

2024

Guide to Assistance



For Agricultural Producers of Vermont

A Comprehensive Guide to Assistance Opportunities
for Agricultural Producers of Vermont

View the interactive version of this Guide:
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, 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.

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; the Contacts list is at the end of this guide.

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

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

Last updated: December 2023



Introduction

How is this publication structured?

This guide first provides an overview of current service providers in the agricultural sector. The Table of Contents is organized by scope of service. For example, tillage implement rentals and programs that support purchasing of reduced tillage implements can be found in the “Construction, Equipment, and Engineering” section. Each page will provide an overview of the service, compatible practices or projects, contact information, funding details, and deadline information.

How often is this publication updated?

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. We have attempted to capture the available programs traditionally offered on an annual basis. If you are interested in a program but the deadline has passed, please continue to inquire and reach out for support, as you may be able to apply for the next year or funding cycle.

Although this guide is a robust resource, 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 this Guide in fall of 2024.

Natural Resources Conservation District

Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCs) 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, provide educational opportunities and assistance related to agricultural practices, water quality, invasive species, native species, tree planting, stormwater, lake shorelines, and dam removal projects. Check out the RAP Quiz: <https://www.vacd.org/rapquiz/>
- Coordinate assistance and funding from all available sources—public, private, local, state, 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 local non-profits, conservation commissions, and local groups.
- Coordinate tree plantings through outreach, funding, plan and volunteer procurement, installation, and maintenance.
- Many Conservation Districts 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.

Check with your local Conservation District to see what programs and opportunities they offer! See page 129 for contact information for your Conservation District.

Non-Profit and Educational Organizations

Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC): A trade association that works to facilitate the collection and recycling of one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural crop protection, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers.

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

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.

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.

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.

Non-Profit and Educational Organizations

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 Land Trust (VLT): VLT works to conserve land, support farmers in land purchase and business growth, improve natural resources, and uphold easements.

State Organizations

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMM): VAAFMM 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. VAAFMM 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 assure 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 Forest, 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 Economic Development Authority (VEDA): VEDA is Vermont's economic development finance authority, staffed by a seasoned group of Vermont professionals. With over 300 years in combined lending experience, the VEDA team is dedicated to meeting the financing needs of Vermont businesses and farms. Since 1974, VEDA has provided \$2.6 billion in low interest financing to Vermonters. Since inception, VEDA has helped businesses and farms create jobs for Vermonters and enhance Vermont's working landscape.

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB): The Vermont Legislature passed the Vermont Housing & Conservation Trust Act in 1987, establishing VHCB. VHCB assesses and provides guidelines for population growth, finances affordable housing projects and funds conservation and preservation of agriculture lands, forestland, historic properties, and natural areas.

Federal Organizations

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 consumer.

Farm Production & Conservation (FPAC): FPAC delivers programs and services to farmers and ranchers. FPAC consists of USDA agencies: Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Agency, and the FPAC Business Center.

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. FSA is an agency of the USDA.

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. NRCS is an agency of the USDA.

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.

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. RD is an agency of the USDA.

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.

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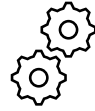
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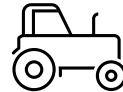
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Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance Equipment Rental Library

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>

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District

50 Main Street, Suite B-20, St. Albans, VT 05478; 802-528-4176

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, Manure Sample Shipping Service, Soil Sampling

Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District

PO Box 209, Poultney VT 05764; (802) 558-6470

Service Area: Southern Addison, Rutland, and Bennington Counties

Equipment: No-Till Drill (10ft), Aerator (8ft), Portable Truck Scales

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

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

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

Equipment: Aeration Tiller

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture & Food Markets' Conservation Equipment & Services Locator contains a growing list of conservation equipment and services available to rent, borrow, or hire found across the state. The locator can be found at [here:](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/equipment-rental)
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/equipment-rental>



There are additional NRCs that do not offer equipment rentals but may offer additional agricultural support and services. Navigate to the full directory on page 129.

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMM)

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMM) facilitates, supports, and encourages the growth and the viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers, and the environment. VAAFMM works with Vermont producers, land stewards, and communities across a wide array of landscapes, production models, and programs. Their programs and work encompass education, financial assistance, producer regulations and compliance, and food safety, among many other topics.

VAAFMM offers a wide array of financial assistance programs to producers, organizations, technical service providers, schools, and institutions. While some grant programs are funded consistently year-to-year, others may only be available during one fiscal year. For many new grant programs, VAAFMM may assess the need for the grant program as measured by applications submitted before pursuing and allocating funding for the grant in subsequent years. This guide may include some grants in their pilot year, as well as grants that may not be funded in the future.

To review the most up-to-date information on open grants, application schedules, and announcements on VAAFMM funding opportunities, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/grants.

VAAFMM Programs listed in this guide:

- Farmstead Best Management Practices Program
- Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)
- Community Supported Agriculture Grant
- Organic Certification Cost Share Program
- Farm to School & Early Childhood Capacity Building Grant
- Farm to School & Early Childhood Vision Grant
- Farm to Institution Market Development Grant
- Maple Agriculture Development Grant
- Meat & Produce Agriculture Development Grant
- Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant
- Vermont Organic Dairy Relief Program
- Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program
- Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program
- Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP)
- Grassed Waterway & Filter Strip (GWFS) Program
- Pasture & Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program
- Vermont Pay for Performance
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI)
- Trade Show Assistance Grant

View VAAFMM program calendar:

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

Subscribe to receive news from VAAFMM:

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news>

Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program & Agricultural Engineering Services

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMT)

The Agricultural Engineering Section assists farmers with on-farm improvements designed to abate non-point source agricultural waste discharges into the waters of the State of Vermont. It is our mission to assist Vermont farmers to achieve and maintain regulatory compliance in a way that is viable for the operation of the farm and of benefit to water quality by providing technical assistance, project management and financial assistance.

EQIP-Assist



Apply Year-Round



Offers additional cost-share on EQIP practices.

Program is a 90% cost-share not to exceed \$200,000 or the total amount paid by NRCS. Funding up to \$400,000 over 5 years.



Apply after you have an approved EQIP contract in place

Technical Assistance



Apply Year-Round



Apply when a water quality concern is identified, or when a permitting variance is needed



No Cost

Services Include:

- Engineering consultations
- Design services for BMP projects
- Water Quality Compliance Consultation
- State Permitting Consultations
- State Variance Consultation

BMP Program



Deadline is April 1st, applications after this deadline are rolled to the next year



\$100,000 cap for a State-Only funded practice (not EQIP-Assist) and no more than \$200,000 for 3 years.

Eligibility:

- Farm must meet Required Agricultural Practices
- Design must meet NRCS standards or designed and certified by an engineer licensed in VT & design is equivalent to federal performance standards and specifications
- Must receive the grant prior to construction
- Farmer receives reimbursement upon project completion and must finance the cost of the project during construction
- Payment rates are determined by invoices
- Applicant's equipment and labor costs can be reimbursed

Practices Eligible for Funding Include:

Manure storage, composting stack pads, bedded pack, barnyard runoff collection, gutters, ditches, laneways, stream crossings, exclusion fencing, watering facilities, milk house waste collection and treatment, silage leachate collection.



Apply Online
www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/bmp

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Emma.Redel@vermont.gov

Ellen Friedrich, VAAFMT (802) 261-5629
Ellen.Friedrich@vermont.gov

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

Financial assistance is available 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.



Application Deadline in November



Cost-share reimbursement up to 90% or funding cap for equipment category.



Apply Online
www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/ceap

Equipment Categories & Funding Rates

Precision Agriculture: 90% cost-share up to \$25,000

Conservation Tillage: 90% cost-share up to \$30,000

Cover Crop Equipment: 90% cost-share up to \$50,000

Waste Management: 90% cost share up to \$60,000 per applicant, 90% cost share up to \$100,000 per custom applicator, group of farmers, or nonprofit organization

Feed Management: 90% cost share up to \$50,000

Eligibility

- Vermont Farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices, Custom Operators, Non-Profit Organizations, Phosphorus Extraction Equipment Providers.
- Limit 1 application per individual per funding opportunity. If you applied previously and were not awarded, you are eligible to apply.
- Recipient must be able to finance equipment as program is reimbursement based.
- Individual project eligibility varies year to year.
- Farmers must commit to using the equipment for at least 5 years.



AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov
(802) 622-4098

www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/ceap

Application Materials

- **Quotes:** Provide official quotes for requested equipment that detail equipment provider, make, model, cost, and installation cost.
- **Project Questionnaire:** Description of farming operation, requested equipment, and acreage that you intend to use the equipment on.
- **Financial Backing:** As a reimbursement grant, applicants pay for 100% of the cost of equipment, then are reimbursed up to 90% or the cap for the funding category. Freight/shipping is not included.
- **Letter (Optional):** An unbiased letter of support

Community Supported Agriculture Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

The goal of this program is to help early childhood providers and after-school programs access more Vermont grown produce and food. Successful applicants will be awarded a reimbursement grant to subsidize 70-80 percent of the cost of a community supported agriculture (CSA) share, or farm share, from the Vermont farm or farm collaborative of their choice. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available. As a reimbursement grant, successful applicants will be required to purchase their CSA or farm share(s) prior to receiving their grant funds.



Application Deadline in early April



Awards up to \$1,000, covering up to 80% of CSA or Farm Shares



Apply in WebGrants

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

Match Requirement

Previous Grants Received	VAAFM Grant	Match Requirement
0 (First time recipient)	80%	20%
1	75%	25%
2	70%	30%

Contact

Gina Clithero, Farm to Institution Program Manager, VAAFM
 Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov
 (802) 585-6225



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/development/farm-school-early-childhood-and-institution/community-supported-agriculture-grants>

Eligibility

- Vermont registered or licensed early childcare providers
- Vermont licensed after school programs
- 21st Century Child Learning Center Programs

Previous CSA Grant recipients are eligible to re-apply with a slightly higher match requirement.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) 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.

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 50% 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.



Application Deadline in December



Up to 75% reimbursement of their direct certification costs, or up to \$750



Contact NOFA-VOF or apply online at [Agriculture.Vermont.gov/grants](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants)

Eligibility

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified.

Reimbursement for organic transition is not currently available. Operations with suspended, revoked, or withdrawn certifications are not eligible.

Contact

Terry Smith, Executive Assistant
Terry.Smith@Vermont.gov
(802) 828-5667



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

Learn more about organic certification:

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
(NOFA-VT)

<https://nofavt.org>
(802) 434-4122

Allowable Costs

- Application fees
- Inspection fees, including travel costs and per diem for organic inspectors
- USDA organic certification costs, including fees necessary to access international markets with which AMS has equivalency agreements or arrangements
- User fees/sale assessments
- Postage
- State Organic Program fees (NOCCSP only)

Farm to School and Early Childhood Capacity Building Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

The purpose of this grant is to help schools and early childhood education (ECE) organizations develop programs that will sustain relationships with local farmers and producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of Vermont children, and enhance Vermont's agricultural economy. This is a competitive grant program that is offered annually.

Schools and ECE providers are best able to achieve these goals when they take a holistic approach and incorporate the 3 C's of Farm to School: Cafeteria (food program), Classroom, and Community. Together, the 3 C's support healthy children, healthy agriculture, and healthy communities.



Application Deadline in November



\$5,000-\$20,000, based on student/child population



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply:

- Vermont registered or licensed early child care providers, or a consortium of early care providers
- Independent schools participating in any federal nutrition programs
- Individual public schools
- Supervisory unions or educational districts on behalf of a public school or consortium of schools

Contact

Gina Clithero, Farm to Institution Program
Manager, VAAFAM
Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225



[https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/child nutrition](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/child_nutrition)

Assistance

Grantee Coaching: Grantee will be assigned a coach from within the Vermont Farm to School Network, who will assist with developing action plans, timelines, budgets, coordinating technical assistance, and curriculum development.

Procurement Training and Professional Development: Grantee project teams will receive training on local food procurement through contracts, CSAs, and more.

Curriculum Professional Development: Grantee will receive professional development services from VT FEED on developing and enhancing farm to School/ECE curriculum and learning opportunities.

Child Nutrition Program Viability: Interested members of the grantee organization will receive technical assistance and professional development from Hunger Free Vermont to support the viability of their meal program

Garden Workshops: Project teams will receive technical assistance from Vermont Garden Network on how to start, maintain, or plan for a successful garden.

Farm to School and Early Childhood Vision Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMT)

Farm to school is a broad term. It describes a variety of efforts aimed at educating and engaging children and young adults on the connections that exist between agriculture, nutrition, community, and health. This competitive funding opportunity is designed to support projects that engage youth in exploring those connections. We are seeking proposals that address specific challenges related to the interconnections between agriculture, nutrition, community, and health.



Application Deadline in April



Up to \$50,000



Apply in WebGrants

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

Eligibility

Vermont schools, licensed and/or registered childcare providers and licensed after-school programs are eligible to apply for this grant. Both individual organizations, as well as consortiums are eligible to apply. Non-profits or community organizations that conduct programming in Vermont are also eligible, but must apply as a co-applicant with an eligible school, childcare, or after-school program.

Program

This is a two-year grant with a maximum award of \$50,000. Successful applicants will be required to provide a match equal to twenty-five percent of the total grant award. Matching funds can be in the form of cash, in-kind services or a combination of both. Cash match is not a requirement, but proposals that leverage additional funding will receive preference over those that meet the match requirement through in-kind services alone.

Applicants will be required, through qualitative and/or quantitative evidence, to identify a farm to school related challenge impacting their community. Applicants will then need to demonstrate how their proposal seeks to address that challenge. Proposals must center youth in their scope. Strong proposals will: Clearly articulate the problem they seek to address, engage multiple community stakeholders, demonstrate a high likelihood of success, demonstrate an ability for the project to be easily scaled and/ or replicated, and demonstrate the likelihood of continued impact beyond the grant period.

Contact

Gina Clithero, Farm to Institution Program Manager, VAAFMT
Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/ftsec-vision-grant>

Farm to Institution Market Development Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

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



Application Deadline in April



Grants ranging from \$10,000-30,000, with 25% cash or in-kind match requirement



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

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

Application must clearly demonstrate improvements in local farmer access to Vermont institutional markets to be considered.

Eligible Projects

- Projects must increase institutional market opportunity for at least one Vermont farm business
- Projects must increase the amount of local food purchased and served in local institutions
- Projects must focus on collaboration, developing new sales relationships or deepening existing sales relationships, and values-based procurement for institutions serving meals to Vermont residents

Ineligible Projects

- Vehicle purchases
- Land purchases
- Funding for purchases made prior to award notification
- Funding for projects that promote non-local food products, as defined by Act 129

Contact

Gina Clithero
Farm to Institution Program Manager, VAAFAM
Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225



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

Maple Agriculture Development Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Maple Agriculture Development Grant aims to provide funding for projects that will develop, grow, and sustain Vermont maple operations. These grants will focus on three funding priorities: climate resilience, operational efficiency, and/or food safety and quality. Projects may impact any area of an operation, and should include objectives that address viability, growth, or safety. Fiscal year 2024 will be the first year of this grant is offered, and it may not be available in future years. Visit the website listed on this page for the most up-to-date information.

Eligibility



Application Deadline in November



\$15,000-\$100,000. No matching requirement.



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Applicants must own or operate a maple production or processing business that is active in the state of Vermont. This includes those who produce or sell maple syrup for wholesale, retail, or direct-to-consumer sales, or produce value added products.

Ineligible applicants: Retail-only operations, technical service providers, or researchers who do not produce or process their own maple product for sale.

Funding Priorities: Climate Resilience, Operational Efficiency, Food Safety & Quality

Projects can address **climate resilience** in several ways, including mitigation and adaptation. Projects should help the operation remain productive, efficient, and sustainable through difficult weather patterns and changing seasonal conditions.

Projects may choose to address **operational efficiency** through improving infrastructure, upgrading equipment, reorganizing product flow, implementing technology solutions, and more.

Food safety and quality projects may choose to focus on equipment, supplies, or training, outcomes should focus on producing maple projects that meet food safety standards and quality guidelines. Projects related to Sugarhouse Certification through the VT Maple Sugar Makers Association are encouraged.

Contact

Madison Berry, Agriculture Development Specialist
Madison.Berry@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4626



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agriculture-development-grants#Maple>

Meat & Produce Agriculture Development Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

The Agency of Agriculture's Meat and Produce Agriculture Development Grant is a new funding opportunity offered in FY2024. This grant aims to fund projects that focus on and improve (1) climate resiliency, (2) infrastructure, operations, and capacity growth, and/or (3) worker and food safety and product quality. This grant is available to for profit businesses and operations. Projects funded through this grant may include infrastructure, equipment, storage and processing upgrades, and training. Both meat and produce producers and processors are encouraged to apply. Applications open in January of 2024.



Application Deadline February 26



Award size \$35,000- \$300,000



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Funding Priorities

1. Climate Resiliency
2. Infrastructure, Operations, and Capacity Growth
3. Worker and Food Safety and Product Quality

Eligible projects will implement these priorities through strategic updates, upgrades and expansion in production and processing systems and infrastructure.

Eligibility

The Meat and Produce ADG funding opportunity is available to for profit businesses and operations who are:

- Produce operations (excludes corn grown for animal feed, view grant page for full definition)
- Produce operations that process their own products
- Meat producers
- Businesses offering meat slaughter and primary processing services
- Operations diversifying into at least on of the above activities

Ineligible Applicants & Projects

- Ineligible applicants include hydroponic operations, retail-only operations, or technical service providers
- Ineligible projects will likely include marketing/branding, agritourism, business management, or research

Contact

Sarah McIlvennie
Sarah.McIlvennie@vermont.gov
(802) 261-5866



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agriculture-development-grants#MeatProduce>

Vermont Specialty Crop Block Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Includes
Maple
Producers

The U.S Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) awards specialty Crop Block Grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S Territories. In Vermont, the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) administers these funds to enhance the competitiveness of Vermont and regionally grown specialty crops (including honey, hops, maple syrup and mushrooms), and nursery crops (including Christmas trees and floriculture).



