Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont’s Impact & Gratitude Report 2022
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.
Dear Friend,

With your support, we have centered organic farming and thriving agricultural communities as a core solution for the climate-resilient, socially just, and economically thriving future Vermont needs.

For decades, federal policy has led to increasing consolidation in agriculture, resulting in larger and more industrialized farms, poor health outcomes for our communities, rampant wealth stratification, and a degraded environment. Nowhere in the past year has this crisis been more apparent than in the organic dairy industry, though the pattern repeats throughout production types.

We know that in order to shift the food system to one where farms can succeed economically while producing real organic food that feeds our communities, we must reinvest in systems and infrastructure that support small farmers and communities for the long haul. The problems we face are complex and interconnected, but we know that together, we can get to a food and farming system that nourishes people, communities, and the earth.

We are deeply grateful to you for helping us tend the seedlings of a thriving agricultural future. In this report, we share highlights from 2022 that you made possible. Thank you.

Grace Oedel, NOFA-VT Executive Director
The NOFA-VT Farmer Services team is a tremendous support system for us. They are consistently helpful, offer insights and great perspectives both on technical and creative solutions. They bent over backwards to work with us on our business.

Farm Viability Program participant

Farmers from Luna Bleu Farm in South Royalton, VT
In 2022, we invested in longer-term resilience on farms and in communities.

- We awarded 65 farms with Resilience Grants and 12 farms with Vermont Family Farmer of the Month Awards, investing over $300,000 to improve farm and community resilience.

- We provided a wide range of farmer services to over 120 farms, including 49 farms that received one-on-one business development services, 30 farms that received production or marketing assistance, 11 farms that completed our Farm Beginnings Program for new farmers, and 6 farms that completed our Journey Farmer Program for more seasoned farmers.

- Through organic certification, we supported market-based incentives for farms to adopt and utilize organic practices. Vermont Organic Farmers certified over 770 producers and processors committed to soil health, biodiversity, and animal welfare, representing 159,165 acres and more than $349 million in sales.

- In response to the ongoing crisis in the organic dairy industry, we provided holistic support both to meet farmers’ emergency needs while pushing for a more sustainable future, including one-on-one assistance to farmers, beginning a market analysis of institutional demand for local, organic dairy products, and setting the stage to push for financial relief in the statehouse in 2023.

Supporting social, economic, and climate resilience on farms and in communities
NOFA-VT occupies a really special space within the agricultural community and in Vermont generally . . . There is real, genuine community magic that NOFA-VT provides in a way that I haven’t found anywhere else.

**Abbie Corse**
Dairy farmer at The Corse Farm Dairy in Whitingham

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Farmers competing for the gold at our 7th Annual Farmer Olympics, held at Cate Farm in Plainfield, VT.
We’re committed to getting creative about building community and sharing gratitude through joy, learning, and of course, good food!

• We celebrated our 40th annual Winter Conference. Nearly 700 people came together virtually and on farms for winter socials around the state to learn about organic farming and the food system, hear innovative speakers from around the country, celebrate, and deepen community connections.

• With the return of warmer weather, we welcomed the opportunity to gather, build community, and look to inspiring farmers for the future we want to see while celebrating on their farms. We brought together over 575 people through on-farm pizza socials, the 7th annual Farmer Olympics, and our on-farm workshop series.

• We created a video marketing & education campaign to promote organic practices, center farmers’ stories, and build understanding around why organic matters for a climate resilient future that reached over 93,000 Vermonters and were viewed over 488,000 times.

• We fostered stronger community connections between farmers and schools by supporting school nutrition programs to buy more local and organic food, and take advantage of Vermont’s new Local Foods Incentive Program.
Going to the farm stand to pick up produce became a welcome source of abundance and joy for my family. In the absence of "stuff," we have become really appreciative of the important aspects of life such as fresh food and healthy land. We feel more connected than ever to nature and community.

Farm Share Program participant

NOFA-VT Resilience Grantee, The People’s Farmstand building community resilience through mutual aid; distributing free local, organic, and culturally important produce to anyone who needs it.
Increasing food access & inclusivity

Food insecurity remains extremely high. Our commitment to win-win programs that ensure **all may be fed while farms are also paid fairly** is stronger than ever.

