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.

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Dear Friend,

It’s no secret that 2023 was a rugged year. A late frost, devastating flooding, unrelenting rain, and continued corporate consolidation created challenges for farms across the state. Yet, the incredible generosity, care, and solidarity that YOU demonstrated to neighbors, friends, and even total strangers during this time of crisis was profound. Together, we are resilient.

With your support, we helped farmers recover from the year’s persistent challenges and we made focused investments in farm and community strength for the long-term. We provided record amounts of support to food access efforts and funded innovative farm and processing projects all over the state. We advocated for policy changes on the state and federal level. We worked to protect the ecological rigor of the organic standard. And we did it all together as a community.

More than ever, this year affirmed our commitment to being led by the people we serve and highlighted the need to foundationally shift structures and systems to be beneficial for the land, waters, climate, people, and communities of Vermont. We need change in the food system, and our members are rolling up their sleeves to help make it happen.

We know that to win these changes will take time and that together, we are strong.

Thank you for the many ways you showed up and supported farmers and farmworkers in this challenging year. We all have a role to play in building a thriving future— together is truly the way.

Grace Oedel, NOFA-VT Executive Director

NOFA-VT staff members involved in the Miller Farm school milk pilot project are pictured with farmer Peter Miller, Olga Moriarty, Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership Executive Director, and Harley Sterling, Director of School Nutrition for Windham Northeast Supervisory Union.
In 2023, we supported recovery efforts and invested in longer-term resilience on farms and in communities.

- In response to the summer’s flooding and other persistent weather challenges, we awarded nearly $1.5 million in Emergency Grants to 217 farms to aid in their recovery efforts.

- We awarded 62 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 130 farms to develop their business and farming practices, including 35 farms that received one-on-one business development services, 42 farms that received production or marketing assistance, 10 farms that completed our Farm Beginnings Program, and 6 farms that completed our Journey Farmer Program.

- We expanded our capacity to provide support to farms around organic practice adoption, climate resilience planning, and organic certification by adding three new staff positions and launching two new partnership programs with partners across the region: Climate-Smart Farming and Marketing, and Transition to Organic Partnership Program.

- Through organic certification, we supported market-based incentives for farms to adopt and utilize organic practices. Vermont Organic Farmers certified over 730 producers and processors committed to soil health, biodiversity, and animal welfare, representing 153,198 acres and more than $343 million in sales.
We are so grateful to have NOFA-VT supporting us and all the other small organic growers in Vermont. It really does make resiliency in the face of climate change seem possible.

2023 Farmer Emergency Fund grant recipient
Deepening Agricultural Engagement & Community Connections

Our community is what sustains us in good times and bad, and this year the results of these efforts to foster community and connection paid off more than ever before.

• We celebrated our 41st annual Winter Conference. Over 1,000 people came back together in person for the first time since 2020 to engage with organic farming, learn from food system experts and innovators from around Vermont and the country, and deepen their connections in the community.

• 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 over 500 people through our on-farm summer events, including pizza socials, workshops, and the 8th annual Farmer Olympics.

• We fostered new community connections between farmers, kids, and schools as a partner in a pilot to get Vermont organic milk in schools. The pilot grew from the four initial schools to 10, expanding access to healthy, fresh, local organic milk to 1,000 students in central and southern Vermont.

• Alongside our partners at Shelburne Farms, we supported interested farmers in developing farm-based education offerings and growing stronger connections to their local schools by providing training and facilitating mentorship for 15 farmers.

Teens raise a glass of Miller Farm organic chocolate milk in celebration of their new cafeteria dispenser.
An enthusiastic crowd of students and organizers of the Miller Farm organic milk pilot project raise a celebratory glass of chocolate milk.

After talking to Grafton Elementary School Principal, Angela Cartier, we brought [Miller Farm] milk out in portable dispensers. To say the students were excited is an understatement. One kid shouted, 'This tastes like real milk!' And another said, ‘You should bring this every day.’ When I told them that’s exactly what we’re going to do, they exclaimed, ‘I LOVE THIS LUNCHROOM NOW!!!’

