

2026

# Guide to Assistance



For Agricultural Producers of Vermont

A Comprehensive Guide to Assistance Opportunities  
for Agricultural Producers of Vermont



FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

View the interactive version of this Guide:  
[FranklinCountyNRCD.org/AgProducersGuide](https://FranklinCountyNRCD.org/AgProducersGuide)

# Introduction

This guide is a resource manual for aspiring, beginning, current, and transitioning agricultural producers operating in Vermont. This guide includes local, state, regional, and federal technical and financial assistance opportunities for individuals and entities working with crops, forestry products, livestock, nursery stock, and/or other land-based products. This guide was created and continues to be updated by the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District. However, this guide is applicable across the entire State of Vermont, not limited to Franklin County.

Visit the website or contact information associated with each opportunity for the most up-to-date information. If you are in need of assistance in regard to any opportunity, such as help applying to a program or grant, please feel free to contact your local Natural Resources Conservation District.

We wish to thank all the organizations represented in this publication who have reviewed and provided feedback to support its improvement and have contributed up-to-date information. Please let us know if anything could be improved by contacting us at: [info@FranklinCountyNRCD.org](mailto:info@FranklinCountyNRCD.org)

## How often is this publication updated?

This publication is updated annually. Although we do our best to capture updates to current programs and newly available programs, please recognize that each organization operates on unique calendar cycles. This means that final details of programs may not be available while this publication is under review. Please always refer to the website or personnel associated with each service for the most up-to-date and accurate information. Expect an update to the guide in the winter of 2027.

## What types of programs are listed in this guide?



Grants, Cost-Share, and Pay for Practice



Loans



Technical Assistance



Educational Programs & Resource Directories



Awards & Recognitions



Certifications

## How is this publication structured?

Do you have a particular project in mind? The program matrix at the beginning of the guide can help direct you to applicable programs and resources. The table of contents lists out each program in order of appearance.

Programs in this guide are organized by funding source and geographic scope:

- State of Vermont Programs include state government-funded programs administered by the State of Vermont.
- Statewide Programs operate across Vermont but are not state government programs. Examples include the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) and the University of Vermont Extension.
- Regional and Local Programs serve specific regions, both in Vermont and across the Northeast.
- Federal Programs include U.S. government-funded programs administered at the federal level.
- Nationwide Programs operate across the U.S. but are not federally funded.

# Program Matrix & Categories

The matrix on the following pages serves as a tool for identifying programs and resources to fit your needs and goals as a producer and land steward. Programs are flagged by type, such as those offering financial assistance, technical assistance, or those offering educational programming and resources. Additionally, programs are flagged by the categories listed below.

Natural Resources	Farm and Business Viability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Soil Health</li> <li>• Nutrient Management</li> <li>• Land Stewardship</li> <li>• Integrated Pest Management</li> <li>• Animal Health</li> <li>• Wetlands</li> <li>• Food Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• Farm Viability</li> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Cash Flow/Enterprise Analysis</li> <li>• Supply Chain</li> <li>• Farmworker Housing</li> <li>• Workforce Training</li> <li>• Succession Planning</li> <li>• Land Access</li> <li>• Farmers Market</li> <li>• Farm to School/Farm to Institution</li> </ul>
Forestry and Wildlife	Specialty Crops and Agritourism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry</li> <li>• Wildlife Habitat</li> <li>• Forest Management</li> <li>• Loggers</li> <li>• Trail Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple</li> <li>• Vegetable and Berry</li> <li>• Agritourism</li> <li>• Specialty Crop</li> <li>• Flower Farming/Floriculture</li> </ul>
Grazing, Beef, and Dairy	Organic Farming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing/Livestock</li> <li>• Dairy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic Production</li> <li>• Transition to Organic</li> </ul>
Risk Management and Climate Resilience	Farmer Wellbeing and Community Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster Assistance</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• Ag Plastic Recycling</li> <li>• Research/Climate Smart</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Climate Resiliency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIPOC Farmers</li> <li>• Beginning Farmer</li> <li>• Migrant Workers</li> <li>• Mental and Physical Health of Farmers</li> <li>• Community/Relationships</li> <li>• Peer to Peer Mentorship</li> </ul>

Page #	Program	Organization /Agency	Financial Assistance	Technical Assistance	Educational Program & Resources	Stewardship or Conservation Payments	Award, Recognition, or Certification	Resource Directory	Natural Resources	Farm and Business Viability	Forestry and Wildlife	Specialty Crops & Agritourism	Grazing, Beef, & Dairy	Organic Farming	Risk Management & Climate Resilience	Farmer Wellbeing & Community Support
24	Fantastic Farmer Award	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Farm Feed-Finder Marketplace	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26	Meat Handler Facility Search	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Organic Certification Cost Share Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Farm to Institution Market Development Grants	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	New and Beginning Farmer Resources	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Pesticide Programs and Resources	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Best Management Practices Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Capital Equipment Assistance Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Farm Agronomic Practices Program	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Farm Agronomic Practices Agronomic Training Grant	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Seeding and Filter Strip Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	Vermont Pay for Performance Program	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program	VAAFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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40	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Ag Clean Water Initiative Program	VAAFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	Trade Show Assistance Grants	WLEI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
44	Business Enhancement Grant	WLEI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
45	Service Provider & Producer Association Grant	WLEI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
46	Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance	DEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Program	FPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48	Forest Legacy Program	FPR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49	Portable Rental Bridge Program	FPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50	Vermont County Foresters	FPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51	VT County Foresters Directory	FPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52	Historic Barn Preservation Grants	ACCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54	Bird-Friendly Maple Program	Audubon Vermont	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55	Vermont Farm Fund	CAE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
56	Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program	Champlain Housing Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57	Vermont Farmworker Housing Replacement Loan Program	Champlain Housing Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58	Agricultural Loans and Rebates	Efficiency Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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59	Agricultural Mediation Program	Environmental Mediation Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
60	Peer Support and Mental Wellbeing	Farm First	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
61	Farmland Conservation Program	VHCB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
62	Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program: Business Advising	VHCB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63	Water Quality Grants	VHCB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64	Vermont Farmer Emergency Fund	NOFA-VT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65	VT Family Farmer of the Month	NOFA-VT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
66	Farmer Resilience Grants	NOFA-VT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
67	Farm Beginnings	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
68	Journey Farmer	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
69	Organic Farmer Services	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
70	Jack Lazor Memorial Soil Stewards	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
71	Organic Certification Support	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
72	Veg & Berry Technical Assistance Services	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
73	Business and Transfer Planning Services	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
74	Marketing Technical Assistance Services	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
75	Organic Dairy Technical Assistance Services	NOFA-VT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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76	Supporting Loggers to Comply with Acceptable Management Practices	PLC of the Northeast	✓	□	□	□	□	□	✓	□	✓	□	□	□	□	□
77	Farm Viability Program	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	□
78	Forest Business Education & Planning Assistance	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	✓	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	□	□
79	Dairy Herd Management Technical Assistance	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	□	□
80	Grazing and Livestock Program	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	✓	□
81	Agronomy Programs	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	✓	□
82	Nutrient Management Planning Resources	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	✓	✓	□	□	✓	✓	□	□
83	Farmworker Resources	UVM Extension	□	□	✓	□	✓	✓	□	✓	□	□	✓	□	□	✓
84	New Farmer Project	UVM Extension	□	□	✓	□	□	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	□	□	□	✓
85	Maple Program	UVM Extension	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
86	Vermont Farm Women's Fund	UVM Extension	✓	□	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
87	AgConnect	UVM Extension	□	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	✓	□	□	✓	✓
88	Required Agricultural Practices Online Quiz	VACD	□	□	✓	□	□	□	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
89	Equipment Rental Directory	VACD	□	□	□	□	□	✓	□	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□
91	Agricultural Energy Loan Program	VEDA	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□	✓	□	□	✓	□	✓	□
92	Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation Loan Program	VEDA	✓	□	□	□	□	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓
93	Forestry Loans	VEDA	✓	□	□	□	□	□	□	✓	✓	□	□	□	□	□

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94	Farmland Conservation	VLT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
95	Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award	VLT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
96	Resources for Trail Stewardship	VOREC/VT Trails and Greenways Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
97	Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism	VTLEAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
98	State Small Business Credit Initiative Program	Vt SBDC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
99	Sugarhouse Certification	VMSMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100	Sugarhouse Grant Program	VMSMA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Brighter Future Fund's New England Regenerative Livestock Farming Grants	AFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Ag Plastic Recycling	CRWFA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Signs of Conservation	FCNRCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	AgEnhancement Grant	Farm Credit East	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Loans and Leases	Farm Credit East	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Food Access Infrastructure Initiative Grant	Farm Credit East	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	A Landowner's Guide to Leasing Land for Farming & Farm Access Methods	Land for Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
109	Black Farmers Learn	NEFOC Land Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
110	Mutual Roots Fund	NEFOC Land Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>





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143	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	NRCS	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	☐
144	Conservation Innovation Grants	NRCS	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐
145	Agricultural Management Assistance Program	NRCS	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
146	Conservation Stewardship Program	NRCS	✓	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
147	ACEP Agricultural Land Easements	NRCS	✓	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	✓	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
148	ACEP Wetland Reserve Easement	NRCS	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
149	NRCS Field Office Directory	NRCS	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
150	Partners for Fish and Wildlife	FWS	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐
151	Value-Added Producer Grants	RD	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	✓
153	AgrAbility	AgrAbility	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓
154	Fund-A-Farmer Welfare Improvement Grant	FACT	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
155	Fund-A-Farmer Systems Change and Innovation Grant	FACT	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
156	Microgrants for Research & Education	OCIA	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	☐
157	Farmer Led Trials	OFRF	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐
158	Transitioning to Organic Production	SARE	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐
159	Community Fund	The Fruit Guys	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	✓

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# Natural Resources Conservation Districts

Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCDS) are non-regulatory entities that work with private landowners, farms, state agencies, federal agencies, and other partner organizations to promote and implement conservation programs. In some parts of the United States, Conservation Districts may also be referred to as Water Conservation Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Natural Resources Districts.

## What services do Natural Resources Conservation Districts offer?

- Connect people, organizations, and resources to steward our land and water resources for the future. This includes training for young conservation leaders, developing comprehensive conservation plans, lake watershed action plans, and implementing projects.
- Assist agricultural producers with Nutrient Management Planning, water quality sampling, soil sampling, manure sampling, harvest and nutrient application record keeping, equipment rentals, and more.
- Host events and provide educational opportunities and assistance related to agricultural practices, water quality, invasive species, native species, tree planting, stormwater, lake shorelines, dam removal projects, and more.
- Work with community members to inform and create Local-Led Conservation initiatives and assist in administering Local-Led Funding Pools for prioritized conservation practices.
- Coordinate assistance and funding from all available sources—public, private, local, state, regional, and federal—to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns. This can mean coordination with other organizations, communities, municipalities, homeowners, landowners, land stewards, agricultural and forest producers, as well as businesses.
- Collaborate with other organizations in program implementation including many of the organizations in this guide along with other non-profits, conservation commissions, and local groups.
- Coordinate tree plantings through outreach, funding, planning, finding volunteers, installation, and maintenance. Many Conservation Districts also offer annual tree, plant, and/or fish sales.
- Together, Vermont's 14 Conservation Districts serve the entire state. We are foundational to the state's agricultural and conservation communities.

# Summary of Agencies, Organizations, & Institutions

## Federal Agencies

### Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA offers disaster assistance, insurance, price support, loans, and conservation programs to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, which help producers invest in, improve, and expand their operations.

### Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

FNS works to end hunger and improve food and nutrition security through a suite of more than 15 nutrition assistance programs, which serve 1 in 4 Americans over the course of a year.

### National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)

NIFA provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture-related sciences through research, education and extension activities, such as Sustainable Agriculture Research and Innovation (SARE).

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for planning and conservation practice implementation based on the producer's stewardship goals. NRCS may provide financial assistance for conservation and easements.

### Risk Management Agency (RMA)

RMA provides market-based tools, such as federal crop insurance, to manage risk and strengthen economic stability of producers' operations and rural communities. RMA is an agency of the USDA.

### Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

AMS administers programs that create marketing opportunities for producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides services to ensure quality and availability of wholesale food for consumers.

### Rural Development (RD)

RD offers loans grants, and loan guarantees. RD offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. RD helps communities undertake empowerment programs and rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make healthy and safe home repairs.

### United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program leverages resources available through Farm Bill conservation programs to expand the conservation footprint and help landowners adopt land use practices that serve their needs while benefiting fish and wildlife.

## Vermont Departments & Agencies

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM):** VAAFM facilitates, supports, and encourages the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers, and the environment. VAAFM hosts the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC), publishes Agriview, and administers multiple agricultural programs.

**Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD):** ACCD encompasses multiple state departments and many programs that serve the Vermont public by enhancing the Vermont business climate, marketing Vermont to tourists and others, and strengthening our communities in a wide variety of ways. Departments include Economic Development, Housing, Community Development, Historic Preservation, and Tourism & Marketing.

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):** While the DEC issues most of the state environmental permits, the Department does more than just set forth regulations and ensure compliance. Through its programs, the DEC manages water and air quality, regulates solid and hazardous wastes, and administers a number of voluntary pollution and waste reduction programs.

**Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR):** FPR is responsible for the conservation and management of Vermont's forest resources, the operation and maintenance of the State Park system, and promotion and support of outdoor recreation for Vermonters and our visitors. In addition, FPR is responsible for the acquisition, planning coordination and administration of all Agency of Natural Resources lands.

**Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR):** VT ANR is charged with the oversight and management of Vermont's natural environment on behalf of the people of Vermont. The Agency is comprised of three departments: the Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation.

## Non-Profits & Educational Organizations and Institutions

**American Farmland Trust (AFT):** American Farmland Trust is a nationwide non-profit organization with a mission to protect farmland, promote environmentally sound farming practices, and keep farmers on the land. AFT operates programs at the national, regional, and state levels.

**Audubon Vermont:** Audubon Vermont is a state program of the National Audubon Society. Audubon Vermont is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow.

**Center for an Agricultural Economy:** The Center for an Agricultural Economy envisions a future with thriving landscapes, healthy local food, and vital, equitable communities. CAE is a non-profit organization based in the Northeast Kingdom, offering programs that support food access, farm viability, and working landscapes.

**Efficiency Vermont:** Efficiency Vermont helps Vermonters invest in energy efficiency through rebates, workforce development, financing options, and technical advice which in turn lowers costs, helps the environment, and fosters resilience.

**Environmental Mediation Center (EMC):** EMC designs and administers environmental and agricultural dispute resolution programs.

**Farm Stand Together:** Farm Stand Together is a mutual aid food program offering gift cards to farm stands across Vermont, lowering the barrier to accessing fresh and locally produced food.

**Food Animal Conservation Trust (FACT):** FACT believes that all food-producing animals should be raised in a humane and healthy manner, and that everyone should have access to safe and humanely produced food. They provide critical resources to help farmers adopt humane practices, advocate for food safety, and guide consumers in making healthy food choices.

**Interlace Commons:** Interlace Commons works to connect people with information about the functionality and implementation of agroforestry practices. Through their work with farmers and technical service providers, Interlace Commons aims to increase agroforestry practices and successes in the Northeastern US.

**Intervale Center:** The Intervale Center manages a 360-acre campus of farmland, trails, and open space along with the Winooski River in Burlington, VT, and works across Vermont to enhance farm viability, land sustainability, and localized food systems.

**Land for Good:** Land for Good works to get more farmers on more land in New England and beyond. They help farmers and landowners navigate the complex challenges of farmland access, tenure, and transfer to realize their family, business, and community goals.

**Northeast Farmers of Color (NEFOC) Land Trust:** NEFOC Land Trust strives for a future of food and land sovereignty in the Northeast region through, permanent and secure land tenure for Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian farmers. The organization connects more than 600 farmers and land stewards of color to envision, enact, and share ways to care for the land and one another.

**Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT):** NOFA-VT promotes organic practices to build an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just Vermont agricultural system that benefits all living things. They offer assistance, funding, and business planning services to farmers and producers, as well as operate programs supporting education, community building, and organic certification.

**Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE):** The SARE program offers grants and education for farmers, educators, service providers, researchers, and others to address key issues affecting the sustainability of agriculture throughout our region. The program is administered by Northeast SARE's host institution, the University of Vermont.

**Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA):** OCIA offers organic certification and verification in certain states, as well as global market access. OCIA also offers microgrants, scholarships for graduate students, and a Farmer of the Year Award.

**Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF):** OFRF works to cultivate organic research, education, and federal policies that bring more farmers and acreage into organic production through grants, educational resources, and advocacy.

**University of Vermont (UVM) Extension:** UVM Extension integrates higher education, research, and outreach to help individuals and communities put knowledge to work in their families and homes, farms, businesses, towns, and the natural environment.

**Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD):** VACD conducts educational, scientific, and charitable work concerning conservation, maintenance, improvement, development, and use of land, soil, water, trees, vegetation, fish and wildlife and other natural resources in Vermont through 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts.

**Vermont Beekeepers Association:** Vermont Beekeepers Association works to support Vermont's apiculture industry, supporting both hobbyists and those who raise bees for a living.

**Vermont Farm to Plate Network:** Vermont Farm to Plate Network is responsible for collectively implementing the 15 Strategic Goals of Vermont's 2021-2030 food system plan, as well as advancing organizational goals of members. The network encompasses farms, food production businesses, nonprofit organizations, capital providers, and government.

**Vermont Farm to School Network:** VT Farm to School Network is a statewide network providing leadership, coordination, and advocacy to advance new and existing farm to school efforts in Vermont classrooms, cafeterias, and communities.

**Vermont Land Trust (VLT):** Rooted in Vermont since 1977, the Vermont Land Trust unites land and lives for the enduring benefit of people and the place we share. The nonprofit has protected more than 640,000 acres of land and fosters life-long connections to farms, forests, and community spaces that define Vermont.

**Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund:** Vermont Sustainable Jobs partners with state government, private sector businesses, and nonprofit organizations to build and support a thriving economic, social, and ecological future of Vermont. They provide business assistance, value chain facilitation, network development, and strategic planning in agriculture and food systems, forest products, waste management, renewable energy, and environmental technology.

# State of Vermont Programs

## **Organizations Featured:**

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI)

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR)

# Fantastic Farmer Award

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



We all know one, even if we don't know their name. Somehow, we've all benefited from their efforts. In some way, they improve and enhance our lives. Hidden away in the depths of the local grocery or farm stand; maybe in your salad; perhaps on top of your pancakes or in a slice of cheese on your sandwich, a Vermont farmer has touched your life today.

**At the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM), our mission is to support farmers in their efforts to grow, cultivate, and deliver their products to the consumer, in a way that respects the heritage, culture, and environmental stewardship that our farmers and farming community strive for every day.** In fulfilling that mission, we meet many fantastic people. Vermonters who have farmed family land for decades, and farmers growing new businesses to meet the demand for new products.

In collaboration with the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund, VAAFM launched a new award program in 2021 that recognizes the values we listed above. **A \$5,000 grant award** that recognizes one farmer who has displayed these virtues. The first award also recognized the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic.

### Application Materials:

To be considered for the Fantastic Farmer Award applicants or nominees will be asked to:

- Describe their farming operation
- Describe the applicant or nominee's role on the farm
- Describe land stewardship goals, soil health, water quality, and nutrient management practices
- Describe the farm or applicant's involvement with the community and with other farmers
- Describe changes made on the farm to improve business structure and operational efficiency

**Grant Award: \$5,000**

### PROGRAM TYPE

Award or Recognition



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Must be a Vermont resident  
Must actively own, work on,  
or manage a commercial farm  
operation in Vermont.

### KEY DATES

Application opens in  
June and closes in  
September.



### HOW TO APPLY

View the application and  
nomination process:  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/fantastic-farmer-award>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Scott Waterman,**

Communications Director

[Scott.Waterman@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.Waterman@vermont.gov)

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/fantastic-farmer-award>



# Farm Feed-Finder Marketplace

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



This platform allows farmers looking to **purchase or to sell feed in Vermont** and the surrounding region to connect. Those selling hay, alfalfa, corn, soy, silage, and haylage can **advertise their feed** on the directory, and can include details such as whether the feed is organic, or if the seller can deliver.

Those looking to purchase feed can navigate the directory, viewing availability, location, and pricing.

### View the Feed Finder at:

<https://cloud.agriculture.vermont.gov/FeedFinder/FindHay.aspx>

**Disclaimer:** VAAFM does not monitor the online marketplace or its users. All potential buyers are strongly encouraged to perform their due diligence before purchase.

PROGRAM TYPE  
Resource Directory



WHO IS THIS FOR?  
Grazing/Livestock farmers

INFORMATION & CONTACT  
If you are aware of any misuse of the marketplace or any other concerns, please contact VAAFM at [AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov)

## Meat Handler Facility Search

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Meat Handler Facility Search Tool allows you to **search for local meat handlers**, including distributors, packers, processors, and slaughterhouses

PROGRAM TYPE  
Resource Directory



View the Meat Handler Facility Search at:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/food-safety/vermont-meat-poultry-inspection/meat-handlers-facility-search>

**Learn more** about Vermont Meat and Poultry Inspection, vendor licensing, labeling requirements, humane handling, livestock and poultry inspection exemptions, and more at:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/food-safety/vermont-meat-poultry-inspection>

# Organic Certification Cost Share Program

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) offers **funding assistance** through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) **to organic producers** and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

**Grant Award/Key Dates and Deadlines:** Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 75% of their direct certification costs paid between October 1 and September 30 annually, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope. There are up to four eligible certification scopes (crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling), which must be individually inspected for organic certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

Reimbursement is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reimbursement for organic transition is not currently available. Operations with suspended, revoked, or withdrawn certifications are also ineligible for cost share reimbursement.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified for specific scopes under the National Organic Program (NOP) are eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

### KEY DATES

Visit program website for application notices.



### HOW TO APPLY

View the application at:  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/organic-certification-cost-share-program-application>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Terry Smith,**  
Executive Assistant  
[Terry.Smith@vermont.gov](mailto:Terry.Smith@vermont.gov)  
Phone: (802) 828-5667

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare>

Allowable Costs	Unallowable Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application fees</li><li>• Inspection fees, including travel costs and per diem for organic inspectors</li><li>• USDA organic certification costs, including fees necessary to access international markets with which AMS has equivalency agreements or arrangements</li><li>• User fees/sale assessments</li><li>• Postage</li><li>• State Organic Program fees (NOCCSP only)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspections due to violations of USDA Organic regulations or State Organic Program requirements</li><li>• Costs related to non-USDA organic certifications</li><li>• Costs related to transitional certification</li><li>• Costs related to any other labeling programs</li><li>• Materials, supplies, and equipment</li><li>• Late fees</li><li>• Membership fees</li><li>• Consultant fees</li></ul>

# Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



Specialty Crop Block Grants are available to **enhance the competitiveness of Vermont specialty crops** including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, herbs and spices, medicinal plants, honey, hops, maple syrup, mushrooms, and nursery crops including Christmas trees and floriculture. Projects funded through this grant program must benefit more than one specialty crop business, individual, or organization

### Program Purpose:

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by:

- Leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops
- Assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops
- Expanding availability and access to specialty crops
- Addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers

USDA AMS supports projects that address the needs of U.S. specialty crop growers and strengthen local and regional food systems.

### Project Types:

- Enhancing food safety
- Improving the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act, for example, by developing “Good Agricultural Practices,” “Good Handling Practices,” “Good Manufacturing Practices,” and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers and processors
- Investing in specialty crop research, including research focusing on conservation and environmental outcomes
- Developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops
- Pest and disease control
- Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops
- Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems
- Sustainability

**Grant Awards:** Grant Awards range from \$15,000 - \$45,000

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any business, organization, or individual can apply to the Vermont SCBGP. However, projects must benefit more than one specialty crop business, organization, or individual to be eligible for funding.

### KEY DATES

Preapplications are due in January.



### HOW TO APPLY

View application instructions at:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/specialtycrop>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Madison Berry**

[AGR.SpecialtyCrops@Vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.SpecialtyCrops@Vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 622-4626

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/specialtycrop>

# Farm to Institution Market Development Grants

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Farm to Institution Market Development Grant (formerly Local Food Market Development Grant) is **intended to support market development opportunities for local food producers, with a focus on Vermont institutional markets**. Funding is provided to help improve local producer access to, and engagement with, schools, hospitals, colleges, correctional facilities, and other local institutions

**Eligible proposals** will increase institutional market opportunities for at least one Vermont farm business and increase the amount of local food purchased and served in Vermont institutions.

**Competitive proposals** will focus on collaboration, developing new sales relationships or deepening existing sales relationships, and values-based procurement for institutions serving meals to Vermont residents. Competitive proposals will demonstrate high likelihood of long-term, sustained partnership between Vermont farms and Vermont institutions

**Grant Awards:** Range from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

**Match Requirement:** All applicants must demonstrate 25% of the total grant award in matching funds; the matching funds requirement can be met with cash, in-kind, or a combination of both.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or cost share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont farm or food businesses; Vermont producer groups or associations; Supply chain facilitators (non-profits, economic development authorities, food hubs, etc.)

### KEY DATES

Applications will likely open in the fall of 2026



### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage to learn more on How to apply

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/farm-to-institution-market-development>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Madison Berry**

[Madison.Berry@vermont.gov](mailto:Madison.Berry@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 626-4626

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/farm-to-institution-market-development>

# New and Beginning Farmer Resources

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets maintains a repository of **resources for new and beginning farmers**. Visit the website to explore all the resources thoroughly.

- **Land Access:** Fact sheets, organizations, and working groups that focus on land access and tenure for farmers
- **Selling Your Product:** Farmers market regulations, labeling and packaging requirements, direct marketing practices, wholesale, and distribution guidance, and agrotourism information
- **Business Planning & Advising:** Technical assistance providers, working groups, and organizations that focus on business planning, at all stages of business development
- **Health and Wellness:** Organizations and agencies providing health and counseling services and assistance for farmers
- **Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Farmers:** Resources and organizations focused on serving BIPOC farmers and working towards a just and equitable food system
- **Women-Owned Farms:** Organizations and networks providing resources, trainings, and assistance for women in farming
- **Grants & Loans:** VAAFM grant opportunities, FSA loan information, and funding/financing resources for VT producers
- **Agronomy & Farming Practices:** List of technical service providers and research entities providing consulting, service, and training
- **Farmers with Disabilities:** Organizations providing advocacy, legal support, and resources for farmers with disabilities
- **Veteran Farmers:** Financial resources, trainings, and health resources
- **Immigrant/Refugee Farmers:** Organizations supporting refugees and immigrants farming in Vermont
- **Getting Registered:** Resources on getting farm businesses registered with the Farm Services Agency, VT Department of Taxes, VT Secretary of State, and guidance in determining business entity

PROGRAM TYPE  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

New and beginning farmers  
across Vermont

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/development/new-farmer-resources>

# Pesticide Programs and Resources

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets & UVM Extension



Professional and homeowner use of pesticides are regulated by this Division under the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides. These regulations cover sales restrictions, proper use, storage, and disposal of pesticides. Product registration, applicator certification, dealer licenses, and permits may be required for use of certain pesticides, all of which are issued from this Division. Homeowners and professionals are responsible for following the directions on product labels and for properly disposing of all unused pesticides.

## VAAFM: Pesticide Applicator Certification

- Private Applicators
- Farmers of all kinds
- To be certified to use Class A pesticides in Vermont, private applicators need to study the CORE manual and must pass the CORE exam
- Commercial Applicators
- Non-Commercial Applicators, including Government Applicators
- VAAFM Webpage: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/pesticide-programs>

## UVM Extension: Pesticide Safety Education Program

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/pesticide-safety-education-program-online-courses>

The UVM Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) works closely with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to provide training and education resources for current and prospective pesticide applicators, ensuring proper and legal use of pesticides that reduces potential risk to human health and the environment.

**The Pesticide Applicator** is a biannual newsletter by UVM Extension and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets for Vermont's pesticide applicators. Mail-in quizzes for pesticide recertification credits are included.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

People in Vermont applying pesticides, including Private Applicators, Commercial Applicators, Non-Commercial Applicators, and Government Applicators

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Sarah-Kingsley Richards,**  
UVM PSEP Program Contact  
[Sarah.Kingsley@uvm.edu](mailto:Sarah.Kingsley@uvm.edu)

### VAAFM Pesticide Program

[ARG.Pest@vermont.gov](mailto:ARG.Pest@vermont.gov)  
Phone: (802) 828 1732



# Best Management Practice (BMP) Program

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Best Management Practice (BMP) Program provides **technical and financial assistance** to identify & assess **farmstead water quality** concerns, and to assist farmers in implementing **structural improvements** designed to abate agricultural waste discharges to Vermont waters. Program staff aim to help Vermont farmers achieve and maintain regulatory compliance in a way that benefits water quality and farm viability.

**Technical Assistance (TA) is available on a priority basis at no cost to the farmer.** TA includes a combination of agricultural, civil, and environmental engineering consultation and design. VAAFM engineers are available to provide water quality compliance consultations, and to assist with state permitting and variances.

### State BMP Program

Financial assistance is available for farmers implementing structural practices on farmsteads that improve water quality. All practices must be designed and/or approved by a VAAFM engineer prior to project funding or implementation. Payment rates are up to 90% of eligible costs.

**State payment cannot exceed** any of the following rates:

- **\$100,000 per farm operation**
- Award amount listed on the grant agreement
- **90% of the total sum of expenses** listed on receipts & invoices

### EQIP-Assist BMP

Financial assistance is available for farmers implementing a water quality project through the USDA-NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Payment rates, between combined federal and state contributions, are up to 90% of eligible costs, or \$200,000 per farm operation. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. We suggest applying when a farmer has ranked out for an NRCS EQIP contract.

**Examples of eligible practices include:** Barnyard runoff collection, bedded pack facility, composting stack pad, exclusion fencing & watering facilities, gutter/ditch clean water diversion, laneway development & stream crossings, Manure storage systems, Milk house waste collection & treatment, Silage leachate collection.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Cost-Share Grant &  
Technical Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices

### KEY DATES

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. May 1st application deadline for same-year engineering site visit and following year construction.



