



farm to plate

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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To: Vermont General Assembly and Governor Phil Scott

**A letter from
Jake Claro
Farm to Plate Director**

The ability to not only withstand large systemic shocks, but to bounce back from them, is the hallmark of resiliency. But bouncing back does not necessarily mean that everything looks the same as it was before. Among the many things the COVID-19 pandemic has forcefully taught us is that normalcy is a relative condition. With all of the changes that have occurred in the last two years across the globe and in Vermont, it would be disingenuous to say we are closer to returning to normal. Rather, we are in a state of transition to a new “normal,” and with that there is ample opportunity to integrate what we have learned through the pandemic into existing endeavors and to innovate and introduce new ways of doing things. This year’s 2022 Farm to Plate Annual Report provides a picture for how the transition to a new normal is playing out in Vermont’s food system and the Farm to Plate Network, and in doing so, points to the ways in which the food system has bounced back but also the ways it is still vulnerable and needs support.

How has the food system bounced back since the start of the pandemic? While the By the Numbers section of the report may not answer this question fully, it provides critical context for understanding how the pandemic impacted the economic health and food security of Vermont’s food system and how Vermont’s food system has responded since the height of the pandemic.

On the positive side, it reveals that Vermont’s food and farm-based economy is resilient and recovering, and that Vermonters continue to procure local food at high rates in a diversity of market channels within Vermont. **Employment data from 2021 shows the food economy is recovering, gaining nearly 1,500 net new jobs, the second largest annual employment gain in the food system since 2009**—though that follows the historic loss of 6,500 net jobs in 2020 that resulted from the pandemic. The peak of the pandemic did not depress local food purchasing in Vermont, as **total purchases of local food and beverages in Vermont reached \$371 million. This represents 16.1% of total food purchases in Vermont, and is an increase of \$61 million in local food purchases from 2017.**

More worrying is the data related to food insecurity, as they demonstrate how many in Vermont are still vulnerable to national and global events, and how many people in the state are continuously teetering on the edge of being food insecure. Longitudinal data of a cohort of Vermonters collected by NFACT since 2020 shows that **inflationary pressures have brought food insecurity levels back to peak levels that occurred during the early shut-down period of the pandemic.** This was after levels had started to return to pre-pandemic levels, due to the monumental efforts of charitable food organizations, farms, and communities working alongside the coordinated responses from the Administration and state agencies.

The Farm to Plate Network itself has gone through transition since the start of the pandemic, as it has integrated pandemic lessons and reoriented its structure to implementing the 2021–2030 Strategic Plan. While 2022 was not by any means normal for the Network, the year was filled with signs of the familiar. This has included more in-person work happening for our Network groups and teams, a return to an in-person Annual Gathering at Killington that saw record attendance, and the Network overall in implementation mode after a year and half of engagement in the creation and release of the Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2021–2030. There are now 19 groups in the Network, guided by the Strategic Plan, working on issues and opportunities that span all aspects of the food system. In this year’s Annual Report **we focus on 3 projects covering collaborative industry development between the dairy and beef industries, community-based solutions to composting and organics management, and food security planning that is aligning statewide efforts and forging new cross-sector relationships**. Also, we preview emergent work from a handful of Network groups to keep an eye on in the year ahead that addresses the Strategic Plan’s goal areas of sustainable economic development, environmental sustainability, food security and access, and racial equity. These projects individually, and taken together, demonstrate the depth and breadth of the work happening through the F2P Network, and act as examples of the transitions happening in our food system oriented to creating a vibrant equitable new normal that will result in a more viable, resilient, and just food system.

In full, the 2022 Annual Report demonstrates that the Farm to Plate Network is not only well positioned to advance the strategic goals of the State’s food system plan for the next decade, but is already leveraging the strengths of our foundations to bring real and needed change to Vermont and its food system as it emerges from the pandemic and enters into a new “normal.” We are grateful for the support of the Legislature and Administration, and look forward to our continued work together to strengthen Vermont’s food system.



