

RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION (RSF), SUPPORT ANNEX 7 (RECOVERY & RESTORATION)

TAB G

Agricultural Restoration Task Force (ARTF)

Vermont's Agricultural Restoration Task Force: is comprised of various state agencies, federal agencies and local, regional state and national organizations that work together to gather and share information and resources that could assist in the effort to help restore agriculture as an important economic driver in the state. This task force may be activated in response to a regional or state-wide event resulting in considerable damage to agricultural and related infrastructure and/or significant loss of crops, feed or livestock.

Mission: Vermont's Agricultural Restoration Task Force mission is to identify the long and short term impacts on the agriculture sector of the state and to identify and coordinate the resources necessary to restore the agricultural economy.

Motivation: Every group, organization and agency has a unique set of skills and abilities that they use to fulfill their mission. Working together, their combined strengths can be utilized to assist the agricultural sector rebuild and recover from a disaster or incident.

ARTF

Membership in the Agricultural Recovery Task Force is open to any non-profit, local, state or national organization that supports the agricultural economy. Members are expected to work together to locate, share and distribute the material, technical, labor and financial resources needed by agricultural enterprises during a disaster or incident recovery.

Leadership: Each member of the ARTF serves as the representative for their agency or organization. Members are expected to have a strong commitment to working together as one team to provide efficient and reliable service to those agricultural entities affected by a disaster or incident.

Chair: The Chair of the ARTF will be the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture or his/her designee. The Chair will be responsible for convening the meetings, setting the agendas and the point for communicating messages to and from the task force. The Chair is the primary contact that relate to the efforts of the ARTF

Co-Chair: The members of the task force may recommend that a Co-Chair be selected to assist with the duties and responsibilities of the Chair position.

Secretary: The Secretary will serve as the secondary contact for questions that are related to the efforts of the ARTF. In addition, the Secretary will be responsible for recording meeting notes and disseminating those notes to the committee members.

Committee Structure: Depending on the nature of the specific incident, committee structure should be considered for this task force.

Membership: The following is a list of agencies and organizations that should be considered as committee members for the ARTF. Others should be considered and the members may differ depending on the incident and impact.

- Agency of Agriculture
- Agency of Transportation
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Vermont Emergency Management and Homeland Security

STATE OF VERMONT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
- UVM Extension
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Regional Economic Development Organizations
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- National Organic Farmers Association of Vermont NOFA VT
- Vermont Farm Bureau
- Representatives from our Congressional Delegation
- Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee
- Chair, House Agriculture Committee

Assistance: The ARTF will work together to do the following:

- Assure that all activities required by regulation such as inspections and reviews are available to the agricultural community
- Identify barriers to continued production such as damaged roads or reduced processing capacity
- Gather information related to lost or damaged agricultural products and the capacity to produce agricultural products
- Identify agricultural products that are not fit and work with producers to assure that those products do not enter the food or feed markets.
- Assist with the identification of needed resources for recovery and with obtaining those resources
- Assist with the development of a recovery strategy for the agricultural economy
- Establish an initial “ball park” estimate of short term fiscal impacts to agriculture
- Identify and assist with the restoration of services to the agricultural community. Some examples would include slaughter facilities, milk processors, food hubs or livestock haulers.
- Identify and assist with the activation of emergency animal shelters as needed
- Identify potential environmental impacts from damage to agricultural infrastructure and assist with steps to mitigate those impacts