NOFA Vermont is an organization of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system.

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Welcome

Thank you for being an important part of NOFA-VT, and for your contribution to our work, on many levels. By working together, we can strengthen organic farms, make healthy food accessible to all Vermonters and nurture strong communities.

We are excited to share some highlights of our 2017 work with you. This report outlines the impact of our work in 2017 to: 1) Grow the Demand for Organic Food, 2) Grow the Supply of Organic Food and 3) Raise Our Voice. Through achievements like the number of schools we have worked with to increase access to local and organic food for Vermont’s schoolchildren (Grow the Demand) or the number of farm visits we have made to provide business and production support to organic farmers (Grow the Supply) or our work to advocate for important farm and food policies (Raise Our Voice) – we are nurturing this movement.

As a membership association, our job is to elevate your voice and the voices of all of our members – whether you are a commercial farmer, gardener or homesteader. We are all eaters and we are all part of NOFA Nation, as I like to think of it, working together to build healthier soils, raise healthier animals, and provide food for all, regardless of income. Since 1971, NOFA-VT has worked to grow a robust local and organic farm and food movement in Vermont. Thank you for being an important part of making this work possible; we couldn’t do it without you!

Best,

Enid Wonnacott
Executive Director, NOFA Vermont
Growing the demand for organic food in Vermont means creating relationships between farmers and eaters, making farmers markets, CSAs, and farmstands more accessible to low-income Vermon ters, and providing support to schools and institutional buyers to purchase local & organic foods.

Program: Farm to Community Mentors
NOFA-VT Farm to Community Mentors facilitate the web of connections between farmers, educators, and community members. They increase the economic, environmental, and physical health of communities by promoting an awareness of local, sustainable agriculture. To celebrate Agricultural Literacy Week, over 800 people attended over 30 library events, featuring our documentary Vermont Farm Kids: Rooted in the Land. Secretary Tebbetts and Lieutenant Governor Zuckerman attended the film premiere and spoke about growing up farming.

“We know that it’s not about winning, but about creating a love of cooking and knowing your food. This event has allowed many of our students, who don’t normally ‘shine’ on the athletic fields or in the classroom, to shine as chefs. I have seen students work as true team members, helping one another and giving constructive feedback to each other. These are strengths that we try to instill in them in the classroom or in sports but often do not have full success with. For our children, there is no better experience.”

– Keenan Haley, Sharon Elementary teacher & Jr Iron Chef VT coach

Program: VT FEED
On March 18, 2017, Vermont Food Education Every Day (VT Feed), a collaborative project of NOFA-VT and Shelburne Farms, hosted the 10th annual Jr Iron Chef VT competition for middle and high school aged chefs, with 60 teams from all over the state.

“Weiding the crew is fun because I get to drive tractors.”
– Angus Blackwell (Pictured above, interviewed for the NOFA-VT documentary “Vermont Farm Kids: Rooted in the Land.”)

“The film brought together many new and older farmers and helped facilitate a conversation around their Cabot food shed and education with their schools.”
– Librarian, Cabot, VT
NOFA-VT manages the CROP CASH program, a statewide incentive program that promotes the purchase of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs at farmers markets that accept 3SquaresVT benefits.

As any farmer or small business person knows, the early years are fat on expenses and lean on cash. We were willing to go a few seasons without paying ourselves as we established the farm, but the bills couldn’t wait. Still, we had sowed our mission right along with our seeds, and were unwilling to uproot it. So, how to meet financial needs and work to increase local food access at the same time? The answer for us came in the form of the NOFA-VT Farm Share Program.

– Farmer Kate Spring, Good Heart Farmstead, Worcester, VT

Every Vermonter deserves access to healthy foods.
NOFA Vermont works to grow the supply of organic food while maintaining the viability of organic farms and businesses. We coordinate a team of farm advisors and farmer mentors who work with growers on business, marketing and production plans, and support the next generation of organic farmers through our Beginning Farmer programs. We work to grow the supply of certified organic products, and the land being managed organically in Vermont, through the organic certification program of NOFA-VT, Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF).

Program:

Vermont Organic Farmers

Vermont Organic Farmers LLC (VOF) is the USDA-accredited certification program of NOFA-VT. VOF producers are dedicated to practices that enhance soil, plant, animal, and human health to protect the environment for current and future generations. Organic certification is needed to verify these production practices and to ensure that organic products are produced with integrity and transparency. The VOF seal provides consumers with a process and label they can trust.

Certified Organic, Locally Grown

Organic dictates truly sustainable practices; from soil management, crop production, and pest control, to community relationships and social impact.

– Andy Jones, certified organic farmer, Intervale Community Farm

Organic, by the Numbers

719
Number of certified organic producers in Vermont

159,496
Acres of certified organic farmland in Vermont

$614,960,620
Total gross sales of organic products
PROGRAM: Farmer Services

NOFA-VT supports farmers as the foundation of our working lands and local economies by providing services that help farmers improve their business management practices and production systems. Through on-farm technical assistance visits and educational workshops, we support the growth of organic food production in Vermont.