Pre-Application Deadline in January.
Application Deadline in March



No minimum or maximum, the average is between \$7,000 and \$50,000.



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Project must benefit more than one business, organization, or individual
- Project must describe how the project will have benefits outside of the applicant's organization
- Allowable/eligible costs are included in the Request for Applications
- Farms that are applying for funding for on-farm research should partner with university research and extension professionals on their proposals

Practices

- On-farm research (in coordination with university/research staff)
- Establishing or strengthening producer collaboration
- Addressing challenges facing multiple producers
- Projects must make measurable improvements in several specialty crop businesses
- Projects cannot help farmers improve their own business

Program Purpose

- Leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops
- Assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops
- Expanding availability and access special 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

Contact

Madison Berry
AGR.SpecialtyCrops@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4626



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

Vermont Organic Dairy Relief Program

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

In 2023, the Vermont State Legislature passed H.494, providing \$6.9 million in relief funding to the organic dairy sector. The Vermont Organic Dairy Relief Program is designed to give assistance to farmers weathering extreme market challenges associated with organic dairy farming, including high feed and input costs. Eligible dairy farmers who apply will receive a single payment of \$5 per hundredweight of organic milk produced in 2022.



Application Deadline in October



\$5 Per Hundredweight of milk



View application instructions at:
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vermont-organic-dairy-relief-program>

Applications

Applications must include:

- Your most recent farm inspection report
- The production report or letter from your milk buyer(s) confirming your 2022 total organic pounds
- If your farm is a milk producer and a processor, the total amount of organic milk your farm produced in 2022
- An ink-signed and dated Form W-9

Contact

Terry Smith
Terry.Smith@vermont.gov
(802) 828-5667



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vermont-organic-dairy-relief-program>

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Currently ship milk to a buyer and/or produce and process your own organic milk

Or

- Identify as a producer who is “on-hold” with the Dairy Section at VAAFAM and has maintained your cooperative membership and will be shipping milk at the time of the application and any related grant payments

Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM)

The Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program is a state-sponsored program providing supplemental payments for farmers enrolled in the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) (pg 57). 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.



Submit CSP application by
October deadline

Submit VT Farmers Ecosystem
Stewardship Program Application by
November deadline



\$2,000 - \$9,500



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

Assistance

One-time incentive payments include:

- \$2,000 Planning payment to compensate for the planning and assessment phase of CSP applications
- \$1,500 to \$7,500 Implementation payment for farmers awarded a CSP contract
- Payments are in addition to funds provided through the NRCS CSP contract

Eligibility

- Farm operations that meet the minimum threshold as defined by Section 3 of the Required Agricultural Practices
- Farmers applying or renewing a CSP contract
- Farms NRCS contract must be under the Agricultural Land category

Contact

Noah Gilbert-Fuller, Water Quality
Program Coordinator
Noah.Gilbert-Fuller@vermont.gov
(802) 505-3407



[https://agriculture.vermont.gov/
CSP-Assist](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/CSP-Assist)

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. The FAP program also provides education and instructional activity grants to support outreach regarding the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality and current state agricultural water quality regulations.



See following page for application deadlines



Up to \$10,000 per farm per year



Apply Online
Agriculture.vermont.gov/fap

Practices



Cover Crop: \$30 per acre (broadcast or interseed) by October 1st.
\$45 per acre (drilled) by October 15th.
Must be seeded at highest recommended rate.

Crop to Hay: \$35 per acre, or \$45 per acre with nurse crop.
1-time payment for perennial species only.
Nurse crops must be at the highest recommended rate.

No Till: \$15 per acre. Cover crop must be drilled. 30% of soil surface must be covered immediately following cover crop planting. No burning of previous crop is allowed. No full-width soil disturbance between crop harvests. No harrowing, chisel plowing, cultivating, tandem disking, or vertical tillage.

No Till Pasture & Hayland Renovation: \$30 per acre. No-till drill and/or frost seeding. Reasonable expectation of seed to soil contact. Rates must provide full soil coverage. Frost seeding from March-April on non-snow-covered ground and must include legume(s).

Rotational Grazing: \$30 per acre. Must be rotated at least 2x week and excluded from surface water. 3" of vegetation must be maintained. No-till Pasture Renovation: \$30 per acre. No-till drill only. Seeding rate must provide full coverage.

Manure Injection: \$25 per acre. Subsurface injection. No aeration. Must follow RAPs. Can include disk, shank, grassland injection below soil surface with a single implement.

Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program (continued)

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMT)

Educational & Instructional Activity Grants

The Farm Agronomic Practices Program educational and instructional activities grants are available to farmers, farm-workers, agricultural service providers, non-profits, and other organizations to host or attend events to inform Vermont farmers and citizens of Vermont of:

- The impact of agricultural waste discharges on Vermont waters
 - Federal and State agricultural water quality regulations and requirements
 - Best practices to reduce agricultural impacts to water quality
- Funds up to \$1,000 per event, or per person attending other non-Ag-CWIP learning events or conferences focused on water quality



Events receiving Ag-CWIP funding may not qualify for additional FAP funding.

Application Deadlines



- June 15 for Rotational Grazing
- August 1 for Cover Cropping & Fall Manure Injection
- April 15 for Spring Practices
- 30 days prior to practice implementation for all other practices
- 20 days prior to educational or instructional activity

Please submit one application for all practices planned from July 1, until June 30 of the following year. Manure injection applications, no-till planting, crop to hay planting and no-till pasture and hayland applications accepted relatively year-round, including the spring.

Contact

Sonia Howlett, Agricultural Water
Quality Program Coordinator
(802) 522-4655
Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov



[https://agriculture.vermont.gov/
fap](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap)

Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP) Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets offers the Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP) grant funding opportunity to businesses, organizations, and individuals who work with farms to support the improvement of water quality across Vermont through education and outreach, technical assistance, organizational capacity, and conservation practices.



Application deadline in December



Funding varies, and is based on scope of work, organizational capacity, and agreed deliverables



Submit applications to
AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov

See full application instructions and RFP at
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agricultural-clean-water-initiative-program>

Assistance

Funding may support, but is not limited to:

- Supporting farms with grant applications and reporting
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Project identification
- Consultation and design
- Workshops
- Sampling services (water, soil, manure)
- Educational materials
- Farmer participation stipends
- Precision Agriculture
- Equipment rental programs
- Project management for farms
- Conservation practice surveys

Eligibility

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

Grantee Requirements:

- Recipients are required to meet with an Agency Grant Manager quarterly to review accomplishments and progress towards meeting outcomes and outputs and developing a timeline to meet the grantee's scope of work
- Deliverables and documentation of associated costs
- Final narrative report documenting outcomes and outputs.

Contact

Mary Montour, Agricultural Water Quality Program
Coordinator
(802) 461-6087
Mary.Montour@Vermont.gov



[Agriculture.vermont.gov/agricultural-clean-water-initiative-program](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agricultural-clean-water-initiative-program)

Grassed Waterway & Filter Strip Program (GWFS)

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

The Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program can provide technical and financial assistance to Vermont farmers for in-field agronomic best practices to address critical source areas, erosion, and surface runoff. The Program's goal is to reduce soil erosion and improve soil and water quality on cropland that contributes a disproportionately high level of nonpoint source pollution loads.



Apply Year-Round



Implementation incentive of \$500 per acre & cost-share up to 90% of installation cost



To apply, contact Ellen Friedrich
Ellen.Friedrich@Vermont.gov

Eligibility

Annual cropping history within 5 years

Land is adjacent to surface waters and/or ditches.

Operator must have ownership or control of the land for the term of the agreement.

Practices

- Establishment of perennial grassed waterway
- Filter strip establishment
- Critical source field area seeding
- Associated infrastructure (erosion or grade control structures)

Definitions

Grassed Waterway: A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.

Filter Strip: A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.

Critical Area Planting: Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have, or are expected to have, high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical, or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal seeding/planting methods.

Contact

Ellen Friedrich
(802) 261-5629
Ellen.Friedrich@Vermont.gov



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

How long is the agreement?

10 Years

Can I harvest this land?

Yes

Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program (PSWF) Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAF)

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.

Eligibility



Apply Year-Round



Assistance Varies based on practices used and scale



Apply Online
[Agriculture.Vermont.gov/pswf](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf)

- Pastureland poses a water quality concern
- Water quality will benefit from implementation of improved pasture management and eligible and/or necessary conservation practices
- Operator must have ownership or land control for the term of the agreement (10 years)

Contact

Mary Montour, Agricultural Water Quality Program Coordinator
(802) 461-6087
Mary.Montour@vermont.gov



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

Practices & Assistance

Practice	Maximum Cost Share
Fence	\$3.50 per foot
Livestock Pipeline	No Cost Share Cap
Water Source Development	\$8,000
Watering Facility	No Cost Share Cap
Improved Permanent Water Area	\$8,000
Stream Crossing	\$8,000
Electric Fence Chargers	\$1,000
Trails & Walkways	\$10,000

Vermont Pay for Performance

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

This program will provide 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 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. In this approach, farmers have the flexibility to implement whichever conservation practices they know will work for their own operations each year.



Application Deadline in January



Assistance varies based on practices used and acreage enrolled



Apply Online
Agriculture.Vermont.gov/VPFP

Practices

- Crop Rotation
- Manure Injections
- Cover Crops
- Buffers
- Grassed Waterways
- No-till and Reduced-till

Eligibility

- Be a Farm as defined in the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) operating within Vermont
- Manage crop land, hay land, or pasture
- Farm business is registered with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and all managed land is mapped and in compliance with federal Highly Erodible Land and Wetland regulations.
- Have an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that meets the RAPs for their farm size, including recent soil and manure tests.
- If you are not registered with FSA, do not have soil or manure tests, or do not have an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan that meets the RAPs for your farm size, you must work to obtain meet those requirements PRIOR to application. Your local Conservation District and/or FSA office can help you with this process.

Contact

Brodie Haenke
(802) 626-7852
Brodie.Haenke@vermont.gov



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

Payments

One time data entry into FarmPREP. Planned rate: \$15/acre, max \$4000. If Selected for Program: \$100 per pound of phosphorus reduced beyond a 40% reduction threshold up to an annual cap of \$50,000 per farm. Additional Stewardship Payments for farms with less than 1lb/ acre and 0.5 lbs/acre average P loss may also be available.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMM)

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 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.



Apply Year-Round



Apply Online
Agriculture.Vermont.gov/crep

Assistance



Incentive Payments \$415 - \$1905 per acre (between state + federal)

Implementation cost-share up to 100%

Annual payments \$80 - \$300 per acre per year for 15 years

Eligibility

- Applicants must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to enrollment (may be waived by County Committee)
- Land must be in agricultural use
- Land adjacent to a perennial stream or river that lacks shade, vegetative buffers and/or has water quality impacts.
- Wetland restoration on cropland
- Buffers around ponds or lakes
- Minimum buffer width of 35 ft
- Contracts are for 15 or 30 years

Why CREP?

Perennial vegetation provides shade which reduces water temperature and increases oxygen, promoting aquatic life.

Provides wildlife and pollinator habitat.

Promotes water infiltration, reduces soil loss and fertilizer/amendment runoff.

Increases stability of stream banks, improving flood resilience.

Contact

Ben Gabos, CREP Coordinator, VAAFMM
(802) 461-3814
ben.gabos@vermont.gov



<https://Agriculture.Vermont.gov/crep>

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM)

The purpose of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program is to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, support market development and new market opportunities for Vermont farm and food businesses, and promote development of Vermont value-added products. This program is funded through the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. Vermont will have approximately \$2 million available for infrastructure projects and \$1 million for equipment-only projects. Further details for this grant will be available in the spring of 2024.

Eligible Applicants

- Farmers
- Food aggregators and distributors
- Food hubs
- Food processors and manufacturers
- Food retail operations
- Institutions such as schools or hospitals
- Nonprofit organizations
- Producer associations and cooperatives
- Local government entities
- Universities

Eligible Projects

VAAFM will award RFSI grants to improve the aggregation, distribution, manufacturing, processing, storing, transporting, and wholesaling of Vermont food products including specialty crops, dairy, grains, aquaculture, and value-added products.

Funding will be available for infrastructure projects, which will include a match requirement, and equipment-only projects without match requirement.

Ineligible Projects

- Meat & Poultry related projects

Contact

Julia Scheier
(802) 522-7042
Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/resilient-food-systems-infrastructure>

Farm Feed-Finder Marketplace

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

In response to severe flooding and constant rain through the 2023 growing season, which negatively impacted feed yield and quality on affected farmland, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and Agency of Digital Services created the Farm Feed-Finder Marketplace. 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 like 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](https://cloud.agriculture.vermont.gov/FeedFinder/FindHay.aspx)

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

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

If you are aware of any misuse of the marketplace or any other concerns, please contact VAAFAM at AGR.Helpdesk@vermont.gov

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative


Includes
Maple
Producers

Purpose and Legislation: The working landscape forms the backbone of Vermont’s heritage and economic viability. The “working landscape” consists of agriculture, food system, forestry, and forest products-based businesses. Approximately 20 percent of Vermont’s land is used for agricultural purposes and 75 percent as forestry. In 2009, the Council on the Future of Vermont published *Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future*. This report presents the results of a multi-year effort to poll Vermonters on their visions for the future of the state. One critical area stood out: over 97 percent of Vermonters said they value the working landscape. The 2012 legislation session brought a renewed commitment to Vermonters’ values by passing The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, Act 142. This legislation created the Working Lands Enterprise Fund (WLEF) and the Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) in 2012. The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) manages and invests roughly \$1 million annually into agricultural and forestry-based businesses, depending on the appropriation for the program.

Program Leadership: The WLEB is made up of 20 private sector members throughout the supply chains of agriculture and forestry, and staff from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, Vermont Economic Development Authority, and Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. In 2015, amendments to legislation added a policy role to the Board.

Overview

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) offers funding opportunities to a variety of business structures encompassing forest, farm, and food enterprises. These include producer associations, farms, food co-ops, business assistance provider organizations, and more. The amount of funds available is determined each year through the state’s annual budget cycle. See The Working Lands Funding Opportunity Cycle Calendar: <https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/overview>

 **Working Lands Funding Opportunities:** Service Provider Grant, Producer Association Grant, Business Enhancement Grant, Supply Chain Impact Grant, ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant, Small Farm Diversification and Transition Grant, Trade Show Assistance Grant

Working.Lands@vermont.gov



(802) 917-2637

<https://workinglands.vermont.gov>

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative
94 Harvest Lane,
Williston, VT 05495

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

FY 2024 Working Lands Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunity	Award Size	Match	Eligible Projects/Expenses	Eligible Applicants
Service Provider Grant	\$10,000-\$25,000	100% (One-to-One Match Required)	Market development, financial planning and accounting, business succession planning, manufacturing efficiencies or process flow, business research and development, workforce development	Organizations that provide services to farm and forest businesses
Producer Association Grant	\$10,000-\$25,000		Market research and development, leadership and staff development, board training, refreshing by-laws, committee work, strategic planning	Non-profit association of farm, forest, and local food businesses
Business Enhancement Grant	\$15,000-\$50,000		Farm, forest, or local food businesses	
Supply Chain Impact Grant	\$50,000-\$250,000		Market development, research and development, infrastructure, equipment and supplies, workforce development	Farm, forest, or food businesses that use local products
ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant	\$50,000-\$250,000		Farm or forest businesses that raise livestock, grow crops, tap maple trees, or harvest timber and that have been in business since January 2020	
Small Farm Diversification & Transition Grant	Up to \$15,000	No Match Required	Diversifying farm products, transitioning from one form of farming to another, processing farm products, developing and accessory on-farm business	Farms that operate 4 or more acres for farming OR have filed 1040(F) Tax Form once in the last 2 years OR earn an annual gross income of more than \$2,000 from the sale of agriculture products. Farms registered as medium or large farm operations are NOT eligible
Trade Show Assistance Grant	\$2,000-\$5,000	50% Match Required	Planning, exhibiting, and selling Vermont products at trade shows targeting out-of-state buyers	Farm, forest, or local food businesses with 3+ wholesale accounts

Trade Show Assistance Grant

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM) Trade Show Assistance Grants, funded through the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, 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. These matching grants can mitigate the financial risks associated with exhibiting at trade shows, which provide excellent opportunities to network with wholesale buyers.



Minimum \$2,000-\$5,000
50% match required



Applications open December 1st
through January 15th



Apply in WebGrants
[https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/
index.do](https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do)

Assistance

- 50% reimbursement for trade shows targeting out-of-state buyers
- Covers travel expenses, marketing assets, booth design, registration fees, booth fees, furnishings, utilities, shipping/freight, printing, & samples
- Yearly trade show marketing plan may include up to five shows

Eligibility

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

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

View definition at:

[https://agriculture.vermont.gov/development/
act-129-local-definition](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/development/act-129-local-definition)

Contact

Kristen Brassard
Kristen.brassard@vermont.gov
(802) 522-3742



[https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/
tradeshow](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/tradeshow)

ARPA-Funded Primary Producer Impact Grant Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative ARPA-Funded Primary Producer Grant aims to direct American Rescue Plan Act funds towards primary producers whose operations experienced negative economic impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds may be used towards projects relating to market development, research and development, infrastructure development, and workforce training and development.

