

Burlington's Dairy



For information: 1-800-468-5227, www.lcbp.org



Photograph labeled "Hens and Hubbards" courtesy Ethan Allen Homestead. All other images courtesy Gardener's Supply Company.

Just before dawn, a hundred years ago, voices shouted, cowbells jangled and horses pawed the ground where you stand. The Calkins family loaded sloshing milk cans into the wagon. In a little while, local households would have farm-fresh milk for breakfast.

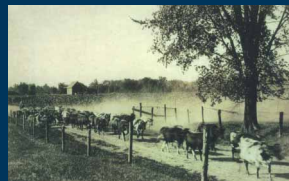
Rena Calkins, the little girl in the plaid dress, became one of the most experienced Intervale farmers. She lived here and worked the land in front of you for eighty years. The small barn behind Rena stood for generations on Intervale Road.

Today, the Intervale—a New England term for low-lying land near a river—is a lively farming community again. If you wander down the road, you'll see experimental farms, flower growers, mail-order gardening businesses, and local farmers—all part of Burlington's present as well as its past.



Hens and Hubbards

Al Morrill grew 250 tons of squash just to prove a point. He saw the decline of the Vermont dairy industry in the 1940s and wanted to show that Vermont farmers could profitably raise more than just cows. Morrill started an experimental farm in the Intervale, and raised over 5,000 hens and vegetables like this truckload of blue Hubbard squash.



Dairy Train

It's hard to imagine Vermont without dairy farms! Here in the Intervale, dairy farming became a part of life over 140 years ago, when Central Vermont Railway laid the railroad tracks behind you. After the Civil War, the night train delivered cheese and butter all the way to Boston without spoiling. Before the railroad came to Vermont, farmers raised mostly nonperishable goods, like sheep's wool, to send on the long journey to big cities.



Gove's Glads

Gardener's Supply Company was not the first gardening business here. In 1930, local florist Elmer Gove started growing gladiolus in the Intervale and selling bulbs around the world. Gove claimed "there is a fascination about growing glads that becomes a hobby, then a craze."