



(Elmore) Ice and 2 inches of snow every other day and then hot; how do you put plants outside with weather like this? Making lots of cuttings of our best fruiting shrubs and grafted 400 apple trees this week, in the comfort of our high tunnel. Replanted all our vegetable beds inside the greenhouse. It looks like bud survival on fruit trees and berry plants is very good, just hope it will not be too dry for everything this spring and summer due to lack of snow for water reserves deep underground.

(Burlington) Indoor spinach is going nuts with growth; outdoor kale overwintered nicely in low tunnels, and things are generally looking well for spring. I almost un-mulched the strawberries last week, and then opted to keep them covered with mid-teen overnights on the way. Invested in some new single-bed width mowing, seeding, flaming and finishing technology to help us achieve better bed prep, weed control, and cover cropping. Ah, the promise of a new season. Anybody have a great way to deal with winter wash water on flat ground?

(Newbury) Garlic is up. Peas and favas planted. Pussy willows a month early this year over last.

(Newburyport MA) All stone-fruit buds completely winterkilled back on February 14. Apple buds with quarter inch green very much in trouble during this current cold spell. Not sure about brambles yet. Strawberries still covered look good. Thinking about growing more Seascape strawberries in containers and more melons for the CSA Fruit Share to offset tree fruit losses. Greenhouse tomatoes setting fifth fruit cluster with plenty of wind for pollination the whole month of March. Should start cherry tomato harvest the end of this month. Burning a lot of oil though. Harvesting nice spinach and carrots that overwintered under row cover in the field. Overwintered evergreen bunching onions look great in the field,

The idea is that the cash crop gets a head start and the cover crop is introduced late enough so it  
d . When the main crop is removed or senesces the cover crop has such a good  
root system that it flourishes. The event was videotaped so it should be viewable soon; check for  
it at [www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org). Meantime there is a great no-till video from a German grower showing other  
practical ideas for vegetable growers of any size operation:

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/71822/rotational-no-till-and-mulching-systems-for-organic-vegetable-farms-webinar>.

(Plainfield NH) We are slowly making our way towards spring, proceeding outdoors with  
caution. Pruning blueberries, spreading some wood ash and dealing with brush have been the  
only major outdoor activities; our energies are focused on the ornamental and vegetable  
production greenhouses. Due to the cold this week I will delay mulch removal on berries,  
rhubarb and strawberries. It would be nice to have this time for strawberry regenerative growth,  
but

## FOOD LOSS SURVEY AIMS TO IMPROVE FARM GLEANING IN VERMONT

Salvation Farms has launched the Vermont Food Loss Survey and is looking for Vermont vegetable, fruit, and berry farmers to participate. The purpose of this survey is to find out how much food loss there is on Vermont farms each year, and to identify opportunities for future action. By taking the first part of the survey - which takes no more than 5 minutes to complete - you will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift certificate to a Vermont location of your choosing. You will also have the opportunity to take the second part of the survey - which takes no more than 10 minutes to complete - and you will be entered to win a \$300 gift certificate. Please go to [http://middlebury.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8kXsWODKUyGzDet](http://middlebury.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kXsWODKUyGzDet) to take the survey on your smartphone or on a computer. If you have any questions, please contact Elana Dean at [edean.isgood@gmail.com](mailto:edean.isgood@gmail.com).

## NRCS EQIP APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 15

Apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program by April 15th. This year, NRCS will make available a total of \$11 million to farmers and forest landowners in VT to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Approximately 75% of the funds that are available will be targeted toward conservation practices that support water quality improvements in the Lake Champlain watershed. There is also the potential for up to 90% funding for practice installation targeted to customers who qualify as historically underserved. Contact your local NRCS office for more details or visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/vt/home/>

## FARMLAND ACCESS WORKSHOP APRIL 25

Are you interested in leasing, purchasing, or reclaiming farmland? Join RAFFL, the Intervale Center, and the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture for this workshop focused on land access. A panel of farmers and lenders will share their tips and experiences related to finding, financing (or leasing) land. You will then learn how to use the ANR Atlas to check soil types on potential parcels. The second portion of the workshop will involve a thorough on-farm land assessment at Sunrise Farm. By examining soils, water systems, and infrastructure at the farm participants will leave with tools for evaluating farm properties. Snacks will be served. The full agenda is at: <http://www.rutlandfarmandfood.org/landaccess/agendawrj>. RSVP to Jen Miller at [jen@rutlandfarmandfood.org](mailto:jen@rutlandfarmandfood.org) or 802-417-7096.