Eligibility



\$50,000-\$250,000.
Recipient must match funds



Applications open in
December



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

- Applicant enterprise must be based and registered in Vermont
- Applicant must be in compliance with all state regulations and in good standing with the State of Vermont
- Businesses must have been in operation prior to January 2020
- **Only primary producers of farm or forest products are eligible to apply**
- Applicant must demonstrate how their business experienced a negative economic impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Project Types

Market development: Professionalizing a marketing or branding approach to new or expanded markets; developing a marketing and content strategy

Research & Development: Testing new systems or technology

Infrastructure Development: Project-specific planning, building and equipment costs, technical assistance, and consultation fees

Workforce Training & Development: Technical skill training, business management training, succession planning

Contact

Clare Salerno
Clare.Salerno@vermont.gov
(802) 917-2637



<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/arpa-primary-producer-impact-grant>

Small Farm Diversification and Transition Grant Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative's Small Farm Diversification and Transition Grant aims to support small farms by providing funds for diversifying their farming and farm-business operation or transitioning to new or different models of farming. This is a new grant for FY2024; review the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative website for the most up-to-date information regarding this grant.



Application Deadline in March



Up to \$15,000. No Match
Required



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Farm must qualify as a small farm and meet one of the following criteria:
 - Operate 4 or more acres for farming; OR
 - Have filled a 1040(F) Tax Form once in the last 2 years; OR
 - Earn an annual gross income of more than \$2,000 from the sale of agricultural products
- The farm must NOT be registered as a Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO), Permitted Medium Farm Operation (MFO), or Permitted Large Farm Operation (LFO)

Project Types

- Diversifying farm products
- Transitioning from one form of farming to another
- Processing farm products
- Developing an accessory on-farm business

Visit the Working Lands Initiative Enterprise website to review full Request for Application when released.

Contact

Clare Salerno
Clare.Salerno@vermont.gov
(802) 917-2637



<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-contract-opportunities/small-farm-diversification-grant>

Business Enhancement Grants Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

Includes
Maple
Producers

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. Grant awards through this program may support market development, research and development, infrastructure development, and workforce training and development.

Eligibility



Applications Deadline
in November



\$15,000-\$50,000. One-
to-one cash or in-kind
match required



Apply in WebGrants
[https://agriculturegrants
.vermont.gov/index.do](https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do)

- Applicant organizations/businesses must be based in Vermont
- All structures are eligible: Partnerships, LLCs, Sole Proprietorships, Cooperatives, Corporations, S Corporations, L3Cs, B Corporations, and/or non-profits that are involved in the support of production of agriculture and/or forest products, etc.
- All legally incorporated enterprises must be registered with the VT Secretary of State

Eligible Projects

Market Development

Professionalizing a marketing and/or branding approach to new or expanded markets; hiring a professional marketing/branding contractor; implementing a marketing strategy; and/or developing content

Research & Development

Testing new systems or technologies

Workforce Training & Development

Technical skills training for staff, business management training, and/or succession planning, including hiring a consultant

Infrastructure Development

Project-specific planning, permitting, engineering or architectural plans; building and equipment costs, including for labor and/or energy efficiency enhancements. May include equipment installation and/or technical assistance costs.

Contact

Clare Salerno
Clare.Salerno@vermont.gov
(802) 917-2637



<https://workinglands.vermont.gov/businessgrants>

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC), hosted by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, is one of four USDA Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBII) in the nation. The NE-DBIC launched in February of 2020 and serves a ten-state region which includes all New England states, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The NE-DBIC provides support to dairy businesses through projects that promote the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products.

Projects target dairy farms and processors while providing additional support through market research and technical assistance. The Center's investment and project strategy promotes innovation and resiliency for regional production of dairy products. To date, \$12.72 million has been awarded to the Vermont-based NE-DBIC for projects extending through 2024. Half of the federal funding awarded for the NE-DBIC is granted to dairy farmers and value-added processors. Funding for the NE-DBIC was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grants AM190100XXXXG081, AM200100XXXXG003, and 21DBIVT1004-00. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

Visit the website:

<https://nedairyinnovation.com/>
to view:

- Grants
- Events
- Educational opportunities
- Dairy consumer preferences
- Dairy market appeal
- Grazing practices
- Health and safety projects
- Supply chain opportunities
- Technical assistance and research for dairy farmers and processors
- And sign up for newsletters

Contacts

Northeast DBIC Staff

Laura Ginsburg, Center Lead

laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov

(802) 522-2252

Kathryn Donovan, Regional Programs
Manager

kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov

(802) 585-4571

Dairy Packaging Innovation Grant

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Packaging Innovation Grant program aims to fund projects that decrease environmental impacts of dairy product and supply chain packaging and increase marketability of dairy produces. Grant funds are available to projects along the spectrum of research, development, and implementation, and for projects at a variety of scales. Projects will be collaborative and include an educational or information-sharing component.



Pre-Application Deadline in November



75,000-\$350,000, with 25% cash or in-kind match commitment required



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

Applicants eligible must fall into at least one of the following categories:

- Licensed dairy processors that transform milk, dairy components, or dairy mix sourced in the Northeast into edible products
- Dairy producer associations
- Packaging manufacturers that partner with at least one Northeast dairy processor
- Supply chain businesses that partner with at least one dairy processor
- Educational/research institutions that partner with at least one Northeast dairy processor

Project Criteria

Projects must demonstrate sustainability, regional scalability, and marketability by demonstrating:

- The reduction or elimination of virgin plastics in packaging along the dairy supply chain
- Accessibility of packaging research/technologies/solutions that benefit small and mid-sized dairy processors
- Leveraging existing science, research, and/or knowledge on package innovation
- A collaborative project which leverages partnerships across dairy manufacturing

Contact

Kathryn Donovan, Regional Programs Manager
Kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov
(802) 585-4571



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/dairy-product-packaging-innovation/>

Dairy Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant program provides grants for dairy farmers to support long-term farm viability through the implementation of community- and climate-forward production strategies.

Projects funded through this grant program will take a strategic, whole farm system approach to increase collaboration with other farms or dairy sector stakeholders. Grants will allow dairy farmers to make improvements to their management strategies, modernize equipment and systems, and/or implement modern or innovative practices.



Application Deadline in December



\$15,000-\$100,000 with 25% cash or in-kind match commitment



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Dairy farmers
- Producer associations that represent, support, or promote dairy products originating in the Northeast
- Technical service providers
 - Application must clearly specify the group of dairy businesses they will work with
 - The businesses receiving services must be based in the Northeast

Contact

Ben Eldredge, Grants Coordinator
Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov
(802) 522-9478



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/farm-improvement-modernization/>

Funding Priorities

- Project will support adoption of new farm practices that enhance ecological outcomes, improve animal health, and support farmer well-being
- Project will enhance collaboration and learning between farmers and encourage young/beginning farmer participation
- Project includes direct involvement of a service provider, business planner, farm succession planner, or technical assistance provider
- Project reduces energy inputs and/or climate impacts
- Project includes plan to participate and/or lead educational opportunities to share information about the applicant's project to benefit the broader dairy community

Eligible Projects

- Utilization of modern technologies to improve animal health, enhance labor efficiencies, reduce energy costs, and/or increase utilization of the farm's land base
- Adoption of innovative or non-traditional farming practices
- Modernization of farm infrastructure and systems

Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant programs provides funding for dairy farmers, processors, and /or producer associations to take actionable steps to improve the safety of dairy products. Funded projects should support increased production safety standards with the goal of accessing new markets. Activities covered by this grant include accessing technical assistance, audits, food safety plan development, training, testing fees, and certain infrastructure upgrades.



Request for Applications opens in December



\$10,000-\$50,000 with 25% cash or in-kind match commitment



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Dairy farmers that are headquartered or based in the Northeast
- Dairy processors that are headquartered in the Northeast and use milk sourced from the Northeast
- Dairy producer association/dairy council which represents and promotes dairy products/dairy businesses of the Northeast

Funding Priorities

- Food safety improvements and/or certification activities that will benefit multiple businesses
- Projects that reduce barriers to improving food safety
- Projects that improve the perception of food safety practices
- Builds on or enhances previous food safety efforts
- Will increase sales, revenue, and/or consumers reached
- Shows innovation in leveraging food safety messaging in marketing messaging
- Employs digital marketing and or social media messaging to consumers on food safety

Contact

Ben Eldredge, Grants Coordinator
Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov
(802) 522-9478



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/dairy-food-safety-certification/>

On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling Grant

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The On-Farm Milk Storage & Handling Grant program aims to provide funding to dairy farmers to support the purchase of equipment and other related costs that will improve milk storage, handling, and energy efficiencies.

The focus of this grant is on the purchase of specialized equipment.



Application Deadline in January



\$15,000-\$50,000 with 25% cash or in-kind match commitment



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Dairy farmers that are headquartered or based in the Northeast
- Licensed dairy operations in compliance with all state and federal standards

Eligible Projects

Funding Priorities

- Projects allow a farm to move from everyday pickup to every other day pick up
- Decreases time it takes to move milk onto the truck
- Project will provide cost-savings to the farm
- Project will increase energy efficiencies on farm
- Project improve food safety measures
- Applicant leverages other programs to supplement grant funds

Project activities under this grant will assist dairy farms to purchase new, energy efficient tanks, milk cooling equipment, and direct load systems to be able to meet processor hauling and quality demands. Projects must show that they will address inefficiencies around labor, energy, and product waste as it relates to the movement of milk processing.

Funds may be used to purchase:

- Milk storage tanks, bulk tanks, and milk silos, milk pipelines, upgraded glycol chillers, farm milk loading systems, reclaim systems for water, cooling equipment, plate coolers, and heat exchangers
- Funds may also be used to cover equipment installation services

Contact

Ali Boochever
Ali.Boochever@vermont.gov
(802) 261-5740



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/on-farm-milk-storage-handling/>

Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant program aims to provide funds for dairy processors, dairy producer associations, and educational institutions to conduct research and development projects that support innovation for Northeast dairy processors across a variety of scales. Funded projects will be centered on developing alternatives to current industry standards through projects that are applicable, scalable, and replicable to other Northeast dairy processors across a variety of scales.



Application Deadline in March



\$75,000-\$250,000 with 25% cash or in-kind match commitment



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Licensed dairy processors and producer associations based in the Northeast
- Educational and research institutions who are partnered with a minimum of two Northeast-based dairy producers
- Dairy producer associations based in the Northeast

Contact

Kathryn Donovan, Program Manager
Kathryn.Donovan@vermont.gov
(802) 585-4571



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/dairy-processing-innovation/>

Funding Priorities

Project approaches should address 1-3 of the following funding priorities:

- Reuse or integration of dairy waste byproducts or under-utilized produces in new products or processes
- The development of novel dairy products and/or production processes
- Scalability/accessibility of processes or technology solutions that benefit small and mid-sized producers
- Projects that leverage existing science, research, and/or knowledge
- Projects that engage qualified professional services and/or institutions with significant background in the proposed topic
- Highly collaborative projects that leverage partnerships across dairy manufacturing
- Development of processes or produces that reduce energy consumption or climate impacts

Projects may relate to:

Sourcing, novel product development and enhancement, alternative packaging, alternative production solutions, distribution and supply chain logistics, operations, and marketing.

Dairy Farm Cohort Technical Assistance Contract Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Farm Cohort Technical Assistance Contract provides funding for contractors to offer cohort-based technical assistance for dairy farmers in one or more of the following areas: increased grazing quality and quantity, home-grown forage enhancement, alternative herd management, innovative staffing and business management, and marketing and education of dairy production practices.



Contracts up to \$150,000



Submit bid elements to Laura
Ginsburg, NE-DBIC Center Lead

Bid Requirements

- Cover letter
- Project abstract
- Contractor background and experience
- Resumes or CV's of project team leader and members
- Project approach
- Budget
- References
- Certificate of Insurance
- Form W-9
- Evidence of an active SAM.gov registration
- Signed Certificate of Compliance

Previous Cohort Highlight

The University of Vermont Extension secured a bid in 2019 to develop a program to provide technical assistance for dairy farmers seeking to transition to rotational grazing. Contractor staff worked one-on-one with farmers and in group settings to develop their knowledge and skills related to grazing. Farmers are engaged with the cohort for a 2-year period. Over that period, site visits were conducted to the farms of cohort members to assess successes and challenges related to the transition to rotational grazing.

Contact

Laura Ginsburg, Center Leader
Laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov
(802) 522-2252



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/dairy-farm-cohort/>

Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)

The Dairy Marketing and Branding Services Grant Program provides grants for established value-added dairy processors and producer associations to access professional marketing and branding services to elevate value-added businesses. Projects funded through this grant should increase the exposure and promotion of regionally produced dairy products guided by marketing/branding professionals.



Application Deadline in June



10,000-\$50,000 with 25% cash or in-kind match commitment



Apply in WebGrants
<https://agriculturegrants.vermont.gov/index.do>

Eligibility

- Dairy processors making edible products produced from milk sourced from the Northeast region
- Dairy producer association/dairy councils which represents and promotes dairy products and businesses of the Northeast

Funding Priorities

Project approaches should address 1-3 of the following funding priority areas:

- Application demonstrates engagement with multiple potential contractors
- Project shows innovation in packaging type or market channels
- Project will show or support substantial online/digital engagement
- Project builds or enhances previous marketing and branding efforts
- Application demonstrates a strategic and sustainable approach to business growth and positioning with clear long-term vision
- Projects will increase sales, revenue, and/or consumers reached
- Projects will elevate regional dairy businesses

Contact

Ali Boochever, Grants Coordinator
Ali.Boochever@vermont.gov
(802) 261-5740



<https://nedairyinnovation.com/grants/dairy-marketing-branding-services/>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Includes
Maple
Producers

Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), NRCS provides agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers with potential financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls “conservation practices”. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil, and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations. Through EQIP, you can voluntarily implement conservation practices and NRCS can assist you with implementation of these practices.

Process

Apply at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office. There is a list of these offices toward the end of this guide. After applying, you (Client) will be assigned a Planner, who will look at natural resource conditions, problems, and concerns, as well as opportunities. The Planner will determine the objectives of the Client and perform an inventory and analysis of resources. Next, the Planner will formulate and evaluate alternatives to achieve Client objectives and solve natural resource concerns, implementing a variety of economic and technical strategies. The Client selects their preferred alternatives. The Client's application is ranked and a contract may be offered. The Client implements the plan. The Planner provides detailed information related to design, layout, inspection, and certification. The plan's effectiveness is evaluated, and adjustments are made as needed.

Eligibility

Land: Cropland, hayland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, other farm and ranch lands, urban/suburban, specialty crop operations, subsistence operations, environmentally sensitive areas

Applicants: Agricultural producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland, Indian Tribes, those with an interest in agriculture or forestry operations, and water management entities

Other Requirements: Records should be current for proposed land and indicate the applicant controls the eligible land. The applicant should meet adjusted gross income (AGI) and payment limitation provisions. The land should be in compliance with wetland requirements.

FAQ

- Multiple NRCS conservation initiatives are incorporated into the NRCS General EQIP Program
- Historically underserved producers are eligible for advanced payments
- Priority practices and their corresponding payments are determined on an annual basis

Example Practices

Nutrient management, waste storage facility, heavy use area protection, livestock pipeline, pumping plant, stream crossing, fence, access roads, diversion, and forest stand improvement

Ready to Apply?

Contact your local NRCS Office. Field Offices can be found at the end of this Guide, or at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/vt/contact/local>

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation Innovation Grants are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal entities. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. NRCS administers the CIG program which requires a 50-50 match between the agency and the applicant. CIG is offered as both a nationwide and a state program. The CIG National Component offers eligible entities the opportunity to apply for grants. The CIG State Component offers eligible entities the opportunity to apply for grants up to \$175,000. This competition is limited to single and multi-year projects, not to exceed 3 years, for projects with a direct nexus to the state of Vermont. Applicants can apply to the National program, the State program, or both. Applicants may apply year-round.

Projects or activities under CIG

- Comply with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws and regulations throughout the duration of the project; and use a technology or approach that was studied sufficiently to indicate a high probability for success
- Demonstrate, evaluate, and verify the effectiveness, utility, affordability, and usability of natural resource conservation technologies and approaches in the field
- Adapt and transfer conservation technologies, management, practices, systems, approaches, and incentive systems to improve performance and encourage adoption
- Introduce proven conservation technologies and approaches to a geographic area or agricultural sector where that technology or approach is not currently in use

Technologies and approaches that are eligible for funding in a project's geographic area using an EQIP contract for an established conservation practice standard are ineligible for CIG funding, except where the use of those technologies and approaches demonstrates clear innovation. Farms interested in research may want to explore partnering with a business or university. The Table of Contents of this guide contains Directories for organizations.

Contact



Contact your local NRCS office for assistance applying.
<https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

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.



Up to 75% cost-share, with funding cap at \$50,000 per year



To Apply, Contact Your Local NRCS Field Office. You can find your local field office at the following website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>

Contact

View the NRCS Agricultural Management Assistance Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ama/>

Find your local NRCS Field Office at the end of this guide or

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>

USDA NRCS VT State Office
356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105
Colchester, Vermont 05446

Phone: (802) 951-6796
Fax: (855) 794-3677

Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Be an agricultural producer
- 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 within appropriate payment limitation requirements

Eligible land includes:

- 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

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, or develop wildlife habitat, NRCS can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. NRCS 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. For example, NRCS can look at ways to address the amount of soil lost; mitigate the impact of excess water; reduce the contribution of agricultural operations to airborne soil particles and greenhouse gas emissions; improve the cover, food, and water available for domestic and wildlife species; or promote energy efficiencies for on-farm activities.