Jake Claro
Farm to Plate Director

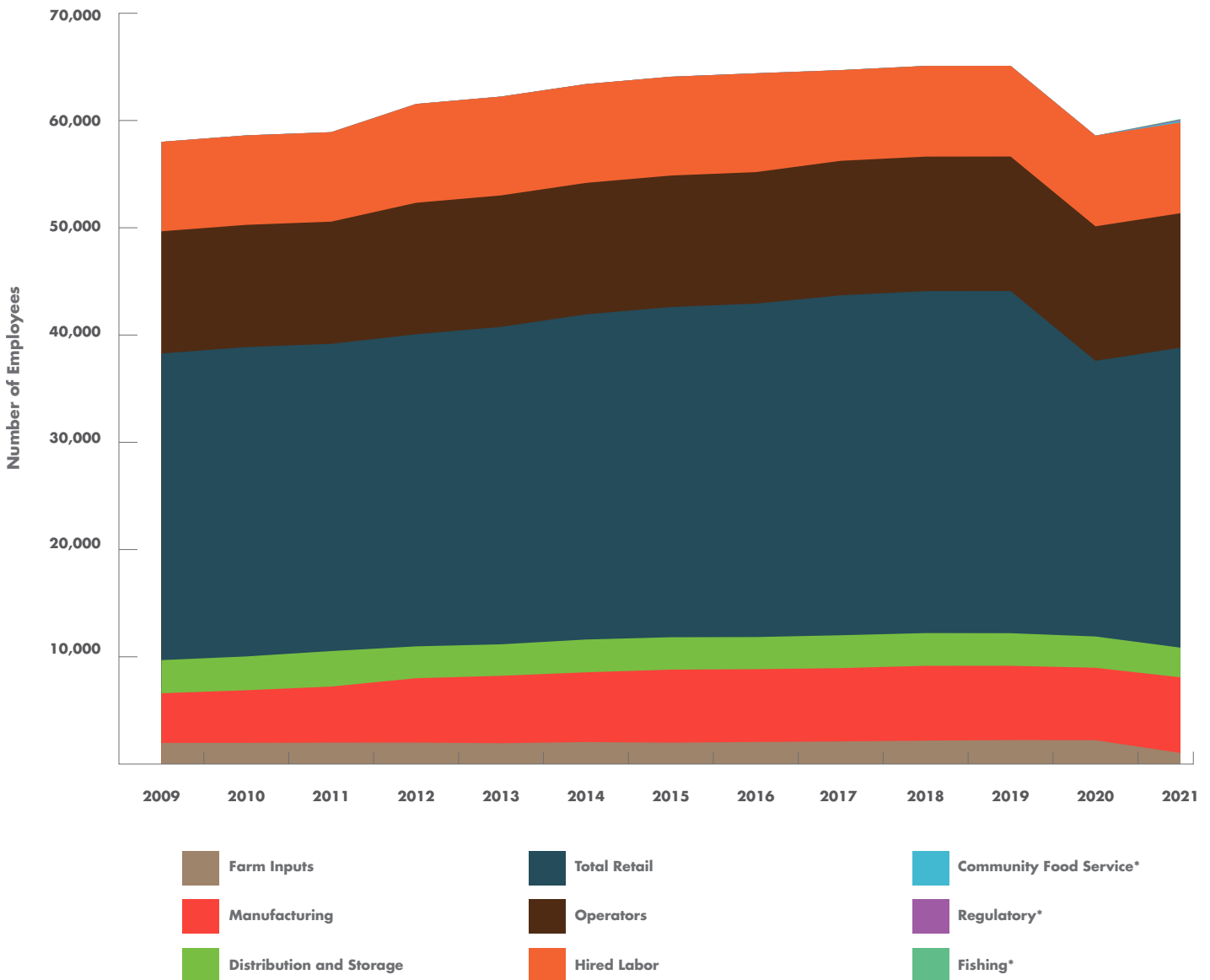
Vermont Farm to Plate By the Numbers

Farm to Plate compiles data and creates indicators to understand progress towards the Farm to Plate Investment Program’s legislative outcomes and the 15 Strategic Goals of the 2021–2030 Plan.

For 2022 we are highlighting employment and establishments, agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, food insecurity rates, and data from three questions from the 2022 Vermonter Poll that provide insight into how Vermonters perceive agriculture’s environmental impact, how they define local, and trends in where they purchase or receive local food.

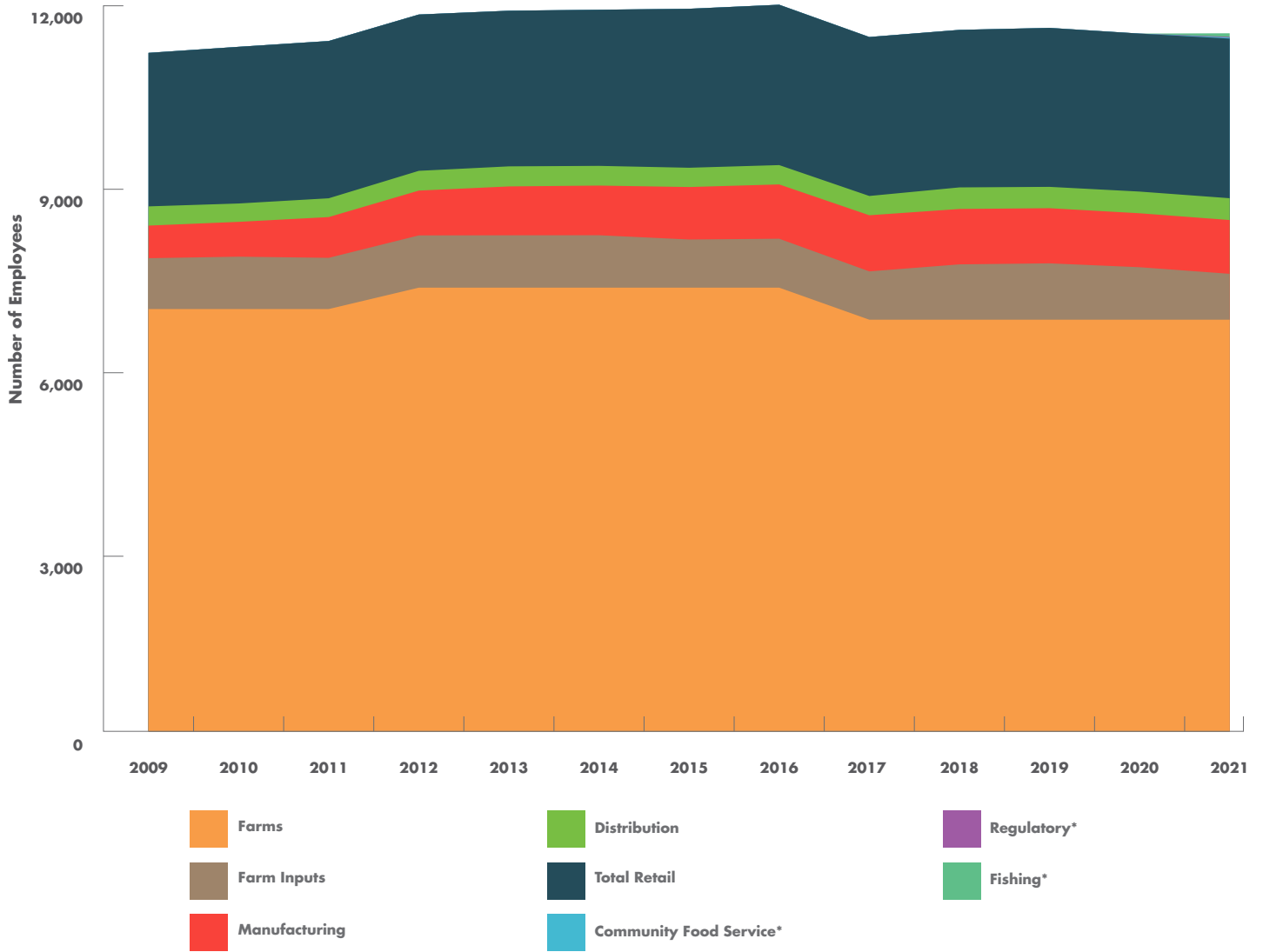
The 60,078 employed in the food system represents 25% of Vermont’s total private sector employment. Employment in the food system experienced a 10% (6,500 net job losses) decrease in 2020 during the first year of the pandemic, with 95% of losses (6,200) coming from food retail and food service. As expected, employment rebounded in 2021 by 1,500 jobs, but still remains below pre-pandemic levels. In contrast, establishments only declined by 1% from 2019 to 2020, and with a small net increase in establishments from 2021–2022 still remain about 1% below pre-pandemic levels.

Food System Employment by Industry



* Note: 2021 is the first year for employment and establishments that Farm to Plate has included data on the Community Food Service, Fishing, and Regulatory categories.

