

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's Impact & Gratitude Report 2024



The Work of Showing Up for One Another

Dear Friend,

When we get food and farming right, we get so much right. Thank you for being a part of helping us move towards the world we know is possible over the last year.

While 2024 was another challenging year with yet more historic flooding impacting farms across our state, the NOFA-VT community showed up again with deep support, solidarity, and care.

Your support demonstrated that we have been given all the tools we need to build the world we long for. You helped farmers recover from and build resilience in the face of extreme weather, ensured that more Vermonters were food secure, invested in resilience on farms and in communities, helped farmers to implement ecological farming practices and become certified organic, pushed for policy changes on the state and federal level, built strong community connections, and more. You came

out to community organizing workshops and member meetings, volunteered on farms, and testified at the statehouse—all pieces that together are weaving a stronger social fabric.

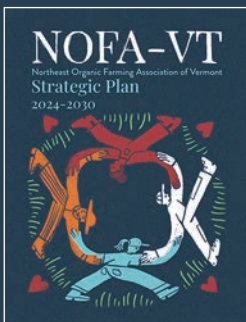
As we look to the coming years of our work, we must ask: What can we do together that we cannot do alone? We all have a role to play in this work, and we're glad to be on this journey with you.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to show up for a thriving agricultural future for Vermont. More than ever, we need each other.

Gratefully,



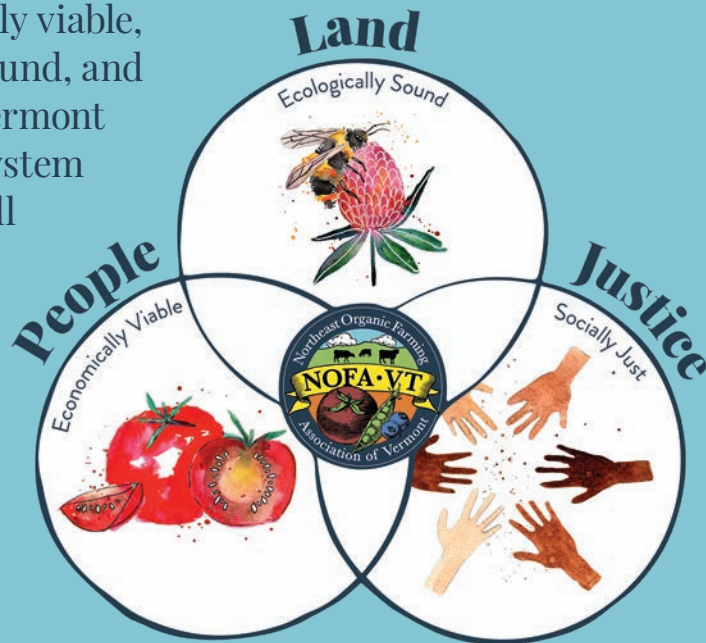
Grace Oedel, NOFA-VT Executive Director



We released our new strategic plan in 2024, highlighting the strategies we need to build bridges toward our collective vision, where Vermont is home to thriving farms and agriculturally rooted communities that support the long-term well-being of the earth and all its people.

See it here: nofavt.org/plan

Our mission is to promote organic practices to build an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just Vermont agricultural system that benefits all living things.



nofavt.org

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Richmond, VT 05477

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Thank you thank you thank you for having us be part of the Jack Lazor Memorial Soil Stewards. The opportunity to share so deeply on such a specific topic for such an extended time period with such fabulous farmers has been truly priceless. Our practices will be forever influenced, and I count myself extremely lucky to now have these farmers as resources.

Taylor Mendell,
Footprint Farm, participant
in NOFA-VT's Jack Lazor
Memorial Soil Stewards



Supporting Social, Economic, and Climate Resilience on Farms and in Communities

- In response to another historic summer flood and other persistent weather challenges, **we awarded 81 Farmer Emergency Fund grants totalling over \$251,000 to farms** across the state to aid in their recovery efforts.
- We **awarded 56 farms with Resilience Grants and 12 farms with Vermont Family Farmer of the Month Awards**, investing nearly **\$300,000** to improve the long-term well-being of farms and local communities.
- We **provided a wide range of direct services to 138 farms**. These services include one-on-one offerings such as climate adaptation planning, business-plan development, marketing assistance, and technical assistance focused on organic practices and certification. We also expanded our peer-learning services: 12 farms completed our Farm Beginnings program, 8 completed our Journey Farmer program, 13 wrapped up two years in the Jack Lazor Memorial Soil Stewards cohort, and 13 received mentorship on organic practices and certification.
- Through organic certification, **we supported market-based incentives for farms to adopt and utilize organic practices**. Vermont Organic Farmers certified 725 producers and processors committed to soil health, biodiversity, and animal welfare, representing 161,907 acres and more than \$377 million in sales.