Apply Year-Round



Financial Assistance Varies



Apply through Your Local NRCS Office

Grasslands Conservation Initiative

This new initiative assists producers in protecting grazing land uses; conserving and improving soil, water and wildlife resources; and achieving related conservation values by conserving eligible land through grassland conservation contracts. Eligible lands are limited to cropland for which base acres have been maintained under FSA's ARC/PLC and were planted to grass or pasture, including idle or fallow, during a specific period. Enrolled acreage must be managed consistently with a grassland conservation plan. Producers will have a single opportunity to enroll eligible land in a five-year contract.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan

The 2018 Farm Bill includes a new conservation activity for producers to develop a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) as part of their CSP contract. A CCP is a conservation plan that meets or exceeds the stewardship threshold for each priority resource concern identified by NRCS across all land uses included in the operation. NRCS will administer CCPs similar to the conservation activity plans (CAPs) under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and require producers to use a technical service provider (TSP) to develop the plan. NRCS may provide a minimum annual payment of \$1,500 in any year the total contract amount is below a rate NRCS determines equitable based upon the effort required by a participant to meet contract requirements.

Enhancements & Bundles

Through CSP, producers have the opportunity to further improve their conservation efforts with conservation activities called "enhancements." Enhancements allow a producer to address additional levels of conservation beyond what the minimum conservation practice standard requires. Select from about 140 enhancements to address resource concerns. Some enhancements work together to provide increased conservation benefits when they are implemented as a group. Producers may consider adopting these enhancement groups or "bundles" on their operation. Bundles receive a higher level of financial assistance to encourage the holistic approach to generate additional conservation benefits.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) 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 component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit nonagricultural uses of the land. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) also work with land trusts to purchase land or development rights.



Sign-up deadline changes annually; refer to the website



Up to 50% of appraised conservation easement value for permanent easement

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes private or Tribal land that is agricultural land, cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use, including land on a farm or ranch. 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. If you are interested in applying, contact a Land Trust, as these easements are entity-held.

View the NRCS Agricultural Land Easement Website
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ale-agricultural-land-easements>

View the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Farmland Conservation Website
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/land-use-renewable-energy/farmland-conservation>

View the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board Farmland Conservation Website
<https://vhcb.org/our-programs/conservation>

View the Vermont Land Trust Website
<https://vlt.org>

Contact

Jason Fleury, Natural Resource Specialist
Jason.Fleury@usda.gov
(802) 478-4434

Vermont Land Trust

8 Bailey Ave
Montpelier, VT 05601
(802) 745-6301

Greensboro Land Trust

PO box 135
Greensboro, VT 05841
(802) 533-7723

Duxbury Land Trust

PO box 56
Waterbury, VT 05676
(802) 244-7512

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) 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 Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit nonagricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) also work with land trusts to purchase land or development rights.



Sign-up deadline changes annually; refer to the website

Permanent Easements: Permanent easements are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays between 90% and 100% of the appraised easement value for the purchase of the easement. Additionally, NRCS pays between 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs.

30-Year Easements: For 30-year term easements NRCS pays 50-75% of the easement value, and an additional cost of 50-75% of the restoration costs.

Term Easements: Term easements are easement that are for the maximum duration allowed under applicable state laws. NRCS pays 50-75% of the easement value, and an additional cost of 50-75% of the restoration costs.

View the NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement Website

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/vt/programs/easements/acep/?cid=nrcs142p2_

View the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Farmland Conservation Website

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/land-use-renewable-energy0/farmland-conservation>

View the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board Farmland Conservation Website

<https://vhcb.org/our-programs/conservation/farmlandconservation>

View the Vermont Land Trust Website

<https://vlt.org>

Contact

Jim Eikenberry
NRCS Wetlands Specialist
James.Eikenberry@usda.gov
(802) 478-4434

Julia Grey
ALE Program Analyst
Julia.Grey@usda.gov
(802) 951-6796 x 257

Duxbury Land Trust

PO box 56
Waterbury, VT
05676
(802) 244-7512

Greensboro Land Trust

PO box 135
Greensboro, VT
05841

Vermont Land Trust

8 Bailey Ave
Montpelier, VT
05601
(802) 745-6301

Vermont Farmer Emergency Fund Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

Includes
Maple
Producers

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. Farmers may request up to \$5,000 in grants that do not need to be repaid.

Grant Details



Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis



Up to \$5,000



To apply, contact Bill Cavanaugh
Bill@nofavt.org
(802) 434-7154

The fund is available to assist Vermont certified organic and NOFA-VT member commercial farmers who are in need of assistance after having been adversely affected by natural and unnatural disasters. Farmers may request up to \$5,000 in grants that do not need to be repaid.

The fund may be used to help replace infrastructure, for example greenhouses barns, fencing, seed equipment, feed equipment, livestock equipment, and other losses caused by the disaster.

Contact

Bill Cavanaugh, Business Farm
Advisor
Bill@nofavt.org
(802) 434-7154



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

Ineligible Costs

The fund may be used to help pay outstanding farm related bills and immediate needs such as loan and mortgage repayments.

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.

Vermont Family Farmer of the Month Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

Includes
Maple
Producers

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. Funding for the Vermont Family Farmer of the Month comes from a generous, anonymous, charitable gift fund. It is administered by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont in partnership with VHC Farm & Forest Viability Program, Shelburne Farms, and the Vermont Grass Farmers Association.



\$10,000 - \$12,000

Eligibility

Funds support innovative projects that will improve the viability of the 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. In order to apply, you must meet the following conditions:

- You are a NOFA Vermont Member or a certified Vermont Organic Farm
- You have not received this award in the past
- You are a resident of Vermont

Award Timeline



Twelve grants will be awarded annually - one award for each month. Applications are reviewed three times a year and announced each month.

November through February Awards
Applications due by: October 16th

March through June Awards
Applications due by: January 22nd

July through October Awards
Applications due by: May 28th

NOFA Vermont
PO Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477

Phone: (802) 434-4122
Fax: 802-329-3033

Email: info@nofavt.org

<https://nofavt.org>

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



Farmer Resilience Grants Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)

Includes
Maple
Producers

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.



Up to \$2,500 per farm, or \$10,000 for multi-farm applications



Review application instructions and updates at:

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

Eligibility

- Farm business is located in Vermont and has been in business for a minimum of one year
- Must be able to meet the timeline for project completion
- Cannot have received a Vermont Family Farmer of the Month award in the previous 2 years.

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 has prevented them from receiving funding. This may include social barriers such as access to farming network, 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



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

Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), offers business planning, technical assistance, and grant opportunities to Vermont's commercial-scale farm, food, and forest products enterprises to help them achieve long-term success. Through the Farm & Forest Viability Program, participating owners and operators are partnered with advisors from a network of service providers throughout Vermont, including VHCB, NOFA-VT, the Intervale Center, UVM Extension, and the Center for an Agricultural Economy, among others.

Farm and Forest Business Coaching

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program offers business planning, technical assistance, and grant opportunities to Vermont's commercial-scale farm, food, and forest products enterprises to help them achieve long-term success.

Businesses enrolled in the Viability Program can work with a professional advisor on a variety of topics, including:

- Business Planning
- Enterprise & Feasibility Analysis
- Management Coaching
- Financial Record-Keeping & Cash Flow Management
- Marketing & Sales
- Human Resources Management
- Retirement & Ownership Succession Planning
- Planning Capital Improvements & Accessing Financing
- Land Access & Conservation Assistance

Eligibility

- Business must be based in Vermont.
- Applicant must have at least 2 years managing this or another related business.
- Farm business must gross minimum of \$15k annually.
- Forest product businesses must be primarily involved with harvesting, production, processing, storage, marketing, and/or distribution of local forest products.
- Food businesses must be primarily involved in adding value to Vermont's agricultural products.

Contact

Calley Hastings, VHCB Program Manager
calley@vhcb.org
(802) 828-3370



<https://www.vhcb.org/viability>

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 also 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.



Application Deadline in January



\$5,000 - \$50,000, with a 1 to 1 match.
Grantees will be reimbursed upon project completion



Find application instructions at:
<https://vhcb.org/viability/grants/water-quality-grants>

Eligibility

- Any farm that is required to meet the Required Agricultural Practices and has gross sales of at least \$15,000 per year
- Custom operators and non-profits that play an integral roll in water quality management on farms may be eligible
- Dairy and livestock farms are more competitive for this grant

Projects

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 soil health, such as fencing and laneways.

Engineering or other Professional Costs: Examples include design of a barn or new structure, and some consulting fees for larger projects.

Contact

Betsy McGavisk, Viability Program Coordinator
Betsy@VHCB.org
(802) 828-5562



<https://www.vhcb.org/our-programs/vermont-farm-forest-viability-program/grants/water-quality-grants>

Farmland Conservation Program

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

Includes
Maple
Producers

Established in 1987, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board remains the forerunner in the nation in pioneering a comprehensive approach to affordable housing and community development linked with land conservation and historic preservation. The Board's enabling statute is: The Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Act, 10 V.S.A. Chapter 15, §§302-325a. Programs include Housing, Conservation, Vermont Farm & Forest Viability, Healthy & Lead-Safe Homes, VHCB AmeriCorps, Rural Economic Development Initiative, Leadership, Farmland Access, Water Quality, Energy Efficiency and Food Access and Affordable Housing. The farmland conservation program ensures some of Vermont's most productive farmland will remain undeveloped and available for farming in the future. The program ensures that farms are not isolated by residential development.

Overview

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.

There is a funding cap of \$550,000 per application, and \$4,200 per acre.

Contact

Holly McClintock, Agricultural Program Coordinator
h.mcclintock@vhcb.org
(802) 828-0795



<https://vhcb.org/our-programs/conservation/apply-for-funding>

Farm Viability Program

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

UVM Extension's Farm Viability Program provides farm owners with business education resources, skills development, and one-on-one planning services.

One-On-One Business Planning

Get help from a business provider for a variety of business models, including:

- Full Business Plan: Develop a comprehensive business plan that covers all aspects of the business for 1-3 years. Includes short and long-term goals, marketing plans, management plans, risk analysis and financial statements
- Cash Flow Plan: Develop budgets and update the financial statements needed to make key decisions or apply for financing
- Enterprise Analysis Plan: Single-out and analyze one enterprise within your business or test the feasibility of a new idea
- Transition Plan: Develop a plan to phase out of one ag product and begin or expand production of another. Could include enterprise analysis, goal setting, cash flow analysis, etc.
- Transfer Plan: Planning focused on the unique relational, tax, and legal considerations of transferring ownership and management of the farm.

Farms must meet VHCB eligibility to participate, meaning the participant is a Vermont resident, has 3 years of experience working in and managing farm operations and the farm business generated at least \$15,000 of gross sales in the previous year.

Pre-Viability One-On-One Business Planning

For individuals not meeting the experience and income requirements outlined above, services are still available, including:

- Budget assistance and preparation
- Business entity guidance
- Help navigating legal, technical and regulatory requirements
- Goal setting and financial planning

Business Clinics

Short, one-on-one meetings planned for a specific purpose such as a check-up to review progress with a business plan, a brief cash flow analysis or budget review, preparation for a loan application, or a job-level cost analysis. Find out more & register at: www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/agbizcoaching

Contact

Betsy Miller, Farm Business Educator &
Farm Viability Program Manager
1-800-287-1552 ext 252
Betsy.Miller@uvm.edu



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

Northeast Direct Vegetable Benchmark University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

UVM Extension has partnered with the University of New Hampshire Extension and four additional Northeast states to pilot a new financial benchmarking program for produce farm owners that direct market their crops. The project provides financial statement preparation and financial analysis assistance to eligible farm owners.

Overview

This project is geared toward the owners of farm businesses that rely on the farm for significant portion of owner household income. In the first-year, participants will meet three to four times with a business educator to organize accounting records, establish required record keeping systems and integrate farm accounting records with the Finpack® farm financial software program. Participants and educators will meet one to three times in the second year to compile a second round of financial statements and discuss the financial planning goals for the business.

Eligibility

- Primarily engaged in vegetable and/or fruit production
- Annual gross sales of %150,000 or higher
- Over half of sales or crop volume is sold through direct market channels: farm retail, CSA, online sales, farmers markets, and direct wholesale buyers where farm self-delivers (restaurant, grocers, caterers)

Contact & Sign Up

Fill out the online form at:
<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Agriculture/agbusiness/NE-Veg-Benchmark-Program-Info-Sheet.pdf>

Or send a letter of interest including your name, business name, email, phone, postal address and street address (if different) and years in business to:

UVM Extension
Attn: NE Direct Benchmark Project
327 US Route 302, Berlin, VT 05651

Or email to Mark Cannella
Mark.Cannella@uvm.edu
(802) 476-2003

Water Quality Business Analysis

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

UVM Extension farm business educators are available to work with dairy and livestock farm owners to assess and plan for business changes to meet water quality goals. Farm owners can work one-on-one with a business educator to evaluate the feasibility and impact of changes facing the farm and business.

Strategic Planning

- Analysis of current business cash flow and budget
- Infrastructure improvements
- Farm transfer or exit planning

Integrating Conservation and Business Planning

- Assessing the adoption of new practices and new investments
- Coordination of water quality project advisors
- Grant and loan application guidance
- Making the necessary referrals to other in-depth business planning resources

Contact & Sign Up

View the Online Form:

<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Agriculture/agbusiness/Water-Quality-Program-Info-Sheet.pdf>

Or send a letter of interest describing your goals for joining the program. Please include: Owner Name, Name of Business, Phone, E-Mail, Address, Mailing Address, Acres Owned, Acres Rented

Mail to:

UVM Extension
Attn: Water Quality Business Analysis
278 South Main Street, Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478-1866

Or email Tony Kitsos
Tony.Kitsos@uvm.edu
(802) 476-2003

Dairy Herd Management Technical Assistance (DHMTA) University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

UVM's team of technical service providers provide assistance to 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, and grazing plans and pasture improvement. The DHMTA team can connect you with other experts, resources, and grant opportunities to assist with making improvements to your farm operations.

Opportunities

- Provide support for dairies of all sizes, conventional and organic, and include support for cows as well as sheep and goats
- Herd health, herd record analysis, calves and heifers, cow comfort
- Milk quality, on-farm processing, and raw milk sales
- Grazing planning
- Sourcing grant funding
- Enrolling farms in programs that provide payments for rotational grazing and protecting waterways

DHMT Assistance Staff

Whitney Hull
Dairy Herd Management Educator, UVM
Extension
(802) 656-7563
Whitney.hull@uvm.edu

Kelsie Meehan
Dairy & Grazing Specialist, Center for
Sustainable Agriculture, UVM Extension
(802) 656-4829
Kelsie.meehan@uvm.edu



UVM Extension Dairy Herd Management
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/dairy-herd-management-technical-assistance>

UVM Extension Grazing & Livestock Program
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/grazing>

Dairy Herd Management Request for
Assistance Form
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/forms/dairy-herd-management-request-assistance>

Grazing & Livestock Program

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

UVM Extension Grazing & Livestock Programming teams are here to 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. Our staff work across three teams throughout Vermont to be the go-to resource for all your grazing needs. Contact Us - We are here to answers all questions you may have.

New and Beginning

- Resources for learning from other farmers
- Business Planning
- Grazing Books & Guides

Grazing Technical

- Grazing Planning
- Improved Grazing
- Contract Grazing and Leasing Land
- Livestock Management
- Land Management
- Soil, Manure & Forage Testing
- Business Planning and Profitability
- Infrastructure
- Identifying Your Support System

Farmer Funding and Grant

- State
- Regional
- Federal

Contact

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/forms/grazing-and-livestock-contact-form>



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

Pasture & Profitability Technical Assistance

Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Juan Alvez - jalvez@uvm.edu 802-656-6116.

Extension Research Associate, sustainable agriculture and environment, grazing management, agroecology, ecosystems services, conservation, and green markets.

Kelsie Meehan - Kelsie.meehan@uvm.edu (518) 810-6431. Dairy & Grazing Specialist, statewide technical assistance for cow, goat, and sheep dairies. Small-to-mid sized producers, including pasture-based and organic dairies.

Amber Reed - Amber.Reed@uvm.edu (802) 535-2262. Pasture Technical Assistance, Grazing technical assistance statewide on any type of livestock, managing a dairy grazing cohort, assisting with VAAFMs Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program.

Northwest Crops and Soils Program

Heather Darby - Heather.Darby@uvm.edu 802-524-6501. Agronomist and Soil Specialist, forage crop production and pasture management, soil management, and nutrient management.

Sara Ziegler - Sara.Ziegler@uvm.edu 802-524-650-6501. Research Specialist, forage crop production and pasture management, nutrient management, grass-fed dairy systems.

Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team

Abigail Augarten – Abigail.Augarten@uvm.edu (802) 388-4969. Soil Health & Water Quality Outreach Specialist, UVM Extension, Middlebury Office. Grazing technical assistance, dairy, beef, small ruminants, Addison, Rutland, Bennington, Chittenden, and Franklin Counties.

Farmworker Resources

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

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.

Programs

Vermont Migrant Education Program

- 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.

Bridges to Health

- Bridges to Health is a health outreach program for migrant farmworkers in Vermont. Utilizing a care coordination model carried out by regional Migrant Health Promoters, the program empowers farmworkers to make timely health decisions. In addition to offering care coordination to migrant farmworkers in need of health care services, Bridges to Health creates capacity-building opportunities for local health entities to implement linguistically and culturally appropriate services.

Farming Across Cultures

- For producers, managers, and Latino employees in the areas of work, health and the home.

The Huertas Project

- Huertas is a community-based food security project that enables Latino/a migrant farmworkers and families living on Vermont's dairies to access culturally familiar and local foods through cultivating kitchen gardens.

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.