Harley Sterling, School Nutrition Director at Windham Northeast Supervisory Union on serving Vermont organic milk in the district’s schools
Increasing Food Access & Inclusivity

Our food access programs have more than quadrupled in size since 2019. With every dollar, these programs support low-income Vermonters to purchase nutritious local and organic food, and Vermont farmers receive a reliable, fair price for their goods.

- Through our suite of food access programs (including Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus pilot, Farm Share, Senior Farm Share), we provided $490,000 of food access dollars to over 2,000 low-income Vermont households, growing access to food while increasing the customer base for local farms and ensuring farmers earn the market value for their products.

- We piloted Crop Cash Plus, which expanded Crop Cash beyond just fruits and vegetables to all SNAP-eligible foods, including eggs, bread, meat, and dairy, thereby extending the benefits to most farmers market agricultural vendors, and supporting greater food security for SNAP recipients. This program was hugely popular, outpacing 12 months of funding in just five months.

- We translated Crop Cash outreach materials into eight languages to increase accessibility to the program for Vermont’s immigrant and refugee populations and organized three interpretation events at the Old North End farmers market in Burlington, which has a high percentage of refugee shoppers.

The Capital City Farmers Market in Montpelier is one of more than 40 markets across Vermont where those enrolled in 3SquaresVT/SNAP can receive extra money in the form of Crop Cash to spend on local fruits, vegetables, herbs, and culinary seeds and plant starts. Penn Rodd
Thank you so much for the financial support through the Farm Share Program. Without it, my family would have struggled with putting food on the table over the summer.

2023 Farm Share Program participant
Working for Systems Change

We are building bridges from the world we have today to a future in which people and the planet flourish together.

- We successfully advocated for $6.9 million in emergency relief for organic dairy farms to help them survive and continue to implement the best ecological farming and land stewardship practices.

- Staff participated in a 2-day power building training, aimed at growing our understanding of power and our capacity to win transformative change for and with the communities we serve.

- Thirty NOFA-VT members joined member meetings around the state in Brattleboro, Hyde Park, and Randolph to share stories about their shared challenges and hopes for the future, as we seek to center the needs of our membership in all our work.

- We were core partners in a multi-year effort to create the Vermont Food Security Road Map, which engaged hundreds of Vermonters, organizations, and experts to collectively identify a pathway for Vermont to achieve true, durable food security for all by 2035, while centering our farmers as a key part of the solution.
Abe Collins of the Land Care Cooperative demonstrates the capabilities of the Vermont Ripsower, funded through our Resilience Grants Program, to an engaged audience at an on-farm event.

“Each organic farmer, in one way or another, will very much have the ability to leave the world a little better than we found it.”

Eric Paris, Tamarlane Farm, certified organic since 2005
**NOFA-VT 2023 Financial Overview**

**INCOME** $6,877,289  
**EXPENSE** $6,245,048

**EXPENSES BY CATEGORY**  
Administration $588,993  
Fundraising $178,664  
Programs (see chart) $5,477,391

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

**KEY CASH & INVESTMENTS**  
Beginning 2023 $3,842,097  
Ending 2023 $5,506,929

**SOURCES OF INCOME**  
- Membership & Donations 40.4%  
- Grants & Contracts 37.66%  
- Certification Fees 16.38%  
- Interest/Investments 3.97%  
- Program Fees 1.54%  
- Sales 0.05%

**EXPENSES BY PROGRAM**  
- Farmer Services 40.05%  
- Vermont Organic Farmers 24.55%  
- Food Access 13.6%  
- Farm to School 7.6%  
- Market Development & Direct Markets Support 5.5%  
- On Farm Workshops & Winter Conference 4.9%  
- Advocacy 2.5%  
- Membership Services & Engagement 1.3%

Organic basil seedlings at Red Wagon Plants in Hinesburg
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 2023.

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Ripening blueberries at Hawthorn Meadow Farmstead
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An organic tomato plant at Singing Cedars Farmstead in Orwell
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I can’t put a value on what NOFA-VT has done for me over the decades! And more to come!

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