

Randolph Technical Career Center

Diversified Agriculture Program
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 22, 2025

Advisory Board Members:

- Nicholas Bullock – Farm Credit East
 - Sam Lincoln – Forestry Business Owner
 - Justin Poulin – Trucking Operator & Farm Owner
 - Paul Lambert – Sugaring, Excavation & Firewood Business
 - Jen Colby – Farmer, Former UVM Extension
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Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Overview

General welcome and overview of the meeting agenda. Emphasis was placed on wrapping up the current school year and looking ahead to the next phase of program development.

2. Review of Program and Board Responsibilities

The roles of the advisory board and its importance in guiding program relevance and alignment with industry needs were briefly revisited.

3. Program Demographics

- The program maintained steady enrollment: 13 students at both the beginning and end of the year.
- Gender demographics reflected an even split between male and female students.
- Enrollment is ongoing for the upcoming school year, with early interest indicating a higher number of female students.

4. Content, Certifications, and Trainings

- This year, students participated in the *Game of Logging* Industry Recognized Credential (IRC), which was completed successfully.
- The *Plant Science* IRC content was delivered; testing is still pending. The future of this credential in the program is under review.

5. Current Industry Trends

- The board briefly noted general trends in Vermont's agriculture and forestry sectors, including increased interest in small-scale diversified farming and ongoing labor shortages across natural resources industries.

6. Equipment and Program Needs

- A short discussion occurred around current equipment needs. No major purchases were proposed.
- It was noted that as the program transitions to new leadership, equipment and curriculum changes will likely be revisited.

7. Looking Ahead

- With leadership changes expected, the board acknowledged that some elements of the program may shift next year.
- The new instructor will have the opportunity to assess priorities and make adjustments as needed.

8. Marketing and Outreach

- General ideas were shared around increasing visibility of the program, though no formal recommendations were made.

9. Open Discussion and Adjournment

- Time was provided for any final comments or questions.
- The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all involved.