Vermont Migrant Health Immunization Program

- Migrant farmworkers can easily receive the Covid-19 vaccine, the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine, and the seasonal Influenza (flu) vaccine at their place of work through this program.

[https://www.uvm.edu/extension/
agriculture/farmwork](https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/farmwork)

New Farmer Project

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

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. There are many resources available to farmers in Vermont, but finding the right information at the right time can be a challenge for new farmers. By collaborating with UVM Extension specialists and partners in the non-profit and government organizations serving farmers, we put our efforts into gathering the information most applicable to new farmers and bringing it to this site. Our goal is to help streamline your access to services and information relevant to your farming situation.

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, and employment and labor.

Land Access Toolshed:

Resources on farmland access and tenure for both prospective buyers and renters.

Marketing Toolshed:

Resources on market assessment, pricing, promotion, and food safety.

Production Toolshed:

Resources to build production skills and know-how. Topics include farm safety, forages and grains, livestock production and grazing, produce, and infrastructure resources.

Education

Growing Places Course

The audience for this course includes those who are considering starting an agriculture or natural resource-based business but aren't sure where to start. Participants define goals, explore, and evaluate opportunities and resources, and become familiar with state and federal agricultural programs. Co-sponsored by the Women's Agricultural Network.

Building a Sustainable Business Course

This course guides participants through developing a farm business plan, firmly rooted in personal, community, economic, and environmental values. This course is geared towards those who have completed the Growing Places Course, or producers who have at least one year's commercial farm operation experience and production/financial records of their own.

Technical Assistance

Farm Management Team Program (FMT) helps 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. This program is offered free of charge to Vermont farms.



Vermont New Farmer Project
c/o UVM Extension
327 US Route 301, Barre, VT 05602

newfarmer@uvm.edu
(866) 860-1382 (toll free in Vermont)
or 802-476-2003

www.uvm.edu/extension/newfarmerproject

Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

The Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) provides education and technical assistance and networking opportunities geared to the needs of women farmers since 1995. Their vision is to increase the number of women owning and operating profitable farms and ag-related businesses and their profile in leadership positions throughout the agricultural sectors of business, government, and community. WAgN works with established, beginning, and aspiring farmers.

Assistance & Education

Coaching for Farmer and Food System Workers:

Farm and business coaching is offered to aspiring, beginning, and established farmers, farm employees, food business owners and employees, landowners, service providers, and educators, among others.

Courses:

In collaboration with UVM Extension, WAgN offers the Growing Places Course for aspiring producers, *Building a Sustainable Business Course* for producers looking to refine and develop comprehensive business plans, and *Taking Stock* course for experienced producers interested in changing the scale, scope, and/or design of their farm.

Pricing Resources:

WAgN provides resources on product pricing, competition analysis, and cost estimation on their website.

Contact

Mary Peabody, Director of WAgN,
UVM Extension Specialist in Community
Resources and Economic Development
mary.peabody@uvm.edu

Beth Holtzman, Outreach Education
Coordinator of WAgN
beth.holtzman@uvm.edu



You can learn more about this program at
the UVM Extension Website:

[https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/
womens-agricultural-network](https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/womens-agricultural-network)

Office Location:
The Women's Ag Network
327 US Route 302
Berlin, VT 05641

Forest Business Education & Planning Assistance University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

Our Forest Business program is funded by UVM Extension and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and 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 framers.

One-On-One Business Planning Assistance Business

Over the course of a year, participants can focus on projects including development and implementation of in-depth business plans, honing of finances, enterprise analysis planning, and creation of new marketing plans.

Business Clinics

Short, one-on-one meetings planned for a specific purpose such as a check-up to review progress with a business plan, a brief cash flow analysis or budget review, preparation for a loan application, or a job-level cost analysis. Find out more & register here:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/agbizcoaching>

UVM Extension Forest Business Roundtable

After a successful launch in 2021, the Forest Business Roundtable is back. A peer advisory cohort for forest and wood products businesses to share challenges and opportunities, hone business management skills, and develop leadership skills with a varied group of industry peers. 2nd cohort began May 2022 and includes monthly meetings with 10 to 12 business owners and managers including: Timber Harvesters, Mills, Wood Manufacturers, Foresters, Artisans, Value Added Producers, and Maple Businesses, joining an informal board of directors' atmosphere. Participants can explore a variety of business skills and disciplines, learn from industry professionals invited to meetings based on interest of the group, network with operators in the forest economy, develop relationships, and do business.

Contact

Corrine Cooper, Administrative Assistant
Corrine.Cooper@uvm.edu
(802) 476-2003



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

Succession Planning

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

The UVM Extension Agricultural Business Team is offering free assistance to any Vermont farm business looking for support with succession planning. This service is designed to help farmers identify the urgency of their needs, find appropriate resources and information based on those needs, and provide feedback on developing a plan to address them. You can fill out a short intake form to get started and a member of the team will connect with you. All services provided through this intake form are free and are for any type of farm business in Vermont.

Resources

- Legal Issues
- Tax Planning
- Conservation
- Financial Analysis and Preparation (Including Retirement Readiness)
- Estate Planning
- Business Planning for Succession
- Lease/Rental Information
- Business Agreements with New Ownership
- Full Transfer/Succession Plan

Contact

For general inquiries, contact Corinne Cooper, the Administrative Assistant for the Berlin office: (802) 476-2003.

Corinne.cooper@uvm.edu



https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/agriculture_business_management

Farm Succession Planning Intake Form:

<https://share.hsforms.com/1qXjNWwsBR1aYp8gvfUJXUA3sjg1>

UVM Extension Maple Program

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

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.

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

Learn about career development events for students at:

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

Maple Conference Recordings and Materials

Watch, listen to, and read materials related to past Maple Conferences:

https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/maple_conference

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/agriculture/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, rental rates, sap pricing, and hauling costs at:

www.maplemanager.org

Contact

For Maple Business Education and Economic Research projects: Mark Cannella
Mark.Cannella@uvm.edu (802) 656-4822

Mark Isselhardt, UVM Extension Maple Specialist
Mark.Isselhardt@uvm.edu (802) 656-7564

For Maple Sap Business Promotion: Chris Lindgren
Christopher.Lindgren@uvm.edu (802) 733-3349



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

Farm Labor Housing Rural Development

This program provides affordable financing to develop or rehabilitate housing for very-low income domestic, migrant, and seasonal farm laborers. This program assists qualified applicants who cannot obtain commercial credit and provide housing to eligible tenants.



Loan term is 33 years at a fixed rate of 1%. There is no loan minimum.
Maximum loan amount up to 100% of the allowable total development cost.



Refer to notice of solicitation for applications (NOSA) in federal register

Eligible Practices

- Construction, improvement, repair and purchase of housing for domestic farm laborers
- Purchase and improvement of land
- Purchasing of household furnishings
- Paying construction loan interest

Who May Apply

- Farmers, associations of farmers, and family farm corporations
- Associations of farmworkers and non-profit organizations
- Most state and local government entities
- Federally Recognized tribes

Who are eligible tenants?

- Domestic farm laborers, individuals who earn a substantial portion of their income from farm labor, retired farm laborers
- Families of eligible tenants
- Occupant must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or those legally admitted to this country and authorized to perform work in agriculture

Contact

Colleen Ladew, Vermont & New Hampshire
Housing Program Director
Colleen.Ladew@usda.gov
(603) 223-6039



<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/multifamily-housing-programs/farm-labor-housing-loans>

Meat & Poultry Processing Expansion Program

Rural Development

The USDA Rural Development Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their capacity. USDA Rural Development designed the MPPEP to encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector and to help improve supply chain resiliency.



Applications close November 22



Phase I maximum award: \$25 million or 20% of project costs

Phase II maximum award: \$10 million, or 30% project costs



Review Application Instructions at:
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-processing-expansion-program>

Requirements

The Applicant Must:

- Process – or plan to process – one or more species subject to the Federal Meat Inspection Act, or the Poultry Product Inspection Act
- Have – or plan to get – a Federal Grant of Inspection through USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, a Grant of Inspection under the Cooperative Interstate Shipment program, or a federal equivalent Tribal or state-based meat and poultry inspection program
- Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and all other applicable state, local, or Tribal laws

Ranking

- Building, modernizing, or expanding existing processing facilities, including mobile slaughter units
- Developing, installing, or modernizing equipment and technology
- Ensuring compliance with packaging and labeling requirements'
- Upholding occupational and other safety requirements
- Modifying facilities or equipment to protect food safety
- Paying for voluntary grading services or value-added processed products
- Offsetting costs associated with becoming an inspected facility
- Supporting workforce recruitment, training, and retention

Contact

Mppep@usda.gov



<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-processing-expansion-program>

Value-Added Producer Grant Rural Development

Includes
Maple
Producers

The USDA Rural Development Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.



Application Deadline in May



Planning Grants up to \$75,000,
Working Capital Grants up to
\$250,000



Review Application Instructions at:
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants>

Eligibility

Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures, as defined in the program regulation, are eligible to apply for this program.

Grant and matching funds can be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Examples of work capital expenses include:

- Processing costs
- Marketing and advertising expenses
- Some inventory and salary expenses

Contact

Ken Yearman, Business Program Director
(802) 488-0118
Kenneth.Yearman@usda.gov
BPVTNH.Inquiry@usda.gov



<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants/vt-nh>

Rural Energy for America Program Rural Development

Includes
Maple
Producers

The USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America (REAP) program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

Example Projects

- Biomass (for example: biodiesel and ethanol, anaerobic digesters, and solid fuels)
- Geothermal for electric generation or direct use
- Hydropower below 30 megawatts
- Hydrogen
- Small and large wind generation
- Small and large solar generation
- Ocean (tidal, current, thermal) generation

Funds may also be used for the purchase, installation, and construction of energy efficiency improvements, such as:

- High efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC)
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Cooling or refrigeration units
- Doors and windows
- Electric, solar or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots
- Switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor
- Replacement of energy inefficient equipment

- Loan guarantees on loans up to 75% of total eligible project costs.
- Grants for up to 25% of total eligible project costs.
- Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs.

Terms

Renewable Energy System Grants: \$2,500 minimum. \$1 million maximum.

Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1,500 minimum. \$500,000 maximum.

Are there additional requirements?
Applicants must provide at least 50% of the project cost if applying for a grant only.

Applicants must provide at least 25% percent of the project cost if applying for loan.

All projects must have technical merit and utilize commercially available technology.

Energy efficiency projects require an energy audit or assessment.

Contact

Tracy Rexford
Vermont Rural Development Energy Coordinator
Tracy.Rexford@usda.gov (802) 828-6070



<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/ruralenergy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energyefficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans>

Agricultural Loan Efficiency Vermont

Includes
Maple
Producers

Secure a flexible, low-interest loan so you can make cost-effective energy improvements to your agricultural operation. Get access to affordable, low-interest loans with \$0 down, so you can improve the energy efficiency of your farm or ag operation, boost production, and lower your operating expenses. We perform a cash-flow analysis of your energy efficiency project, then work with VSECU to structure your loan. Contact us with questions or to get started on our streamlined application process.

Projects

Give us a call to talk about your energy efficiency project—whether it's upgrading your barn lighting, buying a reverse osmosis system to boost syrup production, or adding variable frequency drives to your farm's milking equipment. After we talk, we'll run a cost-savings analysis to ensure that the proposed improvements strengthen your bottom line. If you decide to move forward, we can guide you through the application process and help you secure financing with terms that work for you.

- Experienced, unbiased advice on cost-effective improvements
- Loan terms structured to meet your cash-flow needs
- Rebates available for qualifying agricultural products

Eligibility

- Financing must be for energy efficiency improvements
- Agricultural operations and farms must be located in Vermont
- Must be registered and in good standing with the Vermont Office of the Secretary of State



Efficiency Vermont

20 Winooski Falls Way 5th Floor
Winooski, VT 05404

Monday to Friday
8 AM – 5 PM

(888) 921-5990

<https://www.encyvermont.com>

Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Includes
Maple
Producers

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.

Eligibility

What vehicles and equipment are eligible?

Diesel-powered engines, vehicles, and equipment currently operating in Vermont. These may include: buses, locomotives, heavy-duty trucks, defined as Class 5 through Class 8; Class 5 (16,001 - 19,500 lbs gross vehicle weight rating [GVWR]); Class 6 (19,501 - 26,000 lbs GVWR); Class 7 (26,001 - 33,000 lbs GVWR); Class 8a (33,001 - 60,000 lbs GVWR); Class 8b (60,001 lbs GVWR and over), marine engines, non-road engines, equipment or vehicles used in construction, handling of cargo, agriculture, mining or energy production (stationary generators and pumps).

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.

Who is eligible to apply?

All interested local, state, and regional agencies or departments as well as businesses, institutions, and nonprofit organizations operating in the State of Vermont.

Cost Share

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.

Contact

Leigh Martin
(802) 261-0713
leigh.martin@vermont.gov



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

Agricultural Energy Loan Program Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Vermont Economic Development Authority's Agricultural Energy Loan Program (AELP), created through Act 87 in 2013, is administered by the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC). The AELP provides loans to agriculture- or forest product-based companies for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The maximum loan amount is \$2,000,000, and the percent of the project funded by VACC is negotiable. Loans are provided at variable rates, although fixed rates may be available in some circumstances. Loan terms are determined on a case-by-case basis. Fees associated with AELP loans include (1) a 1% commitment fee (\$5,000 maximum), (2) a \$30 credit report fee, (3) if applicable, appraisal fee, document recording fee, flood certificate fee, and other out-of-pocket fees.

Eligibility

- A Vermont resident who is engaged in agriculture or forest products businesses within the state and will help expand the agricultural economy of the state
- An operator or proposed operator of an agricultural or forest-based business
- A current or prospective owner/purchaser or lessee of agricultural land in the state or of depreciable machinery, equipment, and/or livestock in Vermont.

Contact

Vermont Economic Development Authority

58 East State Street, Suite 5
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Phone: (802) 828-5627

Fax: (802) 828-5474

Email: info@veda.org

<https://www.veda.org>



<https://www.veda.org/financing-options/vermont-agricultural-financing/agricultural-energy-loan-program/>

Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation is a program of the Vermont Economic Development Authority 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. Loans require a commitment fee of 0.5% (\$3,500 maximum). Variable interest rates subsidized for 2 years, or fixed interest rates subsidized for 5, 7, or 10 years.

Eligibility

- A Vermont resident who is engaged in agriculture or forest products businesses within the state and will help expand the agricultural economy of the state
- An operator or proposed operator of an agricultural or forest-based business
- A current or prospective owner/purchaser or lessee of agricultural land in the state or of depreciable machinery, equipment and/or livestock in Vermont.



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

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 Ownership Loans

May be used to:

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

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Enrollment Farm Service Agency (FSA)

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to reestablish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Thanks to voluntary participation by farmers and landowners, CRP has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and increased habitat for endangered and threatened species.



Enroll in late Winter. View website for specific dates

General Enrollment

Rental payments for conservation cover, with cost-share up to 50% for cover establishment. There is a climate-smart incentive payment of 3%, 5%, or 10% for CRP practices increasing carbon sequestration and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to enrollment, unless land was acquired upon the death of the original landowner, ownership change occurred due to foreclosure, or circumstance presents adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of enrollment into CRP.
- Land must be in cropland in agricultural commodity for at least 4 years between 2012 and 2017 and be capable of being planted. Perennial grasses and legumes in a rotation not to exceed 12 years are also eligible.
- Land must have a weighted erosion index of 8 or higher, be expiring, or be located in a priority area.
- Through CRP General Enrollment, applications are ranked based on the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI), determined by FSA. EBI considers locations, soils information, and selected conservation practice. Only entries that meet the EBI threshold are eligible for CRP enrollments and payment.

Find your local FSA Service Center:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt&agency=fsa>

View the Program Website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>

FSA State Office
356 Mountain View Drive Suite 104

Colchester, VT 05446

Phone: (802) 658-2803

Fax: (855) 794-3676

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Enrollment

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Under CRP Continuous Enrollment, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Unlike CRP General Enrollment, CRP Continuous Enrollment applications are not competitively ranked against each other and are automatically accepted provided that the land and producer meet certain eligibility criteria. Acres that are currently enrolled under General CRP, and meet the eligibility criteria, are eligible for CRP Continuous Enrollment contracts.



Continuous Enrollment, Apply Year-Round

Signup Incentive Payment of 32.5% of the first full year annual rental payment is paid at contract approval on all newly enrolled Continuous CRP contract acreage. A Practice Incentive Payment of up to 50% is paid for installing the practice.

Annual rental payments at a rate of 90% of the existing rate to eligible CRP continuous participants based on per acre cropland and marginal pastureland rental rates, plus a 10% “inflationary” adjustment, determined by FSA. The per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate or \$300/acre. Producers may elect to receive a rental rate amount less than the maximum payment rate.

Climate-Smart Practice Incentive: FSA provides an incentive of 3%, 5%, or 10% for CRP practices that will increase carbon sequestration, reduce GHG emissions, and otherwise are climate smart practices. The incentive amount is based on the estimated benefits of each practice.

Water Quality Incentive: FSA provides a 20% rental rate incentive for CRP water quality practices that will improve water quality by reducing sediment loading, nutrient loading, and harmful algae blooms.

Cost-Share Assistance: Cost-share of up to 50% of the reimbursable cost of installing the practice is provided by FSA. Cost-share assistance is not available for any management activity.

Eligible Practices: Grass Waterways, Shallow Water Area for Wildlife, Contour Grass Strip, Filter Strip, Riparian Buffer, Wetland Restoration on Floodplain and Non-floodplain, Pollinator Habitat, Duck Nesting Habitat, Windbreaks, and Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer and Wildlife Habitat Buffers. View the factsheet on the Conservation Reserve Program site or talk with your local FSA Service Center for a full list of eligible practices.

