

Customer Testimonial

Nea-Tocht Farm

Biosolids

Nea-Tocht Farm, translating to “Never Thought” in Dutch, was purchased by the Vander Wey family in 1976 and is located in the scenic farming town of Ferrisburgh, VT. Brothers Howard and Sid Vander Wey currently manage the family-owned farm which includes 300 acres of corn, alfalfa, and grass fields, around 270 dairy cows, and a towering wind-turbine that generates electricity for the farm.

Nea-Tocht Farm utilizes Biosolids as a source of organic matter and slow-release nitrogen for their corn fields. The goal was to achieve an overall higher quality corn crop and the biosolids application exceeded this goal. Howard reports that even two years after the application, the plants are noticeably greener, taller, and overall healthier.

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The record rainfall in Vermont during the summer presented a challenge for many farms, and while Nea-Tocht was no exception, Howard added that he believes the increased organic matter in his soil contributed to his farms ability to endure and allowed him to produce around 1500 round bales of hay during the season.

In addition to organic matter and slow-release nitrogen, biosolids provide plants with phosphorous and micronutrients, and can also be a source of lime. These micronutrients increase soil health and productivity, resulting in improved plant growth and higher crop yields. Using best management practices, RMI works with farmers like the Vander Wey's to establish biosolids land application programs that are tailored to meet the needs of the farm and the soil. These locally sourced, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective fertilizers benefit farms and recycling efforts throughout the Northeast.