Food System Establishments by Industry

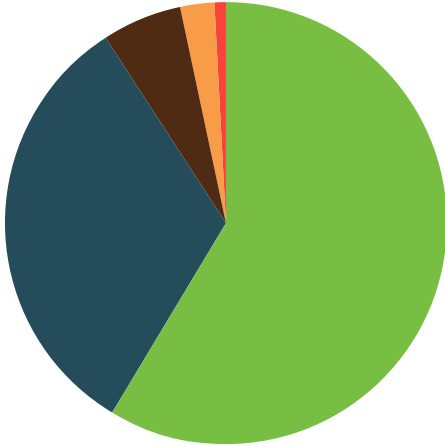


Agriculture GHG Emissions

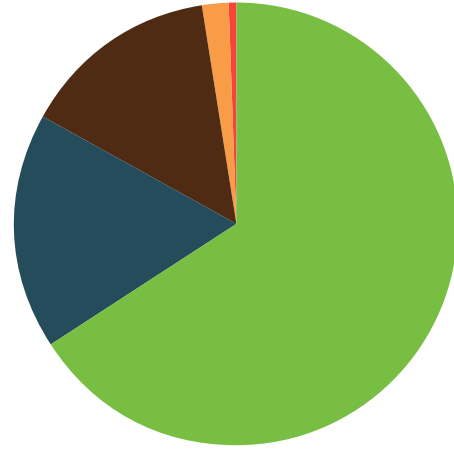


* Note: 2021 is the first year for employment and establishments that Farm to Plate has included data on the Community Food Service, Fishing, and Regulatory categories.

2022 Vermonter Poll:
Agriculture in Vermont has an overall positive impact on Vermont's environment.



2022 Vermonter Poll:
How Vermonters define "locally grown or processed" food:

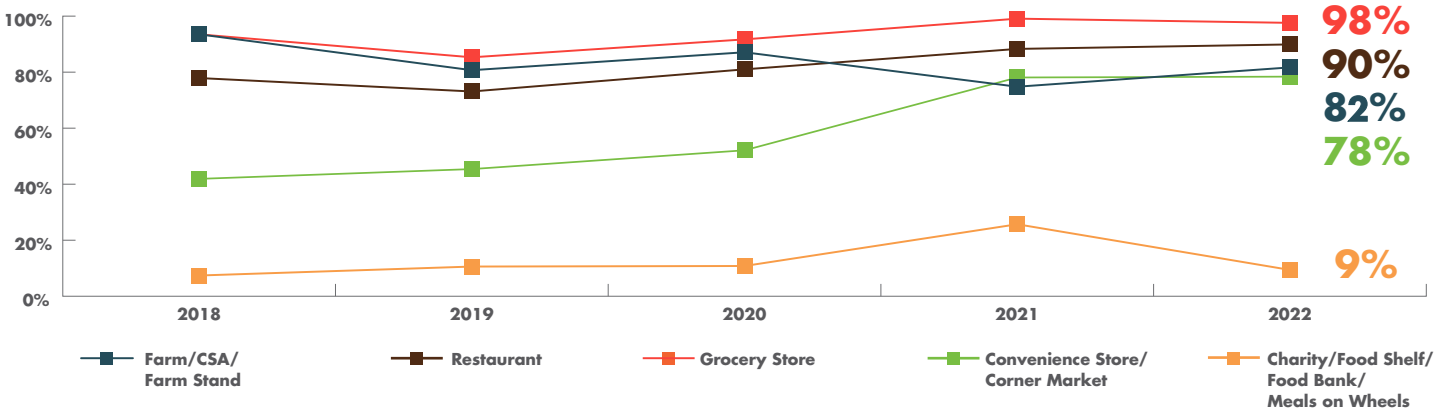


58.8% Strongly Agree
32.2% Somewhat Agree
5.7% Neither Agree nor Disagree
2.7% Somewhat Disagree
0.6% Strongly Disagree

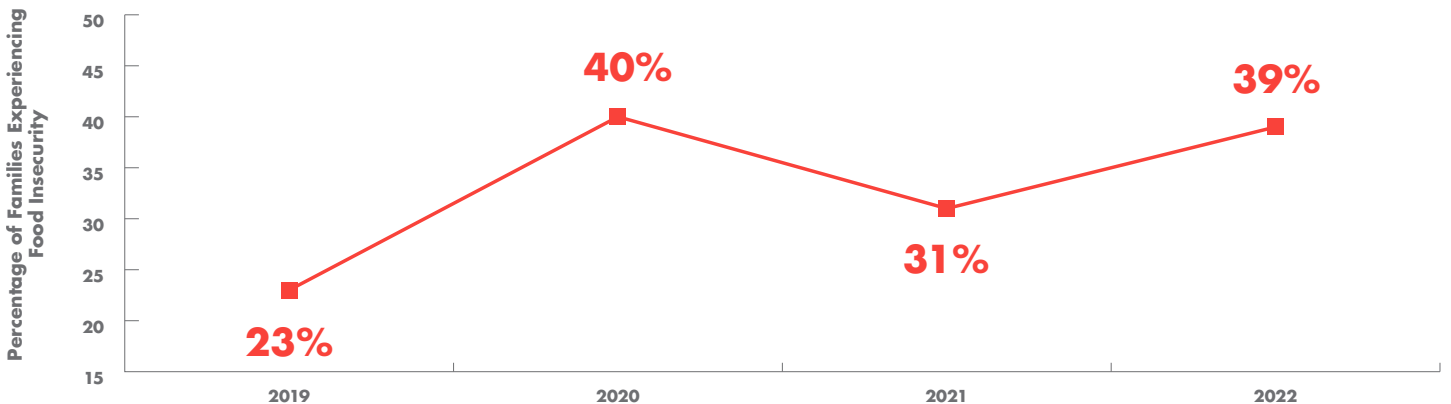
65.9% in Vermont
17.4% within 30 miles of Vermont's border
14.3% within 100 miles
2.1% within 250 miles
0.3% within 400 miles

Vermonters continue to regularly obtain local food from a diversity of markets and charitable sources. More than 80% of Vermonters obtained local food either directly from a farm, at a grocery store, or in a restaurant.

Percentages of Where Vermonters Purchased or Obtained Local Food



Food Insecurity Among Vermonters



Network Updates



Farm to Plate Network Reorganizes to Implement New Plan

On February 11, 2021, Vermont’s second 10-year strategic food system plan, the [Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2021–2030](#), was delivered to the State Legislature. The 2021–2030 Strategic Plan introduced [15 new goals](#) and [34 new Priority Strategies](#) for Vermont’s food system, which required a restructuring of the [Farm to Plate Network](#) to ensure effective implementation of the Plan. 2022 has seen a flurry of activity in the F2P Network, with 19 new groups forming, and the launch of the redesigned Farm to Plate website.

