

Testimony from:  
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Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. I have managed the Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market for 18 years, and have served many years on the Vermont Farmers Market Association Board.

I am requesting your support for \$478,500 in base funding for NOFA Vermont's Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share programs, to strengthen farm viability and address food security.

While both of these programs provide Vermonters in need with access to nutritious local foods, they reach well beyond simply feeding people in need. They also support the farmers who produce the food contributing to vibrant thriving farms, and keep federal SNAP dollars in Vermont strengthening the local economy.

At our indoor market, over the past 3 years we have seen a 150% increase in the number of SNAP customer visits to our market. Because of the Crop Cash and Crop Cash (Plus) incentives, these customers see \$10 become \$30 and they are thrilled to spend that with local farmers and bakers at the market.

Through my involvement with our statewide association and NOFA-VT over the years we've had many conversations about how to get more people choosing local nutritious food over the convenience of cheap food at big box Stores. Programs like Crop Cash & Crop Cash Plus as well as Farm Shares do just that, changing behavior as people turn to reliable sources of more nutritious local foods that simultaneously foster stronger community networks.

So, please support NOFA-VT's request for \$478,500 in base funding for Crop Cash (Plus) and their Farm Share programs to strengthen farm viability, address food security and build healthier communities.

Thank you for your dedicated work on behalf of all Vermonters.

Sherry Maher  
Co-Manager  
Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market