

# Vermont Environmental Report

## VNRC Annual Meeting September 8 Darrow to Keynote Farm Theme

Agricultural statistics show Vermont losing 73,000 acres of farmland per year — 200 acres per day. We have only 4,000 farms in the state today as opposed to 19,000 in 1949. Farming in Vermont is at a critical juncture. The present circumstances and the future prospects for Vermont farms is the topic for a panel discussion at VNRC's Annual Meeting, September 8.

The theme "The Vermont Farm: An Endangered Species?" will be addressed in several ways throughout the day. In the morning, VNRC members will be able to choose among five field trips. One of the trips will be a tour of two typical family farms in the Woodstock area led by Windsor County Extension Agent, Bill Sumner.

The other field trips include:

- The White River National Fish Hatchery at Bethel
- Outdoor Photography Workshop at the Vermont Institute for Natural Science in Woodstock
- The Appalachian Trail Rediscovered at Kent Pond Sherburne
- Windsor Minerals Tour near Ludlow

Field trip leaders have made contingency plans in case of rain, so people are urged not to be put off by threatening skies. For late arrivals there will be a back-up film program at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science headquarters in Woodstock. The Vermont classic "The Last Stand Farmer" will be among the films shown.

Everyone will meet back at the Kedron Valley Inn in South Woodstock about 11:45. A home-cooked buffet will be served or members may choose to bring their own picnic lunches. Beverages will be available from the Inn.

At 1:45 there will be a brief report on current Council activities and the election of new board members. The panel discussion will follow with William Darrow, Commissioner of Agriculture, as keynote speaker. Panelists will be: Richard Carbin, Director of the Ottauquechee Regional Planning and Development Commission; Robert

Kinsey, a Craftsbury dairy farmer and member of the Vermont House Agriculture Committee; Mark Lapping, Assistant Director of UVM's Environmental Studies Program; and Deacy Leonard, Executive Secretary of the Vermont State Farm Bureau. The meeting is open to the public and those attending will have an opportunity to question the panelists.

A map locating the field trips and a registration form are on page 6 of this issue of the VER.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Woodstock on September 8.



VNRC's annual meeting once again signals the time to fill the vacancies on our Board of Directors. On the following pages are the biographies and personal statements of each of the candidates.

The term of office for a director is three years. Of the 22 board members, 7 have terms which expire this year. Five of these will be elected "At Large" from all classes of membership, while 2 of the vacancies will be filled from nominations by organizational members, as dictated by the by-laws.