The 15 Statewide Food System Strategic Goals

Guiding the work of the Farm to Plate Network are the fifteen strategic goals that articulate the results we will achieve by 2030, in service to the Vermont Legislature’s intended outcomes for the Vermont Farm to Plate Investment Program, which are:

- 1. Increase sustainable economic development and create jobs in Vermont’s food and farm sector**
- 2. Improve soils, water, and resiliency of the working landscape in the face of climate change**
- 3. Improve access to healthy local foods for all Vermonters**

Goals are divided into four categories. The first three goal categories correspond with legislative outcomes, sustainable economic development, environmental sustainability, and healthy local food for all Vermonters—and the fourth is our commitment to racial equity. All 34 Priority Strategies from the Plan address one or multiple strategic goals, which are identified in the Priority Strategy section of the Plan with color-coded numerical icons (the color representing the legislative outcome area, the number representing the goal).

Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Goals

1

Food system economic output, employment, and establishments will increase.

2

Demand for Vermont food will increase.

3

Vermont's production portfolio is more diverse and farm and food businesses have equitable access to capital and infrastructure.

4

Food system jobs will provide livable wages, access to health care and other benefits, and safe, healthy, and supportive workplace conditions.

5

Farms and food system businesses have sufficient, diverse, and reliable employees, and there are equitable opportunities to gain food system career skills.

6

Farm and food businesses will increase carbon sequestration, reduce food system-related greenhouse gas emissions, and increase adaptation to climate change.

7

Farm stewardship increases ecological diversity, improves soil and water quality, and farmers are supported, compensated, and recognized for their positive contributions to the public good.

8

Agricultural land remains in productive agricultural use, access to that land is more affordable and equitable, and land-use planning decisions promote a viable food system.

9

Edible food, food scraps, and other food residuals are used for their highest purpose, and not considered waste.

10

The amount of Vermont-grown food that fulfills the dietary and cultural needs of people in Vermont will increase.

11

All people in Vermont increasingly have the financial resources to access local food, including through programs that provide support for purchasing local food.

12

All people in Vermont are able to access locations in which local food is sold, served, or provided.

13

All people in Vermont can access the knowledge, skills, and resources to select, grow, hunt, fish, forage, process, store, and prepare local food.

14

Vermont's food system is resilient and able to provide adequate and accessible healthy local food in the face of emergencies and natural disasters.

15

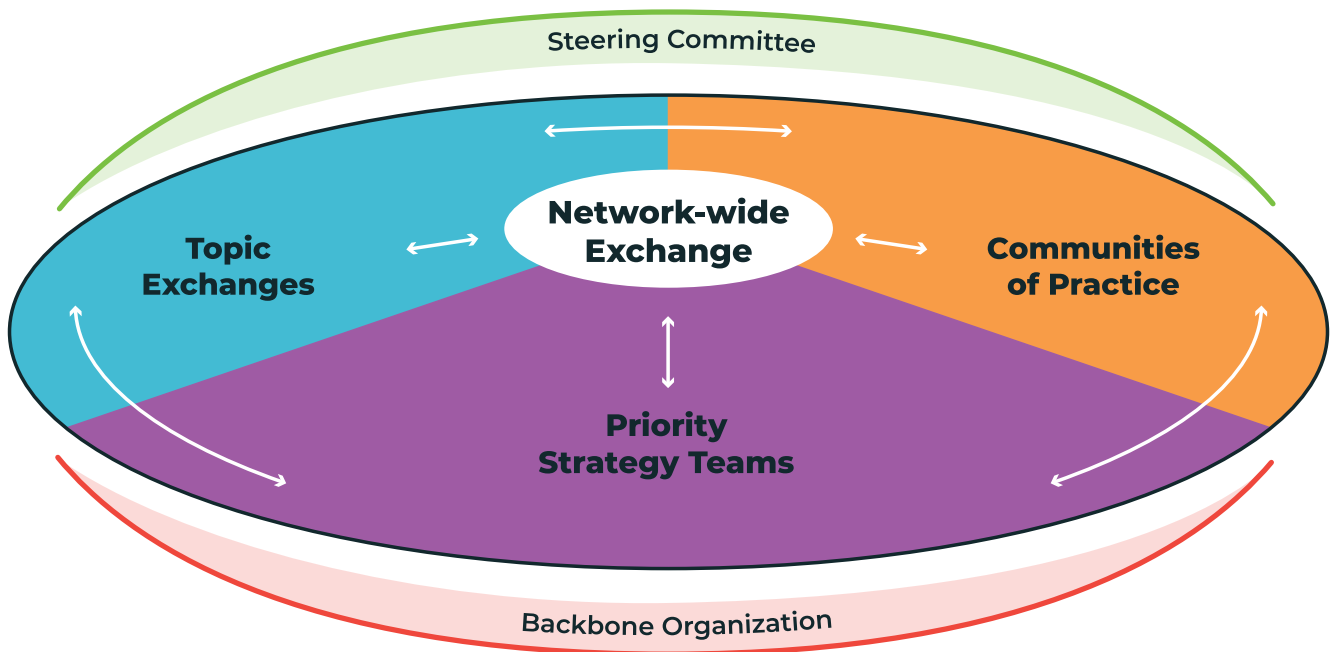
Food system organizations and stakeholders prioritize racial equity and actions to eradicate structural racism, are accountable to Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and support BIPOC participation and representation.

New Network Structure and Groups

There are three distinct types of groups in the new Network structure:

1. **Priority Strategy Teams** implement specific priority strategies and/or their constituent recommendations from the Briefs that were identified in the Plan.
2. **Topic Exchanges** facilitate communication and coordination, create and enhance understanding and awareness, and build relationships amongst Network members who share interest and knowledge in a high leverage food system topic area.
3. **Communities of Practice** are designed for Network members focused on a specific discipline or field of technical expertise to come together as a peer group of practitioners to improve skills, share best practices, problem-solve specific issues, and implement collaborative projects.

The **Network-wide Exchange** facilitates statewide awareness and cross-cutting issue coordination by periodically hosting members of all group types to share information and discuss critical food system issues happening across Vermont and the Northeast region. **The Steering Committee** provides oversight, guidance, and evaluation to the F2P Network, while the **Backbone Organization (VSJF)** supports the network through leadership, facilitation, data analysis, project management, access to resources and funding, and communications to Network groups and members.



