



Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

Nourishing People, Land, and Justice through
Organic Agriculture



Dear Legislator,

Congratulations on the successful start of the 2023-2024 legislative biennium! We feel energized and hopeful for the start of the session, and extend our deepest gratitude to you for your decision to serve Vermont in such a meaningful way.

At NOFA-VT, we work for a just, thriving, and ecological future for Vermont agriculture. Food and farming exist at the intersection of the substantial, intersectional crises facing our state and nation, from climate change and massive biodiversity loss to systemic racism and the hollowing out of our rural communities. At the same time, we see a moment of unique opportunity to chart a new path forward. We are deeply hopeful that Vermonters can and will come together, with your leadership and support, to find solutions and begin building toward a more thriving future for us all.

As we enter this new year and session, NOFA-VT is focused on making permanent the major successes of the last biennium such as Universal School Meals and the Local Purchasing Incentive Grant, which supports both Vermont students and farmers by increasing the amount of local food schools purchase. We are seeking your support for fundamental programs that support Vermont's farmers and rural communities, like the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and VHCB's Farm and Forest Viability Program, as well as newer initiatives like the Land Access & Opportunity Board, which is focused on securing land and housing for historically marginalized communities. We're also keenly focused on the crisis affecting organic dairy producers.

Our vision for Vermont's agricultural future is diverse, collaborative, equitable, and built on an ethic of care for each other and for the land. We are working for a future wherein a diversity of farms make up Vermont's working landscape, our ecosystems are healthy and resilient, every Vermonter has access to quality local and organic food, and our rural communities are thriving. We look forward to working in partnership with you to move closer to this vision in the coming years.

Warmly,



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