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at [vt.accessgov.com](https://vt.accessgov.com), or visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/bmp> to download the application PDF

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Emma Eason,**  
Agricultural Water Quality  
Program Coordinator  
[Emma.Eason@Vermont.gov](mailto:Emma.Eason@Vermont.gov)  
Phone: (802) 261 5628

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/bmp>



# Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



Financial assistance for new or used innovative **equipment** that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to state waters, **improve water quality** of state waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, mitigate greenhouse gases, and reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure.

Equipment Purpose & Examples of Eligible Equipment	Anticipated Funding Rates
<b>Precision Agriculture</b> - To improve nutrient management planning and precision nutrient application. Examples include flow meters, yield sensors, and precision planting equipment.	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
<b>Liquid Waste Management</b> – To improve efficiency and methodology of applying liquid waste and following Nutrient Management Plan recommendations. Examples include injectors, draglines, and waste irrigation.	90% cost-share up to \$70,000 or 90% cost-share up to \$150,000 per custom applicator or nonprofit.
<b>Conservation Tillage</b> – To reduce the frequency or intensity of tillage operations. Examples include no-till planters, grain drills, and planter downforce.	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
<b>Cover Crop Equipment</b> – To increase or improve cover cropping implementation. Examples include no-till grain drill and roller crimpers.	
<b>Bedded Pack Management</b> - To enable or improve intentional and effective management of composted bedded packs. Examples include bedding chopper, row/compost turners, compost spreader.	
<b>Feed Management</b> – To address silage leachate issues in feed bunks OR to increase haying height. Examples include balers/wrappers to enable feed bunk decommissioning and high shoes on mower.	

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Cost-Share Grant



**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**  
Vermont farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices

**HOW TO APPLY**  
Apply online at [vt.accessgov.com](https://vt.accessgov.com), or visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap> to download the application PDF. Paper/PDF applications may be submitted by email to: [AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov) or mailed to: VAAFM CEAP Program  
116 State St  
Montpelier, VT 05620

**KEY DATES**  
Applications are open annually from September 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>



**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Program Webpage:**  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap>  
Or email: [AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont)

# Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program utilizes state funding to help Vermont farms implement **soil-based agronomic practices** that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and agricultural waste discharges.

Conservation Practice	Payment Rate
Cover Crop	\$30/acre for broadcast or interseed \$45/acre for drilled
Crop to Hay	\$35/acre \$45/acre with nurse crop
No Till Crop Planting	\$15/acre
No Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation	\$30/acre
Rotational Grazing	\$30/acre
Manure Injection	\$25/acre

Grants are limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per farm operation per calendar year.

Enrolled farmers must fill out a Claim Form with corresponding maps to implemented practices within 30 days of practice implementation to receive payment.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Stewardship &  
Conservation Payments



**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**  
Farmers, non-profit organizations, custom applicators, and research institutions may apply

**HOW TO APPLY**  
Apply online at [vt.accessgov.com/](https://vt.accessgov.com/) or visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap> to download the application PDF

**KEY DATES**  
Applications are due April 1 for spring and summer practices and August 1 for fall practices. Please submit one application for all practices planned from January 1 to December 31.



**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Program Webpage:**  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap>  
Or email:  
[AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont)

## Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Agronomic Training Grant

### Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP) grant program from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets (VAAFM) **provides instructional activity grants to support Vermont farmers and service providers to attend events that further their knowledge of agricultural water quality.**

This grant supports Vermont farmers and agricultural service providers to attend in-state, out-of-state, or international educational events that focus on at least one of the following:

- State and federal agricultural water quality regulations,
- The impacts of agricultural waste on water quality, and/or
- Best practices to reduce agricultural impacts on water quality.

Activities must be primarily instructional. Attendance at lobbying or advocacy-focused events is ineligible. Individuals representing organizations with active agreements that support education and outreach through the Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP) may be considered ineligible for funding under this program. Similarly, attendance at events sponsored by AgCWIP may be considered ineligible. Costs for food, drink, and entertainment are ineligible for reimbursement. All applications and expenses are subject to review by VAAFM to ensure that they meet eligibility requirements and that costs are reasonable.

**Grant Award:** Up to \$2,000 per individual per state fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th)

Cost	Reimbursement Rate
Registration fees	Up to 100%
Hotel/Lodging	Up to 100%
Airfare	Up to 100%
Mileage	Federal reimbursement rate
Relief Milking/Farmwork	\$30/hour

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share,  
Educational  
Program



**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**  
Vermont farmers and  
agricultural service providers

**KEY DATES**  
Applications are due  
45 days prior to the event



**HOW TO APPLY**  
Visit  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap/training>  
to download the application  
PDF

**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Program Webpage:**  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap>  
Or email:  
[AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont)

# Seeding and Filter Strip Program (SFS)

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Seeding and Filter Strip (SFS) grant program provides **technical and financial assistance to support the long-term installation of perennial vegetation**. The goal is to help **reduce soil erosion & agricultural runoff**, preventing this runoff from reaching waterbodies. The program funds the establishment of filter strips, pasture/hay plantings, grassed waterways, and associated infrastructure (e.g. erosion or grade control structures). The program prioritizes seeding down areas which present a significant water quality concern. All practices implemented under the SFS program can be harvested for hay.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must control the enrolled land either through ownership or a lease that covers the maintenance agreement period of 10 years.
- Land must be in active use, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 3752(15), and within 300 ft of surface water or a ditch.
- Land must be currently maintained as 1) annual cropland, 2) pasture or hayland with a prior history in annual crops within the past five years, or 3) a buffer zone as required by the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).
- Project must meaningfully address on-site natural resource concerns.

### Practice

### Payment Rate

Filter Strip (30-40 ft)	\$200/acre
Wide Filter Strip (40 ft+)	\$1,000/acre
Pasture/Hayland Plantings – High Risk	\$1,000/acre
Pasture/Hayland Plantings – Moderate Risk	\$500/acre
Grassed Waterway Seeding	\$1,000/acre

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share,  
Technical  
Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont farms required to follow to RAPs

### KEY DATES

Applications accepted on a rolling basis, due 60 days prior to planting



### HOW TO APPLY

Visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sfs> for application details and instructions

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Emma Eason,**  
Agricultural Water Quality  
Program Coordinator  
[Emma.Eason@Vermont.gov](mailto:Emma.Eason@Vermont.gov)  
Phone: 802-261-5628

**Ben Gabos,**  
Agricultural Water Quality  
Program Coordinator  
[Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov](mailto:Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov)  
Phone: 802-461-3814

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sfs>

# Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program provides **pasture management technical assistance and financial assistance** to Vermont farmers to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters statewide.

**Technical Assistance:** No-cost pasture management technical assistance from experienced grazing specialists.

**Financial assistance:** Reimbursements up to 90% of the cost to install infrastructure that will improve pasture management, up to the farm's grant amount.

**Projects must implement practices that support at least one of the following:**

- Excluding livestock from surface waters
- Implementing a Rotational Grazing Plan
- Priority is given to farms that have at least 4 acres for the raising, feeding and management of at least five cattle or cows, 15 goats or sheep, four equine, or three camelids
- Manage pastureland where water quality will benefit from implementation of improved pasture management and eligible and/or necessary conservation practices
- Have ownership or land control for the lifespan of the practice (10 years)
- Have an insurance policy that allows the State and its employees and officers to be listed as additional insured

**Grant Award:** Up to \$15,000 grant award per farm.

Additional funding is available for exclusion fence only, up to \$20,000 total grant award, as approved by PSWF program.

Practice	Maximum Cost Share
Fence	\$4.00/foot
Livestock pipeline	No cost share cap
Watering facility	No cost share cap
Improved permanent water area	\$8,000
Stream crossings	\$8,000
Electric fence chargers	\$2,000
Trails & walkways	\$10,000

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share,  
Technical Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont farmers required to follow the RAPs

### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply Online at:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Connor Steckel,**

Agricultural Water Quality

Program Coordinator &

Grazing Specialist

[Connor.Steckel@vermont.gov](mailto:Connor.Steckel@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 522-0065

### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf>

# Vermont Pay for Performance (VPFP) Program

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Vermont Pay for Performance (VPFP) program provides performance-based payments to Vermont farmers for reductions in phosphorus (P) losses from their agricultural fields. Reductions represent improvements in farm management from the management assumed in the Lake Champlain Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (LCB TMDL). Enrolled farms will receive payment for annual net reductions from these historic base loading assumptions, above a threshold set by the program. **Most current payment programs pay cost-share for practices. The VPFP program is unique because it pays for the outcomes of those practices:** it recognizes that the conservation of soil and water generates value to the public and directly compensates farms for that value.

**Practices include** reduced/no-till, cover crop, crop rotation, manure injection, and rotational grazing.

Farmers will use the Farm Phosphorus Reduction Planner (FarmPREP), a web-application tool that integrates farm management data, agronomic and hydrologic science, and numerical modeling to evaluate reductions in P losses across their farm operation.

The funding available for this program is limited and the current federal grant budget is fully subscribed until additional funding is secured. **Due to the growing interest in and success of VPFP, the VAAFM team is working to develop "Version 2.0" and to submit funding proposals for the program to continue in the future.** In that vein, if there are partners who would like to provide recommendations, VAAFM welcomes your input or that of local producers or association members.

Please reach out to [Sumner.Kravitz@vermont.gov](mailto:Sumner.Kravitz@vermont.gov) if you or your members would like to coordinate an opportunity to provide or capture input.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont farm required to follow the RAPs, have an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan, and manage crop land, hay land, or pasture

### KEY DATES

This program is currently not accepting applications and is pending funding for an additional round.



### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Sumner Kravitz

Agricultural Water Quality  
Program Coordinator

[Sumner.Kravitz@vermont.gov](mailto:Sumner.Kravitz@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 636-7852

#### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/VPFP>



# Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program (VFESP)

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program is a **state sponsored program providing supplemental payments for farmers enrolled in the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**. This program aims to recognize and compensate farmers for their whole-farm stewardship, and to provide pathways for the planning and implementation of additional conservation enhancement practices.

### Application Timeline and Incentive Payments for CSP Ag Land Applicants:

1. Submit CSP application to USDA NRCS
2. Submit Application/Authorization to Release Information to AAFM. Commence grant paperwork with VAAFM.
3. Finish a CSP Assessment with your local NRCS office. (Entitled to receive \$2,000 from VAAFM upon completion, pending VAAFM grant signature.)
4. Sign a CSP Agreement with NRCS, if eligible. Timeline may be extended at NRCS discretion. (Receive \$7,500 from VAAFM upon completion. Funding amount variable based on budget and number of applicants.)

Annually thereafter: eligible for annual CSP payments from NRCS for the length of 5-year contract (minimum of \$4,000, maximum of \$40,000 annually).

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments.



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farms required to comply with the RAPs.

Must be applying and/or receiving CSP assistance.  
Must meet NRCS eligibility criteria.

#### KEY DATES

Applicants must apply for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) before the NRCS deadline. Applicants must then apply separately for the Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program supplemental payment.



#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Noah Gilbert-Fuller,**

Agricultural Water Quality  
Program Coordinator

Phone: (802) 505-3407

[Noah.Gilbert-Fuller@vermont.gov](mailto:Noah.Gilbert-Fuller@vermont.gov)

#### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/CSP-Assist>

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



Vermont's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program designed to **reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality** by removing land from agricultural production and **establishing vegetative buffers**. State and federal FSA funds are used to compensate landowners for the loss of productive agricultural land through **upfront incentive payments** and annual rental payments based on the total acreage dedicated to vegetated filter strips, forested buffers, or grassed waterways.

### Program Definitions

- A **filter strip** is a grassed area that helps reduce sediment, nutrient, and pollutants in runoff.
- A **forested** buffer contains trees and/or shrubs in addition to a filter strip to reduce runoff losses, provide enhanced wildlife habitat, stabilize streambanks and create shade to lower water temperatures.
- A **grassed waterway** is a shallow vegetated swale designed to convey concentrated runoff to surface waters without causing erosion.

### Grant Award Information:

- Upfront payments of \$415 per acre for pasture and hay land, and \$795 to \$1,905 per acre for annual cropland
- Implementation cost-share up to 100%. Annual payments \$80 - \$300 per acre per year
- Other project-related practices may be eligible for cost-share, such as fence, pipeline, watering facility, and stream crossing

### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The applicant must have owned or operated the land for 12 months prior to enrollment. The land must be in agricultural use, and must be adjacent to a perennial stream or river that lack vegetative buffers and have agricultural related water quality impact.

### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



### HOW TO APPLY

To sign up for Vermont's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), contact your local Farm Service Agency, or contact Vermont Agency of Agriculture CREP Coordinators.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Program Webpage: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/crep>

FSA Service Center Locator: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

### Vermont Agency of Agriculture CREP Coordinators

#### Ben Gabos,

Agricultural Water Quality Program Coordinator

Phone: 802-461-3814

Email: [Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov](mailto:Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov)

#### Phillip Wilson,

Agricultural Water Quality Program Coordinator

Phone: 802-505-5378

Email: [Phillip.Wilson@Vermont.gov](mailto:Phillip.Wilson@Vermont.gov)



## Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP)

### Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP) from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) Water Quality Division provides **grants to local and regional partners to work with farms** to support the improvement of water quality across the state of Vermont through education and outreach, technical assistance, organizational capacity development, and conservation practice surveys.

#### Eligibility

- Vermont businesses such as farm operations or agricultural associations
- Local government entities
- Public or private schools/other educational institutions
- Non-profit organizations working with farms
- Agricultural service providers, including Technical Service Providers, Technical Assistance Providers, agricultural engineering and/or consulting firms, agricultural organizations, and trade associations

**Eligible Projects** must address one or more of the following priority outcomes to improve statewide water quality:

- Regulatory compliance of Vermont farms with state and federal water quality regulations
- Non-point-source pollution reduction on Vermont farms
- Economic and environmental viability of Vermont farms

#### Grant Application Categories:

**Category 1** - Small. Individual application with total request equal to or less than \$100,000.

**Category 2** - Medium. Individual or joint application with a total request between \$100,001 - \$1,000,000.

**Category 3** - Large. Joint application with a total request between \$1,000,001 - \$4,000,000.

Expected grant performance timeframe is June 2026 - June 2028.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



#### KEY DATES

The Request for Applications opened in November 2025. Applications are open through 4:30pm on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026



#### HOW TO APPLY

Grant applications must be submitted electronically with the subject line: 'AGCWIP Application 2026' to [AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov) by the close of business (4:30 pm) on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Mary Montour,**

Agricultural Water Quality  
Program Coordinator

[Mary.Montour@vermont.gov](mailto:Mary.Montour@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 461-6087

#### Program Webpage:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agricultural-clean-water-initiative-program>

## Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Grant Programs

### Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI)



The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) offers grants that support forest, farm, and food businesses. Grants also go to producer associations, business assistance provider organizations, and more. The state's annual budget process decides the amount of funds available each year. The Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) meets each summer to decide which grants to offer for the coming year based on available funds and needs across Vermont.

In Fiscal Year 2026, a total of \$1 million is available for grants. Applications will open throughout the fall and winter, with awards announced throughout the winter and spring. These awards should be for projects that you will start working on in spring 2026. Except where noted, most projects are expected to be completed within one year. Unlike in past years, there will be no match requirement for these grants. Because funds are limited and these grants are very competitive, you should apply for the minimum amount needed for a project.

**Funding Opportunity:** Business Enhancement Grant

**Application Window:** October 17- December 11, 2025

**Award Size:** \$10,000-\$50,000

**Eligible Projects/Expenses:** Market development, Infrastructure and equipment, Workforce training and development

**Eligible Applicants:** Farms, Primary/secondary forestry businesses, Food businesses using ingredients grown in VT

**Funding Opportunity:** Tradeshow Assistance Grant

**Application Window:** Winter 2026

**Award Size:** \$2,000-\$7,500

**Eligible Projects/Expenses:** Planning, exhibiting, and selling Vermont products at out-of-state trade shows or virtual shows targeting out-of-state buyers

**Eligible Applicants:** Farm, forest, or local food businesses with 3+ wholesale accounts

**Funding Opportunity:** Service Provider & Producer Association Grant

**Application Window:** Fall 2025

**Award Size:** \$10,000-\$100,000

**Eligible Projects/Expenses:** Service provider grant projects should provide direct services to support Vermont-based working lands businesses through technical assistance and other forms of support. Producer association grant projects can provide services to members and/or focus on association development projects.

**Eligible Applicants:** Organizations that provide services to farm and forest businesses  
Non-profit associations of farm, forest, or local food businesses.

For additional information and applicant resources, visit:

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/overview>

# Trade Show Assistance Grants

## Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)



The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Trade Show Assistance Grants provide Vermont agricultural and forestry businesses with **funds to exhibit and sell their Vermont products at trade shows targeting out-of-state buyers**. These matching grants can partially offset the expenses associated with exhibiting at trade shows, which provide excellent opportunities to network with wholesale buyers and expand into new domestic and international markets.

### Eligibility

Vermont-based agricultural and forestry businesses that meet the following criteria are eligible to receive funds through this grant:

1. Business is registered with the Vermont Secretary of State and has been in business for over one year
2. Business or its headquarters are located within Vermont
3. Business has three or more wholesale accounts
4. Business' products meet the Vermont Local Definition as defined in Act 129

**Proposed trade shows target out-of-state buyers.** Typically, trade shows based in Vermont would not be eligible. However, there are exceptions in which regional, or even international, trade shows happen to be held here. These shows are eligible if they meet the other requirements in this RFA. Please contact the grant program manager with questions.

### Funding will be used for the following approved expenses:

- Travel and accommodation expenses
- Marketing materials and other marketing costs (samples, printing, etc.)
- Marketing, branding, and design services
- Registration fees (including booth space and educational sessions)
- Booth fees including furnishings and utilities
- Shipping/freight

**Grant Award:** \$2,000 - \$7,500

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**  
VT based agricultural and forestry businesses

**KEY DATES**  
November 21, 2025:  
The Request for Applications (RFA) is released  
December 5, 2025:  
Application opens  
January 21, 2026: Application closes



**HOW TO APPLY**  
View the program webpage to learn more on how to apply  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/tradeshow>

**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Jennifer Porter,**  
Agricultural Resources Navigator  
Phone: (802) 261-7395  
[Jennifer.Porter@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Porter@vermont.gov)

**Program Webpage:**  
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/tradeshow>

# Business Enhancement Grant

## Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI)



The Business Enhancement Grant Program administered by the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative provides funding opportunities for a wide array of businesses or entities which produce or use Vermont-based farm and forest products.

### Eligibility

This grant is for Vermont working lands businesses/organizations, which include farm and forest products businesses. Some food businesses/organizations, as well as agriculture or wood processing and/or distribution businesses can be eligible if they meet the requirements below. Any food, processing, or distribution applicant must make their Vermont product sourcing clear in the application.

**Due to limited funds available**, this year the Business Enhancement Grant is focused on working landscape businesses producing food, fiber, and forest/wood products. If more funds are available in future years, agricultural businesses and projects related to non-food and fiber products may be eligible for funding.

### Project Types

- Equipment
- Infrastructure development
- Market development
- Research and development
- Workforce training and development

### Funding Overview

- Awards range from \$10,000 - \$50,000, with \$620,000 total in available funds.
- We recommend applying for the minimum amount of funds needed for project success due to high demand for limited funds. We recommend focusing on one project per grant application.
- You should expect to include business financial statements in the application, including a profit & loss statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement. Details about the timeline each statement should cover, and sample statements can be viewed in the RFP.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont working lands/businesses. Additional eligibility requirements described on the left of this page.

### KEY DATES

Applications are open from October 17, 2025, to December 11, 2025



### HOW TO APPLY

View the webpage to learn more and apply:

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/business-enhancement-grant>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Clare Salerno,**

Agriculture Development  
Specialist

[Clare.Salerno@vermont.gov](mailto:Clare.Salerno@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 917-2637

### Program Webpage:

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/business-enhancement-grant>

# Service Provider & Producer Association Grants

## Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI)



The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) Service Provider & Producer Association Grant is a competitive grant administered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. It supports organizations and producer associations that provide business-focused services to Vermont's farm, food, forest, and fiber sectors, with the goal of strengthening the state's working lands economy through technical assistance, skills development, and network-building support.

### This grant is for two types of applicants:

1. Service providers, which are organizations that provide business support services to agricultural and forestry businesses.
2. Producer associations, also known as trade associations, industry trade groups, or business associations, are organizations founded and funded by businesses that operate in a specific industry. Vermont-based producer association groups that represent and promote Vermont agriculture, food, beverage, forest, or fiber products are eligible to apply.

Service provider grant projects should provide direct services to Vermont-based working lands businesses through technical assistance and/or other forms of support. Producer association grant projects may also provide these services to their members. These services include: market development, marketing plans, and sales planning, business and financial planning, disaster preparedness to flooding, and/or other crises, succession planning for next generation business owners, access to capital, manufacturing efficiencies or process flow, business research and development, workforce development.

- **Available funds:** Up to \$370,000 is available to award
- Awards range from \$10,000-\$100,000 depending on the length of the project workplan. No matching funds are required for this grant.
- All projects will start March 1, 2026. Applicants have the flexibility to identify the work plan that best suits the proposed project. 15-month projects will end on May 30, 2027. 30-month projects will end on August 30, 2028.

PROGRAM TYPE  
Grant



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible applicants include service providers and producer associations based in Vermont, and providing services that benefit Vermont working lands enterprises. Non-profits and other organizational structures that meet these criteria are eligible to apply.

### KEY DATES

Applications are due  
on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online through  
WebGrants:

<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Elizabeth Sipple**, Program  
Lead

[Elizabeth.Sipple@vermont.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Sipple@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 917-1134

#### Program Webpage:

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/service-provider-producer-association-grant>

# Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance

## Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation



Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance was developed to **provide technical assistance and incentive funding for projects that reduce diesel emissions** from engines, vehicles, and equipment in Vermont with the goals of reducing public exposure to emissions from diesel-powered engines and the associated risks to public health and the environment.

The DEC periodically solicits applications from potential project partners for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions from diesel powered engines, vehicles, and equipment operating in Vermont.

### What projects are eligible?

Certified vehicle or equipment replacement with all-electric (battery, grid, or fuel cell), alternative fuel, or newer diesel options; certified engine replacements; clean alternative fuel conversions; verified emission control technologies such as exhaust controls, cleaner fuels, and engine upgrades; verified idle reduction technologies such as auxiliary power units, fuel operated heaters, shore connection systems, transport refrigeration unit (TRU) electrified parking spaces, and truck stop electrification technologies; and/or verified aerodynamic technologies and low rolling resistance tires.

### Cost Share Opportunities

There are a number of eligibility and cost share requirements. Cost share requirements vary depending on the project. For example, the program can fund up to 45% of the cost of replacing a heavy-duty diesel truck with a new, zero tailpipe exhaust vehicle (grid, battery, or fuel cell), while up to 25% of the cost of the truck's replacement with a newer, cleaner diesel, hybrid, or alternative fuel vehicle can be funded under this program. For more information, please review the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) State Program Guide.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share,  
Technical Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All interested local, state, and regional agencies or departments as well as businesses, institutions, and nonprofit organizations in VT. Vehicles and equipment that are eligible include: diesel-powered engines, vehicles, and equipment currently operating in Vermont.

### KEY DATES AND HOW TO APPLY



Check the Vermont Business Assistance Network for updates:

<https://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/Default.aspx>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Leigh Martin,**

Environmental Analyst

[Leigh.Martin@vermont.gov](mailto:Leigh.Martin@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 261-0713

### Program Webpage:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/mobile-sources/diesel-emissions/vt-diesel-grant>



# Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Program

## Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR)



Vermont's Current Use Program **enables eligible private landowners who practice long-term forestry or agriculture** to have their land appraised based on the property's value of production of wood or food rather than its residential or commercial development value.

### Eligibility:

- Parcels must contain at least 25 acres that will be enrolled and managed according to a forest plan approved by the VT FPR.
- For most forestlands on productive soils (Site I, II and III), the primary management objective must be long-term production of forest products in accordance with established forest practices. Wildlife habitat, aesthetics, recreation, etc. are acceptable objectives when consistent with and complementary to timber management. Significant wildlife habitats, special places and sensitive sites, miscellaneous inclusions of one acre or less, and Ecologically Significant Treatment Areas (ESTAs) may also qualify without timber production.
- Open/idle agricultural land (not eligible for Agriculture Use Value) that is not to be reforested within two years may also be enrolled but cannot exceed 20% of total enrolled qualifying acreage (open/idle ag land plus forested acres on productive soils).
- Site IV land: Also called non-productive soils; land having soils incapable of growing a minimum amount of wood.

### Not Eligible:

- House sites and land under other private or commercial developments
- A minimum of two acres surrounding dwellings including houses, camps, and mobile homes
- Land used for commercial mining or removal of gravel
- Any forested areas where the landowner chooses not to harvest trees, unless enrolled as an ESTA
- Any utility right-of-way in excess of two acres and wider than 40 ft
- Any land where vegetation is not under the legal control of the landowner may not be enrolled

### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Please review the information to the left.

### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage at:

<https://tax.vermont.gov/propery/current-use>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

For more information regarding forestland enrollment, please contact your County Forester.

See the directory at:

<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/list-vermont-county-foresters>

### Program Webpage:

<https://tax.vermont.gov/propery/current-use>

# Forest Legacy Program

## Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation



The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a voluntary federal grant program to **protect forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses**. Landowners who wish to participate may either sell the property as fee simple title (all rights), or only a portion of the property rights and retain ownership of the land. The use of conservation easements allows the land to remain in private ownership and ensures that important public values such as wildlife habitat, natural areas, forest resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities are protected.

### How Does It Work?

The Forest Legacy Program provides for up to 75% of the costs of a conservation easement or fee-simple acquisition, including the costs of appraisals, surveys, closing costs, title work and insurance, and other associated costs. The remaining 25% must be matched by either the landowner or an assisting entity, such as a non-profit organization or non-federal governmental entity.

Non-profit partners are active in the Vermont FLP with national, State-wide, and local lands trusts aware of the FLP and serving as project proponents. Project proponents seek landowners who are interested in the FLP, serve as intermediaries during negotiations, provide public awareness of land protection efforts and may provide cost share in the form of funding acquisition activities.

### The Application Process

Landownership changes in Vermont in the last decade are affecting the way in which the Forest Legacy Program receives applications. Originally there was a call for applications from willing landowners who submitted projects on an individual basis. Parcelization of timberland into smaller holdings is leading landowners to combine parcels to form regional projects that can compete at the federal level. Currently non-profit organizations and community efforts are working together to submit applications.

If a project is eligible for the program, the landowner(s) or an authorized agent may submit an application.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any private landowner or authorized agent may submit an initial application if the land proposed for Legacy is within a designated Legacy Area, has important resources or values in line with federal and state criteria, and can continue traditional forest uses.

### KEY DATES

Applications are typically due by the end of July and reviewed and ranked by the VT Forest Stewardship Committee by early fall



### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact Kate Sudhoff, Program Coordinator

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Kate Sudhoff,**

Program Coordinator

[Kate.Sudhoff@vermont.gov](mailto:Kate.Sudhoff@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 505-0678

**Program Webpage:**

[https://fpr.vermont.gov/state\\_land/acquisition/forest-legacy-program](https://fpr.vermont.gov/state_land/acquisition/forest-legacy-program)



# Portable Bridge Rental Program

## Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR)



FPR's Watershed Forestry Program has multiple **temporary bridge options available for direct rental** to logging contractors, consulting foresters, and landowners for use on stream crossings during harvesting activities. These bridges are designed to accommodate skidders, forwarders, and / or log trucks, with multiple lengths available to accommodate varying stream channel widths and crossing scenarios.

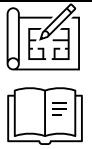
### Wood-Over-Steel Skidder Bridges:

FPR has three, 25' long, two-section steel I-beam bridges with wooden decks. These bridges have engineer ratings and will hold a 30,000 lb. skidder or a 40,000 lb. forwarder over a 21-foot span. These bridges have also been used for log trucks with additional support under the bridge. They are heavy, requiring larger equipment to move than 20' wooden skidder bridges, but work very well. The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month and there is a \$500 rental deposit also required. These bridges are located in Barre, Springfield and Rutland. Rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. These bridges were funded through a grant from the US Forest Service.

### Steel Truck Bridges:

FPR has four temporary truck bridges that are designed for log trucks and are rated for 99,000 lbs. These are engineered bridges purchased from ADM Fabricating in Pennsylvania. FPR has two 30' and two 40' bridges. They weigh between 25,000 and 30,000 lbs. and are one piece that folds during transport. These are substantial bridges and require at least one, and sometimes two medium or large excavators to load, unload and set in place. They also require a solid abutment to be set on, so they don't twist. The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month and there is a \$500 rental deposit also required. The rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. When not in use, these bridges will be located at various sites around Vermont. Contact Dave Wilcox for locations and availability. These bridges were funded through an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Logging contractors,  
foresters, and landowners  
with forestland

### KEY DATES

Contact FPR at any  
time



### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Contact Dave Wilcox,**  
FPR Watershed Forester  
**Phone:** (802) 793-0265  
[Dave.Wilcox@vermont.gov](mailto:Dave.Wilcox@vermont.gov)

### Program webpage:

[https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/  
managing-your-  
woodlands/acceptable-  
management-  
practices/temporary-bridge-  
rentals](https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands/acceptable-management-practices/temporary-bridge-rentals)

# Vermont County Foresters

## Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR)



Vermont's County Foresters provide services at a regional basis and may operate outside of their designated county in order to equitably support Vermont's forest landowners and stewards.

### Services that county foresters can provide include:

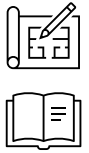
**Site Visits:** County Foresters can walk your woods with you, point out tree species and habitat features, and talk through your management goals—whether that's producing timber, improving wildlife habitat, enhancing recreation, or simply keeping your woods healthy. While they can't take on full management work for individual landowners, they are an important first step in connecting you to the right resources. They can provide referrals to licensed consulting foresters and other natural resource professionals who can develop Forest Management Plans or carry out projects on your land.

