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Vermont Sail Freight Project Ships Farm Products to New York

October 2013 Voyage to Connect Farms and Forests of Lake Champlain with Lower Hudson Valley

Vergennes, VT - [The Vermont Sail Freight Project](http://TheVermontSailFreightProject.org), a new sail-powered transportation company and educational platform, is poised to deliver its first shipment of sustainably farmed products to families, retailers and restaurants along the historic Champlain-Hudson waterway in October 2013. The newly built, crowd-funded sailing barge, *Ceres*, ferries up to 15 tons of shelf-stable foods from the Champlain Valley, Vermont and the Adirondack region to New York City and ports in-between, by maximizing windpower over costly and polluting fossil fuels. **The project's goal** is to revitalize our regional food economy through ongoing relationships with family farms and the sailing community, and to share the spoils of this integrated model with citizens all the way along the Champlain-Hudson supply chain.

The forty-foot-long vessel will depart Shoreham, VT on Lake Champlain on **October 6** and make landing at several ports along the Hudson River during the **three-week, 300-mile journey to New York City**. Ports in New York state include Mechanicville, Troy, Albany, Hudson, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Beacon, Peekskill, Nyack, Yonkers, Brooklyn and Manhattan. A complete docking schedule is available on the project homepage. Voyage micro-radio located on the barge will broadcast a digital stream including interviews, live nature reports, readings, sea shanties, work songs, and archival recordings.

Individuals can pre-order 90 different handcrafted, organic and heirloom pantry items from more than 25 small- and medium-scale producers through [Good Eggs](http://GoodEggs.com), and follow *Ceres*' GPS-tracked progress live on the project's homepage. New York-based restaurants, retailers and co-ops can place [wholesale orders](#) delivered with a bike-powered "last mile" push provided by project partners [Revolution Rickshaws](#). Public markets in Manhattan ([New Amsterdam Market](#), October 27) will round out the sales campaign with the participation of **thousands of food-loving New Yorkers**. Public school youth and college students in Vermont and New York will board *Ceres* to learn about local agriculture, sail transport, and the project's carbon-neutral mission through educational outreach led by the Willowell Foundation and Greenhorns.

Carrying forward an honorable history of sail-powered commerce throughout Northeast waterways, *Ceres* will deliver a cargo of naturally durable and preserved agricultural products that do not require rapid transit down the interstate. This is the abundant niche of staples like potatoes, carrots, garlic, apples and other storage crops, dry beans, flour and rice, herbs, maple syrup, and honey -- as well as value-added products such as jams, jellies, pickles and condiments prepared by rurally based, farmer-led co-packer businesses. Future trading missions will add Vermont-produced hard cider to the ship's manifest.

The Vermont Sail Freight Project is sponsored by the Willowell Foundation, and was conceived and built by Vermont rice farmer Erik Andrus and volunteers from both sides of Lake Champlain, with key support from the [Greenhorns](#), a nationwide support network of young farmers and artists, grassroots publisher, and media and events production house. It was made possible by Kickstarter funding and generous support of the Eastman, Waterwheel and Eddy Foundations. Contributions are tax-deductible thanks to fiscal sponsorship from the Willowell Foundation.

