

NOFA VT Crop Cash and Farm Share Program testimony  
Joie Lehouillier, Foote Brook Farm

My name is Joie Lehouillier, my husband Tony and I own and operate the Foote Brook Farm in Johnson VT. We grow certified organic Vegetables and Fruit and work very closely with NOFA VT, the organization, their staff and the programs they run are a vital part of our business. We have 7 greenhouses and have 30 acres in production every year. We have an onsite farmstand open from May until November. It is fully staffed and open 7 days a week.

I am urging you to please support and fund the \$478,500 for NOFA Vermonts crop cash and farm share programs. My reality is, the families that need and receive the support for their CSA from NOFA will choose my farmstand, but without that incentive, I don't believe and have noticed, they won't even come in. Once they do visit, I have seen them return year after year. For the foreseeable future Johnson will not have a grocery store, it was lost in the flooding last July. My farm will be the only place in town to purchase healthy local fruit and vegetables. Our demand will be much higher than normal. As the farm, I wish I could help more, donate more, but we are also trying to recover from the flood and need the next few seasons to go really well in order to recover. By funding the farmshare program you help us as the farm and you help the people in our community. Thank you for taking the time to hear me today and for the hard work you are all doing.