**Programs:** In addition to site visits, County Foresters administer state programs that support landowners. A key role is overseeing the Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) program for enrolled forestland, which allows land to be taxed based on its forestry value rather than its development value—making long-term forest stewardship more affordable.

**Education and Outreach:** County Foresters are also active in education and outreach. They regularly give talks, lead woods walks, and partner with schools, nonprofits, and community groups to build public understanding of forestry and forest stewardship. Their expertise covers a wide range of topics, from sustainable timber harvesting practices to invasive species management, wildlife habitat planning, and recreational trail improvements.

By providing technical assistance, connecting landowners with resources, and administering key state programs, County Foresters have long played a central role in helping Vermonters care for their forestland—ensuring that these lands continue to provide economic, ecological, and community benefits for generations to come.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance,  
Resource Directory



**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Landowners with forest

**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Program Webpage:**  
[https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/  
list-vermont-county-foresters](https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/list-vermont-county-foresters)

# Vermont County Foresters Directory

## Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR)



### Northern Region

Name	Region	Contact
Jared Nunery, Northern Region Lead	Serving landowners in Orleans County	Phone: 802-595-5754 Email: <a href="mailto:jared.nunery@vermont.gov">jared.nunery@vermont.gov</a>
A.J. Follensbee, County Forester	Serving landowners in and around southern Caledonia County	Phone: 802-595-2429 Email: <a href="mailto:aj.follensbee@vermont.gov">aj.follensbee@vermont.gov</a>
Charlie Hancock, County Forester	Serving landowners in and around Franklin and Grand Isle Counties	Phone: 802-917-2711 Email: <a href="mailto:charlie.hancock@vermont.gov">charlie.hancock@vermont.gov</a>
Matt Langlais, County Forester	Serving landowners in Essex and northern Caledonia Counties	Phone: 802-535-8486 Email: <a href="mailto:matt.langlais@vermont.gov">matt.langlais@vermont.gov</a>
Emily Potter, County Forester	Serving landowners in and around Lamoille County	Phone: 802-622-4230 Email: <a href="mailto:emily.potter@vermont.gov">emily.potter@vermont.gov</a>

### Central Region

Name	Region	Contact
David Paganelli, Central Region Lead	Serving landowners in Orange County	Phone: 802-461-5304 Email: <a href="mailto:david.paganelli@vermont.gov">david.paganelli@vermont.gov</a>
Brandon Benedict, County Forester	Serving landowners in Chittenden County, northern Addison County and Mad River Valley	Phone: 802-261-7179 Email: <a href="mailto:brandon.benedict@vermont.gov">brandon.benedict@vermont.gov</a>
Robert Nelson, County Forester	Serving landowners in Washington and Orange Counties	Phone: 802-636-7203 Email: <a href="mailto:robert.nelson@vermont.gov">robert.nelson@vermont.gov</a>
Mark Raishart, County Forester	Serving landowners in northern Rutland and southern Addison County	Phone: 802-522-9510 Email: <a href="mailto:mark.raishart@vermont.gov">mark.raishart@vermont.gov</a>

### Southern Region

Name	Region	Contact
Sam Schneski, Southern-Region Lead	Serving landowners in southeastern Vermont	Phone: 802-380-8916 Email: <a href="mailto:sam.schneski@vermont.gov">sam.schneski@vermont.gov</a>
Hannah Dallas, County Forester	Serving landowners in southern Windsor and northern Windham Counties	Phone: 802-622-4169 Email: <a href="mailto:hannah.dallas@vermont.gov">hannah.dallas@vermont.gov</a>
Dan Healey, County Forester	Serving landowners in northern Windsor County	Phone: 802-480-1801 Email: <a href="mailto:dan.healey@vermont.gov">dan.healey@vermont.gov</a>
Tessa McGann, County Forester	Serving landowners in southwestern Vermont	Phone: 802-505-1579 Email: <a href="mailto:tessa.mcgann@vermont.gov">tessa.mcgann@vermont.gov</a>

# Historic Barn Preservation Grants

## Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development



Established in 1992, the State-funded Barn Preservation Grant program helps individuals, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to rehabilitate the historic agricultural buildings that are a symbol of Vermont's rural landscape. Since its inception, the program has provided over \$5 million towards the preservation of over 525 projects on historic barns and agricultural buildings around the state. This is the oldest state-funded agricultural-based grant program in the United States

**Grant Award:** Up to \$20,000, with a 1:1 Match Requirement.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Property must be at least 50 years old and listed or determined eligible for listing in the State Register of Historic Places
- Project cannot start until grant has been awarded
- Barn does not have to be in use
- Practices: historic barn preservation, repairs and/or restoration
- Ineligible: New construction, additions, accessibility and code improvements, electrical, plumbing, heating, planning projects

### Criteria & Ranking

All applications must meet Criteria 1-4. Criteria 5-10 are used to rank applications and award funds.

1. Property must be listed or eligible for listing in the State Register of Historic Places
2. Project buildings must be a historic agricultural building
3. Applicant must match the grant on at least a one-to-one basis
4. Projects must demonstrate compliance with preservation standards
5. Projects that preserve historic features
6. Active agricultural use or repair for agricultural purposes
7. Public benefit and long-term use
8. Architectural or historic significance
9. Long-term planning & budget
10. Clear, concise, and well-written applications

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individuals, businesses, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations may apply. Additional eligibility requirements may apply

### KEY DATES

Applications for 2026

Grants are due on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025



### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage for application instructions:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/barn-grants>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Caitlin Corkins,**

Tax Credits and Grants  
Coordinator

[Caitlin.Corkins@vermont.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Corkins@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 828-3047

### Program Webpage:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/barn-grants>

# Statewide Programs

## **Organizations Featured:**

Audubon Vermont

Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE)

Champlain Housing Trust (CHT)

Efficiency Vermont

Environmental Mediation Center (EMC)

Farm First

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC)

University of Vermont Extension (UVM Extension)

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)

Vermont Land Trust (VLT)

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative/VT Trails and Greenways Council

Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (VT LEAP)

Vermont Small Business Development Center (VT SBDC)

Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association (VMSMA)

# Bird-Friendly Maple Program

## Audubon Vermont



The Bird-Friendly Maple Program is ready to give you and maple-lovers everywhere a way to support and **promote sugarbush management that's good for Vermont's birds, forests, and forest-based economy.**

The program is a collaboration with the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association. Through the Bird-Friendly Maple program, producers are recognized for their efforts to integrate bird habitat and biodiversity conservation into their sugarbush management through unique labeling and marketing opportunities.

### Enrollment and Assessment

- To participate in the Bird-Friendly Maple program, producers must have either a current (within the past 10 years) Forest Management Plan written by a VT licensed forester, or a Habitat Management Plan written by Audubon staff.

### Management

- Harvesting of trees in the sugarbush during the bird nesting season (May to mid-July) may reduce nest success and survivorship. In order to reduce negative impact on nesting birds, any one area of the sugarbush must not be worked in during the nesting season more than once every ten years.
- The sugarbush must be part of a contiguous forest block of greater than or equal to 100 acres.
- Considerate management and tapping in natural communities where maple is an associate species.
- Control or eradication for non-native or invasive species must be described in the forest management plan.
- Forests must be managed for diverse structure and regeneration, with a diversity of tree sizes and ages, and a diversity of vegetative layers (understory, midstory, groundlayer) as well as standing dead trees (snags) and downed woody debris.

**There are additional program standards set by Audubon Vermont.**

Review Audubon Vermont's Bird-Friendly Sugarbush Management Guidelines at:

[https://vt.audubon.org/sites/default/files/bird\\_friendly\\_sugarbush\\_management\\_guidelines\\_final.pdf](https://vt.audubon.org/sites/default/files/bird_friendly_sugarbush_management_guidelines_final.pdf)

PROGRAM TYPE  
Certification



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Maple producers with a  
Forest Management Plan  
(FMP) in Vermont

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Steve Hagenbuch,**  
Senior Forest Program  
Manager

[Steve.Hagenbuch@audubon.org](mailto:Steve.Hagenbuch@audubon.org)

### Program Webpage:

<https://vt.audubon.org/conservation/working-lands/landing/bird-friendly-maple-project>

# Vermont Farm Fund

## Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE)



This program provides no hassle, friendly-term loans **to local farmers and food producers**. A true revolving loan fund, as the community of recipients pays back their loans, funds are replenished for the next cycle of borrowers.

### Business Builder Loan

The Business Builder Loan Program provides \$5,000-\$30,000 loans with 3% amortized interest, for periods of 24 to 48 months. This loan program is intended for small to midscale producers that are trying to build their businesses, and larger enterprises that are working on smaller, innovative projects and pilot business ventures. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

**View the CAE Business Builder Loan Information and Application at:**

<https://www.vtfarmfund.org/business-builder>

### New Producer Loan

The New Producer Loan Program supports new farmers and food producers who need funding for infrastructure on new property or equipment for launching a value-added food business. Loans range from \$5,000-\$20,000 at 3% amortized interest for terms of 24-60 months. Applicants are required to submit a written business plan prepared with outside support from a technical assistance provider. The basic business planning process can be between 5-15 hours. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

**View the CAE New Producer Loan Information and Application at:**

<https://www.vtfarmfund.org/new-producer-loan>

### Emergency Loans

Emergency loans of up to \$15,000 are available to support farmers to recover from natural disasters, including damage and loss caused by floods, droughts, fire, wind, and/or hail. These are zero-interest loans payable over 36-48 months, with an option to defer payments for up to 12 months. Applications are reviewed within 10 business days, and loan funds are granted within 14 business days. Businesses should be in otherwise good financial health, save for the unexpected natural disaster.

**View the CAE Emergency Loan Information and Application at:**

<https://www.vtfarmfund.org/emergency-loan>

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farm and food-related businesses registered and located in Vermont

#### KEY DATES

Applications rolling



#### HOW TO APPLY

View the application process at

<https://www.vtfarmfund.org/how-to-apply>

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Vermont Farm Fund / Center for an Agricultural Economy

[info@vermontfarmfund.org](mailto:info@vermontfarmfund.org)

Phone: (802) 560-3099

**Program Webpage:**

<https://www.vtfarmfund.org/>



# Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program

## Champlain Housing Trust



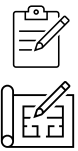
Champlain Housing Trust is accepting applications for the Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program (FWH). The goal of this program is to **preserve this important affordable housing** resource and to help improve the health and welfare of the farm workforce.

### Vermont Farmworker Housing Repair Loan Program Overview

- FWH will offer forgivable loans of up to \$30,000 to make necessary improvements to farmworker housing. The loans will be 0% interest, and forgiven over 10 years, as long as the improved housing continues to be maintained and used for farmworker housing.
- Eligible units will include manufactured homes, stick-built houses, and apartments in barns or other outbuildings. CHT will not consider fifth wheel trailers or other motor vehicles.
- Typical health and safety related repairs/improvements can include, but are not limited to: wastewater systems, air sealing and insulation, noise mitigation measures, overcrowding relief, food prep and storage improvements, mold remediation, electrical and plumbing upgrades, and roof replacements.
- Support will be provided for farmers and farm workers through UVM Extension.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan, Technical  
Assistance



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible units will include manufactured homes, stick-built houses, and apartments in barns or other outbuildings. CHT will not consider fifth wheel trailers or other motor vehicles.

#### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



#### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage to learn more and apply:

<https://www.getahome.org/vermont-farmworker-housing-repair-loan-program/>

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Matthew Anthony,**

Special Project Coordinator

[Manthony@getahome.org](mailto:Manthony@getahome.org)

Phone: (802) 810-8217

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.getahome.org/vermont-farmworker-housing-repair-loan-program/>



# VT Farmworker Housing Replacement Loan Program

## Champlain Housing Trust



Champlain Housing Trust is accepting applications for the Vermont Farmworker Replacement Housing Loan Program (FWHR). The goal of this program is to **replace inadequate or substandard labor housing and to help improve the health and welfare of the farm workforce**, while preserving this important affordable housing resource for farms.

### Farmworker Replacement Housing Loan Program Overview

- FWHR consists of a loan of up to \$120,000 to the cost of building new housing for farmworkers in circumstances warranting replacement of existing farmworker housing. The FWHR loan is interest and payment free until sale or transfer of the property, with the first \$30,000 of the loan forgiving at the rate of \$3000/year over ten years provided that the housing remains in use as farmworker housing. See loan product description for additional details.
- Prior to completing an application for a FWHR loan, please complete the Farmworker Housing Replacement Interest Form.

### View the Farmworker Housing Replacement Interest Form at:

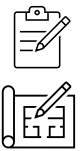
<https://www.getahome.org/wp-content/uploads/2a.-FWH-Replacement-Interest-Form.pdf>

### View the Farmworker Housing Replacement Loan Program Product

Description at: <https://www.getahome.org/wp-content/uploads/1.-FarmWorker-Housing-Replacement-Loan-Product-Description.pdf>

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan, Technical  
Assistance



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must be actively engaged in farming, having at least \$75,000 in annual gross revenue from farming activity, as defined by Section 2.16 of the Required Agricultural Practices from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

#### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



#### HOW TO APPLY

The first step is to fill out the Farmworker Housing Replacement Interest Form

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Travis Phillips,  
Associate Director of Lending  
[Tphillips@getahome.org](mailto:Tphillips@getahome.org)  
Phone (802) 392-0395

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.getahome.org/vermont-farmworker-housing-repair-loan-program/>

# Agricultural Loans and Rebates

## Efficiency Vermont



Efficiency Vermont offers rebates on qualified equipment, provides low-interest loans to agricultural producers, can provide on-site energy assessments, conduct cash-flow analyses on energy efficiency projects, and can assist with engineering services.

### Loans

Secure a flexible, low-interest loan so you can make cost-effective energy improvement to your agricultural operation. Loans can be provided with \$0 down and 100% financing, with flexible terms of up to five years. Interested applicants first work with Efficiency Vermont to perform a cash-flow analysis of their project, then partner with East Rise Credit Union to structure the terms of the loan.

### Equipment & Project Rebates

Agricultural producers interested in purchasing equipment or completing a construction project to improve the energy efficiency of their operation can receive rebates through Efficiency Vermont. Rebates may cover equipment and projects including: reverse osmosis, HVAC, greenhouse equipment, weatherization, vacuum pumps, and more.

Visit <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates> to view the full list of rebate opportunities, or contact Efficiency Vermont for assistance on a custom project.

### Engineering & Project Support

- Work with Efficiency Vermont staff to understand which systems may be wasting energy.
- Efficiency Vermont staff can conduct savings analyses to identify technology that is appropriate for your producer needs.
- Technology specific experts can answer questions and provide recommendations for equipment that meets your needs and goals while improving energy efficiency in your operation.

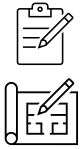
### Find More Funding

Efficiency Vermont has several partners that can provide funding for agricultural projects. Check out the list of funders and eligible projects at:

<https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/Media/Default/docs/services/agriculture-funding-matrix-pdf.pdf>

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan, Technical  
Assistance



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Agricultural Producers in Vermont. Additional eligibility may apply.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Efficiency Vermont

[info@efficiencyvermont.com](mailto:info@efficiencyvermont.com)

Phone: (888) 921-5990

##### Website:

<https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/>

# Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (VTAMP)

## Environmental Mediation Center (EMC)



Environmental Mediation Center

The Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (VTAMP) is the official United States Department of Agriculture certified agricultural mediation program for Vermont. VTAMP provides free mediation services to the agricultural community to help resolve disputes before they end up in court.

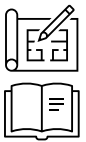
### What Kind of Agricultural Issues Can Be Mediated for Free?

- Contracts, Farm Management, and Labor
- Credit Counseling
- Crop Insurance
- Easement Issues
- Environmental Compliance
- Family Farm Transitions
- Farm Credit/Debt Issues
- Farm Loans
- Farmer-Neighbor Disputes
- Leases (Land and Equipment)
- Organic Certification
- Pesticide Issues
- USDA Farm and Conservation Programs
- USDA Rural Development Loans
- Wetlands Determinations

### Steps To Request Mediation Through VTAMP

1. Fill out and submit a Request for Mediation form at:  
<https://emcenter.org/contact/>
2. VTAMP staff will confirm that the other party (or parties) is willing to participate in the mediation.
3. VTAMP staff will conduct brief confidential interviews to learn background information about the dispute.
4. VTAMP will assign a mediator from the Agricultural Mediation Roster or VTAMP staff based on subject matter expertise, geography, and availability.
5. The mediator will contact the parties to arrange a date, time and location for the mediation session.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance,  
Peer to Peer



**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Farmers throughout Vermont

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Matt Strassberg,**

Co-Director

Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext.  
101

**Eliza Walker,**

Program Manager

Phone: (802) 583-1100 ext.  
107

**Program Webpage:**

<https://emcenter.org/vtamp/>

# Peer Support and Mental Wellbeing

## Farm First



Farm First is a free, Vermont-based program **providing farmers and their families with support, resources, and information to reduce stress.** We can help connect you to resources, including technical, legal or financial assistance, as well as to a counselor or trained peer. You don't have to be alone with your challenges. We're good listeners and can help you address the challenges you face. We're here to help. The Farm First Peer Network is a group of farmers who have been trained in listening skills and accessing resources and are available to talk-through anything a farmer might be going through.

### Farm First Offers Self Assessments

- Alcohol Assessment
- Anxiety Assessment
- Depression Assessment

**Free Short-Term Counseling:** Farm First works with a team of licensed and accredited counselors who have specific experience working with farmers. You can receive up to 12 free sessions to tackle problems that are creating stress in your work or personal life. We can also work to match you with affordable options for longer term counseling as needed

### Peer Support

To connect with a peer, view this webpage:

<https://farmfirst.org/peer-support-network>

The Farm First Farmer Peer Network is a group of farmers trained in listening skills, problem-solving and resiliency-building to help other farmers get through the rough spots. They can also help you access the many resources available through Farm First, including a counselor. Farmer Peers have received training from our staff on how to best provide support and resource information, including the importance of maintaining confidentiality.

Things you might talk to a farmer peer about:

- Balancing work and life
- Injuries or illnesses that are affecting your work
- Challenges working with family, staff, or coworkers
- Anxiety, stress, and overwhelm
- How to prioritize when there's too much to do
- Weather, disease, and other frustrations of farming

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Peer to Peer,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers across Vermont

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### During Daytime Work

**Hours:** Call (802) 318-5538.

If we are on another call or can't answer right away, PLEASE leave a message to receive a call back from us as soon as possible.

##### 24/7 Counseling Support:

Call (877) 493-6216

Email: [EvaG@farmfirst.org](mailto:EvaG@farmfirst.org)

##### Program Webpage:

<https://farmfirst.org/>

# Farmland Conservation Program

## Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)



**Proceeds from the sale of development rights** has contributed to renewed vitality in agriculture, **enabling young farmers to purchase farms** at an affordable price and helping established farmers to reduce long-term debt, invest in infrastructure, make operations more profitable and efficient or to retire. At the same time that some larger dairy farms have consolidated, smaller farms are becoming stronger through diversification, by producing for specialty markets, and by minimizing costs of production. By focusing on conserving contiguous blocks of farmland in traditional farming communities, VHCB's Farmland Conservation Program helps to ensure that farms are not isolated by residential development and communities can continue to **support a healthy range of businesses** that serve and rely on neighboring farms.

### How It Works:

The Board evaluates farmland applications in a two-step process: Pre-applications are submitted by an eligible entity (typically a land trust) and reviewed by a committee comprised of staff from VHCB, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and land trust partners. If the project meets VHCB's eligibility criteria, it is approved for VHCB cost-share of an appraisal to determine the value of the conservation easement. Applications for funding are developed for those projects that have been approved as pre-applications and submitted for consideration at one of the Board's regularly scheduled meetings. Board evaluation is based upon soil quality, location, farm infrastructure, management, and other resources brought to the project

### Key Partners Include:

- The Vermont Land Trust and the Upper Valley Land Trust to work directly with farmers interested in conserving their land
- VHCB's Farm & Forest Viability Program provides business planning and technical assistance to farm and food, forestry and forest products businesses
- The Vermont Land Trust's Farmland Access Program connects farmers with affordable farmland, often matching younger farmers to conserved land to lower acquisition costs

### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farmland

### KEY DATES

Rolling applications



### HOW TO APPLY

Connect with your local land trust to discuss conservation of your land.

Visit

<https://vhcb.org/conservation/farmland/> to learn more about the application process.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Stacy Cibula,**

Agricultural Program Director

Phone: (802) 828-5066

[Stacy@vhcb.org](mailto:Stacy@vhcb.org)

**Program Webpage:**

<https://vhcb.org/conservation/farmland/>

# Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

## Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)



The Viability Program offers **business planning**, **succession planning**, and **technical assistance** to enterprises that keep Vermont's working landscape in production.

### How It Works:

The Viability Program matches participants with advisors who have the specific skills to meet their needs. The Viability Program contracts these advisors to provide on-site, one-on-one, custom-tailored assistance for participants. Services are provided free of charge following a \$75 enrollment fee. Participants who have completed the program may also be able to re-enroll in the Viability Program as their business evolves.

### Services:

The Viability Program provides a range of services, from in-depth long-term business planning to short-term specialized assistance, including: business planning, enterprise analysis, financial record-keeping and management, marketing and sales, human resources management management coaching, retirement & ownership succession planning

### Eligibility

#### For all businesses:

- The owner(s) is year-round Vermont resident, currently operating the business in Vermont
- The owner(s) is actively involved in the day-to-day management of the business
- The owner(s) has at least two years' experience managing the current business

#### For farm businesses:

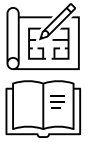
- The business has grossed at least \$15,000 in the most recent tax year

#### For food and forest businesses:

- For food businesses there is an added requirement that these businesses must be primarily involved in adding value to Vermont agricultural products
- For forest products businesses there is an added requirement that these businesses must be primarily involved in the harvesting, production, processing, storage, marketing, and/or distribution of local forest products.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational &  
Educational Resources



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farms, food businesses, and forest products and businesses of all types and sizes. Additional criteria applies; view the eligibility section on the left of this page

### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



### HOW TO APPLY

To learn more and apply, visit the program webpage:

<https://vhcb.org/farm-forest-viability/business-advising/#enroll>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Calley Hastings,**

VHCB Program Manager

Email: [c.hastings@vhcb.org](mailto:c.hastings@vhcb.org)

Phone: (802) 828-3370

### Program Webpage:

<https://vhcb.org/farm-forest-viability/business-advising/>

# Water Quality Grants

## Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)



The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board Farm and Forest Viability Program provides grants of up to \$50,000 to help Vermont farmers invest in water quality related on-farm infrastructure and improve water quality over a long period of time. Funding will prioritize projects that have both a direct and substantial water quality benefit and have other significant benefits to the farm and/or community, such as long-term farm viability, improved soil health, improved working conditions, climate adaptation or mitigation, etc.

**Projects must directly impact water quality and must be for long-term investments rather than annual practices or improvements with a short life span including construction or renovation projects, long-term infrastructure improvements, and equipment.** VHCB awards may be used as a cost share with other state or federal programs such as NRCS-EQIP, VAAFM BMP, and VAAFM CEAP.

### Eligible Project Types Include:

- **Construction:** Construction, renovation, upgrades, or expansions to farm facilities. Examples include manure pits, barn or barnyard construction that will reduce runoff.
- **Equipment:** Eligible equipment will serve as a long-lived capital asset, essential to the business, is frequently used, and cannot be easily rented. Examples include no-till seeders and manure injectors.
- **Conservation-related Improvements:** May include long-term infrastructure to improve grazing and/or soil health, such as fencing, laneways, and buffer plantings.

**Grant awards:** between \$5,000 and \$50,000

### Required components include:

- Project budget
- Financial statements, including a Current Balance Sheet, Historical Income Statement or Profit and Loss, and Projection or Cash Flow
- Map of the operation showing where the proposed project will be located and on-farm surface waters.
- Quotes

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Any farm that is required to meet the RAPs and has gross sales of \$15,000+ per year
- Dairy and livestock farms are more competitive for this grant

### KEY DATES

Applications are open annually in November and due in January.



### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage to learn more and apply:

<https://vhcb.org/farm-forest-viability/viability-grants/#water-quality>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Jillian Conner,**

Phone: (802) 828-5587

[j.conner@vhcb.org](mailto:j.conner@vhcb.org)

**Rebecca Williams,**

Phone: (802) 828-2962

[r.williams@vhcb.org](mailto:r.williams@vhcb.org)

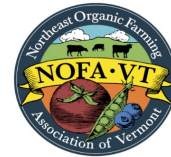
### Program Webpage:

<https://vhcb.org/farm-forest-viability/viability-grants/#water-quality>



# Vermont Farmer Emergency Fund

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



The NOFA Vermont Farmer Emergency Fund is available to assist Vermont certified organic and NOFA-VT member commercial farmers who are in financial need after having been adversely affected by natural and unnatural disasters such as crop failure, field flooding, fire, barn collapse, etc.

## Fund Uses

- The fund may be used to help replace infrastructure (for example greenhouse, barn, fencing), seed, feed, livestock, equipment and other losses caused by the disaster.
- The fund may be used to help pay outstanding farm-related bills and immediate needs (loan and mortgage repayments, etc.).
- The fund is not an alternative to insurance and does not cover losses that are covered by a successful insurance claim or losses covered by other sources.
- The fund may not be used to cover projected income from crops lost from the disaster.

## Grant Awards

- \$2,500 grants are available for commercial farmers who are NOFA-VT members
- \$5,000 grants are available to any farm that is VOF certified organic. Because we want to incentivize organic certification, and because of the commitment involved in getting certified, we will waive the one-year waiting period for certified organic farms.

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and reviewed by a loan review committee with representatives from the NOFA-VT staff and the NOFA-VT Board of Directors. Once the application is received, you should receive notification of the committee's decision within two weeks.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Available to certified Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) or NOFA-VT members in good standing for at least 1 year

## KEY DATES

Applications rolling on an as needed basis



## HOW TO APPLY

Contact Business Farm Advisor Bill Cavanaugh to get started.

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Bill Cavanaugh,**

Business Farm Advisor

[Bill@nofavt.org](mailto:Bill@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 419-0034

## Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/farmer-emergency-fund>



# Vermont Family Farmer of the Month

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



The Vermont Family Farmer of the Month Fund makes a financial award to a Vermont family farmer each month. Awards recognize farmers whose businesses are contributing to a **resilient Vermont agricultural landscape** and demonstrate **environmental stewardship** through sustainable practices.

## Eligibility

Funds support innovative projects that will improve the viability of the recipient's enterprise. An example of an eligible project could be an upgrade or construction of a farm stand or wash and pack station, improvements in on-farm energy efficiency or integration of renewable energy, infrastructure design or construction for a new farm product, or an investment in soil or animal health.

Quarterly Award Timeline	Applications Due
November through February Awards	Applications Due mid-October
March through June Awards	Applications Due mid-January
July through October Awards	Applications Due mid-May

**Grant Award:** \$10,000-\$12,000

**Reporting:** Awardees will be expected to participate in a simple end-of-year impact report, which may include a description and pictures of the final project implemented and the impact of that project. The project administrators may also collect video footage from awardees.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant/Cost Share,  
Award/Recognition



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- NOFA VT member or certified Vermont Organic Farm
- You haven't received this award in the past
- Must be a Vermont resident

## KEY DATES



Twelve grants will be awarded annually. Applications are reviewed three times per year and announced each month.

## HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:  
<https://www.vermontfamilyfarmeraward.org/apply>

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

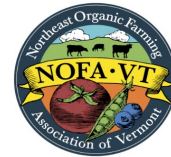
**Kevin Haggerty,**  
Climate Resilience Specialist  
[Kevin@nofavt.org](mailto:Kevin@nofavt.org)  
Phone: (802) 434-0063

## Program Webpage:

<https://www.vermontfamilyfarmeraward.org/about>

# Farmer Resilience Grants

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



NOFA-VT's Farmer Resilience Grant program aims to **fund projects that will improve longer-term resilience on farms**. NOFA-VT definition of 'resilience' is framed broadly around their mission: to promote organic practices to build an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just Vermont agricultural system that benefits all living things.

**Applications will be ranked using the following criteria and factors:**

- Whether the farm uses organic practices, is certified organic, or in the process of achieving certification
- How the project will improve at least one form of 'resilience' as defined by NOFA-VT: NOFA-VT's definition of resilience is framed around their mission: to promote organic practices to build an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just Vermont agricultural system
- Long-term impact of project
- Community Impact
- Barriers that the farmer or farm has faced that have prevented them from receiving funding. This may include social barriers such as access to farming networks, discrimination faced in accessing support, long term land access barriers, financial and education program barriers.
- Whether the proposed project reflects a realistic budget and timeline

Applications are reviewed anonymously (names of farms and farmers removed before review) by a committee of Vermont farmers and farm workers.

We are still accepting multi-farm applications. **If you have a team of farms applying, you may request up to \$5,000 per farm, with a maximum total request of \$20,000.** For example, if you have four farms applying together on a collaborative project, you may apply for up to \$20,000.

Projects are expected to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## PROGRAM TYPE

Grant



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Farm business is located in Vermont and has been in business for a minimum of one year
- Cannot have received a Vermont Family Farmer of the Month award in the previous 2 years.

## KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



## HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://forms.fillout.com/t/rL8ymMLCPFus>

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Avery MacLean,**

Local Food Access

Coordinator

Phone: (802) 419-0049

[resiliencegrants@nofavt.org](mailto:resiliencegrants@nofavt.org)

**Program Webpage:**

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/funding-opportunities/farmer-resilience-grants>

# Farm Beginnings

## Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA -VT)



Farm Beginnings is a **year-long program that helps aspiring and beginning farmers launch or grow their farm business**. The course focuses on sustainable agriculture and helps participants increase their farm management knowledge, improve their decision-making skills, and develop a holistic business plan, all led by experienced Vermont-based farmers and service providers. Participation in Farm Beginnings is a first step toward participation in the NOFA-VT Journey Farmer program.

