

Agency of Agriculture Budget

Where we lead...and Positive Trends in VT Agriculture and Food

- World Leading Artisanal Cheese Region –
 - Consistent winner in National and International Shows
- #1 Producer of maple in the US
 - #1 Localvore state in country
 - #1 Gin in World – Caledonia Spirits at International Wine and Spirits Show in Hong Kong
- #1 Ice Cider in US
 - #1 in direct marketing
 - Farmers markets, Farm Stands, CSAs
 - #1 Farm to School
 - USDA recognize as model
 - #1 Farm 2 Plate
 - Started with 1200 participants... now structured network
 - #1 Human Handling for Slaughter, 100% Slaughter Facilities have humane handling plans
 - #1/2 local sourced food for health System – FAHC

Positive Trends in Agriculture and Food

Added approximately 1100 net new jobs in the agricultural and food sectors

- Leader in Farm to Institution
 - Fletcher Allen Health Care; Sodexo – 34,000 meals per day
- Leading Evolution in Food Hubs
- Leader in Biodigesters per capita cows and people – 16 operating
- Leader in Farmland Conservation – 550 easements with agency as a co-holder
- Leading micro-brew state in country
- Increasing demand for VT fruits, vegetables, meats and ag/food products in south
 - Not enough VT meat to satisfy Whole Foods demands, farmers sell out regularly
- Increasing diversification within ag/food sector in jobs, source of revenue, sources of finance, products, age and gender
- 10- 15% of State GDP is ag dependent and that is conservative number
- Top Dairy Producer – within the top 20 states in US for milk production
 - Most dairy dependent state in country
- 95% of Vermonters value our working landscape as a critical asset

VAAFM Budget represents an investment in

Growing jobs and the economy, protecting the environment, protecting human health and our working landscape