



Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

Nourishing people, land, and justice through organic agriculture



NOFA-VT is requesting \$478,500 in base funding to Strengthen Vermont Farm Viability and Address Food Security by sustaining two proven programs: CROP CASH (PLUS) and FARM SHARE



- **Crop Cash** doubles 3SquaresVT (SNAP) benefits, dollar for dollar, for fruits and vegetables purchased at Vermont farmers markets. The program is federally funded, but to draw down the federal funds, a local match is required. State funds will allow us to expand the program to meet increased demand and draw down as much federal funding as possible.

- **Crop Cash Plus** - a 2023 pilot funded by a one-time appropriation, expanded Crop Cash to **all SNAP-eligible foods**, extending the program's impact to most farmers market agricultural products, and further expanding local food access for 3SquaresVT recipients. This program was hugely popular, outpacing 12 months of funding in just 5 months. With the appropriation requested, this program can continue, and address increased demand.

- **The Farm Share Program** has subsidized CSA shares¹ for limited-income Vermonters for 30 years. The Farm Share Program pays for 25-75% of the CSA cost. The 2023 summer season attracted a record 530 household applications, 70% of which NOFA-VT was able to fund. Applications are up 260% since 2019.

- **These programs have a double impact. With every dollar, low-income Vermonters can purchase healthy, fresh, local food and Vermont farmers receive a reliable, fair price for their goods.**

- **State funding is necessary to maximize the federal and philanthropic dollars these programs can leverage.** The State of Vermont can make policy choices that will ensure food security for everyone who lives here, while ensuring our farmers can profit from growing the food we all need. Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share are key to Vermont's food security and a viable agricultural sector.

¹ CSA (also known as Community Supported Agriculture) is a sales model that connects people directly with farmers. When you sign up for a CSA at a farm, you pay in advance for a portion (or "share") of the farm's upcoming harvest, and receive a weekly box of food all season.



“A noteworthy **10-20%** of [our farmers market] sales can be directly attributed to the **Crop Cash Plus program**. The impact has been resoundingly positive, not only on our sales figures but also in fostering a stronger connection between our farm and the local community.”

- *Leaping Bear Farm, Putney, VT*

“Thank you so much for the financial support [through the Farm Share Program]. **Without it, my family would have struggled with putting food on the table over the summer.**”

- *Farm Share participant (Middlebury resident; participant with Footprint Farm)*



“[Farm Share] has been a **tremendous help in being able to access the foods I need to stay healthy and keep fighting cancer**. I’m a low-income senior and a huge portion of my money has been going to fight the cancer, but your programs have meant I can continue to eat organic, local foods.”

- *Farm Share participant (Springfield resident; participant with Sunrise Farm)*