### Program Offerings

- Online business planning curriculum
- In-person visits to established farms
- 1:1 mentorship from an experienced farmer
- Relationship building with a cohort of beginning farmers in Vermont
- Farm Business Plan template and access to other business planning documents and course materials
- Free registration for NOFA-VT educational offerings including Winter Conference and On-Farm Workshops

**Tuition and Scholarships:** Tuition is \$500 per farm. Payment plans and full and partial scholarships are available.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Educational Program &  
Resources, Business  
Planning, Peer to Peer  
Mentorship



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applications are viewed holistically to understand applicant's passion and commitment to farming, as well as the capacity to fully engage with the program

### KEY DATES

Applications for the 2025-2026 cohort are due by September 15th, 2025



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://airtable.com/appMw1o8JXlI9PQg7/shr2DefaES1DCXAxG>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Megan Browning

Farmer Services Program  
Facilitator

[Megan@nofavt.org](mailto:Megan@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 434-7184

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/farmer-cohorts-and-mentorships/farm-beginnings>

# Journey Farmer

## Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



The Journey Farmer Program is a **year-long program for farmers** who are in the **first few years** of running their own farm business in Vermont. The program is shaped by the farming interests and goals of the Journey Farmer participants and enables new farmers to advance their farming skills and experiences while being a part of a **cohort learning community of other beginning farmers and farmer mentors**. The time commitment is roughly one meeting each month from November through March that includes farmer presenters as well as working sessions and relationship building with fellow participants. These are a mix of virtual and in-person sessions that typically occur during weekday hours. During the growing season participants work with a farmer mentor and receive one farm visit from a NOFA-VT business advisor. The program wraps up the following fall with a closing session to reflect on the previous season and **set goals for the future**.

### Program Objectives:

- Identify your farm, business, and quality of life goals over the next 3 to 5 years
- Create an implementation plan to support you in meeting your goals
- Refine your approach to business and financial planning
- Further develop your marketing plans and your systems for implementing the plan
- Build relationships with a cohort of beginner farmers at similar stages of business development

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Program  
& Resources,  
Business Planning,  
Peer to Peer Mentorship



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Graduates of the NOFA-VT Farm Beginnings program, other beginning farmers are also encouraged to apply.

### KEY DATES

The Journey Farmer Program year begins in March/April. Journey Farmer applications are reviewed once a year in March



### HOW TO APPLY

Visit program website to see application instructions

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Megan Browning,**

Farmer Services Program  
Facilitator

Email: [megan@nofavt.org](mailto:megan@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 434-7184

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/farmer-cohorts-and-mentorships/journey-farmer>

# Organic Farmer Services

## Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers who are organic or are transitioning to organic

Vermont Organic Farmers is owned by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT), which offers services and programs that help farmers at all levels of development to reach their business and quality of life goals.

### Peer-to-Peer Organic Mentorship

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/farmer-cohorts-and-mentorships/peer-peer-organic-mentorship>

NOFA-VT and Vermont Organic Farmers, the organic certifying agency owned by NOFA-VT, are proud to be Core Partners in USDA's Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Regional Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). If you're a long-time organic producer with experience to share or you're just starting to consider implementing organic practices, we can connect you with a mentor/ee!

### Veg & Berry Technical Assistance Services

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/veg-berry-technical-assistance-services>

NOFA-VT offers a range of production technical assistance services for fruit and vegetable farmers who are certified organic or considering the transition to organic production.

### Organic Practices Services & Resources

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/organic-practices-services-resources>

Organic practices improve soil health, water quality, and climate resilience while supporting healthy ecosystems and farm viability. Farmer Service's Organic Practices team offers production technical assistance, resources, and shared learning opportunities for farmers interested in improving or implementing organic and climate-resilient practices. Fill out our short form to get started today!

<https://airtable.com/appy2QFQOEOL17jI/shrtBJYFHC1TKzwrk>

### Organic Dairy Technical Assistance Services

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/organic-dairy-technical-assistance-services>

NOFA-VT offers a range of production technical assistance services for dairy farmers who are certified organic or considering the transition to organic production.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT Program/Resources Link:

<https://www.vermontorganic.org/resources/farmer-services-nofa-vt>

Email NOFA:  
[info@nofa.org](mailto:info@nofa.org)

# Jack Lazor Memorial Soil Stewards

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



The Jack Lazor Memorial Soil Stewards program is a cohort-based program that promotes **farmer-to-farmer education** and **relationship building** in an effort to address both short-term **soil health improvement strategies** and **long-term systems change**. These cohorts allow farmers to learn together through soil testing and analysis, peer-to-peer discussion, on-farm visits, and more.

## Program Offerings:

- The content and learning opportunities offered by this program are largely created together by the participants in the cohorts.
- These cohort groups are intended to provide a space for farmers to learn from and with each other about the topic areas related to soil health that are most relevant to their farm businesses.
- Typically, this consists of a combination of virtual workshops and discussions and in-person farm visits with consultants.
- There is a great deal of space made for participants to connect directly with each other and let the relevant learning emerge.
- Cohorts for vegetable producers are co-facilitated by Becky Maden, University of Vermont Vegetable Nutrient Management Specialist

## Schedule

- **Early winter:** Kickoff session to determine the group's specific interests and needs
- **Late winter:** 1-2 sessions (virtual or in person) based on participant interests and requests
- **Spring-fall:** Monthly on-farm visits
- **Winter:** Capstone learning opportunity, co-created by participants
- Occasionally a cohort group will continue for a second year with additional winter sessions and in-season on-farm visits.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Educational Program  
Resources, Peer to  
Peer Mentorship



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farmers engaged with the principles of soil health who are interested in peer-to-peer learning.

## KEY DATES

Applications are currently closed



## HOW TO APPLY

Fill out this interested applicants form to be contacted when the next round of applications opens:  
<https://airtable.com/appiepw6wvySvn0tN/shrasdPWkGfZxb177>

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Megan Browning,**  
Farmer Services Program  
Facilitator

Email: [megan@nofavt.org](mailto:megan@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 434-7184

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/farmer-cohorts-and-mentorships/jack-lazor-memorial-soil-stewards>



# Organic Certification Support

## Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



As Core Partners in the USDA's Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Region Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), NOFA-VT and Vermont Organic Farmers, the organic certifying agency owned by NOFA-VT, support transition to organic farming through peer-to-peer mentorship. This program allows experienced organic farmers to work with producers transitioning to organic production.

### For Transitioning Mentees:

Farmers interested in transitioning their production with the end goal of becoming certified organic are paired with a mentor. This mentor is an experienced organic producer who can offer guidance and serve as a resource during the organic transition.

### Mentorships are:

- Available free of cost
- Open to any type of producer (vegetable, berry, crops, flower, maple dairy, livestock, etc.)

Mentees also receive a stipend to help cover the costs of attending educational events and mileage to mentor operation.

### Organic Mentors

Organic mentors are farmers/producers who have operated a certified organic operation for at least 3 years, and are interested in working with transitioning producers as they adopt organic practices

### Responsibilities include:

- Mentor at least one producer transitioning to organic for one year
- Complete 5 hours of mentor training annually
- Provide at least 40 hours of mentorship each year, including: onboarding, site visits, meeting and check-ins, program evaluations, answering emails and calls, and attending educational events with mentees.

### Benefits include:

- \$3,000 stipend for each mentorship year. Additional stipends available to mentors with more than one mentee
- Professional development opportunities

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational  
Program &  
Resource, Peer to  
Peer Mentorship



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers transitioning to organic or are interested in mentoring a farmer transitioning to organic.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Zea Luce,**

Organic Practices Specialist

[Zea@nofavt.org](mailto:Zea@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 434-0081

### View NOFA Peer to Peer

#### Organic Mentorship:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/farmer-cohorts-and-mentorships/peer-peer-organic-mentorship>

### View USDA Transition to

#### Organic Partnership

#### Program:

<https://www.organictransition.org/#mentorship-program>

# Veg & Berry Technical Assistance Services

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



NOFA-VT offers a range of production technical assistance services for fruit and vegetable farmers who are certified organic or considering the transition to organic production.

- Crop planning
- Cost of production and enterprise analysis
- HR & labor management
- Farm diversification

## Cost of Production Online Resources:

### Field Crop Cost of Production

<https://www.nofavt.org/resource-library/vegetable-cost-production>

NOFA-VT, along with NOFA New Hampshire and NOFA Mass, has worked with 30 organic vegetable growers to determine the cost of production of vegetables commonly grown in the Northeast. The results were used to produce five crop factsheets on potatoes, onions, carrots, winter squash, and lettuce, as well as crop profitability comparisons, whole-farm financial metrics, tips for success when undertaking the cost of production analysis, and a blank copy of the cost of production workbook.

### Greenhouse Crops Cost of Production

<https://www.nofavt.org/resource-library/greenhouse-crops-cost-production>

In 2018, NOFA-VT worked with 9 organic farms in Vermont to track and analyze unheated greenhouse tomato-specific costs of production. This research has culminated in four factsheets that aggregate and present the results of this work

## Fill out NOFA VT's Farmer Services Questionnaire at:

<https://airtable.com/appy2QFQOErOL17jl/shrtBJYFHC1TKzwwkr>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Fruit and vegetable farmers  
certified organic or are  
considering transitioning to  
organic.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Reid Miller,**

Farmer Business  
Development Program  
Director

[Reid@nofavt.org](mailto:Reid@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 419-0052

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/veg-berry-technical-assistance-services>



# Business and Transfer Planning Services

## Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont



Launching, operating, and continuously improving a successful farm business requires farmers to develop an impressive variety of skills ranging from production to financial management to marketing to labor management. We work with farmers at all levels of business development to develop plans and build the skills needed to meet their business and quality of life goals. Based on your interest and needs, we provide a la carte business coaching services or in-depth services through the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program.

**Services Offered:** Business development services are tailored to farmers' individual needs and can include, but are not limited to:

- Business planning
- Succession & transfer planning
- Cash flow projections
- Enterprise analysis
- Land access

**Fill out NOFA VT's Farmer Services Questionnaire at:**

<https://airtable.com/appy2QFQOErl17jl/shrtBJYFHC1TKzwkr>

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers in Vermont of any size and enterprise

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Reid Miller,**

Farmer Business

Development Program

Director

[Reid@nofavt.org](mailto:Reid@nofavt.org)

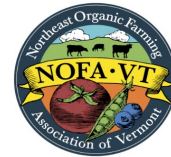
Phone: (802) 419-0052

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/business-transfer-planning-services>

# Marketing Technical Assistance Services

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance



## WHO IS THIS FOR?

Any Vermont farmer who is interested in growing their marketing strategy

## NOFA-VT can support farmers with their marketing efforts by:

- Developing an overall **marketing strategy** to determine markets and target customers
- Using **cost of production analysis** to build the right margin into your prices
- Determining what mix of **sales channels** (farm stand, wholesale, farmers market, etc.) are right for your business goals
- **Website building**, including integrating e-commerce into your website
- Developing a **brand strategy** and logo design that evokes your farm's personality and catches a customer's eye
- **Learning ways to best tell your farm's story** and integrate that messaging into your overall marketing plan.
- Planning for **directly reaching customers** across the whole spectrum of available media (email, social media, print, etc.)

These are just a small selection of the paths that farmers can take to achieve their marketing goals; we're always interested in hearing from farmers and developing a plan for technical assistance based on their specific needs.

## Additional Online Marketing Resources Listed on NOFA's Marketing Technical Assistance Page Include:

- Distribution and Wholesale Financial Analysis Decision Tool
- Cutting Through the Noise: Successful Marketing Campaigns that Reach Consumers
- Farm Stand Audit Tool
- Winter Farmers Market Info Cards
- Wholesale Local Food from Supplier to Consumer

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Bill Cavanaugh,**

Farm Business Advisor

[Bill@nofavt.org](mailto:Bill@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 419-0034

## Program Webpage:

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/marketing-technical-assistance-services>

Fill out the NOFA-VT Farmer Services Enrollment

Questionnaire at:

<https://airtable.com/appy2QFQOErOl17jI/shrtBJYFHC1TKzWkr>

# Organic Dairy Technical Assistance Services

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



NOFA-VT offers a range of production technical assistance services for dairy farmers who are certified organic or considering the transition to organic production.

## Services Include:

- Pasture & Grazing Management
- Conversion to 100% grass-fed
- Organic Transition
- Animal Health & Nutrition
- Farm Diversification
- Cost of Production Analysis

## Access Online Cost of Production Resources

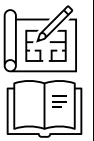
Organic Dairy Cost of Production Analyses — NOFA-VT collects cost of production data annually from Vermont organic dairy farmers. Results of this work include aggregated financial and production benchmarks.

View the results at: <https://www.nofavt.org/resource-library/dairy-cost-production>

## Fill out NOFA VT's Farmer Services Questionnaire at:

<https://airtable.com/app/2QFQOErl17jl/shrtBJYFHC1TKzwkr>

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance,  
Resource Directory



**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Dairy farmers in Vermont

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Reid Miller,**

Farmer Business  
Development Program  
Director

[Reid@nofavt.org](mailto:Reid@nofavt.org)

Phone: (802) 419-0052

## Program Webpage:

[https://www.nofavt.org/  
services-resources/farmers/  
one-one-services/organic-  
dairy-technical-assistance-  
services](https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/one-one-services/organic-dairy-technical-assistance-services)

# Supporting Loggers to Comply with Acceptable Management Practices

## Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast/VT FPR



Supporting Loggers to Comply with Acceptable Management Practices (SLoCAMP) is a grant-funded cost-share program created by the Vermont General Assembly in 2024 to help logging contractors that work in Vermont implement proactive water quality protection and climate adaptation practices on their harvest sites. The program supports contractors in preparing harvest sites responsibly—with long-term forest health in mind.

Funding is available for materials and labor tied to pre-harvest site preparation, including: hardening truck roads and landings, skid trail improvement, temporary stream crossings, permanent stream crossings.

### To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a logging contractor working in Vermont
- Ensure the harvest site is in Vermont, over 10 acres, and focused on long-term forest management
- Own more than 50% of the equipment used on the project
- Have commercial timber harvesting account for more than 50% of annual income
- Be in good standing with the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (Act 154), and Vermont's AMP Enforcement and Compliance Program
- Have land under the same ownership for at least five years, or land enrolled in forestland UVA, or a conservation easement covering the harvest area
- State lands owned in fee simple are not eligible, as AMPs are built into stumpage rates. State-owned Wildlife Management Areas where others own timber rights are eligible
- Have a contract with the landowner before operations begin (not required if harvesting on your own land)
- Ensure the project is approved and completed by June 30, 2026  
Requests for project extensions (3–6 months) will be considered on a case-by-case basis for projects in good standing, if received between April 1 and June 30, 2026

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant of Cost-Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Logging contractors working in Vermont. Additional eligibility applies.

### KEY DATES

Applications for funding are reviewed and approved on a continual basis until June 30, 2026



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://plcloggers.org/slocamp-application/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Phone: (207) 688-8195

[SLoCAMP@plcloggers.org](mailto:SLoCAMP@plcloggers.org)

### Program Webpage:

[www.plcloggers.org/slocamp](http://www.plcloggers.org/slocamp)

# Farm Viability Program

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Our Farm Viability program provides farm owners with **business education resources, skills development, and business planning.**

### Services Offered:

- **Business Coaching Sessions** are free, 90-minute sessions with a UVM Extension Agricultural Business Educator, to discuss business planning and finances.
- **Short-Term Financial Analysis and Planning**, including enterprise analyses and cash flow planning are available to mature agricultural businesses who enroll in the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program.
- **In-Depth Agricultural Business Advising:** Our clients have access to roughly 2-years of tailored advising with farm, food and forest business advisors. Planning and advising topics include financial record-keeping, cash flow management, marketing, sales, new product development, capital improvements, accessing financing, accessing land, employee management.

Your advisor conducts on-farm meetings for approximately one year. Together, we explore possible management and enterprise changes that could increase profitability. This process produces a written business plan for the farm, and in the second year of participation, farmers are provided with additional technical assistance and help updating their plans.

**Eligibility:** Vermont-based farms eligible for this program will have 2 years of operating experience and gross annual sales of \$15,000 or more, and source most ingredients in Vermont.

Our Farm Viability Program provides retirement and ownership succession planning to clients enrolled in the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Your advisor will work with you to create a farm transfer plan. We will assess the current situation, examine your goals and help you to consider the issues involved with succession. The transfer plan will provide you with resources and plans for implementing your vision

### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farm owners with 2+ years of operating experience, gross annual sales of \$15,000+

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Corinne Cooper

Administrative Assistant

[Corinne.Cooper@uvm.edu](mailto:Corinne.Cooper@uvm.edu)

Phone: (802) 656-4824

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agricultural-business/farm-viability>

# Forest Business Education & Planning Assistance

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Our Forest Business program provides businesses in Vermont's forest product sector with management resources, skills development, and one-on-one planning services. We aim to support the development of a sustainable forest economy in the Northeast by working with a diverse set of businesses including loggers, foresters, processors, mills, woodworkers, wood manufacturers, and timber farmers.

### Services

We currently offer two core services:

1. One-on-one, in-depth business planning assistance
2. Business clinics: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/farm-forest-and-maple-business-coaching-sessions>

Additionally, we coordinate the Forest Business Roundtable to foster skills and relationship building within the forest products community.

For more information, see our Forest Business Program Information Sheet (PDF): <https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2025-05/forest-biz-01d-one-off.pdf>

### Business Planning Tools

If you are looking for tools to help you plan for your logging business, check out UVM Extension Small Business Planning for Loggers (PDF): <https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2024-10/UVM-Extension-Small-Business-Planning-for-Loggers.pdf>

This interactive PDF package developed by Steven Bick and Chris Lindgren can be used by timber harvesting companies to prepare the essential elements of a business plan.

For a quick review of your logging business plan, try our One Page Logging Business Worksheet (PDF): <https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2024-10/FBWS028-Logging-Business-Worksheet.pdf>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Program  
& Resources



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Loggers, foresters,  
processors, woodworkers,  
wood manufacturers, timber  
farmers

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

For general inquiries, contact:

**Corinne Cooper**

Administrative Assistant

[Corinne.Cooper@uvm.edu](mailto:Corinne.Cooper@uvm.edu)

Phone: (802) 656-4824

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agricultural-business/forest-business>

# Dairy Herd Management Technical Assistance

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

UVM's team of **technical service providers** assists dairy farmers **throughout the state**, targeting specific areas of dairy management with the goal of making improvements to their operations and improving economic viability.

**The team offers support with all aspects of dairy management, including:**

- Nutrition
- Records Analysis
- Herd Health
- Milk Quality
- Grazing Plans
- Pasture Improvement
- On-farm Processing
- Grant Assistance

The Dairy Team also conducts on-farm research, and can connect you with other experts, resources, and grant opportunities to assist with making improvements to your farm operations.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Dairy farmers in Vermont

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/dairy-herd-management-technical-assistance>

### Contact The UVM Extension Dairy Team

Name	Position	Email	Phone
Whitney Hull	Dairy Herd Management Educator	<a href="mailto:Whitney.Hull@uvm.edu">Whitney.Hull@uvm.edu</a>	(802) 656-7563
Kelsie Braam	Dairy & Grazing Specialist, Center for Sustainable Agriculture,	<a href="mailto:Kelsie.Braam@uvm.edu">Kelsie.Braam@uvm.edu</a>	(802) 656-4829
Amber Machia	Dairy & Research Outreach Specialist, Northwest Crops & Soils	<a href="mailto:Amber.Machia@uvm.edu">Amber.Machia@uvm.edu</a>	(802) 656-7615

# Grazing and Livestock Program

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

UVM Extension Grazing & Livestock Programming teams help new farmers who are seeking to **get started on grass farming right and experienced farmers looking to convert or improve their grass-based operations**. Technical support, educational outreach, and research collaboration is provided through coordination with technical assistance providers with a wide range of expertise.

### Grazing: Resources and Planning Tools

- Grazing Planning
- Grazing and Forage Management
- Grazing System Infrastructure
- Soil and Nutrient Management
- Livestock Health Monitoring

### Grazing: Education & Online Courses

- Coming soon: a UVM Extension Grazing Basics online short course
- Production Livestock Grazing for Technical Assistance Providers

### Calendars

- University of Vermont Extension Events Calendar:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension-events>
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets Statewide Ag. Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar:  
<https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events-news-jobs>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Community Calendar: <https://www.nofavt.org/events>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers in Vermont who  
graze

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/grazing-and-livestock>

For Additional Questions, fill  
out the grazing contact us  
form

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/grazing-contact-us>



# Agronomy Programs

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Ensuring a high quality and healthy harvest requires education and planning. UVM Extension supports farmers through research, workshops and in-person assistance in the areas of forage, pasture and grazing; hay and haylage; corn silage and grain; vegetables and specialty crops; soil and nutrient management; and more.

### Northwest Crops and Soils Program

The UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program (NWCS) aims to provide the best and most relevant cropping information, both research-based and experiential, delivered in the most practical and understandable ways to Vermont farmers.

Find field trial and research results, as well as resources on crops, nutrient management planning, soil health, flood recovery, integrated pest management, pathogens and neonics, events, educational opportunities, and more at: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops>

### Champlain Valley Crop, Soil, & Pasture

The Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team (CVCROPS) is a group of UVM Extension professionals and partners working to provide technical assistance to Vermont Farmers in the Lake Champlain Watershed. The CVCROPS team strives to provide producers with research-based knowledge that has practical applications on your farm and address many production-related issues associated with water quality and farm profitability.

Find publications, resources on crops, pasture management, nutrient management, soil health, events, educational opportunities, and more at: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/cvcrops>

### Agronomy & Conservation Assistance Program

The Agronomy & Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) provides direct technical assistance to animal agriculture operations in order to improve water quality in Lake Champlain and its tributaries.

Administered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM), with direct assistance provided by UVM Extension, and the Poultney-Mettowee Conservation District. Learn more about the program and on-farm technical assistance offerings at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agronomy-and-conservation-assistance-program-acap>

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

All Vermont farmers- from  
organic vegetable  
homesteaders to large  
conventional dairies and  
everyone in between

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

For general inquiries, contact:

**Susan Brouillette**, Program  
Manager for the NW Crops  
and Soils Program

[Susan.Brouillette@uvm.edu](mailto:Susan.Brouillette@uvm.edu)

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/crops-and-soils>

# Nutrient Management Planning Resources

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Nutrient Management Planning** allows farmers to **budget, supply, and conserve nutrients** for plant productions, minimize agricultural nonpoint source pollution to surface and groundwater, protect air quality, properly utilize manure and organic byproducts as a plant nutrient source and support soil health.

### Nutrient Management Planning Class

The six-week Nutrient Management classes are offered every year, usually starting in January, by agronomists from the Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team and the Northwest Crops and Soils Team.

**These classes give an overview of nutrient management and help you develop your own farm plan**, that meets the NRCS 590 Standard and VT RAPs. The course utilizes the online software tool goCrop™ to create your nutrient management plan and keep records. View goCrop at:

<https://new.gocrop.com/>

Farmers participating in the course, and who are developing their Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) will need a current manure analysis, current soil analysis (no older than 3 years) for all fields in their NMP, and a completed Land Treatment Plan (field maps, RUSLE2 values, etc.). Natural Resources Conservation District staff can help to complete all course requirements, and work alongside farmers to create their NMP. The class is free for producers, and NRCD's may also be able to cover the costs of initial soil and manure samples that are required for the LTP. Farmers may also receive financial assistance to write their NMP's through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

### Nutrient Management Planning Tools & Resources

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets has developed record keeping booklets for nutrient applications and crop yields. Thorough record keeping is essential to informed farm management and may be required to be eligible or maintain some certifications, and to be in compliance with the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) depending on your farm type and size.

### View the Record Keeping Resources At:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/nmp>

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Technical Assistance,

Educational

Programs & Resources



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farms in Vermont required to follow the RAPs

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

If you are interested in signing up for the Nutrient Management Planning Class, contact **Susan Brouillette** at [susan.brouillette@uvm.edu](mailto:susan.brouillette@uvm.edu), or contact your Natural Resources Conservation District.

To access past NMP class recordings, visit:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/nutrient-management-planning>

# Farmworker Resources

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Migrant workers and their families often live in geographic, linguistic, and cultural isolation, which can create barriers to education, wellness, and other public services. UVM Extension provides assistance with a focus on improving access to healthcare and education, food access and security, and overall social wellbeing.

### Vermont Migrant Education Program

VMEP provides free educational support services to eligible children and youth who relocate independently or with their families in order to obtain seasonal or temporary employment in agriculture.

### Farmworker Education Hub

The Hub is a center of educational opportunities for Vermont's Spanish-speaking farmworker community, with classes focused on dairy technical training, computers and technology, English language learning, and general education. All classes are online and designed to suit the schedules of farm workers, with ongoing support available from UVM Extension professionals.

### Spanish Online Dairy Worker Training

This self-paced Spanish dairy worker training certificate program is designed to develop the workforce skills needed on a modern dairy farm. This program was created as a partnership through Cornell Pro-Dairy and UVM Extension's Farmworker Programming. Each module focuses on common dairy worker areas of responsibility. All materials are presented and written in Spanish. There is no charge for this certification.

For more information, **contact Sara Reigler:** [Sara.Reigler@uvm.edu](mailto:Sara.Reigler@uvm.edu)

**View the program webpage at:**

<https://cals.cornell.edu/education/degrees-programs/spanish-online-dairy-worker-training>

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Certification,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Migrant farm workers, Dairy  
farmers working with migrant  
farmworkers

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/farmworker-resources>

# New Farmer Project

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The New Farmer Project brings together information and resources from Extension and the broader Vermont agriculture community to assist new farmers in creating successful agricultural businesses.

### Resources

Toolshed resources include articles, factsheets, online tools and workbooks, books, guidebooks, trainings, regulations, and other websites.

- **Business Management Toolshed:** Resources on business planning, financial management, employment, and labor  
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture-toolshed-business-management>
- **Land Access Toolshed:** Resources on farmland access and tenure for both prospective buyers and renters  
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agricultural-toolshed-land-access>
- **Marketing Toolshed:** Resources on market assessment, pricing, promotion, and food safety.  
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agricultural-toolshed-marketing>
- **Production Toolshed:** Resources to build production skills and know-how. <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agricultural-toolshed-production>

### Education

#### Growing Places: The Basics for Successful Start-Up

Get your enterprise off to the right start through UVM Extension's Growing Places Course. Participants define goals, explore and evaluate opportunities and resources, and become familiar with state and federal agriculture programs.

View the program webpage at: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/new-farmer/wagn-classes>

#### Technical Assistance

**UVM's new Farm Management Team (FMT) Program** is available to help farmers with planning and problem solving. Participating producers select their own team of advisors, and working with a trained facilitator the group collectively develops recommendations and potential solutions to address management priorities identified by the farmer. The program is offered free of charge to Vermont farms.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

New and beginning farmers  
in Vermont

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Vermont New Farmer Project

c/o UVM Extension  
327 US Route 301, Barre, VT  
05602

**Email:** [newfarmer@uvm.edu](mailto:newfarmer@uvm.edu)

**Phone:** 802-656-4820

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/new-farmer>

# Maple Program

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The UVM Extension Maple Program supports maple producers by providing research-based educational solutions for maintaining sustainable operations with above-average yields of high-quality syrup. Resources can support new and aspiring maple producers as well as established producers interested in improving their business and operation.

### **Vermont Maple Minute:**

The Vermont Maple Minute is a podcast hosted by Mark Isselhardt, University of Vermont Maple Specialist, Proctor Maple Research Center. Listen to the podcast at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@UVMExtension/playlists>

### **Maple Career Education:**

Find educational resources geared towards introducing students to maple careers at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/maple-career-education>

### **Annual Maple Statistics:**

See the statistics from the North American Syrup Council, Canadian Maple Industry and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/maple-statistics>

### **Maple Regulations:**

Stay up to date on USDA Grade Standards, Canadian Regulations, Vermont Regulations, Vermont Laws and Inspection Procedures at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/maple-regulations>

### **Business Resources:**

Find resources related to annual production and yield forecast, multi-year production yield, pricing and sales forecast, annual budget and cost analysis, business planning, sugarbush management rental rates, sap pricing, and hauling costs at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/business/maple>

### **Maple Publications & Media:**

View compiled resources for sap and maple producers and sugarbush managers at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/maple-news-publications-and-media> & <https://mapleresearch.org/>

### **PROGRAM TYPE**

Technical Assistance,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources



### **WHO IS THIS FOR?**

Maple producers in Vermont

### **INFORMATION & CONTACT**

**Mark Isselhardt,**

UVM Extension Maple  
Specialist

[Mark.Isselhardt@uvm.edu](mailto:Mark.Isselhardt@uvm.edu)

Phone: (802) 656-7564

**Joanna Haas,**

Maple Quality Specialist

[Joanna.Haas@uvm.edu](mailto:Joanna.Haas@uvm.edu)

**Program Webpage:**

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/maple>

# Vermont Farm Women's Fund (VFWF)

## University of Vermont (UVM) Extension



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The Vermont Farm Women's Fund provides stipends and scholarships to help women farmers build thriving businesses and to participate in agricultural policy development. Since 2009, the fund has made 71 awards totaling over \$36,000.

- Nearly 70% percent of Vermont's farms have at least one woman operator.
- Women are the primary producer on a third of Vermont farms.
- Women typically operate smaller farms and earn less than men.
- VFWF stipends and scholarships provide funds that would otherwise be unavailable through other loan and grant programs.
- Awards pay for consulting fees, tuition and registration fees, and associated childcare, replacement labor and travel costs

**Scholarship Awards:** VFWF will contribute up to 75 percent of class/course/conference registration fees. In certain cases, travel costs, such as lodging and airfare, may also be covered.

Except in cases of extreme financial hardship, the maximum scholarship amount will be \$250.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant or Cost Share,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

VFWF targets its scholarship awards to women who own, operate and/or work on Vermont farms, and who earn a majority of their income from farm-related activities

### KEY DATES

Applications must be submitted at least 10 days before the event that you want to attend.