List of Network Groups by Group Type

Priority Strategy Teams

- Vermont Food Security Plan Team
- Meat Supply Chain Team
- Agroforestry Team
- Retail Grocers Team
- Policy Team
- Aggregation, Distribution, & Storage Infrastructure Team
- Racial Equity Action Plan Team
- Food/Ag Literacy Team
- Financing for Farmland Access Team
- Regenerative Agriculture Investment Solutions Team

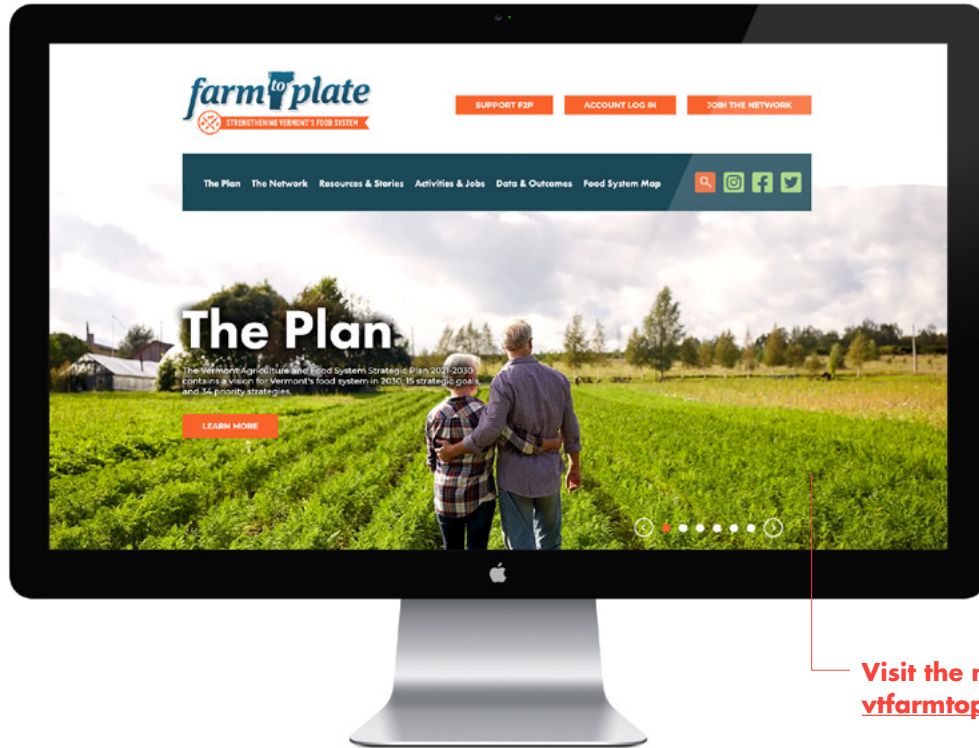
Topic Exchanges

- Production, Processing, & Market Development
- Education, Workforce, & Labor
- Food Security
- Land Access and Land Use
- Climate, Soil, & Environment

Communities of Practice

- Agritourism
- CSA and Healthcare
- Farm Viability Indicators
- Food Cycle Coalition

The New Farm to Plate Website



The new Farm to Plate website gives Network members and the public alike comprehensive access to all things Farm to Plate and food system related, including:

The 2021–2030 Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan

The [Plan page](#) is where you'll find all things Strategic Plan related, including the full version of the Plan, an abbreviated version without the Briefs, Table of Priority Strategies with Source Reference, and all of the individual Product, Market, and Issue Briefs.

The Farm to Plate Network

The [Network page](#) is where you can learn about the different types of Farm to Plate Network groups, access individual group pages, and learn more about the history of the Farm to Plate Network.

Food System Resources and Stories

The [Resources and Stories page](#) is where you'll find food system related guides, planning modules, research, case studies, reports, and narratives about important food system issues.

Food System Activities and Jobs

The [Activities and Jobs page](#) is where you'll discover upcoming Network member events, job openings, and timely news announcements.

Plan Related Data and Outcomes

The [Data & Outcomes page](#) is where you can explore data tied to each of the 15 Goals of the Strategic Plan. The data collected for the objectives—the indicators of progress—represent the degree to which each goal has been accomplished and paints a picture of the progress we're making collectively in implementing the Strategic Plan.

Food System Map

The [Food System Map page](#) is where you can search and find the geographic location of farms, food businesses, support organizations, and people in Vermont's farm and food sector.

Network Highlight: Developing the Beef on Dairy Program

Beef on Dairy project launches to develop a model for strengthening beef and dairy farm partnerships, enhancing farm viability, and scaling cooperative value-added beef.

The Beef on Dairy project is developing stronger beef-dairy partnerships to reduce costs, increase dairy farm viability, and improve product quality to increase market access for Vermont beef products. This project is led by Farm and Forest Business Service's Kevin Channell, with funding from the Working Lands Enterprise Fund and supported by Farm to Plate's Meat Supply Chain Priority Strategy Team.

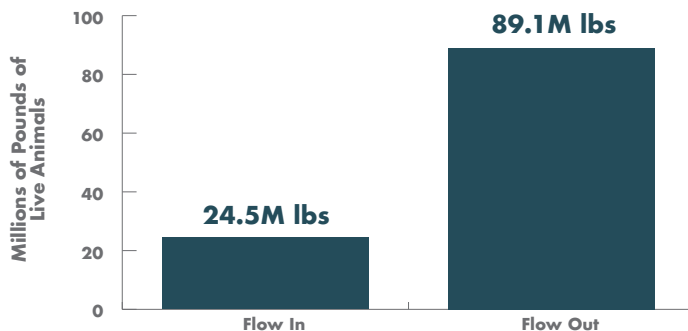
It may come as a surprise to know that most calves born on dairy farms in Vermont, about 60–80%, are shipped to out-of-state ranchers and processors. At the same time, many Vermont beef farmers import calves from across the U.S. to raise in Vermont. The misalignment between calf supply and demand means profits that could be circulating in Vermont are flowing out of state. The [Beef on Dairy Program](#) aims to address these issues.

value, dairy farmers find it difficult to justify investing time, labor, and capital in calves they view as a loss or as ancillary to their primary business.



The Beef on Dairy Program is designed to address these problems of inconsistent quality and lack of coordination in the supply chain. The project is developing a data-driven value-added breeding program in which cows can be crossbred on dairy farms and can be marketed to the beef supply chain at various stages of production. It involves crossbreeding dairy and beef varieties to understand production costs, meat quality, and marketability with the aim of finding the optimal standard for all three. To ensure that program can offer value to all types of dairy and beef farms, the quality characteristics of the crossbred animals will be analyzed across conventional, organic, and grass-fed feed regimes.

Live Animal Import/Export Flows



This misalignment stems from the inconsistent beef quality of dairy calves and dairy-beef crossbred animals. The quality issues drive down in-state demand from beef producers willing to pay higher prices for high quality calves and feeders. Quality issues also bring lower prices when the animals are sold at regional livestock auctions where the animals are purchased more for low grade grind and animal feed rather than premium markets. Because of the low

The long-term aim is to create a cooperative model between dairy and beef farmers that will enable them to market to beef supply chain partners such as backgrounding and finishing farms, livestock brokers, and processors. Opening up the supply chain will enable farmers to access markets that are often closed to individual operations. Additionally, the program will provide dairy farmers with options to diversify their operations while utilizing existing farmland and infrastructure and build upon the skills of the farmers themselves.