Taylor Mendell of Footprint Farm in Starksboro hosted the final gathering of the outgoing Soil Stewards Cohort at her farm in October

Deepening Agricultural Engagement & Community Connections

- We hosted our 42nd annual Winter Conference. Over 900 people **engaged with organic farming, learned from food system experts and innovators from around Vermont and the country, and deepened their community connections.**
- With the return of warmer weather, we welcomed the opportunity **to gather, build community, and learn from inspiring farmers for the future we want to see** while celebrating on their farms. We brought together 600 people through our on-farm summer events, including pizza socials, workshops, and the 9th annual Farmer Olympics.
- We **supported innovation and demonstrated that increasing the equity of healthy food access can benefit the planet while also benefiting farmers** by expanding the Vermont organic milk in Vermont schools pilot. Over 8,000 gallons of Vermont organic milk nourished 3,000 Vermont kids, Monday through Friday, all year long.
- We kicked off a series of member meetings to **build meaningful relationships among NOFA-VT members and put our imaginations to work at a local level,** informing the course of our collective work.

Pete Miller of Miller Farm, along with Harley Sterling, school nutrition director for Windham Northeast Supervisory Union, and Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, raise a celebratory glass of chocolate milk with Windham County students during a visit to Miller Farm.



“

We feel it is critical to raise a generation who knows where their food comes from and that they as consumers will eventually vote with their purchasing power to enact the changes they want to see in this world . . . This model of local, small processor to school could be replicated across the nation.

Pete Miller of Miller Farm in Vernon on serving Vermont, organic milk in local schools

“

[Crop Cash] had an enormous impact on our ability to buy local, healthy food for our family. Never before have we been able to afford to buy fruits, veggies, meat, and dairy every week from farmers so near to us . . . The program allowed us to stretch our 3SquaresVT dollars and support local farms at the same time, and we felt like an important part of our community food web.

2024 Crop Cash
Program participant



Increasing Food Security & Inclusivity

Since the pandemic, food insecurity has remained high and our food security programs have more than quadrupled in size to meet the demand. Each dollar spent on these programs supports both a fair price for Vermont farmers and ensures that low-income Vermonters can purchase local and organic food.

- Through our suite of food security programs (including Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus pilot, Farm Share, and Senior Farm Share), we provided \$275,000 of buying power to over 2,000 low-income Vermont households, **growing access to food while increasing the customer base for local farms and ensuring they earn the market value for their products.**

- We **successfully advocated for \$300,000 in funding from the State Legislature to support local farms and allow food-insecure Vermonters** to access local food through our Farm Share and Crop Cash Programs.
- To make Crop Cash more accessible, in partnership with the Vermont Language Justice project, **we created Crop Cash how-to videos in 17 different languages and organized interpretation services in four languages** at Rutland Farmers Market for two weeks during the busy summer season.



Working for Systems Change

- We launched a series of Community Action Workshops to **build power around our request for a Farm Security Fund to ensure farmers have the financial assistance they need to recover from the impacts of extreme weather.** The meetings in Lamoille County, Caledonia County, and Bennington County were attended by dozens of people and formed the foundation for our policy campaign.
- NOFA-VT members and staff **traveled to Washington, DC, two times to advocate for policies that support organic and small-scale farmers.**
- We co-hosted a powerful Small Farm Action Day in partnership with Rural Vermont, which brought over two dozen farmers and advocates to the state house **to learn and advocate together for policies that support our farms and rural communities!**
- In partnership with several partner organizations and over 600 Vermonters, we developed and released the Vermont Food Security Roadmap to 2035—an intersectional plan that connects food security, farm viability, and climate resilience. As a leading organization in the Food Security Roadmap Coalition, we are **working in partnership to achieve a truly food secure Vermont by 2035.**



Kara Fitzbeauchamp, pictured with her partner Ryan at Evening Song Farm in Cuttingsville, is a valued member of NOFA-VT's farmer-led Policy and Organizing Committee



“

I want my efforts as a farmer to make a larger impact on our foodshed and communities than our small farm can accomplish alone. But also, it's hard on my heart to witness the intensity and frequency of destruction that farms around the state have dealt with in just the past two seasons, and I want to dive into a space of creativity and energy to facilitate solutions and transformation.