- Over 2,400 people received subsidized CSA shares through our Farm Share and Senior Farm Share Programs. These win-win programs **grow food access and ensure that farms earn the full value for their products**, accounting for more than $300,000 of economic impact for 67 farms.

- 34 farmers markets matched over $126,000 in 3SquaresVT/SNAP transactions through our Crop Cash program, ensuring **limited-income Vermonters have increased access to local farm products**.

- We partnered with the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation and Abenaki Helping Abenaki on the third season of the Abenaki Land Link Project, coordinating farmers and gardeners to grow **Indigenous food for Abenaki tribal citizens**. Approximately 4,500 pounds of food was processed and given back to the Abenaki community.

- We offered registration costs on a sliding scale for our Winter Conference because we believe **that all voices must be present and included for our movement to be successful**.
I never thought of being organic until about three years ago, when I realized that the way I have been managing my forest for the last 40 years was in line with what the organic standards are. It just seemed to make sense to support an organization that had the same values as I did when it comes to management for long-term sustainability.

John DeLeo
Certified Organic Maple Producer

Photo: Twin Maple Sugarworks in Lincoln, VT, which has been producing organic maple syrup since 2016.
Working for systems change

We are laying the groundwork for a healed food system with ecology and justice at its heart.

- We successfully advocated for full state funding for the Local Food Purchasing Incentive Grants, the Farm to School and Early Childhood Grants Program, and Universal School Meals to advance local purchasing in schools for ALL Vermont children while increasing the viability of farms and sustainable livelihoods for farmers.

- Through coalition-building and partnerships with organizations such as the National Family Farm Coalition, National Organic Coalition, Organic Farmers Association and the other NOFA organizations across the northeast, and Vermont Renews, we advocated for system changes to support more viable farms, racial and economic justice, ecological health and climate solutions.

- We continued to support the advancement and integrity of the National Organic Program by advocating for strong regulations to level the playing field for Vermont’s high-integrity certified organic farms.

Photo courtesy of New England Food and Farm (left)
NOFA-VT 2022 Financial Overview

**INCOME** $2,736,776  
**EXPENSE** $3,468,330

**KEY CASH & INVESTMENTS**
- Beginning 2022 $4,565,725  
- Ending 2022 $3,842,070

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

**EXPENSES BY CATEGORY**
- Administration $453,011  
- Fundraising $150,578  
- Programs (see chart) $2,864,742

**SOURCES OF INCOME**
- Certification Fees 34.0%  
- Grants & Contracts 32.0%  
- Membership & Donations 27.2%  
- Interest/Investments 3%  
- Admin Allocation 2.5%  
- Program Fees 1.2%  
- Sales 0.1%

**EXPENSES BY PROGRAM**
- Vermont Organic Farmers 42.4%  
- Farmer Services 24.4%  
- Food Access 13.0%  
- Farm to Institution 6.0%  
- Market Development & Direct Markets Support 5.2%  
- On Farm Workshops & Winter Conference 3.9%  
- Advocacy 2.9%  
- Membership Services & Engagement 2.3%
Thank you for supporting our work!

We are so grateful for YOU—our many members, donors, farms, businesses, and organizations who supported us in 2022.

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Rhode Island) • USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Food & Agricultural Service Learning Program • US Dept of Health and Human Services, sub-award Bi-State Primary Care Association • Vermont Agency of Agriculture Farm to School Grants Program • Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets sub-award USDA Specialty Crop Block Grants • Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Working Lands Enterprise Initiative • Vermont Foodbank • VHCB Farm & Forest Viability Program • VSECU • VT COVID-19 Response Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation • WaterWheel Foundation • Wurstler Family Foundation

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It’s clear to me that we have so much more work to do, and, to me, Vermont Organic is the future of agriculture.

Katie Rose, Head Over Fields Farm

Because of YOU, we’re growing a more just and ecological food system one farm at a time!