



# Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

Nourishing people, land, and justice through organic agriculture.



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**Re: Please recommend \$20 million in FY2026 for farmers to recover from climate disasters and extreme weather impacts in your Budget Memo**

Dear Chair Durfee,

On behalf of NOFA-VT, I am asking that the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry include in your budget memo to the House Appropriations Committee a recommendation to include \$20 million in the FY2026 budget to help farmers recover from the impacts of climate disasters and extreme weather. We believe this could be one-time funding.

Given the way the budget process works, we want to make sure the House Appropriations Committee is aware of the request and (hopefully) that it's in the budget as the policy bill (H.229/S.60) moves through the process. As we discussed briefly, it seems the bill may start in the Senate (S.60), and they would take the appropriations out if the bill passes the Senate before crossover, but the Big Bill would potentially move across to the Senate before you would be finished with the bill. So, we are hoping your committee will flag this as a need for the House Appropriations Committee now.

We believe \$20 million is the amount that makes sense based on the formula proposed in H.229, and the data we have available right now.

**We need to ensure these funds are available to support farmers in FY2026.** The examples just this week of barns collapsing under heavy snow loads demonstrate that the money will be needed whether or not the policy bill gets all the way through the process this session.

We know that the \$5 million in the Governor's budget for the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP) won't be enough to cover losses for farms in addition to all other businesses, and we can't afford to risk our food security, rural economies, and climate resiliency by failing to support our farmers.

Once again, please include in the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry's budget memo to the House Appropriations Committee the following request: \$20 million in the FY2026 budget to help farmers recover from the impacts of climate disasters and extreme weather.

Thank you,

Maddie Kempner  
NOFA-VT