Kara Fitzbeauchamp,
Farmer at Evening Song Farm
in Cuttingsville on why she
joined NOFA-VT's Policy and
Organizing Committee



NOFA-VT 2024 Financial Overview

INCOME \$5,067,446

EXPENSE \$4,958,264

KEY CASH & INVESTMENTS

Beginning 2024 \$5,539,849

Ending 2024 \$5,581,316

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Administration \$462,375

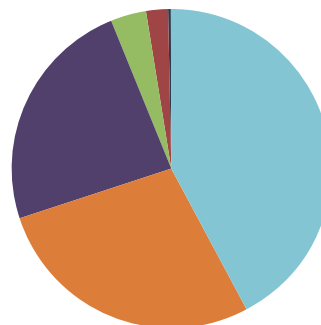
Fundraising \$230,765

Programs (see chart) \$4,265,124

*These are unaudited numbers.
A copy of NOFA's 990 tax form
is available upon request.*

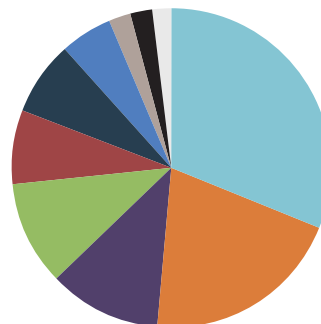
Welcoming farm stand at Alpenglou Farm, a certified organic vegetable, fruit, and tree farm in East Warren, Vermont

SOURCES OF INCOME



- Grants & Contracts 42.3%
- Membership & Donations 27.8%
- Certification Fees 23.8%
- Interest & Investment Income 3.6%
- Program Fees 2.4%
- Other Income 0.1%

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



- Vermont Organic Farmers 31.2%
- Farmer Services 20.2%
- Farm to Institution 11.5%
- Food Access 10.6%
- Organic Practices 7.5%
- On Farm Workshops & Winter Conference 7.4%
- Advocacy 5.3%
- Market Development 2.4%
- Membership Services & Engagement 2.1%
- Direct Market Support 1.8%

NOFA-VT's work is made possible by community, grassroots support!

We are so grateful for YOU—our many members, donors, farms, businesses, and organizations who supported us in 2024.

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Connor Self and Jessica Purks of Stone's Throw Farmstead stand at their booth at the Vermont Farmers Market in Rutland, Vermont



