

VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Does' Leap LLC

Bakersfield, VT



Does' Leap is an innovative, diversified organic farm specializing in a variety of fresh and aged goat cheeses. In an effort toward greater sustainability and self-reliance, much of our farm work - including plowing, harrowing, spreading manure, and firewood collection - is accomplished with two draft horses. The farm is located in northern Vermont in the heart of the beautiful green mountains with close proximity to Lake Champlain. Our goats and other livestock have the luxury of feeding on the wild vegetation of our region as they spend all but the winter months outside.



Farm-made sausage is a unique business enterprise because it transforms formerly undifferentiated, low-margin commodities (i.e. packaged pork cuts and cull milking goats) into a highly profitable, specialty food. Because of their high quality meat, small-scale production process, distinctive recipes, and utilization of fresh herbs, Does' Leap Sausage is readily identifiable, unique, and highly sought after. Moreover, pigs play an integral role in the overall ecological sustainability of their farm by consuming whey from their cheese plant and converting marginal land into productive pasture.

Total Working Lands Grant—\$6,103.00

Total Match provided by Does' Leap LLC—\$1,525.80

The Working Lands Enterprise Grant has been a big success for Does' Leap. Materials purchased through the grant enabled them to greatly increase farm-made sausage sales, improve sausage production efficiency, and renovate more marginal farmland with their pigs.