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://blog.uvm.edu/vfwf/scholarship-initiative-form/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Contact Vermont Farm

Women's Fund

Address: 327 US Route 302

Berlin, Vt 05641

Email: [vfwf@uvm.edu](mailto:vfwf@uvm.edu)

Phone: (802) 656-4826

### Program Webpage:

<https://blog.uvm.edu/vfwf/>

AgConnect is a user-friendly online tool that can help conduct, store, analyze, and share on-farm research for members of the On-Farm Research Network. This tool will simplify on-farm research for farmers and researchers and empower agricultural communities to make informed decisions.

Vermont farmers have long been problem-solvers. Innovation isn't just a response to adversity; it's a way of life here. The University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Program team developed AgConnect to foster and guide such innovation with the help of University of Vermont's resources.

### Why Join On-Farm Research?

1. Farmers can earn payment in exchange for their participation
2. Farmers can use the results of on-farm research to improve their operations.
3. Farmer participation in on-farm research informs the agricultural community.

Farmers Can:	Facilitators Can:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join research trials based on their practices and interests</li> <li>• Keep all their research protocols and other materials in one easy-to-navigate place</li> <li>• Collect and submit field data quickly and easily</li> <li>• Easily contact their research lead, who is just one click away</li> <li>• See results of local research</li> <li>• Share their ideas with researchers and suggest new experiments</li> <li>• Receive research results as soon as they become available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce outreach fatigue by reaching many farmers in one place who want to join research</li> <li>• Simplify data collection by receiving data directly from farmers through the data logs portal</li> <li>• Easily add their research trials' steps and procedures with AgConnect experiment templates</li> <li>• Communicate with research participants and answer their questions</li> <li>• Develop research reports and send them directly to research participants</li> </ul>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers in Vermont looking  
to do on-farm research

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

For general inquiries, contact:

**Shannon MacDonald,**  
Outreach & Program  
Promotion Specialist  
[Shannon.Macdonald@uvm.edu](mailto:Shannon.Macdonald@uvm.edu)

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/farm/online-tool-agconnect>

**\*\* Vermont's On-Farm Research Network is in its first phase of development, and farmers and researchers are currently testing its capabilities. We can help you scale your needs to fit the confines of the tool. Stay tuned for updates and release dates!**



# Required Agricultural Practices Online Quiz

## Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)



The goal of the RAP Online Quiz is to serve as an accessible, informative tool for livestock farmers and agricultural service providers to raise awareness of the **RAPs and water quality improvement practices available for Vermont farmers**. Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices requires all certified small, medium, and large farm operations to complete four hours of Water Quality Training Credits every five years.

Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District created this online course to give agricultural producers a way to obtain two hours of Water Quality Training Credits online from home.

**The RAP Online Quiz is an engaging educational course that includes:**

- An outline of how the RAPs apply to your farmstead, field & nutrient management.
- Video and photo examples of commonly misunderstood RAP topics, such as livestock exclusion from surface water.
- Info on how different management practices impact water quality.
- Links to Resources for grants and assistance.

**View the RAP Online Quiz At:** <https://www.vacd.org/rapquiz/>

**View Additional Opportunities to Earn Water Quality Training Credits At:**

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality-educational-credits>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Livestock farmers and  
agricultural service providers  
in Vermont



# Equipment Rental Directory

## Multiple Regional Organizations

Many regional organizations in Vermont have equipment for rent.

### Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance Equipment Rental Library

- 10 Benning Street #245, West Lebanon NH 03784; (802) 457-2230
- Service Area: Connecticut River Watershed in VT and NH
- Equipment: No-till Drills, Roller Crimper, Portable Truck Scales
- Website: <https://www.crwfa.org/equipment-rental>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Resource  
Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers and land  
stewards looking to  
rent equipment

### Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District

- 431 Franklin Park West, Suite 100a Saint Albans, VT 05478; 802-582-3133
- Service Area: Franklin County, some programs serve Grand Isle County
- Equipment: Portable Skidder Bridge
- Website: <https://www.franklincountynrcd.org/skidderbridge>

### Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District

- 59 Waterfront Plaza, Newport VT 05855; (802) 334-6090 Ext. 7008
- Service Area: Orleans County and neighboring region
- Equipment & Services: No-Till Drill (Sunflower 9412 -Aerator (AerWay – 20 ft), Portable Truck Scales (Set of 6 GEC MD
- 500 portable wheel load truck scales), Soil Probes, Portable Skidder Bridge, Weed Wrench, Rock Rake, Manure Sample Shipping Service, Soil Sampling
- Website: <https://www.orleanscountynrcd.org/conservation-equipment-rental-program>

### Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District

- 212 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764; (802) 287-6880
- Service Area: Southern Addison, Rutland, and Bennington Counties
- Equipment: No-Till Drill (10ft), Aerator (8ft), Portable Truck Scales
- Website: <https://www.pmnrcd.org/agriculture/>

### Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District

- 5396 VT-105, Brunswick, VT 05905, (802) 424-5353
- Equipment: Temporary skidder bridge available for rental in Bloomfield. Contact Sean Willison, Forestry and Watershed Specialist. Phone: (802) 397-8233
- Website: <https://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/essex-county/>

# Equipment Rental Directory Continued

## Multiple Regional Organizations

### UVM Extension Rutland

- 271 North Main St, Rutland VT 05701; (802) 773-3349
- Service Area: Rutland County
- Equipment: Soil Probes

### UVM Extension St. Albans Office

- 278 So. Main Street, St. Albans VT 05478; (802) 524-6503
- Service Area: 75-mile radius of St. Albans, unless part of a larger project or special arrangement
- Equipment & Services: No-Till Drills (10ft, 12ft, 15ft), Manure Spreader (Tebbes), Subsoiler (Krause), Interseeder (15ft),
- Cover Crop Seeding Service, Interseeding Service, Reduced-till Corn Planting Service

### UVM Extension Middlebury Office

- 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury VT 05753; (802) 388-4969
- Service Area: Addison County and neighboring regions
- Equipment: No-Till Drills (10ft), Portable Truck Scales

### Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

- 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1, Berlin VT 05602; (802) 828-4493 AND
- 300 Interstate Corporate Center, Suite 200, Williston VT 05495; (802) 288-8155 Ext. 104, or [info@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:info@winooskinrcd.org)
- Equipment: Aeration Tiller

### Bennington County Natural Resources Conservation District

- 170 South Main Street, Suite 4, Rutland, VT 05701; (518) 480-1218
- Equipment available: No Till Drill, BCS Walk-Behind Tractor
- Website: <https://www.bccdvt.org/equipment-cooperative>

### Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District

- 170 S Main Street, Suite 4 Rutland, VT 05701; (802) 775-8034
- Equipment available: Portable Skidder Bridges. RNRCD's portable skidder bridges are housed at Gagnon Lumber when not in use. Skidder bridges are available for rental for \$100/month with no limit on rental lengths.
- Contact [katie@nrncd.org](mailto:katie@nrncd.org) for more information on portable skidder bridge rental.
- Website: <https://www.nrncd.org/portable-skidder-bridges>

# Agricultural Energy Loan Program

## Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)



This program, administered by VEDA's agricultural loan organization, the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC), helps Vermont agriculture and forest product-based businesses **finance qualifying renewable energy generation or energy efficiency improvement projects**, and adopt technologies that enhance or support the development and implementation of renewable energy or energy efficiency, or both.

### Loan Purposes

- Must relate to a project undertaken by an Agriculture-or Forest product-based company for Renewable Energy Generation and/or Energy
- Efficiency Improvements and/or Energy Technology Purchase of land and buildings, new construction or existing facility renovations or refurbishment
- Purchase and installation of machinery and equipment
- Payment for design, engineering and permit fees relating to an eligible project
- VACC can finance or refinance existing assets or debt relating to an eligible project

### Loan Amounts

- In most cases, loans up to \$350,000 may be approved internally by VACC staff
- Loans exceeding \$350,000 are presented to the VEDA Board monthly for consideration

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farmers or business entities (the majority of which is owned by farmers) in VT

#### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



#### HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants are advised to discuss their proposed project with a VACC loan officer prior to submitting the application
- Application may be obtained at [www.veda.org](http://www.veda.org) or by calling 802-828-5627

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Vermont Economic  
Development Authority**

Email: [info@veda.org](mailto:info@veda.org)

Phone: (802) 828-5627

#### Program Webpage:

[https://www.veda.org/  
financing-options/vermont-  
agricultural-financing/  
agricultural-energy-loan-  
program/](https://www.veda.org/financing-options/vermont-agricultural-financing/agricultural-energy-loan-program/)

# Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation Loan Program

## Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)



VACC, a program of VEDA, is a nonprofit corporation which **provides credit to Vermont farmers, agricultural facilities, forestry and forest product-based businesses.**

Farm loans are available to strengthen existing farm operations, encourage diversification, support beginning farmers, and to encourage marketing and processing of Vermont agricultural and forestry products. "Farm Operations" means the cultivation of land or other uses of land to produce (among other things) food, orchard products, maple syrup or forest crops. Also included is the raising, boarding and training of equines and the raising of livestock.

**Farm Ownership Loans** may be used to:

- Acquire or enlarge a farm, agricultural facility or forest products business
- Acquisition of/improvements to farm and forestry real estate
- Make capital improvements, including construction, purchase and improvement of buildings
- Promote soil and water conservation and protection
- Refinance indebtedness incurred for farm/business purposes

**Farm Operating Loans** may be used to:

- Purchase livestock, machinery and equipment, or fixtures
- Pay annual operating expenses of a farm operation, forest products business or agricultural facility
- Refinance indebtedness incurred for operating loan purposes
- Finance lines of credit
- Farm Loan Rates and Terms

### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont farmers or business entities (the majority of which are owned by farmers). Additional eligibility may apply; view program details.

### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



### HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are advised to discuss their proposed project with VACC staff prior to submitting the application.

Download an application at:  
[https://www.veda.org/hubfs/VACC\\_APPLICATION\\_202308.pdf](https://www.veda.org/hubfs/VACC_APPLICATION_202308.pdf)

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Vermont Economic Development Authority**

Email: [info@veda.org](mailto:info@veda.org)

Phone: (802) 828-5627

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.veda.org/financing-options/vermont-agricultural-financing/vermont-agricultural-credit-corporation/>

# Forestry Loans

## Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)



VEDA recognizes that Vermont forestry and forest products-based businesses are a vital source of innovation, employment, and economic growth in Vermont and have faced challenges related to unpredictable weather events and changing markets. To help these businesses, VEDA created special loan products with subsidized interest rates to meet the working capital and capital-asset financing needs of businesses in the forest products sector with even deeper discounts available for certain low-impact logging equipment\*.

### Loan Purposes

- Purchase of capital assets such as vehicles, machinery & equipment, including but not limited to log trucks, excavators, feller bunchers and wood processors
- **Purchase of low impact logging equipment\***, machinery for implementing Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs), and equipment, supplies and/or management costs that support soil and water conservation, such as flotation wheels/tires
- Pay operating expenses
- Support seasonal working capital needs
- Refinance existing debt at more affordable rates and/or terms

Low-impact logging equipment that protects soil, reduces erosion, and helps keep water clean may be eligible for a loan with an even lower interest rate. This additional discount is possible thanks to support from the Clean Water Fund overseen by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR).

Contingent upon approval from VEDA and FPR, qualifying low-impact logging equipment could be eligible for up to an **\$800,000 loan with an interest rate between 2.5% and 3%**. Loggers must also be a LEAP or Master Certified to be eligible for this additional discount.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Loan proceeds must be used for projects located in Vermont and use forest products at least partially produced in Vermont.

### KEY DATES

Apply year-round



### HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are advised to discuss their loan needs with a VEDA lender prior to submitting the application.

View the application at:

[https://www.veda.org/hubfs/VEDA\\_Agricultural\\_and\\_Forestry\\_Loan\\_Application\\_2024\\_06.pdf](https://www.veda.org/hubfs/VEDA_Agricultural_and_Forestry_Loan_Application_2024_06.pdf)

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Phone: (802) 828-5627

Email: [info@veda.org](mailto:info@veda.org)

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.veda.org/financing-options/vermont-agricultural-financing/forestry>

# Farmland Conservation

## Vermont Land Trust (VLT)

Rooted in Vermont since 1977, we have protected more than 640,000 acres of farmland, forestland, and community lands, covering over 11% of the state. Much of this land is privately owned and contributes to our abundance of local food, maple and timber products, tourism and recreation, and the vitality of our towns and villages.

**With expertise in conservation, ecology, community engagement, and finance, we:**

- Conserve land with important economic, community, and environmental benefits by limiting development and ensuring sound land stewardship practices
- Support farmers in buying land and growing sustainable businesses
- Improve the health of land, water, and soil, and share that knowledge with all others
- Ensure that permanent legal protections on 2,200 parcels are upheld, in partnership with landowners
- Connect all people to the outdoors through education and events

Farmers and Farmland	Woodland Owners and Forests	Communities and Individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect Your Farmland</li><li>• Transfer or Sell Your Farmland</li><li>• Buy Farmland</li><li>• Improve the health of water and soil</li><li>• Get Help with Your Conserved Farmland</li><li>• Access Grants and Resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect Your Woodland</li><li>• Care for the Woods</li><li>• Get Help with Your Conserved Woodlands</li><li>• Explore Forest Carbon Offsets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect land important to your community</li><li>• Learn from the land</li><li>• Land for all</li><li>• Get help with conserved land</li></ul>



**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance,  
Land Conservation



**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Farmers, landowners

**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
Contact Vermont Land Trust

8 Bailey Avenue,  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Email: [info@vlt.org](mailto:info@vlt.org)  
Phone: (802) 223-5234

**Program Webpage:**  
<https://vlt.org/>

# Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award

## Vermont Land Trust (VLT)



The Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award is given annually to a farmer who honors the legacy of Eric Rozendaal—a thoughtful, creative, and entrepreneurial farmer. The award was created by Eric’s family and friends and is managed by the Vermont Land Trust. One \$5,000 award will be announced at each of our annual meetings through 2028.

### The project should exemplify:

- **Land stewardship:** A demonstrated commitment to building healthy soils and protecting natural resources.
- **Giving back:** A commitment to giving back to the community and to fellow farmers. This could be through mentorship, community engagement, or other activities.
- **Entrepreneurism:** A demonstrated entrepreneurial approach to farming. This could include introducing new farm products or developing new markets.
- **Use of award funds:** Please include a clear description of recent or planned project(s) on the farm related to the award criteria that will be supported by the award funds.

Please note that award money does not need to be used for a new project created specifically for the award. The funds can be applied to a current project or one that has been recently completed. However, the funds must be directly applied to the project described in the application.

### Selection Process

A Selection Committee consisting of leaders in the Vermont agricultural community will review and score all eligible applications and select a final awardee. The 2026 Selection Committee members will be:

- Nicole Dehne, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
- Travis Marcotte, Intervale Center
- Jon Ramsay, Center for an Agricultural Economy
- Keenan Rozendaal, family representative
- Liz Gleason, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
- Hannah Doyle, Boneyard Farm, winner of the 2025 Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award
- Maggie Donin, VLT Farmland Access Program Director

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Award or Recognition



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The awardee must be a resident of Vermont, be actively managing or working on a commercial farm operation in Vermont and have not received the award in the past. The applicant does not have to own a farm.

### KEY DATES

Applications for the 2026 award are being accepted until March 1, 2026



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:  
<https://vlt.org/eric-rozendaal-award/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Jessie Estes,**  
Executive Assistant and  
Board Secretary  
[Jessie@vlt.org](mailto:Jessie@vlt.org)  
Phone: (802) 272-7036



## Resources for Trail Stewardship

VT Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative/  
VT Trails and Greenways Council



Landowners who host specific types of recreation trails on their property may qualify for trail corridor management labor from local trail organizations. Organizations such as non-profits, municipalities, and governmental entities can apply for funding related to maintenance and construction of public recreational trails, trail linkages, trailhead facilities and parking areas, trail rehabilitation, and easements.

### Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

<https://fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC>

The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) is a state program administered by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) in partnership with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD).

#### Projects Include:

- VOREC Community Grants Program
- Move Forward Together Vermont: Designing Our Outdoor Recreation Future
- VOREC Action Plan

### Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

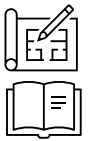
<https://vermonttgc.org/>

More than 8,000 miles of trails provide people the opportunity to explore Vermont's fields, forests, and mountains. We bring together the resources and information volunteer and professional trail organizations need to build, maintain, fund, and continue public access to the natural beauty of Vermont for all to enjoy.

#### Projects Include:

- Vermont Trail Accessibility Hub
- Resource Directory on Funding Opportunities for Vermont Trail Organizations and Stewards

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Landowners with trails,  
organizations interested in  
maintaining and constructing  
trails.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Contact: Jackie Dagger,**  
**VOREC Program Manager**

[Jackie.Dagger@vermont.gov](mailto:Jackie.Dagger@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 636-7410

**Contact Vermont Trails and  
Greenways Council**

Mailing Address: PO Box  
183, East Montpelier, VT  
05651

Email: [info@vermonttgc.org](mailto:info@vermonttgc.org)

Phone: (802) 223-2190



# Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism

## VT LEAP



The purpose of the Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (VT LEAP) Program is to promote a professional approach to logging by providing the knowledge necessary for loggers to work safely, efficiently, and in an environmentally conscientious manner while harvesting timber in Vermont.

### Why Join LEAP?

There are a number of reasons to be certified through the LEAP Program; selling wood to mills that require certification; professional advancement; recognition by landowners. Whatever the reason, the LEAP Program is currently the only recognized Logger Education organization in the State of Vermont.

### Logger Database

The Vermont LEAP Program maintains a database of Loggers with their certification status, credits and history of workshops taken.

### Curriculum

LEAP has a core curriculum to complete in order to become LEAP certified, along with continuing education requirements

There are two tracks to choose from:

1. Mechanized Operation
2. Non-mechanized Operation

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Certification



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Vermont loggers

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**David Birdsall,**

LEAP Coordinator

[Dwbirdsall@vermontel.net](mailto:Dwbirdsall@vermontel.net)

Phone: (802) 235-2908

**Program Webpage:**

<https://www.vtleap.com/>

## State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Program

### Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC)



SSBCI is a multi-year federal program administered by the U.S. Treasury, providing a combination of credit and investment programs for existing small businesses and start-ups. In addition, the program provides technical assistance for small businesses in the areas of legal, accounting, and finance advisory services, whether they are applying or not for SSBCI capital or other government funding programs.

#### SSBCI in a nutshell:

- **Technical Assistance:** legal, accounting, and finance advisory services (funded by the program).
- **Legal:** Vermont Law and Graduate School is the program's partner providing one-on-one education and advising on legal matters such as: business formation, governance, registrations, licenses, contracts, direct and convertible investments, venture capital investment, workers Co-op setups, among others.
- **Accounting:** QuickBooks clinics are planned with area experts offering training to new users as well as business owners with QuickBooks experience.
- **Finance:** VtSBDC program advisor provides one-on-one advising on identifying sources of credit, capital, and other financing, preparing financial analyses, advising on financial management and factors that may impede access to financing for the business.
- **Capital Access Programs:** debt and venture capital. VtSBDC does not provide funds or grants directly to businesses. Instead, we connect you to SSBCI capital providers.

#### Process/How to Apply

1. Fill out and submit the eligibility/intake form:  
<https://www.vtsbdc.org/state-small-business-credit-initiative-program-application/>
2. Our program advisor will reach out within 48 business hours to schedule a consultation
3. During the consultation, we will assess your business needs and suitability for the program services
4. If the business needs fit the program offerings, we will refer you to our partners or program advisor who will provide you with the needed legal, accounting, and finance advisory services

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

- **Very Small Business (VSB):** a business with fewer than 10 employees (includes independent contractors and sole proprietors)
- **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI)**

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Phone: (802) 728-9101  
Email: [sbdc@vtsbdc.org](mailto:sbdc@vtsbdc.org)

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.vtsbdc.org/ssbci/>

# Sugarhouse Certification

## Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association (VMSMA)

VMSMA's Sugarhouse Certification Program is a program **created by sugar makers, for sugar makers** that interprets the current food safety rules for maple operations. While participating in the Certification Program is voluntary, following food safety rules is required for sugar makers. We've worked to anticipate barriers to participating in this program, from cost to templates for processes and procedures. The Program is updated regularly with new regulations, research, and resources, and is now being shared with consumers on VMSMA's website. Certifications are good for 3 years.

### How Does the Program Work?

Visit VMSMA's website to learn more about Program Specifics and even test your readiness by reviewing the Certification Checklist. Once you send us your application and payment, we'll assign your Certifier, who will complete documentation review and answer any questions specific to your operation. Your Certifier will then schedule a site visit to work through the rest of the Checklist.

Once the site visit is complete, the Certifier will send us their notes and the Checklist to VMSMA's Certification Manager for review. Within three weeks, we'll send you a list of any corrective actions needed to finish up your Certification.

### I'm Ready! What do I do now?

Once you're ready to apply for Certification, complete the Application, save it as a pdf on your computer, and either email or mail to VMSMA. Once the application is received and reviewed, VMSMA will email you an invoice.

**In order to participate, you must be a current VMSMA member.** If you have not paid for your current calendar year VMSMA membership, you can pay for your current membership fees online. Just log into your member profile on the VMSMA website.

**Not a VMSMA member yet?** You can join online, either as a paid and voting VMSMA member or by becoming a member at the Friend of Vermont Maple level. Create a new membership through the VMSMA website and enjoy all the benefits and support of the Association!



PROGRAM TYPE  
Certification



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?  
Current VMSMA members

KEY DATES  
Applications rolling



HOW TO APPLY  
View the application at:  
<https://bit.ly/maplecert>  
It may be emailed to our  
Certification team at  
[certification@vermontmaple.org](mailto:certification@vermontmaple.org) or mailed  
to us at VMSMA, PO Box  
662, Lyndonville, VT 05851.

INFORMATION & CONTACT  
**Ellie Palmer,**  
Certification Manager  
Phone: (802) 222-6071  
[certification@vermontmaple.org](mailto:certification@vermontmaple.org)

**Program Webpage:**  
<https://vermontmaple.org/for-producers/the-producer-hub/sugarhouse-certification>

# Sugarhouse Grant Program

## Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association (VMSMA)



VMSMA's Sugarhouse Grant Program works hand in hand with their Certification Program to **offer financial assistance for sugar makers who need to make some operational upgrades to finalize their Certification.** The Program is funded through VMSMA's 2022 Federal Earmark in partnership with now retired Senator Leahy's office. This important funding allows for a VMSMA-created and administered five-year Grant Program for Vermont sugar makers who participate in Certification.

### Funding and Grant Awards

VMSMA has **created a short grant application and offers up to \$15,000 for individual operations to support food-safety upgrades** that were highlighted as part of participation in the Sugarhouse Certification Program. Grants of up to \$1,500 are paid in one check and require no matching funds. Grants approved between \$1,500 and \$15,000 are made in two payments (one at Grant approval and one at the end of the project) and require a 25% match from the sugar maker. Funding is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available until funding is depleted (anticipated October 2027, at the latest).

### Eligibility

Vermont sugar makers who participate in VMSMA's Sugarhouse Certification Program are eligible to apply for grant funding in order to meet the requirements of their Certification. **The first step to apply for Grant funding is always participating in Sugarhouse Certification.** Once the onsite portion of Certification is complete, operations are either Certified (if there are no corrective actions) or they receive a corrective action list of items that need to be remedied before Certification is final. The corrective action report is a detailed list of items that sugar makers can then use to apply for Grant funding.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share,  
Certification



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vermont sugar makers who participate in the VMSMA Sugarhouse Certification Program

### KEY DATES

Funding is first come, first served.



### HOW TO APPLY

View the application at: <https://bit.ly/certgrant>. The completed application form can be emailed to VMSMA's Certification Manager at [Certification@vermontmaple.org](mailto:Certification@vermontmaple.org) or mailed to us at VMSMA, PO Box 662, Lyndonville, VT 05851.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Ellie Palmer,**

Certification Manager  
Phone: (802) 222-6071  
[Certification@vermontmaple.org](mailto:Certification@vermontmaple.org)

### Program Webpage:

<https://vermontmaple.org/for-producers/the-producer-hub/sugarhouse-grant-program>

# Regional and Local Programs

## **Organizations Featured:**

American Farmland Trust (AFT)

Connecticut River Watershed Farmer's Alliance (CRWFA)

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)

Farm Credit East

Land For Good

Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NFOC)

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (Northeast SARE)

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC)

Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD)

Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCDs)

## Brighter Future Fund's New England Regenerative Livestock Farming Grant

### American Farmland Trust



The Brighter Future Fund's New England Regenerative Livestock Farming Grants (formerly the Western New England Regenerative Livestock Farming Grant) **provide funds to livestock farmers in select counties** in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut for the **adoption of regenerative agriculture practices**. The funds are intended to support field-based conservation practice projects that improve soil health, water quality, and pollinator habitat.

**Grant Award:** Up to \$10,000

Eligible for Funding	Ineligible for Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover crop seed</li> <li>• Pollinator habitat establishment</li> <li>• Pasture establishment/reseeding</li> <li>• Reduced tillage equipment</li> <li>• Fencing to support rotational grazing</li> <li>• Livestock watering systems</li> <li>• Soil amendments and application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenses incurred prior to award</li> <li>• Purchase of livestock animals</li> <li>• Barns or sheds</li> <li>• Cold storage or farm stands</li> <li>• Processing equipment, washrooms/packhouses</li> <li>• Website development or marketing materials</li> <li>• Classes/trainings</li> </ul>

### Why This Project Area?

The Connecticut River Valley contains some of the most fertile soils in New England, but livestock farmers in this region face unique challenges regarding water quality. AFT is leading a larger, multi-year project focused on financial and technical assistance for regenerative livestock farming in this geographic area, and significant funding has been made available through this project as microgrants. Because of this, the grant program is limited to farmers located in the counties listed here.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Livestock Farmers in the following Vermont counties: Essex, Caledonia, Orange, Windsor, Windham, Bennington.

Applicants must have been raising livestock for a minimum of one year.

### KEY DATES

Applications are open from September 15-October 24, 2025.



### HOW TO APPLY

Visit

<https://farmland.org/new-england-regenerative-livestock-farming-grants> for application instructions.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Kristen Irvin,**  
Program Coordinator  
[Kirvin@farmland.org](mailto:Kirvin@farmland.org)  
Phone: (413) 419-0023

### Program Webpage:

<https://farmland.org/new-england-regenerative-livestock-farming-grants>

# Ag Plastic Recycling

## Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance (CRWFA)



In 2025, CRWFA launched a **Farmer Led Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot**. Keeping it small and manageable, we are beginning with bale wrap, and seeing how the program develops. Our goal is to keep the cost of recycling farm plastic competitive with what you already spend to landfill it.

### How It Works

- Contact us, and we'll bring you empty totes.
- Fill them up with clean and dry used bale wrap.
- When one or two are full, contact us again, and we will pick it up and leave more totes.

### It Has To Be Clean!

In order for the plastic recyclers to work with us, we need to give them material that is as clean and dry as possible. Only bale wrap (no netting, it's a different plastic). Some moisture and bale juice is okay, but no gravel, no heavy dirt or manure, no snow/ice/water.

If that shows up in the plastic we send them, they may stop taking it from us, or at least dock us pay. We need the best price we can get in order to cover transport costs. So we all need to do our part, take our wrap off and put it right into a clean, dry place until someone picks it up

### Fill Out This Bale Wrap Recycling Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4NWnRzmtQAYT-pB9kcOlq5noOJl4fL-XM6DJl5mvoPMIXzQ/viewform?pli=1>

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Ag Plastic Recycling

**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Farms in Vermont and New Hampshire who are CRWFA members.  
Not a member? View membership rates at:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/crwfa/membership?authuser=0>

**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Connecticut River Watershed Farmer's Alliance**  
Email: [crwfa.info@gmail.com](mailto:crwfa.info@gmail.com)  
Phone: (802) 345-9201  
(Mike) (802) 291-1209 (Guy)

**Program Webpage:**  
<https://sites.google.com/view/crwfa/ag-plastics?authuser=0>

# Signs of Conservation

## Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District



The Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District uses **simple roadside signs** and social media to raise awareness and appreciation for all the ways that **farmers in Vermont build soil health, improve water quality, and create other benefits besides the food they grow**. Our campaign was founded in Franklin County, but signs are available statewide.

Ten signs are available to producers! Connect with your local Natural Resources Conservation District about assistance with installing and maintaining signs, or to learn more about support for practice implementation.

### Cost of Signs

- Our grant funding makes Signs of Conservation available in Franklin County with no charge to the farmer.
- A \$5-10 donation per sign helps us keep this program going once grant funds are spent.
- Orders outside the county will be asked to cover at least \$5 per sign, or ideally the full cost of \$12 per sign.

### Do you know a place that could be highlighted with a sign?

Simply email us at [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org) with:

1. Your name or organization
2. Your location
3. Which signs you would like
4. How many of each sign you would like

Please let us know if you are the landowner or farm operator or if you are ordering on behalf of others. Thank you!

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers and Land Stewards  
throughout Vermont

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Franklin County Natural  
Resources Conservation  
District**

[info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org)

Phone: (802) 582-3133



# AgEnhancement Grant

## Farm Credit East



Each year, Farm Credit East and CoBank award grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 to help organizations promote awareness and strengthen agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products in the six New England states, New York and New Jersey.

**Grant Awards:** \$500-\$10,000

**Eligibility:** We support programs intended to assist all-size farms, promote diversity and create opportunities for new entrants into agriculture. Applicants that clearly demonstrate how a program, project, activity or event will have a long-term positive effect on the agriculture, forest products or the commercial fishing industries in the eight-state Northeast region are encouraged to seek funding. Statewide and regional projects are also eligible

### Eligible Program Areas:

- Leadership Development
- Economic Viability and Enhancement
- Programs to Promote Northeast Agriculture and Recognize Accomplishments of Ag Leaders
- Build a Better Understanding of Agriculture, Forestry, and Commercial Fishing
- Economic Analysis to Foster Agriculture

### Ineligible Program Areas/Projects Include But Are Not Limited To:

- Programs and projects of non-agricultural charities
- General operating funds and ongoing program support.
- Support for website administration and enhancement.
- Capital or building projects.
- Projects for an individual or individual farm operation.
- Indirect costs associated with sponsored projects.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farms of any size in the eight state Northeast region.  
Additional eligibility applies.