Find your local FSA Service Center:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt&agency=fsa>

View the Program Website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>

FSA State Office

356 Mountain View Drive Suite 104, Colchester, VT 05446

Phone: (802) 658-2803

Fax: (855) 794-3676

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. The ECP does this by giving ranchers and farmers funding and assistance to repair the damaged farmland or to install methods for water conservation.

Eligibility

FSA County Committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. Eligible land includes land used for:

- Commercial farming, ranching, and orchard operations
- Growing nursery stock and Christmas tree plantations
- Grazing for commercial livestock production
- Conservation structures such as, waterways, terraces, diversions, and windbreaks
- Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance

Payment



- Up to 75% of the cost to implement approved restoration practices
- Up to 90% of the cost to implement approved restoration practices for those who certify as limited resource, socially-disadvantaged or beginning farmers/ranchers
- Limited to \$500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster
- Available as an advance payment of up to 25% of expected cost-share, for only the replacement or restoration of fencing

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

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is administered by FSA state and county committees and county offices. Producers should contact their local FSA county office regarding ECP enrollment periods and eligibility. FSA state office (802) 658-2803. See directory at back of Guide.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting.

Eligibility

An eligible producer is a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of that crop. An individual's or entity's average adjusted gross income (AGI) cannot exceed \$900,000 to be eligible for NAP payments. Also, NAP payments received directly or indirectly will be attributed to the applicable individual or entity and limited to \$125,000 per crop year, per individual or entity for crops with basic (catastrophic) coverage. Any NAP payments received directly or indirectly for crops with additional (buy-up) coverage will be attributed to the applicable individual or entity and limited to \$300,000 per crop year, per individual or entity. To learn more, visit fsa.usda.gov/limits.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available and be any of the following:

- Crops grown for food
- Crops planted and grown for livestock consumption, such as grain and forage crops, including native forage
- Crops grown for fiber, such as cotton and flax (except trees)
- Crops grown in a controlled environment, such as mushrooms and floriculture
- Specialty crops, such as honey and maple sap
- Sea oats and sea grass
- Sweet sorghum and biomass sorghum
- Industrial crops, including crops used in manufacturing or grown as a feedstock for renewable biofuel, renewable electricity, or biobased products
- Value loss crops, such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, ornamental nursery, and turf-grass sod; and
- Seed crops where the propagation stock is produced for sale as seed stock for other eligible NAP crop production

Find your local FSA Service Center

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?vt&agency=fsa>

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance/index>

FSA State Office

356 Mountain View Drive
Suite 104 Colchester, VT 05446

Phone: (802) 658-2803
Fax: (855) 794-3676

Dairy Margin Coverage Program Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes the Dairy Margin Coverage Program, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy. The DMC provides dairy operations with risk management coverage that will pay producers when the difference (the margin) between the national price of milk and the average cost of feed when it falls below a certain level selected by the participating producer.



Pay annual coverage fee
of \$100 and receive
catastrophic coverage



Apply at your local FSA
Office

The DMC decision tool helps producers determine the level of coverage under a variety of conditions that will provide them with the strongest financial safety net.

Access the tool at:
<https://dmc.dairymarkets.org/#/>

To participate in DMC, dairy producers:

- Select a coverage level ranging from costs of \$4.00 to \$9.50 per cwt, in \$0.50 increments
- Select a coverage percentage of the dairy operation's production history ranging from 5 percent to 95%, in 5% increments



Find your local FSA Service Center:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt&agency=fsa>

View the Program Website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/dairy-margin-coverage-program/index>

FSA State Office
356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 104
Colchester, VT 05446

Phone: (802) 658-2803

Fax: (855) 794-3676

Historic Barn Preservation Grant

Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD)

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. This is the oldest state-funded agricultural-based grant program in the United States. Since its inception, the program has provided over \$3 million towards the preservation of over 360 historic barns and agricultural outbuildings around the state.



Application deadline December 4th



Reimbursement up to \$20,000 with a one-to-one match



Submit online to <https://gs.anr.vermont.gov/dropoff> or mail to address on application

Eligibility

- Individuals, businesses, municipalities, and non-profit organizations may apply.
- Property must be listed or determined eligible for listed 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 enhancement.
- Ineligible: improvements, new construction, electrical, plumbing, heating, planning projects.

Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development



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

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: Preservation of 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.

Contact

Caitlin Corkins, Tax Credits and Grants Coordinator
Caitlin.Corkins@vermont.gov
(802) 828-3047

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, on-line sales, or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.



Check Website for Application Announcement



\$50,000 - \$500,000 award with 25% cash or in-kind match



Apply at <https://www.grants.gov>

Eligibility

Agricultural businesses and cooperatives, producer networks or associations, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities, and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

Contact

FMLFPPgrants@USDA.gov



<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

Projects

Long-term organizational capacity in the development, coordination, and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Projects can include, but are not limited to:

- Market analysis and strategic planning
- Producer or market manager training and education
- Online sales operation or expansion
- Producer and consumer outreach

Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer-to-consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Grants can be used for the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise, or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise. A 25% match is required.



Check website for Application
Announcement



Minimum \$25,000
Maximum \$500,000
25% match required



Apply at
<https://www.grants.gov>

Eligibility

Agricultural businesses and cooperatives, producer networks or associations, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities, and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

Contact

FMLFPPgrants@usda.gov



<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>

Projects

Planning

- Feasibility studies
- Hiring experts to provide training or technical assistance
- Business development plans

Implementation

- Development or expansion of food incubator programs or mid-tier value chains
- Provision of technical assistance or financial support for food safety measures producers may have to implement to expand marketing opportunities
- Adoption of new online technology or virtual marketplace

Farm to Institution

- Aggregation, processing, distribution, and storage of products
- Market development
- Business plan and strategy development
- Food safety certification and improvements

Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools and help connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. Grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts.



Applications due January 12, 2024



Maximum \$500,000
25% match required



Apply at
<https://www.grants.gov>

Practices

- Training
- Supporting operations
- Planning
- Purchasing equipment
- Developing school gardens
- Developing partnerships
- Implementing farm to school programs

Example Projects

- Make local food products available on the menu of the eligible schools
- Serve a high proportion of children who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches
- Incorporate experiential nutrition education activities in curriculum planning that encourage the participation of school children in farm and garden-based agricultural education activities
- Demonstrate collaboration between eligible schools, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, agricultural producer groups, and other community partners
- Include adequate and participatory evaluation plans
- Demonstrate the potential for long-term program sustainability
- Meet any other criteria that the Secretary of Agriculture determines appropriate

Contact

SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program>

Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program

National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)

The primary goal of the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the U.S. and its territories enter and/or improve their successes in farming, ranching, and management of nonindustrial private forest lands through support for projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to give beginning farmers and ranchers the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations to enhance their sustainability. Program funding for FY 2023 was 28 million dollars, with average individual awards ranging from \$49,000-\$750,000.

Projects & Funding

Simplified Standard Grants: Simplified Standard Grants are intended to assist organizations:

- 1) To sustain and enhance important collaborations and innovative activities relevant to beginning farmer and rancher programs
- 2) To initiate and develop beginning farmer and rancher project ideas to lead to future program success or success in obtaining other grants for beginning farmer and rancher education

Educational Team Projects: The long-term goals of Educational Team (ET) Projects are to identify gaps in beginning farmer and rancher training by evaluating all existing programs and to develop and conduct train-the-trainer projects to address these gaps.

Curriculum and Training Clearinghouse: The purpose of the Curriculum and Training Clearinghouse is to serve as an online platform and library for curricula, training materials, technical assistance materials, and any other appropriate information for beginning farmers and ranchers. The Online Clearinghouse assists NIFA leadership in developing and providing an outcome-based results verification system appropriate for use by the BFRDP, provides archival support for all materials and curricula on beginning farmer education and training, organizes appropriate meetings (both in-person and electronic, i.e., webinars, conference calls) under the direction of NIFA leadership, and collaborates with BFRDP grantees as needed.

Contact

Denis Ebodaghe, National Program Leader
Denis.ebodaghe@usda.gov
(202) 445-5460



<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/beginning-farmer-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>

Small Business Innovation Research Program

National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) offers competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits. The program stimulates technological innovations in the private sector and strengthens the role of federal research and development in support of small businesses. The SBIR program also fosters and encourages participation by women-owned and socially or economically disadvantaged small businesses.



Phase I Applications open in July
Phase II Applications open in
December



Phase I maximum award: \$175,000
Phase II maximum award: \$600,000



Apply at
<https://www.grants.gov>

Must qualify as a small business concern for research and development (R&D) purposes at the time of award. In addition, the primary employment of the project director (PD) must be with the small business concern at the time of award and during the conduct of the proposed research.

Projects

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Topics

- Forests and Related Resources
- Plant Production and Protection - Biology
- Animal Production and Protection
- Conservation of Natural Resources
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Rural Development
- Aquaculture
- Biofuels and Biobased Products
- Small and Mid-Size Farms
- Plant Production and Protection - Engineering

Contact

Melinda Coffman, Program Coordinator
Melinda.Coffman@usda.gov

UVM Extension Contact:
<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/contact-us-form>
(802) 656-2990



<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/sbir-sttr>

Participation by university faculty or government scientists in SBIR projects is strongly encouraged. Faculty or scientists can serve as consultants or can receive a subcontract (in both cases, payment is limited to no more than 1/3 of the Phase I award or 1/2 of the Phase II award) and continue to work full time at their institution. University faculty or government scientists can also reduce employment at their institution to 49% for the duration of the grant.

Farmer Grant Program Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Innovation (SARE)

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Farmer Grant Program administered by SARE offers funding for farmers and producers to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations, or other research and education techniques. Funding may go towards a wide array of project topics, including marketing and business, crop production, raising livestock, aquaculture, social sustainability, climate smart agriculture and practices, urban and Indigenous agriculture, and more.



Applications open in September



\$5,000 to \$30,000



View Application at:

<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/farmer-grant-program/>

Funds can be used to conduct the research project including paying farmers for their time, for project-related materials, for project costs like consulting fees or soil tests, and any communications or outreach expenses associated with telling others about project results.

This grant program is not meant to help start or expand farm businesses. Farmer Grant funds cannot be used for capital costs associated with building a barn, greenhouse, or other major farm fixture, nor can funds be used to start a farm, purchase durable equipment like tractors or computers, or for any utility, telephone, or other costs that would be there in the absence of the project.

Project

Farmer Grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, marketing initiative, or other technique.

Farmer Grant projects should seek new knowledge other farmers can use and address questions that are directly linked to improved profits, better stewardship, and stronger rural communities.

A technical advisor—often an extension agent, crop consultant, other service professional or farmer with advanced expertise—must also be involved.

Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices.

Average projects last 1 to 3 years.

Farmer Grant recipients are expected to collect and manage reliable data about their project and convey this information clearly through annual and final reports.

Contact

NortheastSARE@uvm.edu
(802) 651-8335



<https://northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant/farmer-grant-program/>

Microgrant for Research & Education Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)

OCIA Research and Education (R&E), Inc. was incorporated in 2002 and is a 501(c)(3) organization. OCIA R&E is led by a six-member board of directors and one OCIA staff member. OCIA Research and Education was formed by OCIA International members to fund organic farming research conducted around the world. Research results are presented to members during annual meetings and through quarterly newsletters. The mission of OCIA Research and Education is to support farmer driven research, on farm and at research institutions, including exploratory and demonstration projects. We facilitate connections between farmers, researchers, consumers and decision-makers, and educate organic producers and local and global communities regarding organic farming and foods.



2 deadlines per year: March 15th
& November 15th



Minimum \$500
Maximum \$3,000



Apply by email: info@ocia.org



Organic Crop Improvement
Association International

info@ocia.org
(402) 477-2323

<https://ocia.org/research-education/micro-grants/>

Eligible Projects

- Educational resources related to organic agriculture for school-aged children
- Research pertaining to organic agriculture

Examples include:

- Variety trials
- Grafting
- Weed control
- Transitioning to organic

Does not include:

- Equipment
- Infrastructure
- Labor costs
- Community gardens

Farmer Led Trials (FLT) Program

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

Since its founding in 1990, OFRF supported farmers and ranchers conducting practical, on-farm research that can address their farming challenges and to support farmer-led innovations in organic farming, by providing technical and financial support.



Application Deadline in December



\$1,500



View Application instructions at:
<https://ofrf.org/research/farmer-led-research-trials/>

Eligibility

- Project must be conducted on certified organic land or land in transition to organic certification
- Must be located in the U.S. or its territories
- Participants must have management abilities, and must lease or own the farm where the trials are to occur
- Priority will be given to Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), veteran, and beginning farmers

Assistance

OFRF supports farmers and ranchers conducting research by:

- Hosting trainings and workshops and providing resources on research design and conducting on-farm trials
- Working one-on-one with farmers to refine research question, design, protocol, and timeline
- Assisting famers in data organization, cleaning, analysis, and interpretation
- Providing a \$1,500 grant, to be used for research supplies, materials, and equipment, labor related to the research, and stipend for farmer/rancher cooperators



Organic Farming Research Foundation

<https://ofrf.org>
(831) 426-6606

grants@ofrf.org
<https://ofrf.org/research/farmer-led-research-trials/>

Community Fund The FruitGuys

Founded in 2012, The FruitGuys Community Fund, a nonprofit fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, provides small grants for small farms to further their support of environmental and economic health, community engagement, and advocacy that supports sustainable agriculture.



Application Deadline in January



\$5,000



View application instructions at:
<https://fruitguyscommunityfund.org/apply/>

Eligibility

- Applicant is an owner/operator of the farm or has long-term, legal access to the land. If farming on leased land, a letter of support from the landowner specifying length of the lease agreement must be provided with the grant application.
- The applicant farm must be an established working farm with at least 2 years in operation.
- Farm is small to medium-sized as determined by acreage in agricultural production. Farms with more than 300 acres in agricultural production are ineligible to apply.

Will Not Fund:

- Non soil-based farming operations (i.e. hydroponic/aquaponic growing systems)
- Land purchases
- Costs associated with labor (your budget should only include materials and supplies)
- Projects that require a percentage of the award be used for consultants or administration
- Requests that are dependent upon receiving funding from a separate, larger grant

Funding Priorities

- Water Conservation
- Natural Pest Control
- Pollination
- Soil Health
- Energy Efficiency
- Heirlooms
- Increase Low-Income Consumers' Access to Food
- Equity, Community Building & Education
- Support Beginning and Under-Represented Farmers including BIPOC and Women



FruitGuysCommunityFund.org
info@fruitguyscommunityfund.org
<https://fruitguyscommunityfund.org/apply/>

Pesticide Program & Resources

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM), UVM Extension

VAAFM

Professional and homeowner use of pesticides are regulated under the Vermont Regulation for the Control of Pesticides. These regulations cover sales restrictions, proper use, storage, and disposal of pesticides. Product registration, applicator certificates, dealer licenses, and permits may be required for use of certain pesticides.

Pesticide Applicator Certification

- There are four categories of pesticide applicator certification in Vermont:
 - Private Applicator
 - Commercial Applicator
 - Non-commercial Applicators
 - Government Applicators
- To be certified as a commercial, noncommercial, or government applicator, you must take the CORE exam and at least one other category exam

Pesticide Usage Report

- Pesticide Usage is reported annually to the VAAFM by certified commercial, non-commercial, and government applicators, as required by the Pesticide Regulations.
- VAAFM is publishing new annual reports for commercial pesticide usage data. The Agency has taken many steps to create these reports for the public and hopes you find them useful.

UVM Extension

Pesticide Safety Education Program

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.

Pesticide Applicator Report

Extension and Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets for Vermont's pesticide applicators. Includes mail-in quizzes for pesticide recertification credits.

Link

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

Agr.pest@vermont.gov



<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-healthagricultural-resource-management-division/pesticide-programs>

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)

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.



Apply Year-Round



Technical & Financial Assistance

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 planting
- Wetland restoration/enhancement
- Riparian reforestation

Contact

Chris E. Smith, Supervisory Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Vermont
Chris_E_Smith@fws.gov
(802) 622-5303



<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

Bird Friendly Maple Project Audubon Vermont

Includes
Maple
Producers

The Bird-Friendly Maple Project 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 project is building on the national award-winning Foresters for the Birds partnership between Audubon Vermont biologists and Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation foresters and expanding to include a new partner: leaders from the Vermont maple industry that includes the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association.

**Participating
Producer**
vt.audubon.org/maple



Assessment

A current (within the past 10 years) Forest Management Plan, which must specifically mention enhancing and/or protecting songbird habitat as a management objective. The Forest Management Plan will be reviewed by an Audubon Biologist.

A forest bird habitat assessment, conducted by an Audubon Vermont biologist or consulting forester.

Contact

Steve Hagenbuch, Audubon
Conservation Biologist
steve.hagenbuch@audubon.org



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

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. This ensures the availability of interior forest conditions. The maple producer does not need to own or manage the entire forest block.
- Considerate management and tapping in natural communities where maple is an associate species.
- The sugarbush must have a diversity of tree species, with non-maples accounting for greater than 25% of the sugarbush as measured by percent basal area.
- 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, grounder) as well as standing dead trees (snags) and downed woody debris.

Resources for Loggers

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR)

The State of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation offers resources for loggers, including educational resources, bridge rental information, business planning resources and links, and state regulation information.

Resources

The Acceptable Management Practices Manual: Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont (AMPs) provide loggers, foresters, and landowners with the practices to be in compliance with Vermont's Water Quality Standards. The AMPs are available online in pdf form, or offline on the Vermont AMP app.

Mapping: Information on Avenza Maps software and VT ANR Atlas.

