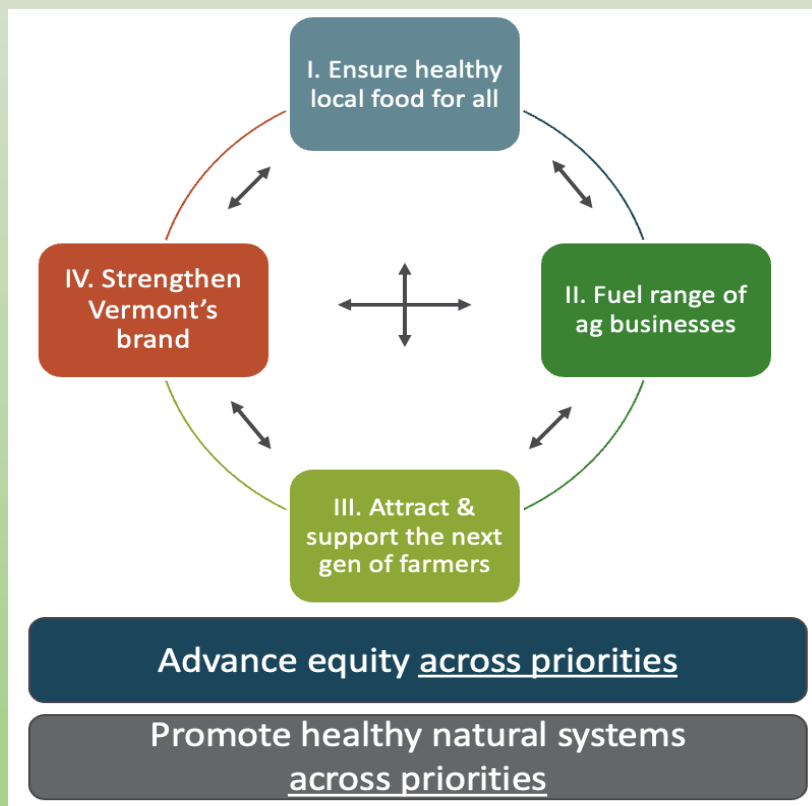


Governor's Commission on the Future of Vermont Agriculture



VERMONT

Overview and History



- **Commission established in Governor's Executive Order No. 03-21**
- **Advise on short and long-term strategies and specific action plans, with measurable outcomes, to advance key economic, social, and environmental goals in the agriculture and food sectors**
- **Priorities built upon recommendations in Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan: 2021-2030**
- **Submit Action Plan priorities to Governor in 2021, 2022 & 2023**
- **Commissioners meet monthly and engage industry stakeholders**

CY21 Commission Highlights

- 15 total meetings
- New and young farmer panel
- Stakeholder listening session
- Consultations with experts on dairy, finance, and racial equity
- Consultations with the Vermont Climate Council's Agriculture and Ecosystems Sub-Committee and the Payment for Ecosystems Services Working Group
- Submitted Action Plan to Governor with 18 high-impact strategies, including 5 immediate action steps

CY22 Commission Highlights

- 12 total meetings
- Environmental advocacy organization panel
- Agriculture and food business assistance coaches panel
- Marketing, branding and agritourism experts panel
- Informal consultations with stakeholders and experts
- Submitted Action Plan to Governor with 14 strategies



Current FOA Commissioners

- **Kate Finley Woodruff | UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**
- **David M. Roth | The Wakaya Group**
- **Harold Howrigan | Howrigan Family Farms**
- **Jed Davis | Cabot Creamery Cooperative**
- **Ellen Kahler | Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund**
- **David Mance, Jr. | Mance Family Tree Farm**
- **Steven Schubart | Grass Cattle Company**
- **Mieko Ozeki | Vermont Farmers Market Association**
- **Josh Poulin | Poulin Grain Inc.**
- **Leslie McCrorey-Wells | Pizzeria Verita, Trattoria Delia, and Sotto Enoteca restaurants owner**
- ***Two current vacant seats (representing ‘land use’ and ‘distribution’)***

FY24 Proposed Budget Items



- a) \$3M one-time appropriation to Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

- b) \$10M one-time appropriation for Food Producers and Value-Added Processors (meat, maple, and produce)

Working Lands Program



- **Provide \$3 million in one-time funding to the Working Lands Enterprise Fund**
- **Current Funding Gaps**
 - **Respond to ongoing over subscription of applications (>\$10M in annual demand in FY22 & FY23)**
 - **Invest in targeted opportunity areas within working landscape**
- **Investment Impacts**
 - **Increased job creation and retention**
 - **Increased acres in working lands production**
 - **Increased sales/product output**

Food Producers and Value-Added Processors Proposal



- **Funding Vision: Provide \$10M in grants to small and mid-sized meat, maple, and produce producers and processors to increase business viability**
- **Proposed Program Objectives**
 - **Expand local food production and processing**
 - **Increase market access and distribution channels**
 - **Adapt for and mitigate climate change**
- **Possible Investment Areas**
 - **Equipment and capital infrastructure**
 - **Land Improvements**
 - **On-site and farm worker accommodations**
 - **Market development**