### KEY DATES



Applications are reviewed 3 times per year, with deadlines on April 1st, August 1st, and December 1st

### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

[https://farmcrediteast.smappl.us/prog/northeast\\_farm\\_credit\\_agenhancement\\_grant/](https://farmcrediteast.smappl.us/prog/northeast_farm_credit_agenhancement_grant/)

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Email: [AgEnhancement@FarmCreditEast.com](mailto:AgEnhancement@FarmCreditEast.com)

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/about/community-support/Grants-and-Awards/AgEnhancement-Grants>

# Loans and Leases

## Farm Credit East



Farm Credit East works for agriculture. Whether you're a rural home or landowner, a small family operation or a large agribusiness with diverse markets, we can provide the financial products, services and management support that you're looking for.

- **Land Loans:** With no acreage limits, we offer competitive, long-term mortgages on various types of ag real estate.  
<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING/Land-Loans>
- **Rural Home Loans:** We specialize in loans and refinancing for country homes.  
<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING/Rural-Home-Loans>
- **Operating Loans:** We provide revolving operating lines that match the seasonality of your business.  
<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING/Operating-Loans>
- **Equipment Financing:** We offer competitive rates and ag-friendly terms for all your equipment needs.  
<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING/Equipment-Financing>
- **Facility Loans:** We focus on facility loans for the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries.  
<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING/Facility-Loans>
- **Leases:** Leasing is available for ag buildings, construction, and various types of production equipment.  
<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING/Leases>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Rural home or landowner, farms of any size.

### Offices in Vermont

**Derby:** 250 Commerce Way, Derby, VT 05829

Office Phone Number: 802-334-8050

**Middlebury:** 320 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT 05753

Office Phone Number: 802-388-2692

**St. Albans:** 130 Upper Welden St., St. Albans, VT 05478

Office Phone Number: 802-524-2938

**White River Junction:** 52 FarmVu Dr., White River Junction, VT 05001

Office Phone Number: 802-295-3670

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Loans/Leases:

**Kristi Wood**

Phone: 802-735-9015

#### Financial Services:

**Emilee English**

Phone: 518-328-4103

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/FINANCING>

# Food Access Infrastructure Initiative Grant

## Farm Credit East



Farm Credit East's Food Access Infrastructure Initiative financially supports organizations with grants of up to \$50,000 as they work to improve food security in the Northeast. If your organization, or one you know, has an upcoming infrastructure project to further food access, apply for a Food Access Infrastructure Initiative grant.

Farm Credit East's Food Access Infrastructure Initiative financially supports organizations such as food banks, food hubs and other non-profit food distribution and infrastructure organizations/facilities as they work to improve food security in the Northeast. The recipient must be a non-profit organization.

### The goals of eligible projects could include but are not limited to:

- Increase produce handling functionality.
- Expand cooler or freezer storage.
- Improve inbound or outbound logistics.
- Enhance distribution capability.

The grant funds must be used for capital projects to improve infrastructure improvements like those described above. This includes real estate improvements. This doesn't include vehicles, food production or processing equipment. Grants should not be used for general operating funds.

**Nominees should be based in Farm Credit East's territory**, although nominees from outside the territory may be eligible if the initiative for which they are being nominated is positively impacting the rural areas of Farm Credit East's territory (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont). Self-nominations are permitted.

Funds will be provided directly to the recipient. Awards will be made at the sole discretion of the selection committee.

**Grant Award:** Up to \$50,000

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Nonprofit organizations based in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont

### KEY DATES

Applications are open from September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025



### HOW TO APPLY

Visit

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/foodaccessgrant> for application instructions.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Program webpage:

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/foodaccessgrant>

#### Additional questions can be emailed to:

[stewardship@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:stewardship@farmcrediteast.com)

## A Landowner's Guide to Leasing Land for Farming & Farm Access Methods

### Land for Good



Land For Good's mission is to ensure the future of farming in New England by putting more farmers more securely on more land. Since 2004, Land for Good has provided caring support and expert guidance to help **farmers, landowners, and communities navigate the complex challenges of land access, tenure, and transfer**. Their comprehensive and collaborative approach achieves solutions to help realize family, farm business, and community goals

Resources: <https://landforgood.org/resources/>

- **Seeking Farmland:** Explore options to get onto land, learn about different tenure methods or improve an existing land tenure situation, plus how to conduct a land search and assess farm properties
- **Transferring a Farm:** Learn how to get started, clarify your goals and next steps, recruit a farm successor, and explore the financial, legal and management considerations of a farm transfer
- **Making Land Available:** Learn how to make land available for farming
- **Leasing Farmland:** Craft a new lease or improve an existing lease, learn the elements of a sound lease agreement, and clarify your goals and expectations
- **Advising & Supporting Farmers:** Build professional capacity to work with farmers and farmland owners on land access, tenure and transfer

### Landowner's Guide

A Landowner's Guide to Leasing Land for Farming is intended to assist landowners in making land available for farming by others. If you have property that could be used for agriculture, this guide will help you through the steps.

**View the guide online at:** <https://landforgood.org/wp-content/uploads/LFG-Landowners-Guide-To-Leasing-To-A-Farmer-Handbook.pdf>

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Farmers and landowners

**INFORMATION & CONTACT**  
**Land for Good**  
Email: [info@LandForGood.org](mailto:info@LandForGood.org)  
Phone: (603) 357-1600

# Black Farmers Learn

## Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC)



The Black Farmers Learn educational subsidy will pay tuition or registration fees of up to \$500 for Black farmers or land stewards who wish to expand their knowledge or skills via a self-identified training program. This program honors education from structured sources available to the public; this includes schools, farming institutions, land or agricultural collectives, and conferences or training that offer to deepen skills and increase farming capacity. As these members remain in our community, the knowledge gained will impact others, offering the benefits exponentially.

**Grant Award:** Up to \$500. Covers tuition/registration fees only (not travel, food, or lodging).

### What Farmers Are Saying:

“This training has reinforced my advocacy for policy changes that support small and cooperative farming models, highlighting the need for accessible, culturally relevant food safety education. It has deepened my belief that food sovereignty and safety must go hand in hand—that protecting our communities means not only growing food sustainably but also ensuring that it is safe, nourishing, and rooted in ancestral and land-based knowledge.”

Farmer D'Real Graham, BFL recipient

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant or Cost Share,  
Educational Programs  
& Resources



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Black farmers or land stewards who are NEFOC Network Members pursuing publicly available, structured education programs

### KEY DATES

The application is open during the first week of every month.



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:  
<https://airtable.com/appluvD7avwALhu4b/pageZHkmZvylw6SM/form>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

For questions or assistance,  
email: [blacklandstewardship@nefoclandtrust.org](mailto:blacklandstewardship@nefoclandtrust.org)

### Program Webpage:

<https://nefoclandtrust.org/black-farmers-learn>

# Mutual Roots Fund

## Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC)



The Mutual Roots Fund is the foundational stage of the Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC) farmer pathway. This program is designed to nurture grassroots relationships, spark ideas, and grow collective momentum within our network of Black, Indigenous, and Brown land stewards. Each year, NEFOC awards up to \$2,000 to NEFOC members who have been active for at least one year. These stipends support joy-centered gatherings that strengthen community ties, deepen collaboration, and inspire shared projects rooted in mutual aid, healing, and liberation.

If you are not a **NEFOC Network Member** please use this link to register:  
<https://tinyurl.com/m46jyy6d>

- **Land Steward:** Someone who devotes a significant portion of their time to care for land in a way that is in sync with ecosystem restoration, climate healing, and cultural preservation.
- **Farmer:** A person who is making the day-to-day operating decisions on a farm or spending half of their time cultivating the land

**Award Amount:** Up to \$2,000

### Eligible expenses may include:

- Food and meals for gatherings
- Travel and lodging
- Venue or space rental
- Supplies, materials, or media tools
- Childcare or interpretation service

Gatherings can take many forms—dinners, skill-shares, healing retreats, seed swaps, or visioning circles—and each must result in a shared output, such as a public event, mutual aid effort, digital zine, blog post, or other creative documentation.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You must be a farmer of color and/or land stewards who are NEFOC Network Members in order to be eligible for this award.

### KEY DATES

Applications are currently closed



### HOW TO APPLY

Visit

<https://nefoclandtrust.org/mutual-roots-fund> to view application instructions.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Program Webpage:

<https://nefoclandtrust.org/mutual-roots-fund>

# Farmer Grant Program

## Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)



The Northeast SARE Farmer Grant program provides funds to farmers to explore innovative concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques.

The program **encourages innovative solutions to challenges** in farming and food systems in the Northeast USA, including but not limited to: Marketing and business, Crop production, Raising livestock, Aquaculture, Social sustainability, Unconventional agriculture, Traditional ecological knowledge.

**Grant Awards:** Awards range from \$5,000-\$30,000. Approximately \$800,000 has been allocated to fund projects for this year's Farmer Grants.

### Farmer Grant projects must:

- Be led by a farmer who meets Northeast SARE's definition of a farm: 'Any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year'
- Collaborate with a technical advisor.
- Impact both the farmer Project Leader and other farms in the region.
- Explore an innovative practice and/or introduce an existing practice to a new audience of farmers.
- Include outreach activities, or sharing of project impacts and results, to farmers beyond the project team and project participants.
- Align with proposal criteria.

### Eligible Expenses Include, but are not limited to:

- Labor Costs
- Consultant Compensation
- Research and education supplies, outreach materials
- Publication Costs
- Rental fees for farm equipment, land, greenhouse space, etc.
- Equipment necessary for and specific to the project.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Commercial farm business owners or farm employees located in the Northeast

### KEY DATES

Applications are due  
December 9th, 2025.



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://projects.sare.org/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

For questions about this Call for Proposals, please contact

**Candice Huber**

Email: [northeast-fr@sare.org](mailto:northeast-fr@sare.org)

Phone: 802-656-7587

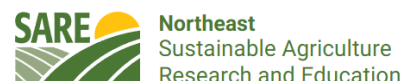
### Program Webpage:

<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/farmer-grant-program/>



# Research and Education Grant Program

## Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)



The purpose of the Research and Education grant program is to invest in education for farmers **that leads to changes in farmer behavior, decision-making, and/or practices**. These changes must increase the sustainability of farming in the Northeast United States. A Research and Education project can also include an applied research component, related to the educational activities.

The projects must explore one or more of the sustainable agriculture themes of the NE SARE outcome statement: *'Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is sustainable so all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, economic viability, and a high quality of life.'*

### At A Glance

**Project Type:** Projects that result in farmer behavior or practice change leading to greater sustainability. An education program and farmer engagement are required. Applied research in alignment with educational activities is optional.

**Grant Amount and Total Allocation:** There is no cap on total grant requests. Requests typically fall between \$30,000 and \$250,000. A total of \$1,560,000 has been allocated to fund projects this cycle. This grant is reimbursement based.

**Project Period:** Projects must conclude by November 30, 2029. If awarded, your project will begin after contracting concludes, which is estimated to be June 2026.

**This program encourages** innovative solutions to challenges in farming and food systems in the Northeast USA, including but not limited to the areas of: marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, social sustainability, unconventional agriculture, traditional ecological knowledge, climate change, and more.

**This program does not support:** Educational programs for the general public, food donation efforts, general public awareness campaigns about agriculture and nutrition, community or school gardening initiatives.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Project leader can be anyone who works with farmers, including personnel at: nonprofits, for profit businesses (including farms), colleges and universities, cooperative extension, municipalities, federal agencies like NRCS.

### KEY DATES

Proposals are due on  
Monday, February 2, 2026, at  
5pm ET



### HOW TO APPLY

Submit your proposal online  
at <https://projects.sare.org/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT Heather Omand

Email: [northeast-re@sare.org](mailto:northeast-re@sare.org)  
Phone: 802-656-7654.

### Program Webpage:

<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/research-and-education-grant-program/>

# Farming Community Grant Program

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)



The Northeast SARE Farming Community Grant applies **social science research and education projects that strengthen farming and food systems at the community level**. These projects explore innovative approaches to improving the health and sustainability of agricultural communities in the Northeast. This program supports projects grounded in community partnerships and informed by the lived experiences of farmers. It encourages collaboration among farmers, service providers, researchers, and nonprofit organizations to co-create solutions that are responsive to local needs and scalable across the region.

## At A Glance

**Project Type:** Projects that strengthen farming communities by addressing social, economic, workforce, and/or structural challenges through farmer-led education, collaboration, and innovation. Projects center farmer leadership and decision making, and result in meaningful impact in Northeast agricultural communities.

**Grant Amount and Total Allocation:** There is no cap on total grant requests. Requests typically fall between \$50,000 and \$250,000. A total of \$3,300,000 has been allocated to fund projects this cycle. This grant is reimbursement based.

**Project Period:** Projects must conclude by November 30, 2028, with a typical project length of 2 years. If awarded, your project will begin after contracting concludes, which is estimated to be June 2026.

**This program encourages** innovative solutions to challenges in farming and food systems in the Northeast USA, including but not limited to the areas of: marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, economic and social sustainability, ecological knowledge, projects related to climate and/or bioenergy work that provide direct or indirect benefits to farmers, ranchers, and private foresters, and more.

**This program does not support:** Educational programs for the general public, food donation efforts, general public awareness campaigns about agriculture and nutrition, community or school gardening initiatives.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Project leader can be anyone who works with farmers, including personnel at: nonprofits, for profit businesses (including farms), colleges and universities, cooperative extension, municipalities, federal agencies like NRCS.

## KEY DATES

Proposals are due on  
Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026,  
at 5pm ET



## HOW TO APPLY

Submit your proposal online  
at <https://projects.sare.org/>

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

### Program Contact

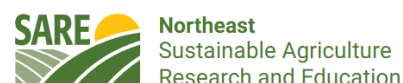
Leons Kabongo  
Email: [northeast-fc@sare.org](mailto:northeast-fc@sare.org)

### Program Webpage:

<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/farmingcommunity/>

# Research for Novel Approaches in Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)



The Northeast SARE Research for Novel Approaches grant program funds 'proof of concept' **applied research projects that are designed to confirm the benefits and/or feasibility of new practices and approaches**—i.e., Novel Approaches—in agriculture. These applied research projects **must have some existing evidence from previous experiments or pilot projects (your own or others)** suggesting that the practice or approach is beneficial and feasible, but further testing, data, and refinement are needed before it can be recommended for widespread adoption by farmers. Research for Novel Approaches Grant projects require an explicit connection to the needs and interests of farmers in the Northeast. All proposals must include **documented interest among farmers and service providers** in utilizing or promoting the novel approach should it be proven beneficial and feasible.

## At A Glance

**Project Type:** Applied research projects that test the feasibility and benefits of new practices or approaches in agriculture. Projects must demonstrate farmer interest and potential for impact on sustainability, resilience, and viability in the Northeast.

**Grant Amount and Total Allocation:** There is no cap on total grant requests. Requests typically fall between \$30,000 and \$200,000. A total of \$1,300,000 has been allocated to fund projects this cycle. Note that this grant is reimbursement based.

**Project Period:** Projects must conclude by November 30, 2029, with a typical project length of 3 years. If awarded, your project will begin after contracting concludes, which is estimated to be in July 2026.

**This program encourages** innovative solutions to challenges in farming and food systems in the Northeast USA, including but not limited to the areas of: marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, economic and social sustainability, ecological knowledge, projects related to climate and/or bioenergy work that provide direct or indirect benefits to farmers, ranchers, and private foresters, and more.

**This program does not support:** Educational programs for the general public, food donation efforts, general public awareness campaigns about agriculture and nutrition, community or school gardening initiatives.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Project leader can be anyone who works with farmers, including personnel at: nonprofits, for profit businesses (including farms), colleges and universities, cooperative extension, municipalities, federal agencies like NRCS.

## KEY DATES

Proposals are due on  
Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026,  
at 5pm ET



## HOW TO APPLY

Submit your proposal online  
at <https://projects.sare.org/>

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

### Program Contact

Kaitlyn Sirna

Email: [northeast-na@sare.org](mailto:northeast-na@sare.org)

Phone: (440) 336-0594

### Program Webpage:

<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/research-for-novel-approaches/>

# Professional Development Grant Program

## Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)



The Professional Development Grant program funds projects that help **service providers improve the way they work with farmers through research-based education**. These projects result in a change in practice or behavior by service providers that support farmers in sustainable agriculture innovation. Northeast SARE's definition of a **service provider is a professional who assists farmers as part of their work**. Typical audiences include extension educators, consultants, agency personnel, and not-for-profit organization staff.

This grant program uses an **outcome funding approach that directly connects project activities to measurable goals**. If you are not familiar with how outcome funding works, we urge you to read Northeast SARE's Guide to Outcome Funding at: <https://www.sare.org/wp-content/uploads/NortheastSAREOutcomeFundingGuide.pdf>

**Central to this approach is the performance target**, a statement that describes the changes in behavior or conditions among project beneficiaries (in this case, service providers) that are expected as a result from the proposed project.

**Grant Amount and Total Allocation:** There is no cap on total grant requests. Requests typically fall between \$30,000 and \$150,000. A total of \$750,000 has been allocated to fund projects this cycle. Note that this grant is reimbursement based.

**Project Duration:** Typical project length is 2-3 years. The maximum project length allowed is 3.5 years.

**This program encourages** innovative solutions to challenges in farming and food systems in the Northeast USA, including but not limited to the areas of: marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, economic and social sustainability, ecological knowledge, projects related to climate and/or bioenergy work that provide direct or indirect benefits to farmers, ranchers, and private foresters, and more.

**This program does not support:** Educational programs for the general public, food donation efforts, general public awareness campaigns about agriculture and nutrition, community or school gardening initiatives.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Project leader can be anyone who works with farmers, including personnel at: nonprofits, for profit businesses (including farms), colleges and universities, cooperative extension, municipalities, federal agencies like NRCS.

### KEY DATES

Proposals are due on  
Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026,  
at 5pm ET



### HOW TO APPLY

Submit your proposal online  
at <https://projects.sare.org/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT Program Contact

#### Program Contacts

Katie Campbell-Nelson and  
Nevin Dawson

[northeast-pdp@sare.org](mailto:northeast-pdp@sare.org)

Phone: (413) 834-1090

#### Program webpage:

<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/professional-development-grant-program/>

# Dairy Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant

## Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS  
INNOVATION CENTER

This program will fund projects that support dairy farmers in improving their operations for long-term success. This grant supports projects that modernize outdated systems or introduce innovative solutions to improve farm viability, reduce climate impacts, improve milk quality or value, improve worker conditions, and strengthen the farm's ability to respond to challenges.

**Competitive projects** will take a strategic, systems-level approach, involve expert guidance such as farm planners or technical assistance providers, and may benefit individual farms or groups of farms. Projects that only replace old equipment without broader improvements to farm systems are not eligible.

**Grant Awards:** \$15,000-\$100,000 with a 25% in-kind and/or cash match contribution

**Grants are available to applicants in all 11 Northeast states served by NE-DBIC:** Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

### How To Apply

1. Review the full Request for Applications (RFA) for the complete details on eligible projects/applicants and the full application process: <https://nedairyinnovation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/FY26-Farm-Improvement-and-Modernization-RFA.pdf>
2. Register in WebGrants (may take up to two business days).
3. Complete your application in WebGrants using our Application Guide. Applications will be open October 14, 2025, through December 4, 2025, at 2 PM ET.
4. Applicants who do not already have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov are strongly encouraged to start this process during the application period to ensure a timely start to their grant, if awarded.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Dairy farmers based in the Northeast
- Producer associations that represent, support, or promote Northeast dairy
- Milk Buyers/processors located in the Northeast
- TA providers
- Additional eligibility applies, view the full program details to learn more

### KEY DATES

Applications are open from October 14, 2025, to December 4, 2025



### HOW TO APPLY

Application is completed in WebGrants:

<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Ali Boochever,**

Grant Program Manager

[Ali.Boochever@vermont.gov](mailto:Ali.Boochever@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 261-5740

**Program Webpage:**

<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/farm-improvement-modernization/>

# Master Logger Certification Program (MLCP)

## Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC)



The Master Logger Certification Program® (MLCP) was created by the loggers of the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC) as a way for exemplary forest professionals to differentiate themselves. **This program was the first of its kind in the world, offering point-of-harvest, third-party independent certification of logging companies' harvesting practices.**

The certification system is built around performance standards that have been cross-referenced to all of the world's major green certification systems and has been adopted by several other North American states and Canadian provinces.

### Set Yourself Apart

- Meet the most rigorous professional standard in the logging industry today
- Receive name recognition and visibility through Master Logger's marketing and publicity
- Access relevant educational opportunities and free workshops
- Receive discounted Worker's Compensation insurance rates, bid preference, and access to reduced interest loans in some states

### Process

1. Submit Enrollment Form
2. Company Interview
3. Field Inspection
4. Company Reviews Application
5. Certification Board Meets to Review Application
6. Certification
7. Public Announcement

**Cost:** Initial certification is \$3,000, with a 50% discount for Vermont logging contractors in 2026—bringing the effective cost to \$1,500. Annual recertification fees are based on harvest volumes.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Certification



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Loggers

### KEY DATES

Apply Year-Round



### INTERESTED?

Reach out to us via phone or email, or visit our website.

### LANDOWNER RESOURCE

Find a Master Logger for your next harvest at:

<https://plcloggers.org/landowner-resources/find-a-master-logger/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Email:** [masterlogger@plcloggers.org](mailto:masterlogger@plcloggers.org)

**Phone:**  
(802) 688-8195, option 2

**Program Webpage:**

<https://masterloggercertification.com/>



# Farmer Advocacy Program

## Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD)



We work closely with farmers and other land stewards, so we hear their stories about what it's actually like to manage the working landscape and implement conservation practices. **One of the goals of the Orleans County Conservation District is to make sure farmer voices are represented and amplified.** We realize it would be far better to have you represent the perspective of farmers at meetings by sharing your impressions directly with legislators, federal officials, and program managers in state agencies. **The Farmer Advocacy Program seeks to encourage farmers to attend meetings related to natural resource concerns.** We need YOUR voice at the table!

Your participation makes a difference. When someone shows up to share a perspective from "on the ground," decision makers really listen.

**Examples of the types of meetings you could attend include the following:** Right to Farm, Local Working Groups, Water quality, wetlands, and permitting issues related to surface withdrawals, etc., RAP revisions, Tactical Basin Planning, Act 250, Public Open Houses at the Vermont State House (Legislator Meet & Greets).

### To enroll in the Farmer Advocate Program:

1. Contact OCNRCD to express your interest; we will follow up with a short application
2. Check out the listing of advocacy opportunities at upcoming events, meetings, and public forums on our website at: [www.orleanscountynrcd.org](http://www.orleanscountynrcd.org)
3. Once your application is reviewed, you will be added to our listserv to be alerted of upcoming meetings and be prepared to attend them
4. You will receive a stipend for attending meetings after completing a short survey for each event
5. We will provide preparatory information in advance of the meeting as well as periodic trainings on how to advocate and effectively meet with agencies, legislators, and other decision makers

### Compensation

We know farmers are busy and that we are asking a lot of you to attend meetings. Therefore, we created the opportunity to pay you a \$75 stipend to attend a meeting related to natural resource concerns.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farmers in Orleans County,  
VT

#### KEY DATES

Apply year-round



#### HOW TO APPLY

Contact Orleans County  
NRCD to express your  
interest, and we will follow  
up with a short application!

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Sarah Damsell,**  
District Manager

[Sarah.damsell@orleanscountynrcd.org](mailto:Sarah.damsell@orleanscountynrcd.org)

**Phone:** (802) 624-7008

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.orleanscountynrcd.org/farmer-advocacy-program>



# NRCD – Bennington County

## Bennington County Natural Resources Conservation District (BCCD)



Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) was established in 1946 to serve all of Bennington County and its four watersheds – the Mettowee, the Batten Kill, the Hoosic, and the Deerfield. These watersheds encompass some of the most culturally, economically, and ecologically significant landscapes in Vermont. The Bennington County Conservation District protects them by serving those who work them and live in them.

### Community Resilience Initiative

The Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) is developing a county-wide Community Resilience Workshop Series to connect municipalities, commissions, and organizations with resources, technical assistance, and above all, **one another**.

### Equipment Cooperative

The Bennington County Conservation District is excited to introduce its new Equipment Cooperative, a community resource designed to improve access to essential farming and land-management tools. Through this program, residents can rent a variety of specialized equipment at an affordable daily rate— making it easier for small farms, new landowners, and conservation-minded stewards to complete projects that might otherwise be out of reach due to cost or limited availability. By sharing resources locally, the Equipment Cooperative helps strengthen our agricultural community, promote sustainable land practices, and support those working to care for Bennington County's working landscapes.

### Edible Riparian Forest Buffer Program

In the wake of the July 2023 floods, the Community Resilience Initiative was launched to assess and address the specific needs of Bennington County. One key priority? Expanding riparian forest buffers to strengthen our waterways, reduce flood risks, and provide more publicly accessible food sources for both people and wildlife.

That's why the Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) is working with local landowners, farmers, and community partners to establish Edible Riparian Forest Buffers—planting species that benefit our local environment while also increasing food security and habitat for wildlife.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
Farmers, producers, and land  
stewards in Bennington  
County, VT

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Website:

<https://www.bccdvt.org/>

**Physical Address:** 170 South  
Main Street, Suite 4, Rutland,  
VT 05701

**Mailing Address:** PO Box  
505 Bennington, VT 05201

**Phone:** (518) 480-1218

**Email:** [michael@bccdvt.org](mailto:michael@bccdvt.org)

#### Contact Us Page:

<https://www.bccdvt.org/contact-us>

# NRCD – Caledonia County

## Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (CCNRCD)



Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District assists landowners and municipalities in their management, use and sustainability of natural resources. We focus and coordinate any available technical, financial, and educational resources for this purpose and partner with federal, state, municipal and local partners in a collaborative process to broaden opportunities, focus common resources, and stay abreast of current natural resources programs.

### **New Nutrient Management Plans**

We assist farms in preparation for and during UVM Extension's Nutrient Management Planning Class. This class is free for farms and includes a goCrop account, soil and manure tests, a Land Treatment Plan, and a certified Nutrient Management Plan.

### **Updating Existing NMPs**

We can work with you on all stages of updating your Nutrient Management Plan annually from sampling, to entering records, to making nutrient recommendations, to completing an update.

### **Kitchen Table Talks**

We'll meet with you to understand your goals and help connect you with the right services, partner programs, and funding opportunities.

### **Grant Application & Reporting Assistance**

We can assist in navigating grant opportunities, including writing, submitting, and reporting on applications for many private, local, state, and federal opportunities.

### **Stream Projects**

CCNRCD offers technical assistance, project management, and access to funding for stream and flood plain restorations, wood additions, dam and barrier removals, and other stream projects designed to improve water quality, habitat, flood resiliency, and overall watershed health.

### **Education and Outreach**

CCNRCD collaborates with local schools, supports locally led conservation initiatives, and partners with other organizations to provide meaningful educational opportunities for adults and youth throughout Caledonia County. These include workshops and events on a variety of topics, from birding to how to plant a tree. Have a workshop you'd like us to host? Let us know!

#### **PROGRAM TYPE**

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### **WHO IS THIS FOR?**

Farmers, producers, land  
stewards, and landowners in  
Caledonia County, VT

#### **INFORMATION & CONTACT**

##### **Website:**

<https://www.caledoniacountynrncd.org/>

##### **Physical Address:**

481 Summer St Ste 202  
St. Johnsbury VT 05851

##### **Mailing Address:**

481 Summer St Ste 202  
St. Johnsbury VT 05851

##### **Email:**

[info@caledoniacountynrncd.org](mailto:info@caledoniacountynrncd.org)

**Phone:** (802) 424-3149

# NRCD – Essex County

## Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District



**Essex County NRCD (ECNRCD)** is a locally-led conservation leader in **Essex County**. We deliver services to meet existing and emerging community, natural resources and environmental needs by providing education, outreach and technical assistance for local residents and municipalities.

**Nutrient Management Planning:** We offer assistance to farms of all sizes with Land Treatment Plans, new NMPs through the UVM Extension class, and updates. Contact Clara at [cfodell.essexnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:cfodell.essexnrcd@gmail.com) to sign up for NMP or LTP assistance. We also offer regular **soil testing, manure sampling, pre-sidedress nitrate testing, and corn stalk nitrate** testing upon request at no cost.

**Program Navigation:** We help farms and forest managers navigate available state, federal, and private grant programs, select the programs that best meet their needs and interests, and assist with application and reporting. We coordinate on-farm meetings with regulators, state and federal staff, and municipalities.

**Conservation Planning:** We offer conservation planning through NRCS programs for agricultural and forest landowners. Where NRCS financial assistance programs are not the right fit, we will assist with planning farmer-funded conservation projects or connect with the appropriate professional (e.g. a licensed consulting forester). **Through Trees for Streams, we offer planning, implementation, and stewardship services for riparian buffers on agricultural lands.** We are also available to assist with enrollment and renewal of CREP contracts.

**Conservation Nursery:** We operate a small conservation nursery that produces native trees grown from NEK-collected seeds and cuttings. We prioritize hardy local genetics, regionally appropriate species for a variety of habitats and soil types, and robust growing stock that thrives after planting. Wholesale and retail available.

**Forestry Water Quality and Invasive Plant Control:** We assess and find funding to address non-regulatory water quality issues on non-industrial private forestland, sugarbushes, and Christmas tree operations. We also have a **temporary skidder bridge available for rental** in Bloomfield. We are able to **assist with invasive plant control**, and offer treatment for private landowners and towns in the watershed at no cost.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Educational,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, land  
stewards, and landowners in  
Essex County, VT

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Website:

[https://www.vacd.org/  
conservation-districts/essex-  
county/](https://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/essex-county/)

**Mailing Address:** PO Box  
566 Waitsfield, VT 05673

Contact **Clara Fernandez  
Odell**, Working Lands  
Specialist & Nursery Manager  
[cfodell.essexnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:cfodell.essexnrcd@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** (802) 535-8877

Contact **Sean Willison**,  
Forestry and Watershed  
Specialist  
[swillison.essexnrcd@  
gmail.com](mailto:swillison.essexnrcd@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** (802) 397-8233

# NRCD – Franklin County

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)



The **Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District's mission** is to empower and partner with land stewards and communities on the ground by supporting connections that benefit natural resources, water quality, soil health, and the working landscape in Franklin County and across Northwest Vermont.

