

**State of Vermont Emergency Management Plan
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Partner Annex**

Revision Date: 2/28/2020

“The purpose of this Annex is to establish general guidance in emergency management functions for VAAFAM during emergencies in which the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is activated and VAAFAM’s support is required. This Annex is one element of the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and will require coordination with other Annexes. This Annex supports the ability for VAAFAM to meet its Mission – to facilitate, support and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment.”

Legislative language consideration:

Local Food System Consideration in Emergency Planning

The Vermont emergency management agency, and its partner, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, shall consider and develop, in all emergency preparedness planning efforts, plans for supporting agricultural and processed food production in the state in order to mitigate the impacts of food supply chain disruptions. Plans shall include instructions for making food products available to residents as well as instructions for increasing food production within the state. Plans shall be developed in coordination with the Agency of Health and Human Services, the Department of Health, the Agency of Commerce & Community Development, and the Department of Transportation [other agencies or departments needed here??], and shall include consideration for production, transportation, storage, and distribution of food.

An aspect of this effort should be to collect information about all of the emergency feeding operations that were coordinated and ‘stood up’ during the COVID-19 pandemic so that we can capture lessons learned and best practices to be used during future emergency events. The Community Action Agencies, Vermont Foodbank, Hunger Free Vermont, Regional Planning Commissions, food hub organizations, producer trade associations, and other key stakeholder organizations should be consulted as part of this effort.

Note: there may be additions to the State’s ‘Base Plan’ that should also be amended to add in a reference to food security planning.

<https://vem.vermont.gov/sites/demhs/files/SEMP/SEMP%20Base%20Plan.pdf>

<https://vem.vermont.gov/sites/demhs/files/SEMP/2018%20SEMP%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>