geography has lent itself to farming since it was first settled and farming has contributed to Vermont's environment, economy and culture.
<b>Essential Question</b>	What impact does agriculture have on Vermont's economy, environment and culture?
<b>Focusing Questions</b>	<p>What early farming methods were used in Vermont and how are they different from today?</p> <p>Did Vermont always rely on the dairy industry?</p> <p>How have agricultural land uses changed the Vermont landscape and environment?</p> <p>Where is the dairy industry headed in the future?</p>

**ACSU Power Standards**

**Power Standard 1:** Students will design, present and conduct research.

**Power Standard 2:** Students will connect the past to the present by explaining differences, describing changes, and evaluating influences of events. Students show an understanding of past, present, and future time.

**Power Standard 6:** Students will analyze effects between human activity, technology and the environment over time

**Indicators**

- \*Ask focusing and probing questions that will lead to independent research.
- \*Develop and give oral, written and visual presentations for various audiences.
- \*Describe ways that life in the United States has both changed and stayed the same over time and explain why those changes have occurred.
- \*Investigate how events, people, and ideas have shaped the United States and hypothesize how different influences could have led to different consequences.
- \*Identify different perspectives in historic and current events.
- \*Examine multiple factors in the interaction between humans and the environment.
- \*Recognize patterns of voluntary and involuntary migration in the United States and the world.

Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
March, 2008

### Assessments

Students will create a visual presentation through the use of a digital medium of their choice (i.e. PowerPoint, iPhoto, or iMovie). The students will also include a written piece answering the essential question (What impact does agriculture have on Vermont's economy, environment, and culture?).

#### Content & Vocabulary

This will be an interdisciplinary unit with English class and will follow the social studies unit of **“What is an American? What is a Vermonter?”** The content will also be revisited when we study the units on the First Industrial Revolution, Westward Movement, and the Second Industrial Revolution.

#### **Vocabulary:**

Economy  
Environment  
Culture  
Agriculture  
Sustainability  
Run-off  
Migrant worker

#### Skills

Listening skills  
Questioning techniques  
Technology skills  
Ability to create a non-fiction written response

<b>Suggested Resources</b>	See annotated resources (separate sheet)
<b>Learning Opportunities/ Instructional Strategies</b>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Read and discuss a short history about Vermont agriculture from excerpts found in <u>Hands on the Land</u>. Focus will be on local history including the importance of Merino sheep in Addison County.</li><li>*Practice and discuss interviewing techniques.</li><li>*Familiarize themselves with the school's digital cameras.</li><li>*Visit Monument Farms Dairy and Blue Spruce Dairy (potentially one other farm).</li><li>*Use the photos taken at the farm to create a visual representation of what they have learned through the visit that will help them answer the essential and focusing questions.</li><li>*Practice the constructed response format used at MUMS to write a written response to the essential question.</li><li>*Students will present their digital projects to their peers.</li></ul>

Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
March, 2008

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## Cultural Resource Inventory

1. Greg Sharrow  
Vermont Folklife Center  
Director of Education  
388-4964  
[gsharrow@vermontfolklifecenter.org](mailto:gsharrow@vermontfolklifecenter.org)
2. Monument Farms Dairy  
Millie Rooney (parents began the farm in 1929)  
Jon Rooney- in charge of bottling  
Jean and Myrna (front store operations)  
Randy Palmer-Hagar Farms farmhand  
545-2119  
2107 James Rd  
Weybridge, VT 05753  
Or  
Hagar Farm 545-2444
3. Blue Spruce Dairy Farm  
Uses manure for alternatives  
\*need to contact a local person who knows the owners
4. Paul Seiler  
Organic dairy farmer  
Wooster Rd, Cornwall, VT  
462-3140  
May be willing to have a small group of kids come to the farm.
5. DuBois Farm, Inc.  
2038 Rte. 17  
E. Addison, VT 05491  
759-2906  
Janet DuBois-owner along with husband  
Large dairy farm that hires immigrants to work
6. Jan Albers  
Wrote Hands on the Land  
Works at the Sheldon Musuem  
1 Park St  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
388-2117

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