87 farms supported with business planning and technical assistance services

PROGRAM: Beginning Farmers

Our beginning farmer programs grow the supply of organic food by supporting the next generation of farmers with business planning assistance and educational opportunities.

13 Journey Farmers representing 7 start-up farm businesses received in-depth trainings, mentorships, and educational stipends.

Over 50 farm workers participated in two CRAFT groups (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training) for monthly farm tours, workshops, and networking opportunities.

“Funding for technical assistance has helped us make big shifts in how we hire, train, and develop employees to address perennial challenges. We couldn’t have implemented such a big change so quickly without this support. From the perspective of helping our farm become more efficient, the services we received were really effective!”

– Ryan & Kara, Evening Song Farm
NOFA Vermont is committed to advocating for policies that strengthen our food system by supporting organic farming practices, improving economic opportunities for farmers, and expanding access to local and organic foods for all Vermonters.

Program:

Advocacy

NOFA Vermont works on state and federal policy issues impacting organic farmers and consumers in Vermont and beyond. A few of our key issues and efforts in 2017 included:

- Working with a range of agriculture and land use stakeholders to introduce legislation supporting agricultural enterprises in Vermont
- Calling upon Congress, the National Organic Program, and the National Organic Standards Board to protect organic integrity
- Advocating for a Farm Bill that provides support for organic and nutrition for vulnerable Vermonters
- Playing a leadership role in the formation of the Organic Farmers Association (OFA), a national advocacy voice for organic farmers
- Protecting pollinators by advocating for stronger pesticide regulations in Vermont

Left: Agrarian elder Elliot Coleman joins organic farmers and supporters for a rally at the Intervale Community Farm in Burlington, VT, on October 8th, 2017. The rally was one of dozens held throughout the year to call on the National Organic Standards Board to protect the integrity of the organic label.
2017 Financial Information

Sources of Income

- Admin Allocation 3%
- Interest/Investments 8%
- Program Fees 5%
- Sales 6%
- Membership & Donations 20%
- Certification Fees 32%
- Grants & Contracts 27%

Expenses by Category

- Administration $192,004
- Fundraising $51,695
- Membership Services $30,977
- Programs (see chart) $2,221,143

Key Cash & Investments

Beginning 2017: $2,688,191
Ending 2017: $3,067,052

These are unaudited numbers. A copy of NOFA’s 990 tax form is available upon request.
Looking back at 2017

**JAN 27**   VOF ANNUAL MEETING
Certified organic farmers & producers met for a full day of decision-making, information-sharing, and networking.

**FEB 14**   MAPLE IN EVERY SCHOOL
Heart-shaped pancakes were plated and served at the State House highlighting Vermont's farming heritage, and illustrating the idea that every school in the state should have access to pure Vermont maple syrup.

**FEB 17-19**   35TH ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE
Beyond Borders: Our Role in the Global Food Movement featured keynote speakers Cuban farmer and educator Dr. Fernando Funes Monzote, and Indian scholar and environmental activist Dr. Vandana Shiva.

**FEB 17-19**   NOFA-VT BULK ORDER
Pickup day! Hundreds of farmers & gardeners gathered at 5 regional sites to pick up supplies. Proceeds benefit the Farm to Community Mentor Program.

**MARCH 6**   NOFA-VT BULK ORDER
Teams of skilled youth chefs from all over the state competed in the annual timed culinary competition.

**MARCH 10**   OFA LAUNCHED
A new grassroots initiative was launched to provide a voice in Washington, DC for organic producers. NOFA-VT's Maddie Kemper serves on the founding board.

**MARCH 18**   JR IRON CHEF VT
Teams of skilled youth chefs from all over the state competed in the annual timed culinary competition.

**MARCH 18**   PRICING STUDY RELEASED
A NOFA-VT study found that, more than 1/2 the time, organic produce purchased directly from farmers is competitively priced or less expensive than comparable products purchased at the grocery store.

**MARCH 29**   FARMERS MARKET CONFERENCE
An array of learning and networking opportunities for market managers, board members, and organizers.

**MAY 1**   CROP CASH
Coupon incentive program for farmers markets kicked off 3rd year, with $63,746 to support farmers and 3SquaresVT recipients.

**MAY 4**   ACT 33 PASSED
Increased funding for Farm to School grants and technical assistance, and for the first time included Farm to Early care.

**JUNE 2**   STROLLING OF THE HEIFERS
NOFA-VT and our puppets joined the thousands of marchers and onlookers at this annual event in Brattleboro celebrating Vermont’s agricultural legacy.

**JUNE 10**   LEARNING JOURNEY
Two NOFA-VT staff, two farmers and two farmers market managers took a learning journey to Washington state to explore how their direct market farms and farmers markets are innovating and capturing direct sales.
June 27 - N.E. Farm to School Institute
The year-long VT FEED Northeast Farm to School institute welcomed 12 teams from VT and the rest of the Northeast and kicked off with a Summer Retreat held at Shelburne Farms.