The project recently completed implementing the first phase, including:

- Finalizing breeding contracts with participating farms
- Selecting breeding sires with desired genetic traits for crossbreeding
- Developing a scope of work and contract with the Cooperative Development Institute for cooperative formation consulting
- Establishing relationships with supply chain partners such as veterinarians, nutritionists, slaughterers and processors, cattle buyers and brokers, and retailers
- Successfully crossbreeding the 2023 spring calf crop

Next Steps

With strong foundations in place, 2023 will be a busy year for the program. 2023 milestones include:

- The birth of 100 crossbred animals
- Implementation of calf feed, handling, and welfare protocols with participating farms
- Collection and analysis of frame score, growth curves, and costs of production, and reporting results back to the crossbred calf breeders
- Transfer of weaned crossbred calves to backgrounding farms

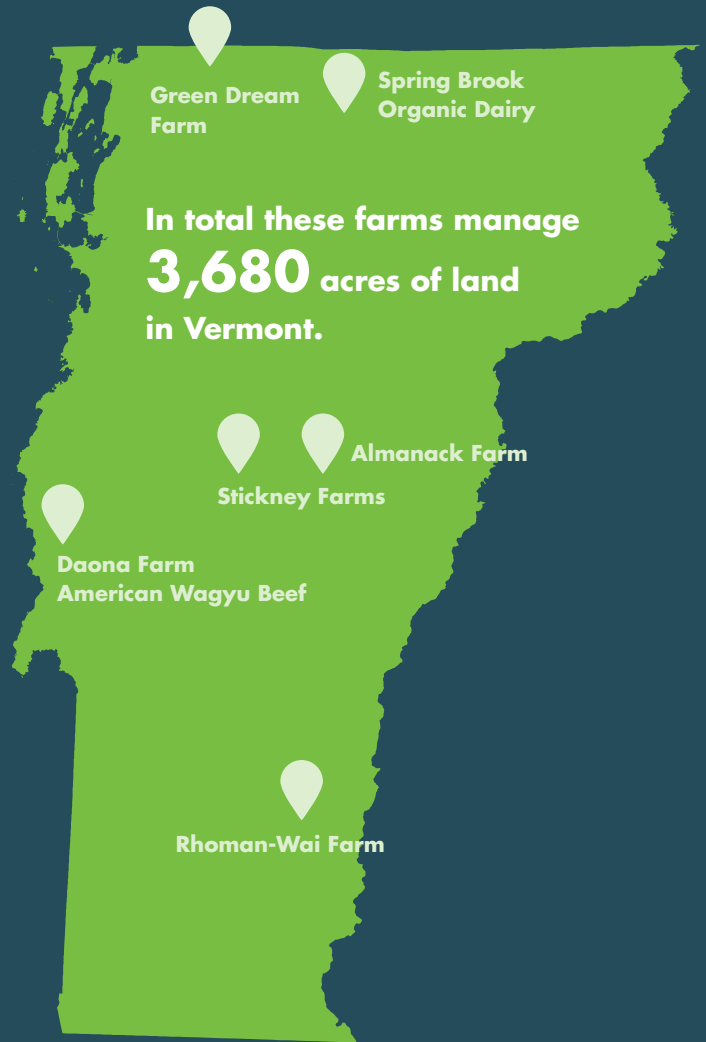
By 2024, crossbred animals will be finished, processed, and brought to market. We will convene consumer focus groups to provide qualitative feedback on meat flavor and quality. The goal is that by 2025, the program will be capable of enrolling and supporting 50 farms and raising for market upwards of 10,000 animals.

Beef on Dairy Participants

- 6 farms
- 2 retailers
- 2 processors
- 1 livestock broker

Participating Farms

- **Daona Farm, Shoreham, VT:**
A conventional dairy milking 1,700 cows, Daona is breeding Wagyu-Dairy calves for the project
- **Spring Brook Organic Dairy, Westfield, VT:**
An organic dairy milking 50 cows, Spring Brook is breeding organic Wagyu-Holstein calves for the project
- **Green Dream Farm, Enosburg Falls, VT:**
Former dairy farm that custom boards up to 600 cattle, Green Dream is raising beef-dairy crossbreeds to weaning age, and will also be growing and finishing cattle for the project
- **Rhoman-wai Farm, Chester, VT:**
Conventional dairy milking 800 cows, Rhoman-wai is breeding beef-dairy calves, and will also be raising calves to weaning age
- **Stickney Farm, Bellows Falls, VT:**
Former dairy farm that custom boards up to 150 beef cattle, Stickney will grow and finish beef-dairy crossbreeds for the project
- **Almanack Farm, Chelsea, VT:**
Beef farm operating on former dairy land and currently grazing and boarding up to 150 animals, Almanack will grow beef-dairy crossbreeds on grass-feed protocols



Network Highlight: Expanding Community-Based Composting

Exploring how Vermont farms can provide composting services to their local communities

Farm to Plate goals include improving nutrient management and using food residuals to support the food system—in effect, to “close the loop” right here in Vermont. These goals align with the state’s values expressed in Act 148, the [Universal Recycling Law](#), which was extended to households in 2020.



With these values in mind, [Farm to Plate’s Food Cycle Community of Practice](#) developed a [new resource for farmers](#) looking to expand on-farm food scrap composting in collaboration with their local communities.

This [guide](#) is not a how-to manual on composting, but rather aims to clarify the regulatory landscape for farms and lays out potential options for community-oriented solutions. It also outlines strategies that small farms can utilize to create connections with residents, schools, food shelves, grocery stores, restaurants, and other organizations that manage food scraps and nutrients locally.

In 2019, the Farm to Plate Network On-Farm Composting Task Force began collecting information on the potential interest in this model and engaging local communities in this effort.

Overall, farmers have been excited about implementing this model, driven by a need to build their soil, a preference for managing a compost system instead of purchasing nutrient inputs, and a desire to provide an additional service to their communities.

The guide fills a knowledge gap for farmers and communities; it includes clarification on relevant regulations, sample budgets, an overview of compost systems and how they work at this scale, and materials for advertising and educating community members.

Ultimately, while each individual farm may accept only a small volume of food scraps, this distributed model can, in aggregate, contribute significantly to the state’s capacity for sustainable organics and waste management. Returning food scraps to local farms keeps the nutrients within the community and treats food residuals as a resource, rather than a waste. Closing the loop provides the opportunity for a collaborative process resulting in stronger connections between farms and Vermont communities while increasing public understanding of the connection between organics management, soil health, and food production.

“Our partnership with Sunrise Farm has been invaluable to starting this business. It allowed me to keep my start-up costs relatively low by only focusing on the hauling side of composting and have the flexibility to grow the business at my own pace. But most importantly it put the connection between community and growing local food at the forefront of the business model.”

