



NORWICH FARM

— FOUNDATION —

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NORWICH FARM FOUNDATION CLOSES ON PURCHASE OF NORWICH FARM FROM VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

\$1.25 Million Fundraising Goal Over 5 Years Set

NORWICH, VT -- The Norwich Farm Foundation today announced that it has closed on the purchase of Norwich Farm with the goal of keeping a value-added dairy farm, creamery, and education center at the location and preserving the land, barns, and other farm buildings while expanding production of high-quality dairy products for residents of the Upper Valley. The foundation purchased the property from the Vermont State Colleges for \$1.068 million.

“We started this process four years ago when we first submitted our business plan. We held community meetings to gauge the interest in preserving the farm and the feedback was outstanding,” said Kate Barlow, President of the Norwich Farm Foundation (NFF). “The Foundation was formed, and we have appreciated the wealth of knowledge from industry experts and the unwavering support from the Upper Valley community, who are 100% behind our mission.”

“The ability to fundraise more than \$400,000 from individuals and local non-profits solidified our efforts and underscored the need for our mission: local food security, affordable farm housing, working landscapes, and regenerative agriculture,” said Omer Trajman, Foundation Treasurer. “To know that we have secured Norwich Farm for future generations, while at the same time focusing on innovation in dairy and community education, is a huge accomplishment that we are all very proud of.”

Financing for the purchase was provided by Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT. Non-profit support for the purchase came from the Burkhaven Foundation, the Byrne Foundation, the Norwich Lions Club, the Fletcher Foundation, the Vermont Community Fund, the

Jewish Communal Fund, donors to a Norwich Farm Community Fund formed by the foundation, and additional contributions from more than 300 individual donors. The work is not done. The Foundation still must raise \$1.25 million over the next five years to ensure the stability and sustainability of the farm and creamery. To contribute to the future of value-added dairy, you can donate directly through the foundation's website: www.norwichfarmfoundation.org

"We look forward to Norwich Farm Creamery growing the economy in Vermont and the Upper Valley," said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food & Markets. "They are already producing high-quality value-added dairy products and we look forward to this local operation growing. It's great to have this family-run creamery right in our Vermont and New Hampshire backyard."

Laura Brown and Chris Gray, owners of the Norwich Farm Creamery, said the support they received from the community kept them going.

"Over the past five years there have been so many people who supported our work here, whether it was through buying our products, lending expertise, forming a foundation to protect the farm, donating their hard-earned money, or the seemingly bottomless moral support. Thank you, neighbors, and friends. We believe in a local food economy and strengthening our food security. Norwich and the Upper Valley is strongest and healthiest when we support local agriculture," said Brown.

"This is a huge win for the farm itself. We've always put the well-being of the farm first. This is one of the most important dairy infrastructures in the Northeast, and to know that it is now in the hands of the community, who are the best ones to care for it in perpetuity, is a tremendous relief. This a big first step in putting this farm back on track to sustainability. We're ready to execute our plan, which includes bringing dairy cows back. This will take some time, but this time it will be to stay," said Gray.

"My congratulations to the Norwich Farm Foundation in their work in raising the funds to close, so that the Norwich Farm Creamery can continue to provide valued products to the community," said Roger Allbee, Former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. "The Foundation's mission, especially its focus on agricultural education and regenerative dairy, is important for today and for the future."

The Norwich Farm Foundation also announced that Allbee and his brother Ron Allbee, also a Former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, have joined the group as Agricultural Advisors.

For more information visit <https://norwichfarmfoundation.org/>

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