## New Nutrient Management Plans

We assist farms in preparation for and during UVM Extension's Nutrient Management Planning Class. This class is free for farms and includes a goCrop account, soil and manure tests, a Land Treatment Plan, and a certified Nutrient Management Plan.

## Updating Existing NMPs

We can work with you on all stages of updating your Nutrient Management Plan annually from sampling, to entering records, to making nutrient recommendations, to completing an update.

## Kitchen Table Talks

We'll meet with you to understand your goals and help connect you with the right services, partner programs, and funding opportunities.

## Grant Application & Reporting Assistance

We can assist in navigating grant opportunities, including writing, submitting, and reporting on applications for many private, local, state, and federal opportunities.

## Stream Projects

FCNRCD offers technical assistance, project management, and access to funding for stream and flood plain restorations, wood additions, dam and barrier removals, and other stream projects designed to improve water quality, habitat, flood resiliency, and overall watershed health.

## Education and Outreach

FCNRCD collaborates with local schools, supports locally led conservation initiatives, and partners with other organizations to provide meaningful educational opportunities for adults and youth throughout Franklin County. These include workshops and events on a variety of topics, from birding to how to plant a tree. Have a workshop you'd like us to host? Let us know!

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, land  
stewards, and landowners in  
Franklin County, VT

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Website:

[www.franklincountynrcd.org](http://www.franklincountynrcd.org)

#### Physical Address:

431 Franklin Park West, Suite  
100a Saint Albans, VT 05478

#### Mailing Address:

50 South Main Street Suite  
B-20, Saint Albans, VT  
05478

#### Email:

[info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org)

**Phone:** (802) 582-3133

# NRCD – Grand Isle County

Grand Isle County Natural Resources Conservation District (GICNRCD)



To support our working lands, Grand Isle County Natural Resources Conservation District provides farmers with technical, financial, and educational resources to be stewards of the Champlain Islands. We are determined to help farmers reduce cropland erosion, decrease sediment and nutrient losses, promote water and soil quality, and advise farmers on soil health planning and climate smart practices. Our partnership with the state and federal agricultural agencies and organizations allows us to present a suite of programs to meet farmers' specific needs.

## New Nutrient Management Plans

We assist farms in preparation for and during UVM Extension's Nutrient Management Planning Class. This class is free for farms and includes a goCrop account, soil and manure tests, a Land Treatment Plan, and a certified Nutrient Management Plan.

## Updating Existing NMPs

We can work with you on all stages of updating your Nutrient Management Plan annually from sampling, to entering records, to making nutrient recommendations, to completing an update.

## Kitchen Table Talks

We'll meet with you to understand your goals and help connect you with the right services, partner programs, and funding opportunities.

## Grant Application & Reporting Assistance

We can assist in navigating grant opportunities, including writing, submitting, and reporting on applications for many private, local, state, and federal opportunities.

## Natural Resources Projects

We can coordinate funding, logistics, and implementation of stream and ditch restoration projects, such as two-tiered ditches, berm removals, tree plantings, and more.

## Education and Outreach

GICNRCD collaborates with local schools, supports locally led conservation initiatives, and partners with other organizations to provide meaningful educational opportunities for adults and youth throughout Grand Isle County. These include workshops and events on a variety of topics, from birding to how to plant a tree. Have a workshop you'd like us to host? Let us know!

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, land  
stewards, and landowners in  
Grand Isle County, VT

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Website:

[www.grandislecounty  
nrcd.org](http://www.grandislecounty.nrcd.org)

#### Physical Address:

3501 U.S. Route 2  
North Hero, VT 05474

#### Mailing Address:

PO Box 212  
North Hero, VT 05474

#### Email:

[info@grandislecounty  
nrcd.org](mailto:info@grandislecounty.nrcd.org)

**Phone:** (802) 372-9400

# NRCD – Lamoille County

## Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District (LCNRCD)



Working in partnership with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, the Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District (LCNRCD) works to maintain and improve our natural resources, aid and educate our fellow citizens to appreciate and adjust to the changes taking place in our natural resource system, and be a local voice for conservation, preservation, and stewardship of all natural resources.

### Soil and Manure Sampling

Interested in learning more about the composition of your soil and the nutrients that go into your soil? Our soil and manure sampling program is free to all farms, regardless of size.

### New Nutrient Management Plans, and Updating Existing NMPs

We assist farms in preparation for and during UVM Extension's Nutrient Management Planning Class. This class is free for farms and includes a goCrop account, soil and manure tests, a Land Treatment Plan, and a certified Nutrient Management Plan. We can work with you on all stages of updating your NMP annually from sampling, to entering records, to making nutrient recommendations, to completing an update.

### Farm Focused Outreach and Workshops

LCCD offers a variety of workshops throughout the year for land stewards and producers presented by staff, or partnering with private, local, state, and federal organizations and agencies. Topics range from the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), soil conservation practices, agroforestry/forestry, tree planting and care, and funding programs.

### Farm Teams

With Farm Teams, the farmer may choose who is at the table, while LCCD's role is to bring together the various partners (for example, representatives from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, UVM Extension, NRCS, and others) to meet annually, semi-annually, or as needed. This streamlines communication and collaboration among the various partners, and relieves the farmer of the burden of scheduling multiple meetings and keeping track of who does what. Farm Teams are tailored to meet an individual farm's specific needs. For more information, or to request a Farm Team, email your LCCD Agricultural Program Specialist!

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, and land stewards, and landowners in Lamoille County, VT

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Website:

<https://www.lcnrcd.com/>

**Address:** 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661-9302

**Phone:** (802) 521-3006

##### Contact Us Form:

<https://www.lcnrcd.com/contact-us>

**Contact Our Agriculture Programs Specialists!**

##### Sarah Skelding

Email: [lccd.ag.ss@gmail.com](mailto:lccd.ag.ss@gmail.com)

##### Emily Lugthart

Email: [emilyl.lccd@gmail.com](mailto:emilyl.lccd@gmail.com)



# NRCD – Orleans County

## Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD)



The Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) has been serving land stewards and leading local conservation efforts in Orleans County since 1946. Our mission is to protect and enhance the soils and waters of Orleans County by providing leadership, education, and services for the adoption of sound land stewardship practices.

### Locally Led Conservation Planning

The Orleans County NRCD conducts surveys, hosts community meetings, and chairs a Local Workgroup meeting to engage community members and conservation partners in conversation about natural resource concerns. This approach involves community stakeholders and concerned citizens in the natural resource planning, implementation of solutions, and evaluation of results.

### Nutrient Management Plans

We assist with NMP plan development and updates including offering soil and manure sampling services.

### Conservation Farm Teams

The Orleans County NRCD works with 3-5 farms per year in our Conservation Farm Teams Program. The mission of the program is to support farmers' decision making and to coordinate agricultural services, while increasing farm viability and adoption of on-farm conservation practices

### Farmer Advocacy Program

The Farmer Advocacy Program seeks to encourage farmers to attend meetings related to natural resource concerns. We need YOUR voice at the table!

### Riparian Lands Program

Project Management and Trees for Streams Program: We manage restoration projects with interested landowners and stakeholders in riparian areas. Projects include: Trees for Streams plantings, streambank stabilizations, culvert replacements, floodplain connectivity, and livestock exclusion.

### Lake Watershed Program

Through Lake Wise, our staff can perform an assessment of your shoreland to help identify ways to manage your property for stormwater.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, land  
stewards, and landowners in  
Orleans County, VT

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Website:

<https://www.orleanscountynrcd.org/>

**Address:** 59 Waterfront  
Plaza Suite 11, Newport VT  
05855

**Phone:** (802) 334-6090 x  
7008

##### Email:

[sarah.damsell@orleanscountynrcd.org](mailto:sarah.damsell@orleanscountynrcd.org)

##### Contact Us Form:

<https://www.orleanscountynrcd.org/contact-us>



# NRCD – Otter Creek

## Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD)



We provide conservation services to agricultural producers and other private landowners. **The mission of the Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) is:**

- To enhance conservation awareness in all citizens while recognizing that the working landscape is a social structure, seeking conservation solutions inclusive of all farming technologies.
- To ensure the enhancement of Addison County farms and natural resources.
- To provide leadership for conservation issues in the county, to identify local natural resource needs and to find funding and expertise to address those needs.

### Resources, events, and programs include:

- Tree plantings for riparian buffers on agricultural land via CREP, ARPC, and Trees for Streams
- Annual Tree Sale (and berries and shrubs as well)
- Land Treatment Plan (LTP) & Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) assistance
- Soil and manure sampling assistance
- Testing drinking water sources
- Grant application assistance

In the past 20 years, an estimated 300,400 trees have been planted on 1,000 acres of stream bank in Addison County which represents ~93 stream and river miles buffered. **Our partners include:**

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency – CREP
- University of Vermont Extension
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- Vermont Land Trust – Buffers/Tree Plantings
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service – CREP
- Addison Regional County Planning Commission – Basin Planning – Buffers
- Nature Conservancy – Buffer Program
- Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Land stewards and  
agricultural producers in  
Addison County within the  
Otter Creek watershed

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Website:

<https://ottercreekconservation.org/>

**Address:** 68 Catamount Park,  
Ste. B Middlebury, VT 05753

#### Contact Pam Stefanek,

District Manager

[pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net)

#### For Agricultural LTP & NMP

#### Assistance:

[ottercreeknrcd@vacd.org](mailto:ottercreeknrcd@vacd.org)

# NRCD – Poultney Mettowee

Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD)



The mission of the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) is to provide educational outreach, technical assistance, and financial support to communities and landowners to protect healthy soil and clean water and preserve the ecological integrity and economic vitality of communities. The District brings together the efforts of citizens and organizations that share the common goals of conserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of the watershed.

## Support for On-Farm Water Quality Improvements

The District works closely with the Rutland NRCD and can provide direct technical support to producers in Rutland County. Staff are available to visit area farms, identify/discuss potential water quality issues, assist in finding funding solutions, and provide technical support for implementing new practices. District staff are non-regulatory and farm-specific information is confidential.

## Equipment Rental Program

The District has a set of portable scales for farmers to weigh manure spreaders and harvest carts. The scales will assist farmers in quantifying nutrient applications and harvest yields for their nutrient management plans. The District also has a no-till drill for cover crop and reduced tillage practices, as well as an aerator to assist with manure incorporation and compaction reduction. Soil sampling probes and other equipment are available upon request.

## Nutrient Management Planning

If you need a nutrient management plan (NMP) for your farm, the District can provide assistance. The District assists farms with nutrient management plan development.

Benefits of signing up for this program include:

- The District will provide free soil and manure sampling
- Many years of follow-up support
- Subsidized membership to UVM's goCrop/goGraze web-based, planning application

Following successful completion of the NMP, staff can help your farms sign up for cost share programs that match the goals and activities outlined in the plan.

## PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



## WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, and land stewards in Rutland County, within the watersheds of the Poultney and Mettowee Rivers.

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

### Website:

<https://www.pmnrcd.org/>

**Physical Address:** 212 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 209, Poultney, VT 05764

**Contact Hilary Solomon,**  
District Manager

**Email:** [hilary@pmnrcd.org](mailto:hilary@pmnrcd.org)

**Phone:** (802) 558-3515

## NRCD- Rutland

### Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD)



The Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District is committed to fostering an awareness of the link between stewardship of the natural environment and the agricultural community as well as other landowners, and encouraging and supporting efforts with partners, in meeting the need for natural resource conservation and water quality improvements.

#### **Agricultural Assistance**

The District in cooperation with the Poultney Mettowee and Bennington Conservation Districts have an Agricultural Resources Specialist to assist small farm owners by assessing on-farm water quality concerns, providing technical assistance, and supporting implementation of Best Management Practices. Assistance in writing and managing nutrient management plans and for meeting the required agricultural practices is also part of the assistance provided by our Agricultural Resources Specialist.

#### **Seedling Sale**

Each year in the Spring the District makes available to the public evergreen and hardwood trees, wildlife/songbird trees and shrubs, apple trees, berries and wildflower seeds in order to encourage landowners to increase plantings for wildlife habitat, conservation and aesthetics.

#### **Portable Skidder Bridges**

The District has portable skidder bridges available for rent to loggers and consulting foresters. Portable skidder bridges, when properly installed and used as a temporary stream crossing structure, will reduce stream bank and stream bed disturbance as compared to other alternatives, thus minimizing the potential for sedimentation.

#### **Vermont Envirothon**

The District participates in promoting the Vermont Envirothon program through visits to high school science departments and presenting information to teachers on the virtues of student participation in the Vermont Envirothon.

#### **PROGRAM TYPE**

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### **WHO IS THIS FOR?**

Farmers, producers, and land stewards in the Rutland District. The Rutland District includes sixteen towns in the eastern part of Rutland County and Rutland City.

#### **INFORMATION & CONTACT**

##### **Website:**

<https://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland/>

**Address:** 170 S Main Street,  
Suite 4 Rutland, VT 05701

**Contact Katie Stiles,**  
District Manager

**Email:** [katie@nrncd.org](mailto:katie@nrncd.org)

**Phone:** (802) 775-8034

# NRCD – White River

## White River Natural Resources Conservation District (WRNRCD)



White River NRCD

**The White River (Wassabaastekw) NRCD is a local, non-regulatory subdivision of Vermont's state government** providing natural resource conservation support for land stewards in 23 towns throughout the White, Wells, Waits, Ompompanoosuc (Pmômanosek), and Connecticut (Kwenitekw) River Direct Watersheds. We host workshops and events with our Partners, and provide direct technical assistance to agricultural producers, land stewards, and municipalities throughout the watershed.

### Farm Teams

The mission of the Farm Team program is to support farmers' decision making and coordinate agricultural services, while increasing farm viability and adoption of on-farm conservation practices. We know that keeping service providers up to date on your operation can be burdensome and time consuming. We believe that by streamlining coordination with your partners, we can provide more useful assistance to you and your farm!

### Lakes and Rivers Programs

Our District works with Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation to protect, maintain, enhance and restore the health of Vermont lakes through outreach and education, monitoring, and assessment. We assist in water quality testing, enroll landowners in conservation practices which improve water quality, and host water quality workshops and events.

### Nutrient Management Planning and Sampling

We can assist your farm with the cost and development of a Nutrient Management Plan. If you would like to sample the soil on your fields, we have soil probes that can be loaned out. If you would like help with soil sampling, set up an appointment with a Conservation Specialist from our District. We can also supply sample kits for testing manure.

### Federal and State Conservation Program Consulting

Would you like some help navigating the application process for federal and state conservation programs? After a site visit, we can advise you on the conservation programs available to your operation and assist with submitting applications.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

WRNRCD serves most of Orange County as well as Hancock and Granville in Addison County, Pittsfield in Rutland County, and Rochester, Bethel, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge and Barnard in Windsor County. WRNRCD also works with the Ottauquechee NRCD to provide capacity to the region.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Webpage:

<https://www.whiteriverncrd.org>

**Address:** 28 Farmvu Drive,  
White River Junction VT  
05001

**Phone:** (802) 369-3167

##### Email:

[whiteriverncrd@gmail.com](mailto:whiteriverncrd@gmail.com)

##### Contact Us Form:

<https://www.whiteriverncrd.org/contact-us>

# NRCD - Winooski

## Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD)



The **Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD)** serves **agriculture producers** in Chittenden County, Washington County, and three towns in Orange County (Orange, Washington, and Williamstown). The WNRCD provides support to producers through many different avenues including NMP development, soil testing, grant writing, farm team development, and connections to other state and government resources and programs.

The Winooski District has two agriculture specialists that work with a variety of producers. **They have been helping primarily dairy and beef producers, but are hoping to expand their technical assistance services into other farming avenues as well.** They recently waived the fees for soil lab tests for all ag producers until June 2026 and hope to continue this program in the future to keep supporting producers.

**Having two certified conservation planners on the Winooski NRCD staff, we also work closely with USDA-NRCS.** Our agricultural conservation specialists work with private individuals to identify resource concerns and provide conservation solutions to current issues, helping preserve and maintain the integrity of Vermont's landscape. As a part of conservation planning, the Winooski District also leads the locally led conservation planning process for our district ensuring that local concerns are at the forefront of conservation planning efforts.

**They additionally provide technical assistance in state programming** including Vermont Pay for Performance, farm assistance program and trees for streams and other state grants. They are available for any grant writing support or questions. In addition, our two agricultural producers can help write Nutrient Management plans for your farm and get them approved.

The district also **conducts training and workshops for farmers** in our service area. In 2026, we plan to host more farmer forums, which will be open discussion groups for farmers to tell the district what services they benefit the most from.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers and producers throughout Chittenden and Washington Counties, and Orange, Washington, and Williamstown in Orange County, VT

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Physical Address: 617

Comstock Rd #1, Berlin, VT  
05602

**Mailing Address:** 94 Harvest  
Lane, Suite 203, Williston VT  
05495

#### Website:

<https://www.winooskinrcd.org/>

#### Contact Our Agricultural Conservation Specialists!

##### Kara Winslow

Phone: (802) 497-5515  
[kara@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:kara@winooskinrcd.org)

##### Heather Murphy

Phone: (802) 497-5515  
[heather@winooskinrcd.org](mailto:heather@winooskinrcd.org)

# NRCD – Windham County

Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD)



The function of the Windham County NRCD is to focus and coordinate available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the needs of Windham County land users. The Windham District works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in partnership with all Vermont Conservation Districts

## New Nutrient Management Plans

We assist farms in preparation for and during UVM Extension's Nutrient Management Planning Class. This class is free for farms and includes a goCrop account, soil and manure tests, a Land Treatment Plan, and a certified Nutrient Management Plan.

## Updating Existing NMPs

We can work with you on all stages of updating your Nutrient Management Plan annually from sampling, to entering records, to making nutrient recommendations, to completing an update.

## Grant Application & Reporting Assistance

We can assist in navigating grant opportunities, including writing, submitting, and reporting on applications for many private, local, state, and federal opportunities.

## Farm Teams

Farm Teams are designed for agricultural producers who work with multiple agricultural service providers (i.e. NRCS, UVM Extension, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, grazing specialists, business planners, seed/fertilizer consultants). The District will work with you to set up the type of meeting that will work best for you and your operation.

**The Trees for Streams** program can help landowners to install a forested buffer on their property along a stream or river. Grant funding can cover the cost of trees, installation and some maintenance.

## Locally Led Conservation Planning and Funding Pools

WCNRCD has an annual survey for residents and land stewards to share their concerns and priorities for future conservation projects. The feedback collected will be taken into account to help shape future conservation funding decisions to prioritize local needs. In FY2026, The Windham County NRCD has 3 local funding pools to support on farm projects in Forest Management Plans, Forest Health, and Small Agriculture.

## PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



## WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, producers, and land stewards in Windham County VT

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Address:** 28 Vernon St, Ste 332, Brattleboro VT 05301

### Website:

<https://www.windhamcountynrcd.org/>

### For General District, Sales & Rental Inquiries:

[windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com](mailto:windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com)

**Phone Number:** (802) 689-3024

### Contact Cory Ross, District Manager:

[ross.wcnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:ross.wcnrcd@gmail.com)



# NRCD Office Directory

## Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)



<b>Bennington County NRCD</b> PO Box 505 Bennington, VT 05201 Michael Fernandez, District Manager (518) 480-1218 or <a href="mailto:michael@bccdvt.org">michael@bccdvt.org</a>	<b>Ottawaquechee NRCD</b> 28 Farmvu Drive, White River Junction VT 05001 Kelly Stettner, District Manager (802) 436-6241 or <a href="mailto:onrcd1@gmail.com">onrcd1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Caledonia County NRCD</b> 481 Summer St Ste 202 St. Johnsbury VT 05851 Emily Finnegan, District Manager (802) 424-3149 or <a href="mailto:info@caledoniacountynrcd.org">info@caledoniacountynrcd.org</a>	<b>Otter Creek NRCD</b> 68 Catamount Park, Ste. B, Middlebury, VT 05753 Pamela Stefanek, District Manager (802) 338-6748 x3037 or <a href="mailto:pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net">pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net</a>
<b>Essex County NRCD</b> PO Box 566 Waitsfield, VT 05673 Sam Mayne, District Manager (802) 424-5353 or <a href="mailto:essexnrcd@gmail.com">essexnrcd@gmail.com</a>	<b>Poultney Mettowee NRCD</b> PO Box 209, Poultney, VT 05764 Hilary Solomon, District Manager (802) 558-3515 or <a href="mailto:hilary@pmnrcd.org">hilary@pmnrcd.org</a>
<b>Franklin County NRCD</b> 431 Franklin Park West, Suite 100a Saint Albans, VT 05478 Lauren Weston, District Manager (802) 582-3133 or <a href="mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org">info@franklincountynrcd.org</a>	<b>Rutland NRCD</b> 170 S Main Street, Suite 4 Rutland, VT 05701 Katie Stiles, District Manager (802) 779-6212 or <a href="mailto:katie@rnrcd.org">katie@rnrcd.org</a>
<b>Grand Isle County NRCD</b> PO Box 212 North Hero, VT 05474 Molly Varner, District Manager (802) 372-9400 or <a href="mailto:info@grandislenrcd.org">info@grandislenrcd.org</a>	<b>White River NRCD</b> 28 Farmvu Drive, White River Junction VT 05001 Jennifer Byrne, District Manager (802) 369-3167 or <a href="mailto:whiterivernrcd@gmail.com">whiterivernrcd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Lamoille County NRCD</b> 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661-9302	<b>Windham County NRCD</b> 28 Vernon Street, Suite 332 Brattleboro, VT 05301 Cory Ross, District Manager (802) 689-3024 or <a href="mailto:windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com">windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Orleans County NRCD</b> 59 Waterfront Plaza Suite 11, Newport VT 05855 Sarah Damsell, District Manager (802) 334-6090 x7008 or <a href="mailto:sarah.damsell@orleanscountynrcd.org">sarah.damsell@orleanscountynrcd.org</a>	<b>Winooski NRCD</b> 94 Harvest Lane, Suite 203, Williston VT 05495 Daniel Koenemann, District Manager (802) 828 4493 ext. 3178 or <a href="mailto:info@winooskinrcd.org">info@winooskinrcd.org</a>



# Federal Programs

## **Organizations Featured:**

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Rural Development

# Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

The **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers and landowners to convert highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, trees, and riparian buffers.

### Annual Rental Payments/Cost Sharing/Incentive Payments:

- Participants receive annual rental payments for a 10 or 15 year period based on soil productivity and the average cash rental rates in the county
- Cost-share assistance of 50% of the cost of establishing approved conservation practices
- Sign-up Incentive Payment based on enrolled acreage and rental rate. Practice Incentive Payment of 50% of the cost of establishing approved conservation practices
- NOTE: Incentive payments differ from the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) that is run in partnership with Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (refer to the Table of Contents)

### Enrollment Options:

- General CRP: Annual signups where offers are ranked and selected based on environmental benefits
- Continuous CRP: Allows enrollment of eligible land without competitive ranking. This includes high-priority practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, and grass waterways
- Grassland CRP: Focuses on preserving grasslands and promoting sustainable grazing practices

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Cost Share,  
Stewardship/  
Conservation Payments



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Agricultural producers and landowners with environmentally sensitive land that meets specific criteria related to cropping history and environmental characteristics are eligible.

#### KEY DATES

Signup dates for General CRP, Continuous CRP, and Grassland CRP are to be determined.



#### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

# Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



The **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disasters and implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

### Cost Share Payments:

- Up to 75% of the approved payment scenario cost to implement approved restoration practices
- Up to 90% of the approved payment scenario cost to implement approved restoration practices for producers who certify as limited resource, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmers/ranchers
- Limited to \$500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster
- Advance payment of up to 25% of expected cost-share available

### Practices:

- Removing debris from farmland: cleanup of wind- or water-deposited debris, such as woody material, sand, rock, and trash on cropland or pastureland
- Grading, shaping or leveling land: filling gullies, re-leveling irrigated farmland, and incorporating sand and silt
- Restoring fences: livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates, or wildlife exclusion fence on agricultural land
- Restoring conservation structures: waterways, terraces, diversion ditches, and permanently installed ditching system
- Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought to livestock or existing irrigation systems for orchards or vineyards

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Cost Share, Technical Assistance, Disaster Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible applicants include farmers and ranchers who have suffered damage to their farmland due to natural disasters. The damage must significantly impair the land's agricultural productivity or pose a threat to land or water resources. Producers should apply as soon as possible after the disaster occurs to ensure timely assistance.

### KEY DATES

Applications are accepted following a natural disaster event.



### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

# Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



The **Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program**, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary risk management tool for dairy producers. It offers financial assistance when the margin between the all-milk price and average feed cost falls below a coverage level chosen by the producer. By participating in DMC, dairy farmers can protect themselves against declines in milk prices and increases in feed costs, thereby ensuring more predictable and stable income. The program includes both catastrophic coverage and additional, higher levels of coverage for an annual premium.

### An eligible dairy operation must:

- Have a production history determined by the USDA FSA
- Be registered to participate during a signup announced by FSA
- Pay a \$100 administrative fee annually for each year of participation, except if the dairy operation qualifies for a waiver for limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmers and ranchers
- Select a coverage level ranging from \$4.00 to \$9.50 per hundredweight in \$0.50 increments
- Select a coverage percentage of the dairy operation's production history ranging from 5% to 95%, in 5% increments

If a dairy is operated by more than one producer, it will be registered as a single operation. If producers operate two or more dairies, each operation will be registered separately.

Eligible program participants in DMC are also eligible to participate in the Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy Producers Program and the Dairy Revenue Protection Program administered by the Risk Management Agency.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Cost-Share, Insurance,  
Risk Management



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All dairy operations in the United States are eligible for the DMC program. An operation can be run either by a single producer or multiple producers who commercially produce and market cows' milk.

### KEY DATES

Enrollment and application deadlines are to be determined.



### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

# Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) & Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm Service Agency

**The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs**, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), offer financial assistance to agricultural producers. The ARC program provides payments when the actual revenue for a farm is less than a guarantee set based on historical data and market conditions. The PLC program provides payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price. These programs aim to protect farmers from significant income losses due to fluctuations in crop prices or revenue shortfalls.

### Covered Commodities:

- 22 covered commodities including wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, long grain rice, medium/short grain rice, temperate japonica rice, seed cotton, dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas soybeans, peanuts, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, crambe, and sesame seed
- Program-specific reference prices and revenue guarantees

### Payment Triggers:

- ARC payments are triggered when actual revenue falls below the guaranteed level
- PLC payments are triggered when market year average prices fall below the effective reference price

### Benefits:

- Provides financial support during periods of low prices or revenue shortfalls
- Helps stabilize income for farmers and ranchers
- Offers a safety net against market volatility
- Financial stability: offers a safety net to manage market price and revenue risks
- Income support: helps maintain farm income stability during economic downturns
- Flexibility: Producers can choose between ARC and PLC based on their individual needs and commodity markets

### PROGRAM TYPE

Cost share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible participants include agricultural producers who have an interest in a commodity grown on a farm with base acres

### KEY DATES

Enrollment is expected to be available between January 2026 and April 2026



### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

# Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Program

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



The **Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC)** program provides financial assistance for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification. This program helps offset costs to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements.

To be eligible for FSCSC, an applicant must have obtained or renewed a 2025 food safety certification that was issued between June 2025 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, or a 2026 food safety certification issued during the 2026 calendar year and have paid eligible expenses.

### Eligible Expenses and Payment Amounts

Category of Eligible Expenses	Payment Amount
Developing a food safety plan for first-time certification	75% (no maximum)
Maintaining or updating a food safety plan	75%, up to \$675
Food safety certification	75%, up to \$2,000
Certification upload fees	75%, up to \$375
Microbiological testing - products	75%, up to 5 tests
Microbiological testing – soil amendments	75%, up to 5 tests
Microbiological testing - water	75%, up to 5 tests
Training	100%, up to \$500

### PROGRAM TYPE

Cost share,  
Certification,  
Workforce training



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The applicant must be a specialty crop operation and meet the definition of a small or medium sized business.

### KEY DATES

Applications for calendar year 2025 are open from January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026



### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/food-safety>

# Disaster Programs

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers several disaster programs approved and funded by congress or within the Farm Bill that will aid agricultural producers who have suffered losses due to qualifying natural disaster events or weather-related causes. For 2026 several new programs have been activated in response to the 2023 and 2024 flooding or potentially the 2025 drought.

**Covered Commodities:** coverage varies by program. Program specific reference prices and revenue guarantee also vary by program.

**Payment Triggers:** based on financial or production losses, and vary depending on the program.

**Benefits:** 1. Provides a portion of financial support after a disaster or weather-related loss has occurred. 2. Income Support: Helps maintain farm income stability after disaster events.

**ELAP:** The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program provides financial assistance to eligible producers for livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish losses – such as death, feed, grazing, and associated transportation costs – due to disease and certain adverse weather events or loss conditions. This program addresses losses not covered by other USDA disaster assistance programs. This program would provide assistance with transporting water to livestock, hauling feed to livestock, or transporting livestock.

**EFRP:** The Emergency Forest Restoration Program offers financial payments to eligible private forest landowners who restore forests damaged by natural disasters or insect and disease infestation. This program would require tree mortality to be observed and therefore would likely not be implemented until a year or more following the actual drought. NOTE: This program would not be of use to maple sugar producers who experience a reduced yield. Reduced yield would be covered by the NAP program. This is a Cost Share Program.

**TAP:** The Tree Assistance Program helps orchardists and nursery tree growers replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters and eligible plant disease. Plant mortality may not be evident until after the drought is resolved but producers would still be eligible for these benefits. Must apply within 90 days of the disaster.

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Cost Share, Disaster Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible participants include agricultural producers who have experienced losses due to a weather-related disaster event.

