Program Summary
The new UVM Food Systems Intern Program promises to place UVM students in high quality food system internships where they can make a meaningful contribution to Vermont businesses and organizations while building essential knowledge and career skills for their future. Coordinated by UVM Extension employee, Matt Myers, this program builds UVM’s capacity to support students seeking hands-on work experience as food systems interns—and assists food systems work sites in selecting and supporting interns who will help them meet important outcomes.

The UVM Food Systems Intern Program recruits and prepares UVM students from across academic disciplines to assist with a myriad of work functions within the broad and complex area of food systems. Interns supporting activity such as food production, transportation, processing, marketing, on-farm energy generation, direct retailing, environmental sustainability, etc. will gain critical skills and contacts to prepare for similar positions in Vermont’s food systems upon graduation.

UVM Food Systems student interns will be placed in well planned internship opportunities each fall, spring and summer, starting in the fall semester, 2013.

Support for Food Systems Worksites
Prior to the placement of an intern, the UVM Food Systems Intern Coordinator will reach out to worksites to help them identify and define projects and tasks that will be helpful to meet worksite objectives and valuable for UVM student intern learning.

Support for Food Systems Student Interns
Students who contact the UVM Food Systems Intern Program to prepare for a food system internship will complete a brief interest and experience survey that builds a profile of the student’s specific food system interests, experience, skills and knowledge. The student will then meet with the Food Systems Intern Coordinator to examine possible internship placements with an eye towards crafting the best match between intern and worksite.