



## Agriculture Takes Center Stage in Montpelier



*Montpelier, Vermont - January 14, 2009*

Agriculture took center stage in Montpelier Wednesday.

The Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council told lawmakers about its top issues for the session. They include promoting local food and generating energy on farms.



The council is a partnership between the state, UVM and private groups.

Reporter Kristin Carlson: Are you worried with all the talk of tough economic times that agriculture will get lost this session?

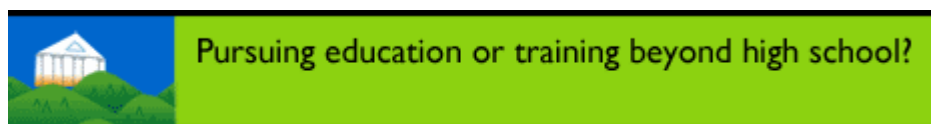


Roger Allbee

Vt. Agriculture Secretary Roger Allbee: Well I'm not worried it will get lost because Agriculture is basically a big part of Vermont. The Vermont Council on Rural Development has been doing a study about the future of Vermont and what people want for the future of Vermont and agriculture and working farms come out in the 90th percentile.

The state estimates agriculture industry employs more than 15,000 people.

[Kristin Carlson](#) - WCAX News



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