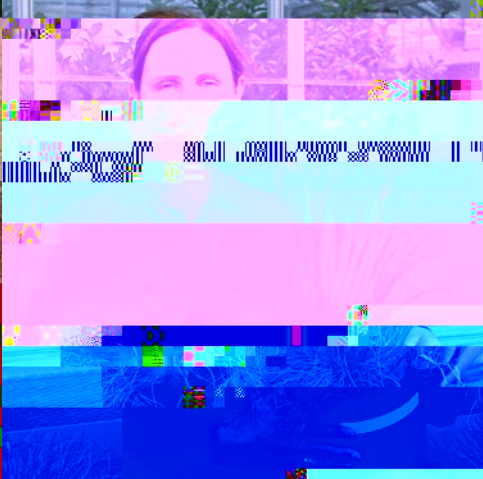
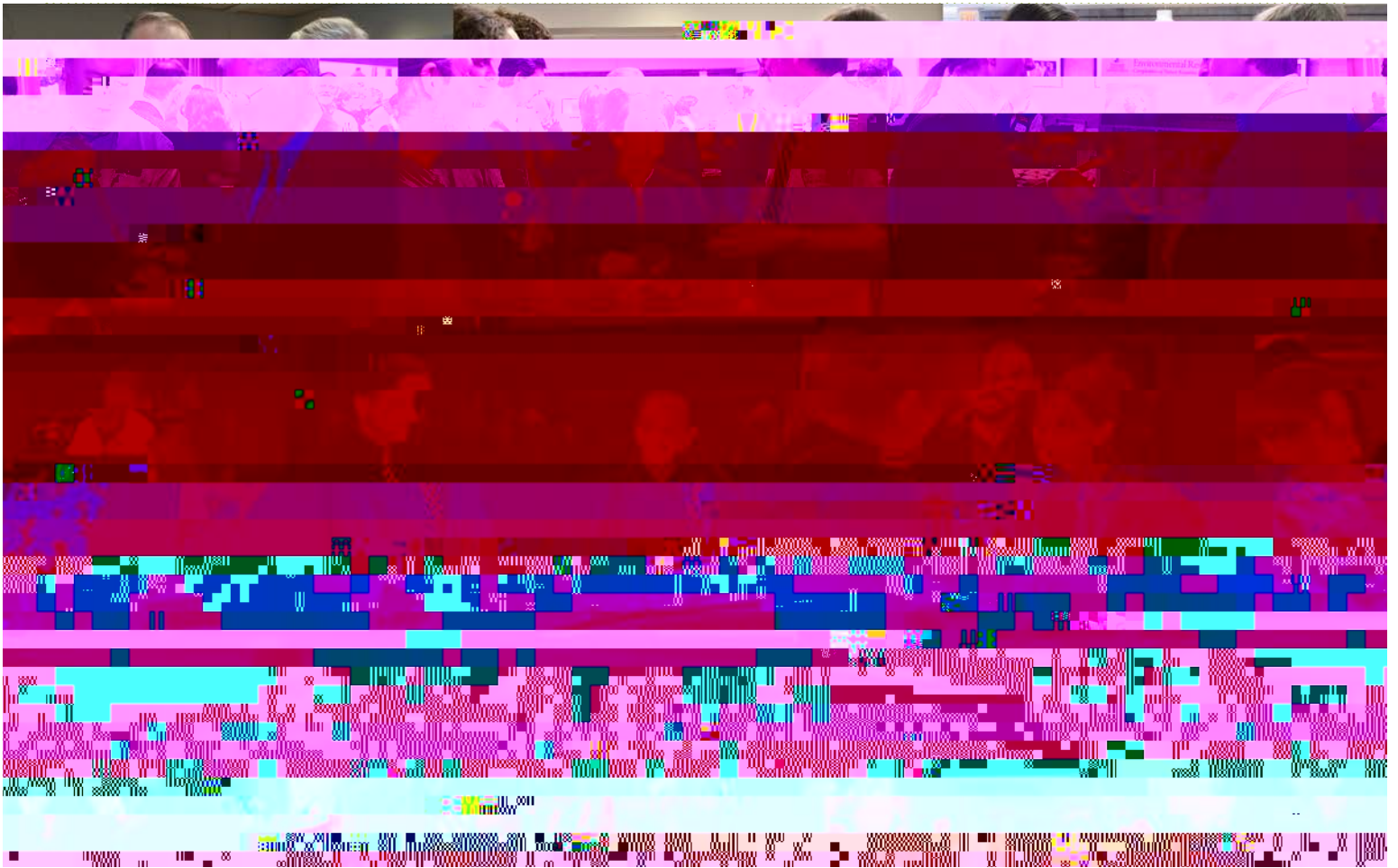