Jen Murphy
Willow Tree Community Compost



Digging into the Research

In 2019, a Farm to Plate Network On-Farm Composting Task Force began collecting information on the potential interest in this model and engaging local communities in this effort to:

- Avoid the carbon footprint of trucking food scraps
- Keep nutrients locally available to make valuable soil amendments
- Provide local and sustainable jobs
- Engage communities in the process of keeping food scraps out of landfills
- Outline communities' role in preventing soil and compost contamination through source separation
- Centralize and build upon the significant role that farms play in rural communities and local food systems

“We started collecting food scraps from the local school and general store as a service to help the community comply with the law. One of our off-farm jobs is maintenance lead at the school so the service is a natural fit and returning composted nutrients to our field just makes biological sense!**”**

Shannon Varley
Strafford Village Farm



**Network Highlight:
Addressing Food Insecurity in Vermont**

The Vermont Food Security Plan: The Farm to Plate Network develops a path to food security in Vermont

Vermont food insecurity rates climbed to over 30% in spring 2020 and remain above pre-pandemic levels today. Rising food prices and the growing awareness of the value of a resilient local food system to meet Vermonters' food needs has created an urgent call for a systemic approach to food system resilience and community food security in Vermont.

The Vermont Farm to Plate Network has heeded this call and is in the process of producing an action-oriented roadmap to food security in Vermont, complete with fork-ready solutions, which will be released in January 2024.

Food Security is a complex problem that has been further exacerbated in the wake of the pandemic. The physical, social and economic drivers of food security include poverty, systemic racism, domestic violence, income disparities, and solutions must involve typically disparate sectors such as agriculture, transportation, housing, and health care.

Increasing Food Security is a priority for the Farm to Plate Network, and is also a key priority in three State plans—[The Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2011–2030](#), [Vermont Climate Action Plan](#), and in the [Governor's Commission on the Future of Agriculture 2021](#).

The Network's [Food Security Priority Strategy Team](#) began its work in Fall 2021, agreeing on two components that have directed the planning:

Working together, our schools, farms, non-profits, philanthropic partners, and federal and state agencies can build a lasting culture of “Everyone Eats,” always, and not just when there is a pandemic.”

Ben Rose
Recovery Unit Leader, COVID-19
Recovery and Mitigation Section Chief
Vermont Emergency Management

1. Tackle the complex structural issues that create food insecurity
2. Guide the planning process with feedback, priorities, and strategies from Vermont residents impacted by the gaps in our current food system

The Team makes it a priority to connect with community stakeholders through existing trusted relationships to engage a wide range of Vermont residents, source excellent solutions, and bring new leaders into the project while respecting participants' time.

The Team has been striving to create a planning process which not only includes solutions created by households,

communities, and policy makers, but also treats these ‘levels’ of solutions as equally valid and effective. Individuals and communities across Vermont are creating their own solutions to household food insecurity and community food security. Likewise, statewide advocacy groups and government entities have a deep understanding of policy levers related to food security. When these ‘levels’ of knowledge are joined, Vermont can have innovative and exciting solutions such as [Vermont Everyone Eats](#). Thus, the Food Security planning is a process of gathering what is known, and weaving it together into a strong, clear whole.



“We need to redefine ‘emergency’ as it relates to food because every day that someone doesn’t have food is an emergency for them and our whole community.”

Anore Horton
Executive Director of
Hunger Free Vermont



Work to Date

Over the past year, the Food Security Strategy Team has engaged over 180 Vermont residents in decision making and input on the Plan through interviews, meetings, and other interactions. The Team has tasked small working groups to shape planning steps, research needs, the writing process, and stakeholder engagement. In November and December 2022, Team members conducted stakeholder outreach across the state with a toolkit developed by [Action Circles](#).

Vermont residents are compensated for their time sharing their expertise and opinions, and team members are also able to be paid for their work. Simultaneously, UVM professor Pablo Bose has undertaken an in-depth study of transportation barriers to food security which includes interviews with affected Vermont residents.

Next Steps

The Vermont Food Security Plan will be completed in January of 2024. It will focus on immediate steps and strategies to improve food security for Vermont’s most impacted residents and will include detailed policy and climate resiliency strategies. The writing process for the Plan will be open to any interested party, with compensation available.

The Plan will contain short- and long-term strategies to create food security for the most vulnerable Vermonters, ensuring that all residents will be food secure today and during future emergencies, centering Vermont-produced food’s role in securing the food supply. The Plan will not only be a tool for the Legislature and statewide advocacy groups, but will provide communities across Vermont with effective suggestions for strategies they can implement.

On the Horizon



There is much to look forward to in 2023. This coming year brings new projects and collaborative efforts serving to advance the shared vision of a strong and thriving Vermont food system and agricultural economy. The following projects are a selection of Network efforts on the horizon.

Racial Equity Plan Priority Strategy Team

The Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan centers on foundational goal categories, one of which is Racial Equity. In 2022, Farm to Plate conducted 20 interviews with key individuals meant to inform the process and creation of a racial equity action plan. In early 2023, the Team will hold a kick-off meeting to begin the process of creating a plan centered on the lived experiences, leadership and input of BIPOC Vermonters. In the coming months, this process will continue to unfold, drawing from in-depth research, data collection, and investigation of racial equity in the Vermont food system.

Financing for Farmland Access Priority Strategy Team

With a rapidly changing agricultural landscape, the need to address farmland access in Vermont is increasingly urgent. Through monthly meetings, this team explores policy initiatives, and traditional and alternative land access models meant to expand how Vermont considers issues related to cost, accessibility, and equity.

Agroforestry Priority Strategy Team

Agroforestry is increasingly recognized as an innovative climate change adaptation that expands farms' productivity, improves animal health, and helps to mitigate environmental harms. In September 2022, 30+ team members visited Clayplain Forest Farm

in New Haven to observe agroforestry practices in action. In the coming months, the team plans to take a more in-depth look at supply including availability of local nursery stock and opportunities to use storytelling to expand farmers' knowledge of agroforestry related practices and their benefits.

It's exciting to be a part of Farm to Plate's Agroforestry Priority Strategy Team. The energy of convening a group of folks from across sectors—nonprofits, businesses, state entities and concerned citizens—to collaborate on a themed body of work is fantastic. This is the kind of collaborative space we need to tackle the big issues we face in our food system and world, and where we will find and share solutions."

Aaron Guman
Farm Resilience Specialist, NOFA-VT,
Co-curator of the Farm to Plate
Agroforestry Priority Strategy Team



Policy Priority Strategy Team

Creating a comprehensive agricultural policy roadmap that leads to strategically aligned and proactive policy measures is Priority Strategy #30 of the 2021–2030 Strategic Plan. The Policy Team has worked over the course of 2022 to identify shared short- and long-term policy priorities that address economic, environmental, food security, and racial equity issues in the food system.