Organic eggplant at Foote Brook Farm in Johnson, Vermont

Lowen Boang • Eric Boatti • Cynthia Bogard & Michael Strebe • Charles Bolton • Ethan Bond-Watts • Boneyard Farm • Christopher Bonura • Damien & Jessica Boomhower • Dan Boomhower • Mark Booth • Bonnie & Nancy Bordelon • Emily Borner • Wade Bosley • Joe Bossen & Racheal Ouellette • Boswellnes • Karel Bott • Denise Bouchard • Greg & Jennifer Bouchard • Michael & Carmen Boudreau • Paul Boudreau • Adrianna Boulanger & Merle Russell • Donna Boumil • Bourdon Maple Farm • Jonah Bourne & Dawn Andrews • Christine Bourque & Adam Farris • Diane Boutin • Tom & Bonnie Boutin • Kirsten Bower • David & Janet Bowker • Carol Boyd & Christopher Johnson • Boyd Family Farm LCC • Kathy & Doug Boyden • Stephanie & David Boyer • Laurie Brady • Lindsey Brand • Orenna Brand • Brandon Farmers Market • Tom & Cecile Branon • Philip Branton & Ellen Lazarus • Roland & Suzanne Brasseur • Brattleboro Area Farmers Market • Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market • Caroline Braun & Noah Olsen • Dorothy Brazis & Judy Springer • Breakthru Beverage • Sharon Breitenbeck • Kayla Brenden • Harold & Carley Brenkus • Tim Brennan • Dan Breslaw & Judy Tharinger • Carissa Brewton • John Bridgman • Brigham Household • John, Heather & Brent Brigham • Brigham Family Farm • Nancy & Michael Brink • Bristol Farmers' Market • Stephen & Laurie Brittain • Broad Reach Farm • Trudi Brock • Barbara Brody • Pieter Broucke & Ilaria Busdraghi • Becca Brown • Dona Brown • Kevin Brown • Steven Brown & Leslie Miller-Brown • Emily Brown Rosen • Browne Household • Chess Brownell • Megan Browning • Matt Bryan • Shawn & Helen Bryan • Victoria Bryan & Chelsey Rich • Holly Bryant • Gus & Kara Buchanan • Annemarie Buckley • Erin Buckwalter & Mike Shepherd • Chandler Bullard • Laura Burch, Chris Brayman, & Jimmy Burch-Brayman • Juanita Burch-Clay • Jennifer Burke • Karen Burke • Mollie Burke & Peter Gould • Wendy & Dana Burkewitz • Burlington Farmers Market • Joan Burns • Burpee • Sally Burrell • Burrows Household • Peter Burrows • Elizabeth Bushueff • Dana Buske • Butternut Mountain Farm • Kenneth & Sandra Button • Joan Buttrick • Cat Duffy Buxton • Mark Caban • Cabot Arts, INC • Hollis Caillot • Caledonia Spirits • Brian Calhoun • Julie Callahan & Stephen Holbrook • David & Andrew Callan • Kristie & James Callan • Charles & Sarah Calley • Megan Camp & Alec Webb • Erica Campbell • Mark Cannella • Margery Cantor • Susan Cantor • David & Cynthia Capers • Capital City Farmers Market • Andrea Capron & John Foster • Tom Capuano & Kim Heath • Tami Carboni • Christopher & Amy Carey • Carman Brook Farm, LLC • Amy Marshall-Carney & Michael Carney • Gary Caron • Mark Kelley • Judith Carpenter • Melanie & Jeffrey Carpenter • Charlotte Carr • Donner Carr • Gary Carrier • Camila Carrillo • Allitheia Cary • Paige Cascio • Lisa Cashdan & Peter Stein • Reed & Chris Cass • Sophie Cassel & Nathan Lake • Jennifer Cassidy • Christina Castegren • Rene Castro • Ernest Caswell • Peter Cataldo • Paul & Sandal Cate • Joyce Catignani • Bill Cavanaugh • Cedar Brook Homestead • Cheryl Cesario • Wendy Chace • Matthew Chagnon • Phyllis & Andy & David Chambers • Champlain Islands Farmers Market • Jason & Nicole Chance • Carla Chandler • Heather & Matthew Channon • Ela & Simeon Chapin • Nathaniel Chapin • Dave Chapman & Claudia Henrion • Abi Charlebois • Dick Chase • Ivan Chase • Lisa Chase • Carolyn Chauvin, J Raymond Chauvin & Michelle Langmaid • Chelsea Farmers Market • Chelsea Green Publishing • Cynthia Cherry • Bill Chidsey • Michelle Choi • Guy & Beth Choiniere • Luke & Lori Choiniere • Mathieu Choiniere • Choiniere's Organic Farm • Aubrey Choquette • Nancy Church & Cynthia Patterson • Virginia Church • Jessica Churchill • Francesca Cinelli • Annie Claghorn & Catlin Fox • Deborah Clancy • Erin Clark • Todd Clason & Maeve McBride • Clayfield Farm • John & Lauren Cleary • Jinny Cleland • Erin Clements • Anne & David Clift • Marcia Clinton • Lisa Cloitre • Brett Cluff • Lynn & Greg Cluff • Caroline Clune • Margaret Coady • Philip Cody • James & Nella Coe • Jesse Coe & Carol Martin • Sara Coffey & David Snyder • Sabrina Cohn • Colburn's Village View Maples • Robert & Nancy Cole • Cole's Cookie Co. • Abe Collins • Julie Colt • Janis Comb • Chris Comishock • Common Roots • Dean & Terri Conant • Connecticut River Farmer Watershed Alliance • The Connell Family • Billy Connelly • Katrin Consler • Lynn Coody • Carol Cook • Catherine Cooke • Kayla Cooley • Dick & Adele

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Emily Tompkins, NOFA-VT's AmeriCorps Education and Outreach Assistant, chats with participants at an on-farm workshop at Evening Song Farm



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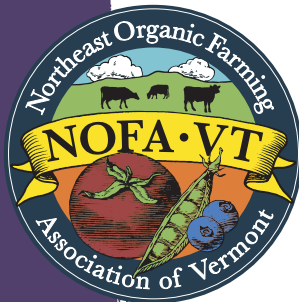
Becca Weiss
VOF Office Administrator

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“

Organic for my business is a way to convey to my customer, fairly quickly, a level of care and concern that I have for not only my products, but for the health and well-being of the environment.

Jamie Miller, Bard & Bellom (Organic Food Processor), certified organic since 2021



We envision a future in which Vermont is home to thriving farms and agriculturally rooted communities that support the long-term well-being of the earth and all its people. Together, we are building the bridges we need to make this possible.

NOFA VERMONT

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A colorful display of organic vegetables at the farm stand at Foote Brook Farm in Johnson, Vermont