University of Vermont Research-Based Ideas at Work for Vermonters



Annual Report 2014



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Tom Vogelmann, Dean and Director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station (VT-AES) and UVM Extension Dean and Director Doug Lantagne cooperate to translate VT-AES research into UVM Extension's science-based programs to benefit Vermonters. They oversee over \$19.1 million in state, federal and other grants and contracts and are accountable to the University, state and federal leaders and the people of Vermont. That's why they publish this annual report.



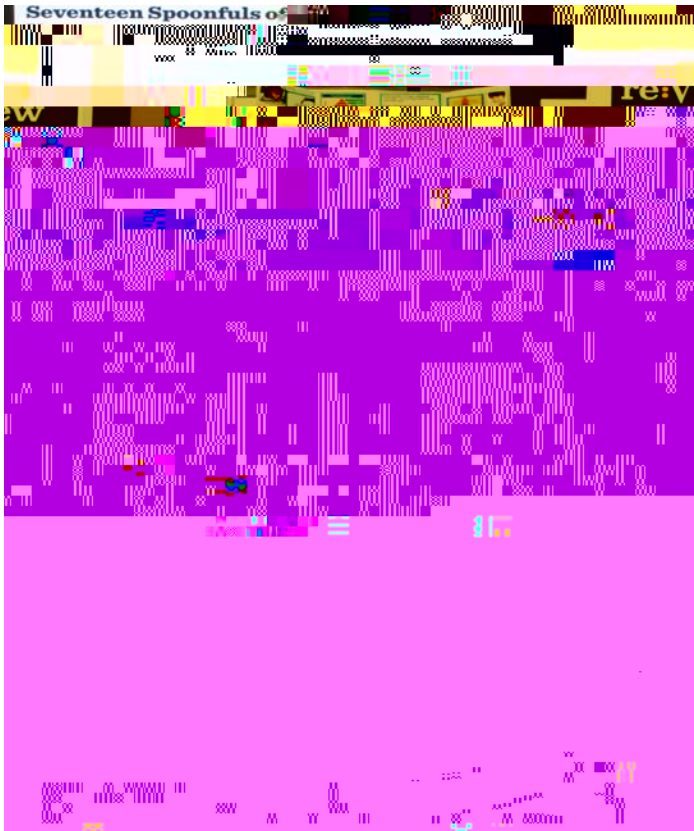
TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 1 In 2009, UVM realized that the increasing operating costs of running an on-campus research farm far outspent income from research

TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 1 70% of all food crops are grasses including rice, cereals and corn.
- 2 Other grasses are grown as fodder for livestock – indirectly are still human food.
- 3 Grasses developed from tropical plants to cold hardy – but how?
- 4 Maybe plants that landed in cold climates developed novel ways of surviving.
- 5 Or an ancestral gene may have expressed itself when life depended upon it.
- 6 That's what UVM plant biologist Jill Preston wants to find out.
- 7 This could be important to predict how plants will react to climate change.
- 8 If she identifies key gene(s), they could be modified for better crop yields.
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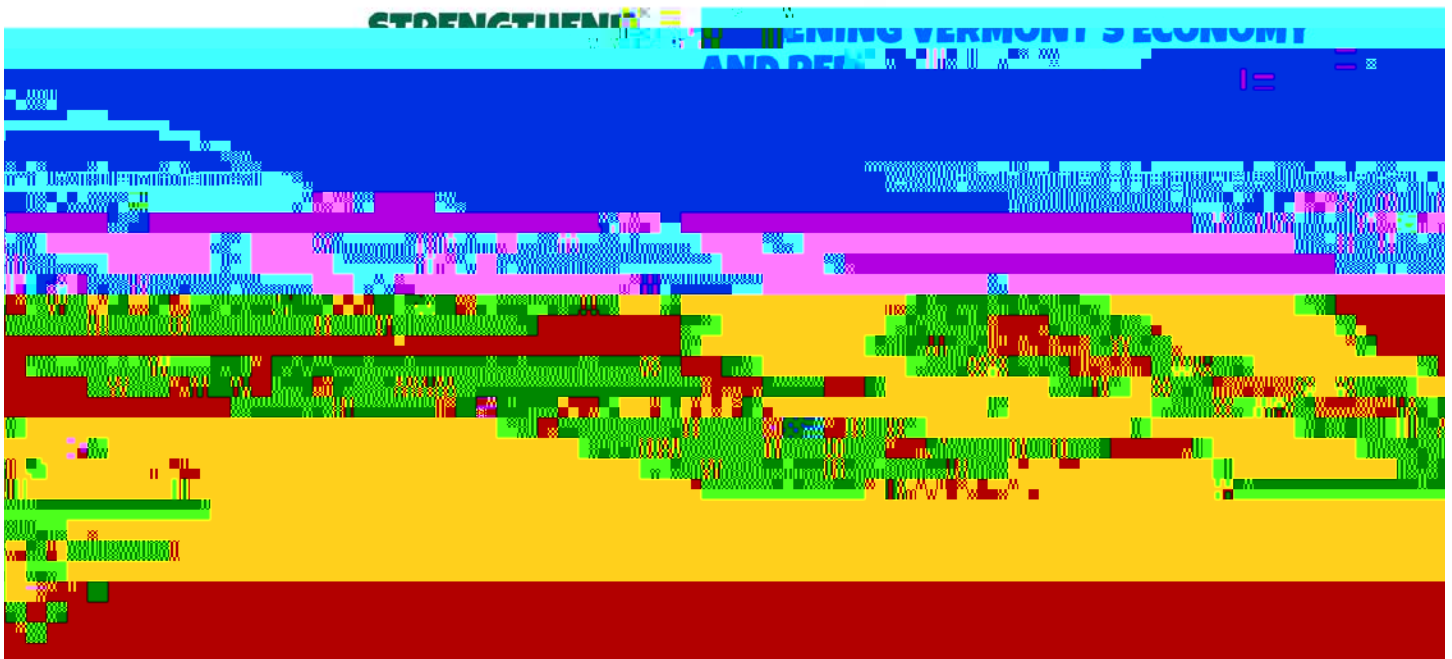




Cheryl Dorschner

TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 1 Six states have proposed excise taxes on sugary drinks.
- 2 Berkeley, California and Mexico have instituted taxes.
- 3 After two previous tries, in January, a coalition proposed a Vermont sugary drinks tax of two cents per ounce.
- 4 UVM researchers Sarah Heiss and Richard Watts conducted a content analysis of media coverage of the proposed tax and how it influenced outcomes in 2011-2012.
- 5 Heiss previously studied how trade associations representing the sweetener industry reframed the risks and public debates associated with sweeteners.
- 6 UVM Center for Rural Studies director Jane Kolodinsky's data shows that opponents of the sugary drink tax switched the argument from one of public health to one of economics.
- 7 Surveys concluded: there's no evidence that a sugary drinks tax will hurt small retailers, cause job loss or an increase in border crossing to shop.
- 8 Findings also conclude, a tax would nudge consumers to choose lower-calorie beverages and lose weight.
- 9 Obesity expert Rachel Johnson's research links high intakes of sugary drinks with poor health outcomes. Now a spokesperson for the American Heart Association, she advocates for the tax. See chart.
- 10 USDA Hatch and UVM Food System Spire grants and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded research.







BUILDING VERMONT COMMUNITIES

**CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN VERMONT
YOUTH, FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES**