Regenerative Ag Investment Solutions (RAIS) Priority Strategy Team

Much of the supply chain transformation covered in the product, market, and issue brief recommendations of the Strategic Plan require significant investment and funding for Vermont's agricultural industries and supply chains, and the Plan also calls for investigating innovative approaches to funding climate adaptive farming. RAIS is working at the intersection of these issues by creating an investment and funding framework that would bring the necessary investment and funding to accelerate and scale supply chain development, and doing so by supporting equitable and economically viable regenerative, diversified, and climate positive farming systems across Vermont's working landscape.



New England Feeding New England Project

VSJF provided important leadership for a new initiative called New England Feeding New England, aimed at increasing to 30% the food that is produced and consumed in New England by 2030.

During 2022, 17 researchers from around the region calculated the economic impact (sales and jobs) of New England's food system, explored current eating patterns and considered what a regionally resilient eating pattern would involve, conducted a regional self-reliance assessment of our current land- and sea-based production in the region and calculated production increases that would be required to achieve the 30% goal, and considered what changes to existing market channels will need to occur in order to achieve our regional goal.

The reports from this extensive research effort will be available starting in January 2023 and will be shared widely through a series of convenings and presentations across the region.

The Gathering Thursday, November 10, 2022

The 12th Annual Farm to Plate Network Gathering brought over 280 Food System thinkers and actors together to cultivate connections.

This was our first opportunity in two years, and since the launch of the new Farm to Plate Network structure, to truly be in the presence of one another as a full Network and to strengthen and forge new connections in the process that are vital to realizing the vision and goals of Vermont's 10-year food system plan.

I strengthened and made new connections at my institution, and also met several folks involved in work connected to projects I have coming up."

2022 Gathering Attendee





“Appreciated the acknowledgment that the Network has changed over time, especially post-pandemic and the great resignation. So many new faces. So appreciated just acknowledging that and providing time and space to reconnect with old colleagues and meet new ones.”

2022 Gathering Attendee



“Overall, this was my first Gathering and I enjoyed it. I thought that the entire event had a fun and energetic atmosphere, which can sometimes be difficult to foster. Great work!”

2022 Gathering Attendee



About Farm to Plate

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) serves as the administrator and backbone organization to the Farm to Plate Network and manages the analysis and goal tracking of the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan implementation.



VSJF provides the following services to the Farm to Plate Network:

- Guides **VISION** and provides **STRATEGIC GUIDANCE** and **COORDINATION** to Network groups.
- **SUPPORTS ALIGNED ACTIVITIES** and **FACILITATES DIALOGUE** across the Network on key issues to advance new ideas, fix bottlenecks, reduce unnecessary duplication of efforts, and open new markets for Vermont products in a coordinated fashion.
- Implements **SHARED MEASUREMENT PRACTICES** using the Results Based Accountability framework—a planning and evaluation framework used in Vermont by dozens of nonprofits, the legislature, and state government agencies—and tracks progress on the outcomes and goals of the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan.
- **MOBILIZES FUNDING** to support the work of Farm to Plate Network groups and strategy implementation.
- Manages **COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH** about Vermont’s food system to member organizations and the general public.
- Provides **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** and **LEADERSHIP TRAINING** opportunities for Network members.
- **BUILDS PUBLIC WILL** to support local agriculture and the food system as key drivers of sustainable economic development in Vermont.

Farm to Plate Staff



Jake Claro



Kelly Dolan



Becca Warren



Esther Erbe



Kelly Nottermann



Sydney Lucia

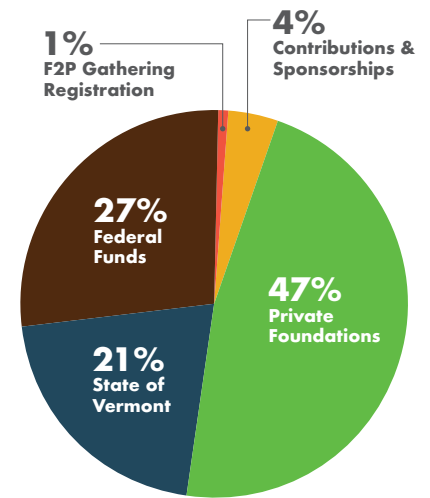


Ellen Kahler

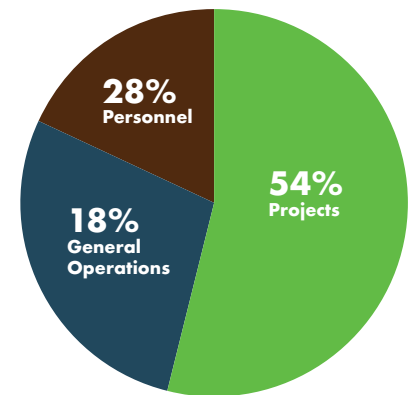
Financials: FY22

| Revenue | |
|---|------------------|
| Private Foundations | \$353,073 |
| State of Vermont | \$157,906 |
| Federal Funds (USDA, CDC/VDH, US HHS/HRSA) | \$206,069 |
| F2P Gathering Registration | \$7,965 |
| Contributions & Sponsorships | \$27,536 |
| Total Revenue | \$752,549 |
| Expenses | |
| F2P General Operations | \$129,283 |
| F2P Personnel | \$209,363 |
| F2P Projects | |
| Farm to Plate Network Meetings / Gathering | \$34,790 |
| Farm to Plate Leadership and Participant Stipends | \$13,845 |
| Food Security Plan | \$60,722 |
| Independent Grocers Project | \$46,942 |
| Beef on Dairy Project | \$10,576 |
| New England Feeding New England Project | \$232,933 |
| F2P Projects Total | \$399,808 |
| Total Expenses | \$738,453 |

Farm to Plate Investment Program Revenue



Farm to Plate Investment Program Expenses



Funding Partners

VSJF and the Farm to Plate Network are extremely grateful to our funding partners who help to fund the work of the Farm to Plate community and are actively engaged in various projects within the Network. Their ongoing support allows us to find creative solutions to complex problems, and grow a stronger, healthier, more prosperous food system in Vermont and the region.

- Anonymous Foundations
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control (via VT Department of Health)
- Henry P. Kendall Foundation
- High Meadows Fund
- John Merck Fund
- Sandy River Charitable Trust
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services/HRSA
- Various Corporate Sponsors
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (General Fund)
- Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development (General Fund)
- Vermont Community Foundation

VERMONT FARM TO PLATE

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Administered by

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