Business Management Resources: Information on the Right to Conduct Forestry Operations, Limitations of Municipal Land Use Bylaws, and Working Lands Enterprise Initiative.

Trainings & Certifications

Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP): Certifications and trainings for mechanized and non-mechanized operations. Certification emphasizes professionalism, managing forests ecosystems, mechanized logger safety and first aid.

Northeast Master Logger Certification Program: Certifications and Trainings for loggers and harvesting companies that focus on legal compliance, employee protection, environmental standards, harvest planning, and logging techniques.

Mechanized Logger Training Manuals: Available to view on the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation website.

Vermont Acceptable Management Practices Guide

<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands/acceptable-management-practices>

Rentals

Skidder Bridges: Rentals available through some Natural Resources Conservation Districts

25' Steel I-Beam Bridges: \$100 per month rental. Available through the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

30' & 40' Truck Bridges: \$100 per month rental. Available through the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Contact

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester
(802) 793-0265
David.Wilcox@vermont.gov



<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/working-landscape>

Forest Legacy Program

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a federal grant program to protect forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation working in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service is the State Lead Agency for Vermont's Forest Legacy Program. The FLP provides funding to further conservation of important forestland properties. The program is entirely voluntary. 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.

Overview

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.

Landowner Responsibilities

Landowners who participate in the Forest Legacy Program will be required to manage their property according to the terms of the resulting conservation easement. As required for the Forest Legacy Program, a management plan or forest stewardship plan must be developed for each property. A management plan encourages long-term stewardship by assisting private landowners with the active management of their natural resources. Plans can be amended periodically to account for changes in landowner objectives, land ownership, or other factors which may not have been apparent originally.

Contact

Kate Sudhoff, Forest Legacy Program
Coordinator
Kate.sudhoff@vermont.gov
(802) 505-0678



https://fpr.vermont.gov/state_land/acquisition/forest-legacy-program

Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Program

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Includes
Maple
Producers

Vermont's UVA 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. The Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review (PV&R) is the lead agency, but the Division of Forestry with County Foresters helps to administer the Forestry Use Value Appraisal portion of the program.

Eligibility

- Parcels must contain at least 25 acres that will be enrolled and be managed according to a forest plan approved by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
- For most forestland on productive soils (Site I, II and III), the primary forest management objective must be long-term production of forest products in accordance with established forest practices. Wildlife habitat, aesthetics, recreation, watershed protection, 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. There is no limit on Site IV enrollment.
- 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
 - Other non-conforming uses such as lawns, recreational ponds, cell phone towers, etc.
 - 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

For information regarding enrollment of land:

Current Use Program
Division of Property Valuation & Review
PO Box 1499
Montpelier, VT 05601-1499
(802) 828-5860
<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use>

For more information regarding forestland enrollment, please contact your County Forester; Directory at the end of this Guide.

If you have questions about the process, please contact the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Current Use Division at Phone:
(802) 828-5860

Resources for Trail Stewardship

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. If you are interested in installing a trail, or seeking maintenance on a current trail, please reach out to your town conservation commission or Vermont Trails and Greenways Council to find organizations who operate in your area.

Vermont Trails & Greenways Council

VTGC is an independent non-profit that works to support VT trails and the outdoor recreation community and serves as an advisory body for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR). Their advisory roles include supporting the allocation of funds through the Recreation Trails Program, overseeing the Vermont Trails System, and encouraging and supporting educational programs.

VTGC Provides:

- Resources on trail planning, construction, maintenance, and standards
- Resources on accessible trail standards, mountain biking, equestrian, back-country ski, snowmobile, and rail trails
- Resources on wetland trail design
- Resources on funding opportunities

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

VOREC is a collective network of public and private partners organized by the state to sustain, grow, and drive sustainable development in Vermont's outdoor recreation sector by leveraging natural outdoor recreation assets, brand, and culture.

VOREC Administers:

- VOREC Community Grant Program
- Move Forward Together Vermont, a partnership with FPR to create a shared vision for Vermont's outdoor recreation future, with actionable steps and a five-year plan.
- VOREC Action Plan

FPR

Rebecca Washburn, Director of
Lands Administration and
Recreation, FPR
(802) 793-3432
Becca.washburn@vermont.gov

Claire Polfus, Recreation Program
Manager, FPR
(802) 505-5372
Claire.polfus@vermont.gov

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

VTGC

Sharon Plumb, VTGC Program
Manager
sharon@vermonttgc.org

<https://vermonttgc.org>

VOREC

Jackie Dagger, VOREC Program
Manager

Jackie.dagger@vermont.gov
(802) 636-7410

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

Forest Pests Vermont Invasives

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

The flight season of Emerald Ash Borer is June 1st through September 30th

- Know your ash. Identify them and mark their location. Learn the signs and symptoms of EAB. Develop a response plan with your forester. Learn to identify EAB and report suspicious findings at www.VTInvasives.org.
- Consult your forester about protocols regarding relocating ash wood from affected areas. October 1st to May 31st, or the non-flight period, is the best time to conduct forest-related activities on ash.
- Keep firewood local. If you are inside the Infested Area, do not sell ash firewood outside of the Infested Area unless it has been heat treated. If heat treatment or buyers within the Infested Area aren't available, it may be best to leave ash firewood on your property. If you are outside the Infested Area, do not buy ash firewood that came from within the Infested Area unless it has been legitimately heat treated. Talk to your dealer to ensure that the firewood you are buying has been handled according to the Slow the Spread Recommendations and doesn't pose a threat to the ash in uninfested areas.
- A copy of Ash Processing Options to SLOW THE SPREAD of Emerald Ash Borer can be provided to you by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. It is also available at VTinvasives.org/eab.

Spongy Moth

Hand Removal: Egg masses can be removed from trees between August and May to reduce infestations in forthcoming years. Use a scraper to carefully remove the masses and submerge them into a container with soapy water or alcohol so that they can be destroyed (not onto the ground where they may still hatch).

Chemical Control: Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) is a biopesticide can be applied by a registered pesticide application company or by homeowners who have carefully read application instructions. Btk is a product that affects the digestive system of caterpillars and should only be applied between May and early June, when spongy moths are still in the larval stage and are small (1/2 to 3/4 inch). Two spray applications are usually required for effective control. Application of Btk after mid-June is not an effective way to manage this pest.

Trapping: Caterpillars can be trapped using burlap. Start by wrapping an 18-inch wide strip around the tree at chest height. Tie a string around the center and fold the top portion down to form a skirt, with the string acting as a belt. Pick off the caterpillars daily and dispose of them by submerging them into a container with soapy water or alcohol.

Other invasive species to be aware of and report:

- Ash yellows
- Jumping worm
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Oak wilt
- Balsam woolly adelgid
- Pear thrips
- Beech bark disease
- Red pine scale
- Beech leaf disease
- Sirex woodwasp
- Butternut canker
- Spotted lanternfly
- Chestnut blight
- Thousand cankers disease
- Dutch elm disease
- White pine blister rust
- Elongate hemlock scale
- Winter moth
- Hemlock woolly adelgid

Contact

Ginger Nickerson, Forest Pest
Education Coordinator UVM
Extension
(802) 656-4831
ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu



www.VTInvasives.org

Fund-A-Farmer 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. To support this goal, FACT awards grants of up to \$3,000 to working, independent farms located in the U.S. and U.S. territories. Since 2012, FACT has awarded more than \$590,000 in Fund-a-Farmer grants for projects that improve animal welfare.



Application Deadline in January



Up to \$3,000



View application instructions at:
<https://www.foodanimalconcernstrust.org/grants>

Practices

- Projects improving animal welfare
- Projects related to marketing, sales, or distribution of welfare certified products
- Pasture expansion or transition
- Applicant does not need to hold or be seeking welfare certification
- Applicant may combine multiple projects together

Contact

Samantha Gasson, Humane Farming Program Manager
grants@foodanimalconcerns.org



<https://FoodAnimalConcernsTrust.org>

Eligibility

Applicant must be a United States-based farm or an independently owned or recognized Tribal-Entity

Proposed projects must impact at least one of these species: beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep, and/or turkeys. Farms must already raise animals. Only 1 application per year.

Does not include:

- Non-profit organizations
- Schools
- Farm sanctuaries
- Aquaculture
- Apiaries
- Alpacas
- Horses
- Rabbits
- Raw milk
- Slaughter
- Certification fees
- Purchase of livestock

Guide to Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

This guide can help you get started with USDA, whether you are new to farming, ranching, or forestry management, or just new to working with them. From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, USDA is here to support you and your operation. Some groups of people are identified in Farm Bill legislation and in USDA policy as being Historically Underserved (HU). Members of these communities have been historically underserved by, or subject to discrimination in, Federal policies and programs. Four groups are defined by USDA as “Historically Underserved,” including farmers or ranchers who are: Beginning; Socially Disadvantaged; Veterans; and Limited Resource.

Contents Include

- Defining Historically Underserved
- Working with Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Working with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Working with Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Urban Agriculture
- Organic Certification and Organic Transition
- Additional USDA and External Resources

Where to Access the Guide

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/get-started-a-guide-to-usda-resources-for-historically>

Contact

Your local FSA, NRCS, or RMA Office.
See the pages at the end of this guide for contact information.

New & Beginning Farmer Resources

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFAM)

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets maintains a repository of resources for new and beginning farmers. The list of resources VAAFAM has compiled cover a wide breadth of topics relevant to new and aspiring farmers in starting their agricultural venture. Visit the website to explore all the resources thoroughly.

Resource Categories

Land Access:

Fact sheets, organizations, and working groups that focus on land access and tenure for famers.

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 & Wellness:

Organizations and agencies providing health and counseling services and assistance for farmers.

Product Specific Resources:

Resources on a wide array of agricultural products. Resources also include regulations and food processing guidance.

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:

VAAFAM grant opportunities, FSA loan information, and funding/financing resources for VT producers.

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.

Regulations, Permits, & Construction on Farms:

Regulation, licensing, and registration information regarding Act 250, water quality, pesticide applications, construction, and more.

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 for Veterans in farming.

LGBTQ Farmers: Organizations, networks, and resources for LGBTQ+ farmers.

Immigrant/Refugee Farmers: Organizations supporting refugees and immigrants farming in Vermont.



View the full resource list at:

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

Classes and Courses for Beginning and Aspiring Farmers

The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension

No matter what stage your farm business is in, UVM Extension offers educational opportunities to help you reach your full potential. Courses offered by the New Farmer Project and other UVM Extension programs are specifically designed to meet the needs of aspiring and beginning farmers. Check their Calendar for a regional list of events such as field days, workshops, classes, and webinars which may be of interest but do not necessarily specifically target beginning farmers.

Courses Offered

Growing Places

- For aspiring farmers and start-ups.
- Get your enterprise off to the right start. Participants define goals, explore and evaluate opportunities and resources, and become familiar with state and federal agriculture programs. Co-sponsored by the Women's Agricultural Network.

Farm Financial Management and Education

- The Building a Sustainable Business course guides participants through developing a farm business plan.

Taking Stock

- Designed for farmers with at least five years of commercial production experience and who are considering changes to the scale, scope, and/or design of their farm business.

Building a Sustainable Business

- UVM Extension ag business educators provide coaching and consultations related to farm business development.

Contact

Vermont New Farmer Project
c/o UVM Extension
327 US Route 301, Barre, VT 05602

newfarmer@uvm.edu
(866) 860-1382 (toll free in Vermont) or
802-476-2003

Website

www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/new-farmer/wagn-classes

Scholarships and Stipends

Vermont Farm Women's Fund (VFWF)

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.

Overview

Scholarships can be used to defray registration fees for educational conferences, courses, and classes. The key to a successful proposal will be explaining how the education relates to improvements you are considering on your farm.

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.

VFWF will contribute up to 75% of class/course/conference registration fees. Except in cases of extreme financial hardship, the maximum scholarship amount will be \$150. VFWF reserves the right, at its discretion, to award less than the full amount an applicant requests or no amount.

In selecting scholarship recipients, they are seeking individuals who: have specific plans to use the skills, information and knowledge they gain at the conference to implement successful farming practices on their own farm in the next 6-12 months, and/or who intend to share what they learned with other farmers in the 6-12 months; agree to submit a written report about the education they received within six weeks of the event; and to respond to follow-up surveys from the VFWF. Award decisions will also consider the applicant's financial situation.

To be eligible for funding, applications must be submitted to the Vermont Farm Women's Fund least 10 days before the event that you want to attend. VFWF reviews and awards scholarship requests on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available. Applicants are notified within 10 days of receipt of the application. If your proposal is not selected, you can resubmit it for a future round of funding. Rather than simply resubmitting the original proposal, however, you might consider ways to revise and strengthen your proposal.

If you receive an award from the VFWF, you will need to wait 2 years before applying again. This is to ensure that the funds are spread out and help as many individuals as possible.

Vermont Farm Women's Fund

(802) 476-2003

vfwf@uvm.edu

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

Farmland Conservation Vermont Land Trust (VLT)

Rooted in Vermont since 1977, Vermont Land Trust (VLT) has protected more than 620,000 acres of farmland, forestland, and community lands, covering 11% of the state. With expertise in conservation, ecology, community engagement, and finance, VLT helps:

- 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

How We Help

Farmers & Farmland

- Protect your farm through land conservation for permanent protections.
- Transfer or sell your farmland through conservation, finding a buyer, or joining our network.
- Buy farmland with guidance, relationships, or a lease with VLT.
- Improve the health of water and soil with help with restoration, easements, or program enrollment.
- Get help with your conserved land from our staff.
- Access grants and resources like the Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award, Land Stewards Award, and partner programs.

Woodland Owners & Forests


- Protect your woodland through woodland donations to VLT or another partner.
- Care for the woods by attending talks by foresters, webinars, or volunteers.
- Get help with your conserved land from our staff.
- Protect land important to your community through legal help, fundraising planning and support, ecological restoration, or conservation.
- Learn from the land with events, educational webinars, and our online guides.
- Land for all by making efforts to create land access for all communities and peoples by creating trails that are accessible, clarifying indigenous rights, assisting people experiencing hunger, and expanding land ownership for people who have been historically marginalized and oppressed.


Contact


Vermont Land Trust
8 Bailey Avenue Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: (802) 223-5234
Email: info@vlt.org
Website: 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 fund was created through contributions from Eric's family and friends and is managed by the Vermont Land Trust. The first Eric Rozendaal Memorial Award was given in 2019 to Corie Pierce of Bread & Butter Farm.

 Apply online November 15, 2023 through February 29, 2024

 Up to \$5,000

 View Application Instructions at:
<https://vlt.org/eric-rozendaal-award/>

Eligibility

The awardee must:

- Be a resident of Vermont
- Be actively managing or working on a commercial farm operation in Vermont
- Have not received the award in the past

The applicant does not have to own a farm. Current VLT staff, VLT board members, members of the Selection Committee and the immediate family members of VLT staff, VLT board members, and members of the Selection Committee are not eligible to apply.

Contact

Jessie Estes, Executive Assistant
Jessie@vlt.org
802-272-7036

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

Criteria

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 the funds: A clear description of recent or planned project(s) on the farm related to the award criteria that the funds can support.

A Landowners 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.

Farm Access Methods

The purpose of the Farm Access Methods guide is to provide an organized framework of farm access methods to help farmers make informed decisions.

This guide is organized into categories based on ownership:

Ownership Now

- Sole Ownership or Whole Shared Ownership Interests
- Partial Ownership Interests

Ownership in the Future

- Lease to Own
- Land Contract
- LLC or Corporation
- Gift Over Time

No Ownership

- Leasehold Interest in Land
- Other Arrangements for Land

Link to Farm Access Methods Guide:
<https://landforgood.org/resources/toolbox/leasing-3/>

A Landowners 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.

Link to Access Guide:
landforgood.org/get-resource/?fid=https://landforgood.org/wp-content/uploads/LFG-Landowners-Guide-ToLeasing-To-A-Farmer-Handbook.pdf

Contact



landforgood.org

Phone: 603-357-1600

Email: info@LandForGood.org

PO Box 625 Keene, New Hampshire
03431

Advancing Equitable Land Access

Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC)

The Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC) is a BIPOC-led organization dedicated to positively impacting the health and wellness outcomes of BIPOC communities and the lands and non-human beings in the Northeast region of what is now known as the United States, an area that comprises the traditional territories of many sovereign nations. NEFOC's overarching goal is to reshape root causes and systems that marginalize our communities, co-creating a mass of self-determined communities generating scalable knowledge together, while synthesizing, sharing, and embodying expressions of land-based solidarity as means of mutual healing and survivance.

Programs & Focus Areas

Relationships & Reciprocity Program

- Development
- Indigenous Reciprocity & Partnerships
- Communications
- Relational Bridging
- Reparations
- Land Stewardship Planning and Biocultural Re-storyation

Community Conservation Program

- Defend and strengthen relationships, collaborations, and knowledge among Black, Indigenous, and other Land Stewards of Color
- Advance land sovereignty and ecological health projects related to environmental protection

Policy, Partnerships, & Climate Justice Program

- Facilitating engagement and collaborative policy development
- Connecting "on-the-ground" projects to regional and national movements
- Drawing connections of ancestral land and climate stewardship

Land Network Program: Network Membership & Farmer Services

- Business planning & technical assistance for farmers of color
- Equitable lease agreement assistance and negotiations
- Land reparations connections
- Connections to trainings and education
- Beca Braiding Seeds en español (Spanish-First Fellowship)



<https://nefoclandtrust.org>

Plastic Recycling Program

Agricultural Container Recycling Council (ACRC)

The ACRC is a not-for-profit organization that works to facilitate the collection and recycling of one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural crop protection, specialty pest control, animal health, micronutrient/fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers. This is done through member funding of cost-effective programs that fosters public health and safety, environmental protection, resource conservation, and end-user convenience. The ACRC is fully funded by our member companies and affiliates that formulate, produce, package, and distribute crop protection and other pesticide products.

