How UVM Extension Found a Perfect Fit with PEARS

The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension serves communities statewide through a team of approximately 150 faculty and staff. Their programming focuses on four key areas: agriculture and food, community development, 4-H, family and migrant programs, and natural resources and environment.

For years, UVM Extension used a custom-built planning and reporting system called LMPRS, developed in collaboration with other universities. While it served its purpose for a time, LMPRS eventually became outdated. Its limited functionality and diminishing support no longer met the organization's evolving needs, prompting the search for a more modern, sustainable solution.

What UVM Extension Needed

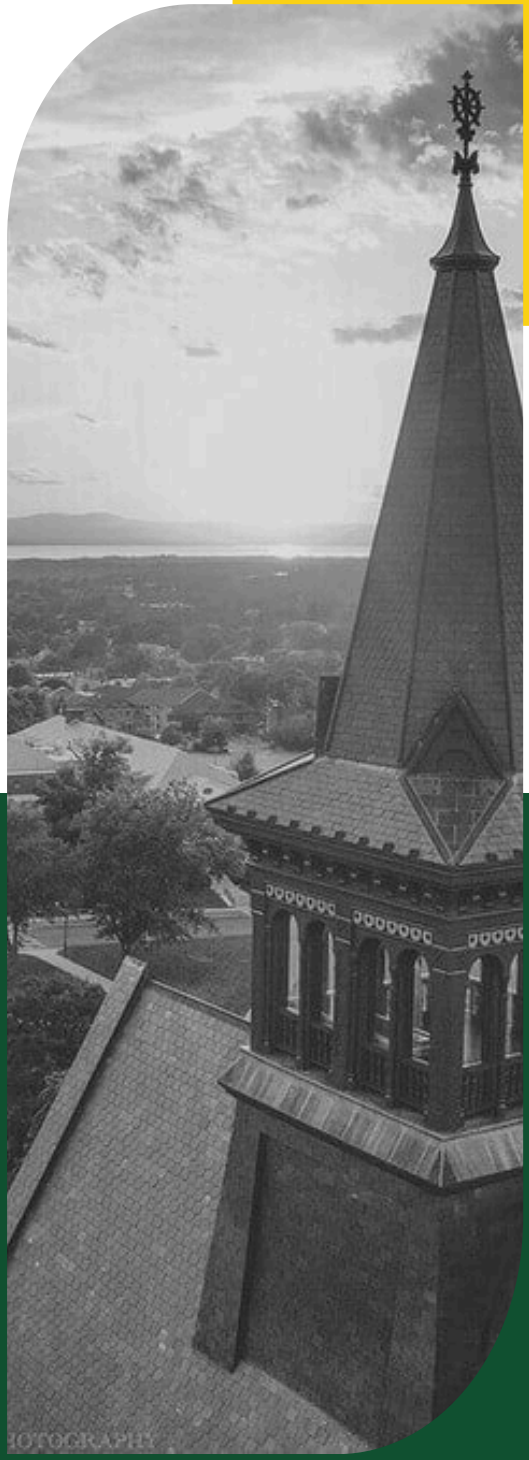
UVM Extension sought a new system that could grow and adapt alongside them—supporting their mission while streamlining their processes. Key priorities included:

- Flexibility to respond to changing needs and organizational growth
- Strong, ongoing support with regular updates and enhancements
- Efficient data entry and retrieval
- Clear, visually engaging impact reporting
- Opportunities for collaboration and idea-sharing with other Extension programs

Why PEARS Was the Right Choice

PEARS quickly proved to be the ideal solution for UVM Extension. From onboarding to daily use, the platform delivered value across the board:

- **Responsive Support:** Timely, effective customer service lightened staff workloads and kept operations running smoothly.
- **Collaborative Network:** The PEARS community connects UVM Extension with peers nationwide to exchange ideas and inform future improvements.
- **User-Friendly Design:** A clean, intuitive interface simplifies data entry, planning, and tracking.
- **Powerful Reporting Tools:** Logic model planning, streamlined coding, and performance dashboards help staff tell the full story of their impact.
- **Affordable and High-Quality:** PEARS delivers top-tier functionality at a cost that fits within Extension budgets.



A User's Perspective

Stephanie Atwood Albaugh, UVM Extension's Program Development and Accountability Specialist, highlights how PEARS transformed their data workflows and storytelling capabilities:

"The platform has made it easier to manage our data and has strengthened our ability to tell compelling stories about our program outcomes."

She also points to customer support as a standout feature:

"I remember calling the PEARS support team long-distance and was immediately connected with someone who understood and resolved my issue quickly. That experience has been consistent from onboarding through today."

Her advice for others considering PEARS?
"If you're considering PEARS, do it. It's a no-brainer."

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