August 2 - 3rd Annual Farmer Olympics
Farmers from all over the state competed in unique, farm-chore challenges, at the organic farm at Green Mountain College in Poultney.

July 1 - On-Farm Workshops Begin
Our annual workshops for farmers, gardeners and homesteaders took place all summer and fall, with workshops across VT.

August 14 - Open Farm Week
3rd annual week of hands-on events on farms statewide, creating farmer and consumer connections.

September 15 - Cost of Production Metrics
NOFA-VT’s Farmer Services program released a series of fact sheets with cost-specific cost of production metrics.

September 14 - Pizza Socials
NOFA-VT’s mobile wood-fired pizza oven wraps up a summer of slinging ‘zas across Vermont. Final tally: 3,823 pizzas baked at 54 events!

October 5 - Share the Harvest
A statewide fundraiser for our Farm Share program: more than 65 businesses participated by donating a percentage of the days’ profits!

October 8 & 15 - Rallies to Keep the Soil in Organic
Farmers, politicians, and advocates rallied in Burlington, VT & Hanover, NH to send a message to the National Organic Program to “Keep the Soil in Organic”.

November 16 - Farm Scale Decision Workshops
Workshops were held that provided farmers the tools necessary to make informed changes to their businesses based on both financial viability and quality of life goals.

November 14 - Agricultural Literacy Week
Over 800 people attended over 30 library events, featuring our new documentary: VT Farm Kids: Rooted in the Land.

October 31 - NOSB Meeting
VOF producers journey to Jacksonville, Florida, to be heard in front of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

October 8 & 15 - Rallies to Keep the Soil in Organic
Farmers, politicians, and advocates rallied in Burlington, VT & Hanover, NH to send a message to the National Organic Program to “Keep the Soil in Organic”.

December 7 - Farmer Forum
27 farmers who sell directly to consumers met for an afternoon of presentations, discussion, and brainstorming to inform our extensive consumer marketing campaign that aims to increase purchases at direct markets.

Over the course of the 2016 season, 30 organic farms in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts tracked and analyzed their crop-specific costs of production. This is one of five crop factsheets that aggregates and presents the results of their work.

**Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)**

Carrot Production: Average Hours/Task
- This data is aggregated from 7 farms, which grew .1 to 1.4 acres of carrots in 2016.
NOFA Vermont would like to thank our many members and donors: all the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have supported us through your generous donations between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017.

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Linda Tipton*
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Estate of Sarah Crocker

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Plainfield Coop
Positive Pie
Progressive Asset Management
Putney Food Co-op
Red Hen Baking Company
Red House Vermont
Rural Vermont
Sarducci’s
Shelburne Farms
Skinny Pancake Hanover
Skunk Hollow Tavern
Sonny’s Blue Benn Diner
South Royalton Market
Springfield Food Coop
Stone Leaf Teahouse
Stonyfield Farm, Inc.
Sweet Clover Market
Switchback Beerworks
The Farmhouse Group
The Fertrell Company
The Local Buzz
University of Vermont Food Systems
Upper Valley Food Coop
USDA NRCS
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Vermont Community Garden Network
Vermont Compost Company
Vermont Farm Bureau
Vermont Hemp Company
VHC Farm and Forest Viability Program
Vermont Soap
Vermont Soy
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund Farm to Plate
Vermont Public Radio
Waybury Inn
Wellscroft Fence Systems
West Hill Energy & Computing
Wood Meadow Market
Woodstock Farmers’ Market
Wrenegade Sports
Yankee Farm Credit
Equal Exchange
Flack Family Farm
Golden Russet Farm
Green Mountain College
High Mowing Organic Seeds
Hotel Vermont
Intervale Community Farm
Intervale Food Hub
Jericho Settlers Farm
Kimball Brook Farm
Lake Champlain Chocolates
MMCTV
Nutty Steph’s
O Bread Bakery
Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative
Pete & Gerry’s Organic Eggs
Pitchfork Farm
Plymouth Artisan Cheese
Real Pickles
Red Hen Baking Co.
Shelburne Farms
Sodexo
Stonyfield Farm, Inc.
Stratford Organic Creamery
Sugarsnap Catering
The Final Connection
The Skinny Pancake
Vermont Bean Crafters
Vermont Coffee Company
Vermont Law School
Vermont Village
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

In Memory

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Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

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Members are the heart of NOFA VERMONT!

When you join us, you’ll experience the profound satisfaction of supporting local, organic agriculture in Vermont by connecting with the farmers, gardeners, and local food lovers in your community to build a sustainable food system.

Join today: www.nofavt.org/join

“I am a NOFA-VT member because I want to support farms and food access for all families. As an educator, I enjoy participating in and promoting the Farmer Correspondence program as it exposes so many children and families to healthy food, sustainable agricultural practices and farming as a lifestyle choice. Personally, I want locally grown food in my cupboards and freezer and I want my children to understand and appreciate the full cycle of food production.”

Joanna Jerose, NOFA-VT member

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