Information

What Can I Recycle?

The ACRC program accepts rigid high-density polyethylene (HDPE) 55-gallon containers and smaller, which previously held products utilized in agricultural crop protection (pesticides), animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and/or adjuvant products for professional application.

More information on types of plastic that can be recycled:
<https://www.agrecycling.org/recyclingother-ag-plastics/>

What Happens to the Plastic?

Currently, the ACRC collects around 11,000,000 lbs of HDPE annually. This plastic is then processed to create sellable, recycled resin which is repurposed into many useful products. The Ag Container Recycling Council is continually evaluating and approving a wide array of end uses.

You can learn more about this program at ACRC's website;
www.agrecycling.org

Contact

Mark Hudson, Executive Director
(877) 952-2272
info@agrecycling.org

Ag Container Recycling Council
P.O. Box 1928
Apex, NC 27502

Where is the recycling facility?

6949 Park Road
Orrstown, PA 17244
(717) 446-9917
info@agplasticsolutions.com

Farm First

Farm First is a public, not-for-profit program jointly sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and the Vermont Agency of Human Services' Invest EAP Centers for Wellbeing. Our staff include friendly and caring licensed counselors and an agricultural resource navigator, all with an interest or experience in agriculture. We can assist you remotely through video-conferencing and in person - oftentimes right at your farm.

What is Farm First?

Farm First provides confidential help with any personal or work-related issue. We know that if left unaddressed, stress correlates with chronic health, safety, family, and business problems. Consulting with a Farm First counselor or resource specialist, located statewide, can help you resolve problems before they mushroom into debilitating situations. Farm First is here to provide you, your family, and your operation with the resources, professional, and personal support to address a wide range of issues, including labor and management issues, financial concerns, alcohol or drug problems, injury, illness, or adaptive equipment needs, legal issues, family stress, depression and much more.

Eligibility

Vermont farm owner, or farm-based family member of owner, grossing a minimum of \$10,000 per year from agriculture. Farmers working with a disability or injury are also eligible.

Contact

Call: (802) 318-5538 during
daytime work hours

Call: 877-493-6216 outside of
daytime work hours

Email: Eva Griffin at
EvaG@farmfirst.org

www.FarmFirst.org

With a single phone call, you can reach Farm First's fully licensed, agriculturally-sensitive resource specialists and counselors. We will discuss with you, confidentially and at no cost, the best method to address and resolve your concerns.

Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (VTAMP) Environmental Mediation Center (EMC)

The Environmental Mediation Center is a nonprofit organization that provides free mediation services to the agricultural community. The EMC utilizes a roster of highly trained mediators experienced in agricultural mediation. The EMC works on a variety of agricultural disputes.

Example Mediation

- Adverse Decision Letters
- Compliance issues with farm programs
- Restructuring farm loans
- Foreclosures
- Debts to unsecured creditors, such as feed and equipment Dealers
- Wetlands determinations
- Pesticide issues

Process

- After a party requests mediation, the mediation program will contact all parties to get details and provide education on the mediation process.
- Mediation is a process where the parties meet with an impartial person to assist them with negotiation of their differences. Mediation is voluntary. Mediation is confidential and mediators cannot impose a resolution.

Contact

Matt Strassberg, Director of the
Environmental Mediation Center
(802) 583-1100 ext 101
matts@emcenter.org



<https://emcenter.org/>

Signs of Conservation

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)

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.



No cost for signs within Franklin County, other counties may vary



Contact your local Conservation District

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. There is a Directory of Natural Resources Conservation Districts at the end of this guide. You can also find a directory at <https://www.vacd.org/>.



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. See the geographic extents of each project here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/31051a5c80224071aa3d4fc69d104433/>

By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation. RCPP projects may include a range of on-the-ground conservation activities implemented by farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. These activities include land management/land improvement/restoration practices, land rentals, entity-held easements, United States-held easements, and public works/watersheds.

Proj.	Name & Web Link	Lead Partner
1548	Cold Hollow to Canada Woodlots https://www.coldhollowtocanada.org/programs/woodlots	Cold Hollow to Canada Inc.
1710	Connecting the Connecticut River Watershed https://connecttheconnecticut.org/	The Nature Conservancy
1865	Northern Tier Stream Restoration Initiative https://www.tu.org/magazine/conservation/nrcs-awards-1-8-million-to-tu-for-projects-in-new-england/	Trout Unlimited
2132	Accelerated Implementation of Agricultural and Forestry Conservation Practices for Water Quality https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/WID/CWIP/RCPP_General_Guide_Fact_sheet.pdf	Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ANR)
2145	Vermont Pay for Performance https://agriculture.vermont.gov/VFPF <i>And see Page 36 of this Guide</i>	Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
2280	The Memphremagog Long-Term Water Quality Partnership https://memphremagogwatershedassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/RCPP-overview06132016-1.pdf	Orleans County NRCD
2311	Regenerative Agriculture for Western New England (Northeast Forests and Waters CCA) https://farmland.org/newengland-regenag/	American Farmland Trust
2517	Vermont Stream Restoration and Protection Program https://www.vacd.org/vermonts-conservation-districts-receive-1-5m-grant-expand-water-quality-protection-habitat-restoration-efforts/	State Natural Resources Conservation Council
	Vermont Water Quality Collaborative Partnership https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/regional-conservation	Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation
	Vermont Dairy Farms Working for Water, Wildlife, Climate, Food & Farmers https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/regional-conservation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Contact your local NRCS office or the Lead Partner as listed in the table above. Refer to the Directory of NRCS Field Offices at the end of this Guide.

Tree Plantings Regional Organizations

Natural Resources Conservation Districts, as well as Watershed Organizations, have access to funding to implement tree planting projects. Planting trees along stream banks helps reduce erosion, improve water quality, and provide habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Reaching out to Natural Resources Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups directly is the best way to determine how to get trees planted on your land. These organizations can also refer you to other programs and organizations that offer support for your specific tree and shrub planting goals on your land, such as the NRCS and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Each program has different requirements and criteria. A service provider at a Natural Resources Conservation District or Watershed Group can facilitate matching you to the best program for your objectives.



Funding will be announced with Request for Applications (RFA)



To apply, contact your local Conservation District or Watershed Group



In general, applications open in the fall

Conservation Districts help coordinate project scoping and grant applications. They source and procure plant materials and organize and perform installation and maintenance. The grant covers the cost of materials and labor. Landowners may inform Natural Resources Conservation Districts of species preference and be involved in planting and maintenance. Natural Resources Conservation Districts welcome connection with landowners interested in stewardship opportunities any time of year.

Why install a buffer?



- Perennial vegetation provides shade which reduces water temperature and increases oxygen, promoting aquatic life



- Provides wildlife and pollinator habitat



- Promotes water infiltration, reduces soil loss and fertilizer/amendment runoff



- Increases stability of stream banks, improving flood resilience

Find your local Watershed Group
<https://WatershedsUnitedVT.org>

Find your local Conservation District
<https://www.vacd.org> or see the end of this Guide for a Directory

Agricultural Support Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRC D)

Natural Resources Conservation Districts can assist Small Farm Operations, Certified Small Farm Operations, Medium Farm Operations, and Large Farm Operations with Nutrient Management Planning, water-quality related workshop coordination, event hosting, and provide referrals to additional assistance. Capacity for support ranges from one NRC D to another. Please reach out to your local NRC D for additional information. See the back of this Guide for their Directory, or go to <https://www.vacd.org/>



Some NRC Ds offer
equipment rentals



Contact your local
Natural Resources
Conservation District



Support is available
year-round

Services May include:

- Soil Sampling
- Manure Sampling
- Equipment Rentals
- Land Treatment Planning, Nutrient Management Planning, understanding the RAPs
- Program & Technical Assistance Referrals & Support
- Workshop Coordination and Hosting

Small Farm Operations and Certified Small Farm Operations can take UVM Extension's *Digging In – Nutrient Management Course for Farmers* at no-cost when assisted by a NRC D. This course is available in the winter, offers a foundation in best management practices, and provides a strategy for producers to manage all their compliance records while planning for healthy and bountiful crops.

Contact your local NRC D any time of year if you are interested. Not sure of your farm size? Call your local NRC D or check out <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sfo>

Learn more about the course at: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops/soil-health-andnutrient-management> To sign up, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation District. There is a Directory at the end of this Guide. You can also find your local NRC D on the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts Website: <https://www.vacd.org/>

Required Agricultural Practices (RAP) Quiz

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

The goal of the Required Agricultural Practices (RAP) Online Quiz is to provide an accessible, informative tool for livestock farmers to raise awareness of the RAPs and water quality improvement practices available for Vermont farmers while providing them with water quality credits.

What You'll Learn:

- How the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) apply to your farm
- Specific on-farm examples
- Impact of management practices on water quality
- Links to additional resources

View the Required Agricultural Practices

https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/RAP_FINALRULE12-21-2018_WEB.pdf

Take the RAP Quiz

www.vacd.org/rapquiz

RAP Summary

https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/doc_library/RAPsummaryPDF_Updated.pdf

Questions? Need Help?

Reach out to your local Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD)

View the Directory at the end of this Guide or go to www.vacd.org

View the Nutrient Management Standard

Updated November 2021

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/33662/590_VT_CPS_Nutrient_Management_2021

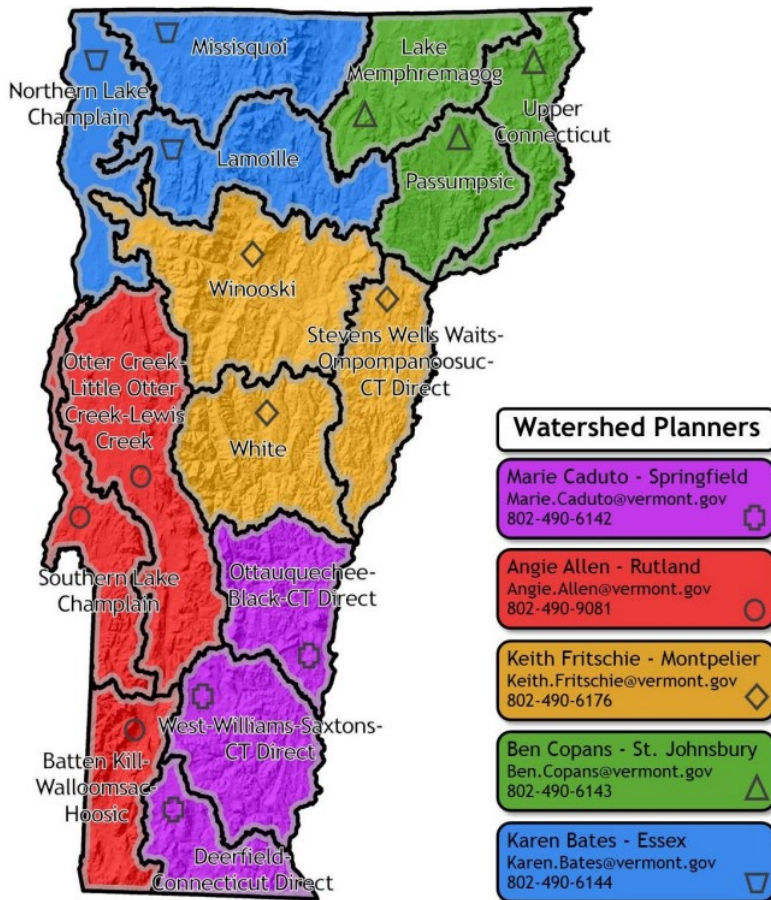
Farm Definitions and Determinations

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/farm-definitions-and-determinations>

Tactical Basin Planning

Tactical Basin Plans (TBP) are strategic guidebooks for achieving watershed health. They identify surface waters that are in need of restoration and protection, and outline a list of actions to achieve water quality goals. Vermont has identified 15 planning basins, managed by five Watershed planners who work in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to monitor water quality and analyze data, identify strategies and projects to protect and restore waters, seek public comment and participation in plan development, and implement and track planning priorities.

Find your Regional Watershed Planner



Project Resources

View current projects, Water Quality Project Screening Tool, & Funding Opportunities

<https://anweb.vt.gov/DEC/cleanWaterDashboard/>

Get Involved

Interested in becoming involved with development or implementation of your watershed's Tactical Basin Plan? Need help scoping a potential restoration project?

Find your local watershed group at: <https://watershedsunitedvt.org/>

Find your local Natural Resources Conservation District: www.vacd.org or via the Directory at the end of this Guide



<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning>

Vermont County Foresters

The list of County Foresters is maintained on Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Website:
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/list-vermont-county-foresters>

Addison County Forester

Devin Healy
Devin.Healy@vermont.gov
111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452-4695
802-917-2711

Bennington County Forester

Cory Creagan
cory.creagan@vermont.gov
271 North Main Street, Ste 215, Rutland, VT 05701-2423
802-505-0068

Caledonia/Essex County Forester

Matthew Langlais
matt.langlais@vermont.gov
374 Emerson Falls Road, Ste 4, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-751-0111

Chittenden County Forester

Ethan Tapper
ethan.tapper@vermont.gov
111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452-4695
802-585-9099

Franklin/Grand Isle County Forester

Nancy Patch
nancy.patch@vermont.gov
111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452-4695
802-917-2711

Lamoille County Forester

Emily Potter
emily.potter@vermont.gov
29 Sunset Drive, Ste 1, Morrisville, VT 05661-8331
802-622-4230

Orange County Forester

Dave Paganelli
david.paganelli@vermont.gov
118 Prospect Street, Suite 102, White River Junction, VT 05001
802-461-5304

Orange/Windsor County Forester

A.J. Follensbee
allen.follensbee@vermont.gov
118 Prospect Street, Ste 102, White River Junction, VT 05001
Primary Phone: 802- 595-2429
Alternate Phone: 802-281-5262

Orleans County Forester

Jared Nunery
jared.nunery@vermont.gov
1162 North Craftsbury Road (Mail: P.O. Box 62)
Craftsbury Common, VT 05827
802-595-5754

Rutland County Forester

Tessa McGann
tessa.mcgann@vermont.gov
271 North Main Street, Ste 215, Rutland, VT 05701-2423
802-505-1579

Southern Windsor County Forester

Hannah Dallas
hannah.dallas@vermont.gov
118 Prospect Street, Ste 102, White River Junction, VT 05001
802-622-4169

Washington County Forester

Robert Nelson
Robert.Nelson@vermont.gov
5 Perry Street, Ste 20, Barre, VT 05641-4265
802-636-7203

Windham County Forester

Sam Schneski
sam.schneski@vermont.gov
130 Austine Drive, Ste 300, Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-380-8916

Field Offices

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Addison County Farm Service Agency

68 Catamount Park, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-6748

Caledonia County Farm Service Agency

(Also Serves Chittenden and Essex Counties)
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

(Also Serves Bennington County)
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

Farm Service Agency State Office

356 Mountain View Dr.
Colchester, VT 05446

(802) 658-2803

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Offices

Northwest Zone:

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:

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

Central Zone:

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

South Zone:

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office

356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105
Colchester, Vermont 05446

802-951-6796
Fax: 855-794-3677

Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRC D) Offices

Bennington County NRC D

170 South Main St, Suite 4 Rutland, VT 05701
Michael Fernandez, District Manager
(802) 775-8034 x 132 or Michael@bccdvt.org

Caledonia County NRC D

481 Summer St., Suite 202,
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Emily Finnegan, District Manager
(802) 424-3149 or emily.finnegan@vt.nacdnet.net

Essex County NRC D

5396 VT-105, Brunswick, VT 05905
Sam Mayne, District Manager
802-424-5353 or essexnrcd@gmail.com

Franklin County NRC D

50 South Main Street, Saint Albans, VT 05478
Lauren Weston, District Manager
802-528-4176 or info@FranklinCountyNRC D.org

Grand Isle County NRC D

P.O. Box 212, North Hero, VT 05474
Molly Varner, District Manager
802-372-8400 or molly.gicnrcd@gmail.com

Lamoille County NRC D

109 Professional Drive, Suite 2,
Morrisville, VT 05661
Peter Danforth, District Manager
802-521-2004 or lcddirector@gmail.com

Orleans County NRC D

59 Waterfront Plaza Newport, VT 05855
Sarah Damsell, District Manager
802-334-6090 x 7008 or
sarah.damsell@vt.nacdnet.net

Ottauquechee NRC D

28 Farmvu Drive, White River Junction, VT 05001
Kelly Stettner, Program Manager
802-436-6241 or ONRCD1@gmail.com

Otter Creek NRC D

68 Catamount Park, Ste. B, Middlebury, VT 05753
Pamela Stefanek, District Manager
802-771-3037 or pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net

Poultney Mettowee NRC D

PO Box 209, Poultney VT 05764
Hilary Solomon, District Manager
802-287-6880 or hilary@pnmnrcd.org

Rutland NRC D

170 S Main Street Ste 4, Rutland, VT 05701
Nanci McGuire, District Manager
802-775-8034 x 117 or
nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net

White River NRC D

28 Farmvu Dr, White River Junction, VT 05001
Jennifer Byrne, District Manager
802-369-3167 or WhiteRiverNRC D@gmail.com

Windham County NRC D

28 Vernon Street, Suite 332 Brattleboro, VT 05301
Cory Ross, District Manager
802-689-3024 or windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com

Winooski NRC D

94 Harvest Lane, Suite 203, Williston, VT 05495
And
617 Comstock Rd, Suite 1, Berlin, VT 05602
Adelaide Dumm, District Manager
info@winooskinrcd.org