### KEY DATES

Enrollment deadlines vary by



program. Applications are accepted following a natural disaster event for some programs. Producers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after the program opens for enrollment.

### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>



# Disaster Programs Continued

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



**LFP:** The Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover, or land planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for a county. Eligible counties must experience D2 conditions for 8 consecutive weeks or D3 at any singular time. Entire county is eligible if any part of the county is classified as described. *Application deadline for 2025 losses is March 1, 2026.*

**LIP:** The Livestock Indemnity Program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government. It also provides assistance to eligible livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition. *Application deadline for 2025 losses is March 1, 2026.*

**MLP:** Milk Loss Program provides payments to eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market because of a qualifying weather-related event in 2023 and/or 2024. *Sign up ends January 23, 2026.*

**OFSCLP:** On-Farm Stored Commodity Loss Program provided assistance to producers who suffered losses of eligible harvested commodities while stored in on-farm structures in 2023 and/or 2024 due to a qualifying natural disaster event. *Sign up ends January 23, 2026.*

**SDRP:** Supplemental Disaster Relief Program provides assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses of revenue, quality or production of crops due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024. There are two stages, one for covered losses (producers with NAP coverage or crop insurance) and one for uncovered losses. Participation requires subsequent risk management.

*Deadline for Stage 1 and 2 applications is April 30, 2026.*

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Cost Share, Disaster  
Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible participants include agricultural producers who have experienced losses due to a weather-related disaster event.

### KEY DATES

Enrollment deadlines vary by program. Applications are accepted following a natural disaster event for some programs. Producers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after the program opens for enrollment.



### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, contact your local FSA office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

# Farm Loan Programs

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)



The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other conventional lender. **FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.**

FSA offers loans to help farmers and ranchers get the financing they need to start, expand, reorganize, or maintain a family farm.

- Many FSA loans are available as either Guaranteed Loans or Direct Loans
- Direct Loans are made by FSA, working directly with the farmer.
- Guaranteed Loans are made by a USDA-approved lender with the FSA guaranteeing a percentage of any loss
- Farm loan rates, terms, and maximum amounts vary based on loan type

**Farm Operating Loans** can be used to purchase livestock, seed, and equipment. It can also cover farm operating costs and family living expenses while a farm gets up and running.

**Farm Ownership Loans** may be used to purchase or expand a farm or ranch. These loans can help with paying closing costs, constructing or improving buildings on the farm, or help conserve and protect soil and water resources.

**Microloans** are a type of Operating or Farm Ownership Loan. They're designed to meet the needs of small and beginning farmers, or for non-traditional and specialty operations by easing some of the requirements and offering less paperwork.

**Youth Loans** are a type of Operating Loan for young people between 10-20 years old who need assistance with an educational agricultural project. Typically, these youth are participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or a similar organization.

**Emergency Loans** help farmers and ranchers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or losses.

**Beginning Farmer Loans** are set aside as a portion of FSA loan funds for family farmers who are just getting started on their journey in farming.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Loan



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A farmer that can be an individual, or several operating as informal or formal entities, the majority of which is owned by farmers, provided the applicant is: A US Citizen who is engaged in agricultural production and has adequate experience, management ability, and has not caused a loss to the government in the past.

### KEY DATES

Apply year-round



### HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are advised to discuss their proposed project with FSA lending staff prior to submitting the application. Contact your local FSA office to apply.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Find your local FSA service center at:

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>

## Field Office Directory

### Farm Service Agency (FSA)



Field Office	Address	Phone Number
Farm Service Agency State Office	356 Mountain View Drive Colchester, VT 05446	(802) 658-2803
Addison County Farm Service Agency	68 Catamount Park, Middlebury, VT 05753	(802) 388-6748
Caledonia County Farm Service Agency (Also serves Essex County)	481 Summer St., St Johnsbury, VT 05819	(802) 748-2641
Chittenden County Farm Service Agency (Also serves Washington County)	94 Harvest Ln., Williston, VT 05495	(802) 288-8155
Franklin County Farm Service Agency (Also serves Grand Isle County)	50 S. Main St., St. Albans, VT 05478	(802) 527-1296 ext. 110
Lamoille County Farm Service Agency	109 Professional Dr. Ste 2, Morrisville, VT 05661	(802) 888-4935
Orleans County Farm Service Agency	59 Waterfront Plaza Ste 11, Newport, VT 05855	(802) 334-6090
Rutland County Farm Service Agency (Also serves Bennington County)	170 S. Main St. Ste 4, Rutland, VT 05701	(802) 775-8034
Windham County Farm Service Agency	28 Vernon St., Brattleboro, VT 05301	(802) 254-9755
Windsor County Farm Service Agency (Also serves Orange County)	28 Farmvu Dr., White River Junction, VT 05001	(802) 295-7942

Find additional contact information for your county at the FSA service center locator:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt&agency=fsa>

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.

**How It Works:** NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving their agricultural operations. EQIP helps producers make conservation work for them. Financial assistance for practices may be available through EQIP. Some producers may also qualify for advance payment.

### Vermont Initiatives and Associated Conservation Practices

#### Vermont Organic Farming includes practices such as:

- Improving irrigation efficiency
- Establishing buffer zones
- Creating pollinator habitat
- Improving soil health and controlling erosion
- Nutrient and pest management
- Managing cover crops
- Enhancing cropping rotations
- Developing a grazing plan and supportive livestock practices
- Installing a high tunnel system
- Developing a Conservation Activity Plan for Transition that can be part of the OSP

#### Community Scale Agriculture: High Tunnel Initiative and Supporting Practices

A number of soil health practices can be used in high tunnels, including cover crops and crop rotations, which also prevent erosion, suppress weeds, increase soil water content, and break pest cycles.

**Supporting conservation practices may include:** critical area planting, diversion grassed waterway, mulching, irrigation system, micro-irrigation, subsurface drain, surface drainage, field ditch, underground outlet.

**Technical Assistance:** NRCS offers technical assistance at no cost.

Producers can use our personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research, to make informed decisions about their land.

**Technical Service Providers (TSPs)** can help producers plan, design and implement conservation practices or develop conservation activity plans to improve their agricultural operations.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Cost Share,  
Technical Assistance



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any landowner or producer in Vermont.

#### KEY DATES

The Fiscal Year 2026

General EQIP signup date is  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



#### HOW TO APPLY

Contact your local NRCS  
service center to learn more.  
A conservation planner will  
assist with an application.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/environmental-quality-incentives-program/vermont/vermont-environmental-quality>

##### Find your local NRCS

##### Service Center at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>

# Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a competitive program that **supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands**. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address our nation's water quality, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations.

### CIG Classic

National competition for projects that support the early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

### CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials)

National competition for projects that support more widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. On-Farm Trials Awardees provide technical assistance and incentive payments to producers to help compensate for risks associated with implementation of new conservation practices, systems and approaches. Awardees also evaluate the environmental, financial and social (to the extent possible) impacts of implementing innovative approaches. The Soil Health Demo Trial is a priority within the On-Farm Trials competition which focuses exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health.

### State CIG Classic

State-level competitions for projects that support early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. While the overall goal and approach match those of CIG Classic, CIG state competitions fund projects that target state-identified conservation priorities. Each year, NRCS state offices may elect to administer their own CIG competitions. State CIG competitions are announced separately from national competitions.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant, Technical

Assistance



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

CIG applications are accepted from state or local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area.

#### KEY DATES

Application deadline

TBA



#### HOW TO APPLY

For additional information on how to apply, contact Luis Aponte, or reach out to your local NRCS service center.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Luis Aponte

[luis.aponte@usda.gov](mailto:luis.aponte@usda.gov)

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/pr ograms-initiatives/conservation-innovation-grants>

## Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program provides **financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues** such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farm operations. NRCS administers the AMA conservation provisions, while the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Risk Management Agency implement other provisions under AMA.

**How It Works:** NRCS works with producers to develop an AMA plan of operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming. Contracts are for a minimum of one year after completion of the last practice, but not more than 10 years. Participants are expected to maintain cost-shared practices for the life of the practice

**Grant Award:** Up to 75% cost-share, with a funding cap at \$50,000

#### Producer Eligibility

- Be engaged in livestock or agricultural production
- Have an interest in the farming operation associated with the land being offered for AMA enrollment
- Have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract
- Be in compliance with the provisions for protecting the interests of tenants and sharecroppers, including the provisions for sharing AMA payments on a fair and equitable basis.
- Be within appropriate payment limitation requirements

#### Land Eligibility

- Land on which agricultural commodities or livestock are produced, such as cropland, hayland, pastureland, rangeland, and grassland.
- Land used for subsistence purposes, private non-industrial forestland, or other land on which agricultural products, livestock, or forest-related goods are produced.
- Land on which risk may be mitigated through operation diversification or change in resource conservation practices.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Cost-share



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Producers throughout select states, including Vermont. Additional eligibility requirements apply; view the tables to the left to learn more.

#### KEY DATES

Applications are accepted year-round



#### HOW TO APPLY

Applications may be obtained and filed at any time with your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator> or a conservation district office.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

##### Program Webpage:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/agricultural-management-assistance>



# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



**The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation.**

Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you identify natural resource problems in your operation and provide technical and financial assistance to solve those problems or attain higher stewardship levels in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner.

**If you decide to apply for CSP**, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with you to **evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land**. You will then work with the NRCS conservation planner to select new CSP conservation activities based on your management objectives for your operation.

Once you choose the conservation practices or activities that best fit, and if your application is selected for funding, CSP offers annual payments for implementing these practices on your land, and operating and maintaining existing conservation efforts.

### CSP Contracts

The program represents a genuine commitment to conservation – CSP contracts are for five years, with the opportunity to compete for a contract renewal if you successfully fulfill the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives. An NRCS conservation planner will work closely with you, throughout the entire contract process.

**Contract payments are based on two components:**

**Payments to maintain the existing level of conservation**, based on the land uses included in the contract and an NRCS assessment of existing stewardship at the time of enrollment, and **payments to implement additional conservation activities**.

Most participants will be eligible for a \$4000 minimum payment during any year that their total annual contract payment falls below the minimum payment amount.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant/cost-share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian Tribes that own or rent and currently manage land for agricultural or forest production.

### KEY DATES

Apply year-round



### HOW TO APPLY

Applications may be obtained and filed at any time with your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [www.farmers.gov/serviceLocator](http://www.farmers.gov/serviceLocator) or a conservation district office.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT Program Webpage:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/conservation-stewardship-program>



# Vermont Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, working farms, and ranches through conservation easements. **Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component**, NRCS helps private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements that prevent the conversion of productive working landscapes to non-agricultural uses.

**Cost-Share Information:** NRCS provides up to 50% of the appraised conservation easement value for a permanent easement. The remaining purchase of the easement comes from the participating eligible entity, a landowner donation, or a combination of the two.

**Applications must be submitted through an eligible entity, such as a land trust, and are not submitted directly to NRCS.** Land eligible for agricultural easements includes private or Tribal land that is agricultural land, cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forest land. Eligible land types must also meet one of the four following land eligibility criteria:

1. Parcels enrolled to protect Prime, Unique, or Other productive soil.
2. Parcels enrolled to provide protection of grazing uses and related conservation values.
3. Parcels containing historical or archeological resources.
4. Land that furthers a state or local policy consistent with the purposes of ACEP-ALE.

**View the ACEP-ALE Program Webpage at:**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/agricultural-conservation-easement-program/vermont/vermont-agricultural>

**View the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Farmland Conservation Webpage at:**

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/land-use-renewable-energy/farmland-conservation>

### PROGRAM TYPE

Cost-share, Technical Assistance, Stewardship or Conservation Payments.



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes private or Tribal land that is agricultural land, cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forest land. Additional eligibility applies.

### KEY DATES

Apply year-round



### HOW TO APPLY

Contact the NRCS State office or an eligible ALE entity to apply.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Julia Grey,**

Realty Specialist

Email: [Julia.Grey@usda.gov](mailto:Julia.Grey@usda.gov)

Phone: (802) 451-3234

# Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements. **Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands which have been previously degraded.** NRCS enters a purchase agreement with eligible private landowners and Indian tribes that include the right for NRCS to develop and implement a Wetland Reserve Plan of Operations. WREs provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improving water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, and provide opportunities for educational scientific, and limited recreation activities.

### Eligible Landowners Include

- Owners of privately held land including land that is held by American Indian tribes.
- All landowners who meet the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations, including all members of landowner-legal entities, and those compliant with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

### Eligible Land Includes

- Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes privately held farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based on the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

### How Does It Work?

To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners or Indian tribes that include the right for NRCS to develop and implement a Wetland Reserve Plan of Operations (WRPO). This plan will detail practices to help restore, protect and enhance the wetlands functions and values.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Stewardship or  
Conservation Payments,



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Private landowners.  
Additional eligibility applies.  
View information to the left  
to learn more.

### KEY DATES

Apply year-round



### HOW TO APPLY

To get started, contact the Vermont state Wetlands Specialist or your local NRCS office. An NRCS conservationist will visit you and evaluate your land to help you determine eligibility.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Jim Eikenberry,**

Wetlands Specialist

[James.Eikenberry@usda.gov](mailto:James.Eikenberry@usda.gov)

Phone: (802) 449-7255

### Program Webpage:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/pr  
ograms-  
initiatives/agricultural-  
conservation-easement-  
program/vermont/vermont-  
agricultural](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/pr<br/>ograms-<br/>initiatives/agricultural-<br/>conservation-easement-<br/>program/vermont/vermont-<br/>agricultural)

# Field Office Directory

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office

356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105 Colchester, Vermont 05446	Phone: (802) 951-6796 Fax: (855) 794-3677
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### Central Zone

Field Office	Address	Phone Number
Middlebury NRCS Field Office	68 Catamount Park, Ste. B Middlebury, VT 05753	(802) 388-6748
Williston NRCS Field Office	94 Harvest Lane, Suite 203 Williston, VT 05495- 8997	(802) 288-8155
Berlin Field Office	617 Comstock Rd., Ste. 1 Berlin, VT 05602	(802) 828-4493

### Northwest Zone

Field Office	Address	Phone Number
St. Albans NRCS Field Office	50 South Main St, Ste B-20 St. Albans, VT 05478	(802) 527-1296
Morrisville NRCS Field Office	109 Professional Dr., Ste. 2 Morrisville, VT 05661	(802) 888-4935

### Northeast Zone

Field Office	Address	Phone Number
Newport NRCS Field Office	59 Waterfront Plaza, Ste. 12 Newport, VT 05855	(802) 334-6090
St. Johnsbury NRCS Field Office	481 Summer St., Ste. 202 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819	(802) 748-2641

### South Zone

Field Office	Address	Phone Number
Rutland NRCS Field Office	170 S. Main St., Ste. 4 Rutland, VT 05701	(802) 775-8034
White River Junction NRCS Field Office	28 Farmvu Dr., White River Jct., VT 05001	(802) 295-7942
Brattleboro NRCS Field Office	28 Vernon St., Ste. 332 Brattleboro, VT 05301	(802) 689-3037

Find additional contact information for your county at the USDA service center locator:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)



The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides free technical and financial assistance to landowners, managers, tribes, corporations, schools, and nonprofits interested in **improving wildlife habitat on their land**. Since 1987, they have helped more than 60,000 landowners restore more than 7 million acres of forest, prairie, wetland, and stream habitat for wildlife.

Through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service can assist landowners interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land.

### Services Offered Include:

- Assistance to plan, implement, and monitor projects
- Identifying project partners
- Identifying funding resources
- Providing permitting guidance

### Process

A biologist will consult with landowners to help them conserve and improve wildlife habitat at no cost through planning, design, and supervision of restoration projects. Services also include identification of other funding sources and offering permitting guidance. Landowners continue to own and manage their land while they improve conditions for wildlife. Many Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects take place on working landscapes such as forests, farms, and ranches. USFWS focuses on upland forests, wetlands, native prairies, marshes, rivers, and streams. Migratory birds, as well as endangered, threatened, and at-risk species, are considered.

### Example Projects

- Livestock exclusion fencing
- Improved aquatic connectivity
- In-stream aquatic habitat
- Streambank stabilization
- Invasive species control
- Native tree and shrub planning
- Wetland restoration/enhancement
- Riparian reforestation

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Technical Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All private landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat on their land are eligible to participate.

### KEY DATES

Contact USFWS at any time.



### HOW TO APPLY

A phone call or email is all it takes to get started. Contact your state coordinator to schedule an initial site visit and learn how Partners for Fish and Wildlife can help you.

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Program webpage:

<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

**Contact Chris Smith,**  
Supervisory Fish & Wildlife  
Biologist of Vermont

#### Email:

[Chris\\_E\\_Smith@fws.gov](mailto:Chris_E_Smith@fws.gov)

**Phone:** (802) 622-5303

# Value-Added Producer Grants

## Rural Development

Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPGs) help agricultural producers generate new products, create or expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps U.S. agricultural producers enter into value-added activities that:

- Generate new products from raw agricultural commodities
- Create and expand marketing opportunities
- Increase producer income through enhanced product value and market reach

### These grants support either:

- Planning activities (e.g., feasibility studies, business and marketing plans)
- Working capital needs (e.g., processing, packaging, advertising, inventory, and salaries)

### Grant Awards:

- Planning Grants: Up to \$50,000
- Working Capital Grants: Up to \$200,000
- A one-to-one match is required, which may include cash or eligible in-kind contributions

Applicants may receive priority consideration if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Beginning farmer or rancher
- Veteran farmer or rancher
- Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher
- Small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm
- Farmer or rancher cooperative
- Proposing a Mid-Tier Value Chain project

Additionally, 10% of total funds are reserved for:

- Beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers/ranchers
- Mid-tier value chain proposals
- Food safety projects where the majority of funds improve market access

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost-Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Agricultural producers and associated groups, Farmer or rancher cooperatives, and Majority-controlled producer-based business ventures

### KEY DATES



The application is open from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to 1pm EST April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### HOW TO APPLY

To learn more on how to apply, visit

[www.tinyurl.com/VAPG-apply](http://www.tinyurl.com/VAPG-apply)

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

Contact Ken Yearman,  
Business Programs Director

Phone: (802) 828-6083

Email:

[BP.VTNH.Inquiry@usda.gov](mailto:BP.VTNH.Inquiry@usda.gov)

Serving VT and NH

# Nationwide Programs

## **Organizations Featured:**

AgrAbility

Fund Animals Concerns Trust (FACT)

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

The Fruit Guys

The vision of AgrAbility is to enhance quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities, so that they, their families, and their communities continue to succeed in rural America. For this target audience, “success” may be defined by many parameters, including: gainful employment in production agriculture or a related occupation; access to appropriate assistive technology needed for work and daily living activities; evidence-based information related to the treatment and rehabilitation of disabling conditions; and targeted support for family caregivers of AgrAbility customers.

### The Toolbox

The Toolbox: Agricultural Tools, Equipment, Machinery & Buildings for Farmers and Ranchers with Physical Disabilities is a resource that contains assistive technology solutions for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities. You can View by Category or Search the Toolbox to find products, designs, ideas, techniques, and suggestions. In addition to the database, there are several technical reports, providing techniques and suggestions focused on a specific topic on farming/ranching with a disability.

### Resources

The National AgrAbility Project provides informational resources on a wide range of topics of interest to agricultural workers with disabilities. Many of these resources are available to be viewed online or for download. Some resources may only be available in print format and may be obtained by contacting us.

### Events and Webinars

The National AgrAbility Project provides free online training as a service to farmers and ranchers with disabilities, the professionals who work with them, other nonprofit service providers, and anyone else who may be interested. Some web based seminars (webinars) are broadcast live and then archived, while others are prerecorded and posted on this site. In-person event schedules can also be found on the AgrAbility website.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Programs  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers, ranchers, and other  
agricultural workers with  
disabilities.

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Program Webpage:**

<https://www.agrability.org/>



# Fund-A-Farmer Welfare Improvement Grant

## Food Animals Concerns Trust (FACT)



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) believes that all food-producing animals should be raised in a humane and healthy manner and that everyone should have access to safe and **humanely produced food**.

Many past grant projects have focused on **fencing, watering systems, or mobile animal shelters**. Farmers have also completed a variety of unique projects involving constructing **cattle scratching stations**, planting trees to improve access to shade, and purchasing equipment for **fly control**.

### This year we will specifically fund:

- Grants for farmers seeking to become Certified Animal Welfare Approved (AWA), Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership (GAP) Animal Welfare Certified (steps 4 to 5+). These grants will be made for on-farm projects that help improve animal welfare.
- Grants for welfare-certified farmers: These grants are for projects that would help farms that already hold one of the certifications above to build capacity or maintain certification. These grants can be for production-related projects, or for projects related to the marketing, sales, and distribution of certified products.
- Grants for farmers to improve or expand pasture for their animals: FACT will fund projects that would help farms transition to pasture-based systems, expand animals' access to well-managed pasture, and improve the quality of pasture for animals.

**Eligible expense categories** generally include materials, supplies, equipment, shipping costs, professional fees, travel, training, and hired labor costs.

**Ineligible expenses include:** operational expenses such as animals, feed, and land; and projects related to the slaughter of animals.

**Grant Award:** Up to \$3,500

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

On-farm projects must impact beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep, and/or turkeys.

Funds will not be awarded to non-profit organizations.

### KEY DATES

Applications are open from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://foodanimalconcerns.trust.grantplatform.com/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Samantha Gasson**, Humane Farming Program Manager  
[samantha@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:samantha@foodanimalconcerns.org) or  
[grants@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:grants@foodanimalconcerns.org)

### Program Webpage:

<https://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants>

## Fund-a-Farmer Systems Change and Innovation Grant

### Food Animals Concerns Trust (FACT)



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) believes that all food-producing animals should be raised in a humane and healthy manner and that everyone should have access to safe and **humanely produced food**. Many past grant projects have focused on **fencing, watering systems, or mobile animal shelters**. Farmers have also completed a variety of unique projects involving constructing **cattle scratching stations**, planting trees to improve access to shade, and purchasing equipment for **fly control**.

Farms looking to:

- Develop business plans/feasibility studies for significant changes to an operation including conversion to pasture or adoption of alternative breeds.
- For example: A feasibility study to see if a farm can move from an enclosed operation to a pasture-based one.
- Install the infrastructure necessary to convert from a non-pasture to a pasture-based operation.
- For example: Hogs raised in open hoop houses, closed barns or with little or no access to pasture being moved to a pasture-based system.
- Adoption of alternative breeds including sourcing genetics, housing accommodations, feed changes, marketing.
- For example: Farms who would like to switch from conventional breeds of poultry to higher welfare slower growing or heritage breeds.
- Develop co-operative or other forms of shared marketing among pasture-based farms including the development of cooperative agreements and necessary documents.
- For farms interested in developing a cooperative market for pasture-based products.

**FACT encourages projects from pasture-based farms** interested in the adoption of alternative breeds or developing co-operatives with other pasture-based farmers and confinement operations looking to convert to pasture-based systems.

**Grant Award:** \$10,000

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

On-farm projects must impact beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep, and/or turkeys.

Funds will not be awarded to non-profit organizations; funds may not go towards operational expenses.

#### KEY DATES

Applications are open from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026



#### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://foodanimalconcernstrust.grantplatform.com/>

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Samantha Gasson**, Humane Farming Program Manager  
[samantha@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:samantha@foodanimalconcerns.org) or  
[grants@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:grants@foodanimalconcerns.org)

#### Program Webpage:

<https://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants>

# Microgrants for Research & Education

## Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)



OCIA  
INTERNATIONAL

OCIA Research and Education (R&E), Inc. was incorporated in 2002 and is a 501(c)(3) organization with the mission to **support farmer driven research**, on farms at research institutions through exploration and demonstration projects. In addition to supporting farm research and education, OCIA facilitates connections between farmers, researchers, consumers and decision-makers, and educates organic producers and local and global communities regarding organic farming and foods.

### Eligible Projects

- Educational resources related to organic agriculture for school-aged children
- Research pertaining to organic agriculture

### Examples include:

- Developing internship programs within class and in the field learning opportunities
- Establishing demonstration gardens
- Trials of certified organic buckwheat varieties
- Tomato grafting trials
- Trials comparing various beehives, assessing production, pest and disease control, and ease of use

### Does not include:

- Equipment
- Infrastructure
- Labor costs
- Community gardens

**Typical grant awards** range from \$500-\$3,000

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farms and research institutions across the U.S.

### KEY DATES

2 deadlines per year:

March 15th and November 15th



### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage to learn more about How to apply

<https://ocia.org/research-education/micro-grants/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

#### Organic Crop Improvement Association International

Email: [info@ocia.org](mailto:info@ocia.org)

Phone: (402) 477-2323

#### Program Webpage:

<https://ocia.org/research-education/micro-grants/>

# Farmer Led Trials

## Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)



OFRF believes in supporting organic farmers and ranchers in their constant search for innovation and farm profitability. **The Farmer-Led Trials (FLT) program puts farmers in the driver's seat and recognizes their wisdom, experimentation, and problem-solving skills.** Built in the spirit of curiosity and collaboration, this program supports farmers and ranchers in conducting impactful research that can address their unique challenges.

### Eligibility

- Eligible participants include any farmer or rancher in the U.S. or its territories who are relatively new to conducting on-farm research and are seeking to build confidence in their research skills.
- Eligible farms produce food or fiber for sale. The program is not designed for farms that are a part of research institutions.
- Farms must be certified organic or in transition to organic.
- Participants must have management abilities, lease, or ownership of the farm where trials are to occur.

### How Does It Work?

Throughout the on-farm trial process, OFRF will provide technical assistance to help farmer-researchers refine their research questions, design their experiments, identify data collection protocols, analyze data, and present their findings.

### Topic Areas

Priority topics for trial proposals include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- Weed suppression
- Maintaining or improving yields
- Soil health
- Cover crops
- Insect pest suppression
- Disease suppression
- Organic crop variety and seed trials
- Organic livestock breeds and management

**PROGRAM TYPE**  
Grant or Cost Share,  
Technical Assistance



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible participants include any farmer or rancher in the U.S. Additional eligibility applies; view program details to learn more.

### KEY DATES

Applications for the 2026 cohort are open from October 15 to December 3, 2025.



### HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWQJ2Qzbt8-eomDF-Zn-FEGR0DZPaEq2QASSfDEMVev8M5gA/viewform>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

If you have questions about your eligibility or application, please contact OFRF's Research & Education Program Manager

**Mary Hathaway**

[Mary@ofrf.org](mailto:Mary@ofrf.org)

**Program Webpage:**

<https://ofrf.org/research/farmer-led-research-trials/>

# Transitioning to Organic Production

## Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)



Sustainable Agriculture  
Research and Education

This educational resource through Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) walks farmers through the key steps, challenges, and opportunities of **switching to certified organic farming**. Whether you're just starting to explore the idea or are already planning your transition, this resource offers clear, science-based advice on certification, soil health, and pest management, as well as building a resilient organic system.

### Sections Include:

#### Preface: Why Go Organic?

- a) Yield and Economics
- b) Resilience and Environmental Stewardship
- c) The Organic Mindset
- d) Getting Started

#### 1) The National Organic Program

#### 2) Making the Transition to Organic Cropping Systems

- a) Healthy Soils
- b) Crop Rotations
- c) Cover Crops, Compost, and Manure
- d) Conservation Tillage and No-Till
- e) Pest Management

#### 3) Transitioning Livestock, Field Crop and Horticulture Systems to Organic

- a) Livestock Systems
- b) Field Crops
- c) Horticultural Systems
- d) General Transition Strategies

#### 4) Business Planning

- a) Beyond Profits: Why Do You Want to Transition?
- b) Risk Management and Crop Insurance
- c) Transition Strategies: Business Planning and Risk Management

The final page includes organizations and resources for transitioning farmers.

#### PROGRAM TYPE

Educational Program  
& Resources,  
Resource Directory



#### WHO IS THIS FOR?

Farmers who are considering  
transitioning to organic  
production

#### INFORMATION & CONTACT Program Webpage:

<https://www.sare.org/wp-content/uploads/Transitioning-to-Organic-Production.pdf>

# Community Fund

## The FruitGuys



The FruitGuys Community Fund (TFGCF) helps **small farms to implement innovative and sustainable farm practices** that preserve and enhance the land and the landscape while respecting the farmer's autonomy and need to make a living.

Our grantee farmers and their farms are key participants in their local ecology, economies, and communities. We fund grant projects for both for profit small farms and nonprofit agricultural organizations, located in the United States, with under 250 acres, that have large positive impacts on the environment, local food webs, and farm diversity.

**Grant Award:** Up to \$5,000

### Sustainability Projects

- Applicants must provide detailed project description, budget, and timeline for completion by December.
- We prioritize projects that promote sustainable practices and community impact. Review our Farming Manifesto and past Alumni Projects for examples of winning proposals.

<https://fruitguyscommunityfund.org/mission/farming-manifesto/>

<https://fruitguyscommunityfund.org/alumni-grantees/>

### Eligibility

- Small U.S. farms 250 acres or less
- Applicant must be farm owner/operator or have long-term, legal land access (leased land requires landowner support letter with lease length)
- 501(c)(3) agricultural nonprofits in operation for minimum 3 years may apply; must submit 501(c)(3) documentation and board list.
- For profit farms must be active for at least 2 years.
- Applicants may re-apply for the same project or a different one if they have not been funded in earlier grant cycles.
- Only one application per farm per cycle is allowed.

### Ineligible For Funding

- Project budgets & items including; hydro/aquaponic systems, land purchases, labor, consultants, administrative costs, general marketing, one-time experiences, or any projects relying on outside grant funding for completion.

### PROGRAM TYPE

Grant



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farms in the U.S. with 250 acres or less.

### KEY DATES

Applications are open until Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



### HOW TO APPLY

View the program webpage to learn more and apply:

<https://fruitguyscommunityfund.org/apply/>

### INFORMATION & CONTACT

**The Fruit Guys**

**Community Fund**

[info@fruitguyscommunityfund.org](mailto:info@fruitguyscommunityfund.org)

**Program Webpage:**

<https://fruitguyscommunityfund.org/>

