

NOFA-VT Budget Request Testimony FY2027

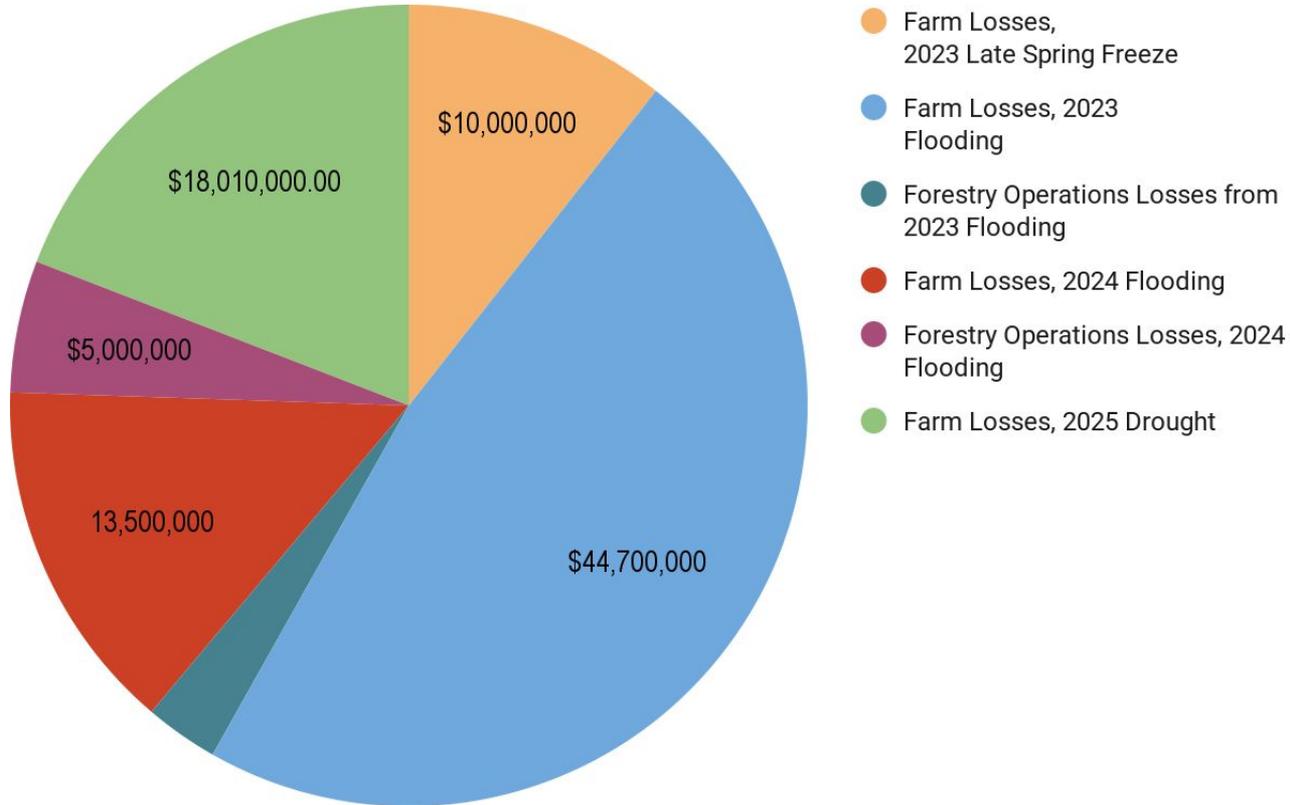


Maddie Kempner, NOFA-VT
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**Please appropriate \$15.6 million for the
Farm and Forestry Operations Security
Special Fund (S.60) for FY27**

Extreme weather conditions are here to stay. Farmers and loggers need state-based, rapidly available financial support to recover.

Documented Farm & Forest Sector Losses due to Extreme Weather, 2023-2025



2023

WEATHER EVENT	DOCUMENTED FARM OR FORESTRY LOSSES	SOURCE
Late spring freeze (farms)	\$10 million	Vermont Agriculture Recovery Task Force Extreme Weather Impact & Recovery Report
Summer flood (farms)	\$44.7 million	Vermont Agriculture Recovery Task Force Extreme Weather Impact & Recovery Report
Summer flood (forestry operations)	\$2.8 million	Forest Economy Loss and Damage Survey, 2023
TOTAL: \$57.5 MILLION		

2024

WEATHER EVENT	DOCUMENTED FARM OR FORESTRY LOSSES	SOURCE
Summer flood (farms)	\$13.5 million	BEGAP applications, reported by Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAFMM)
Summer flood (forestry operations)	\$5 million	Forest Economy Loss and Damage Survey, 2024
TOTAL: \$18.5 MILLION		

2025

WEATHER EVENT	DOCUMENTED FARM OR FORESTRY LOSSES	SOURCE
Summer/fall drought (farms)	\$18.01 million	Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAFMM) Drought Impact Dashboard
TOTAL: \$18.01 MILLION		

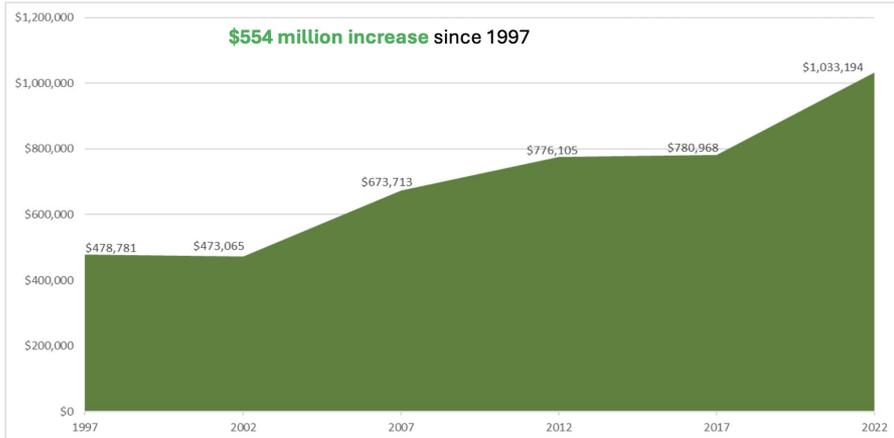
Documented losses over the past three years total **\$94.01 million**.

Once enacted, the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund (S.60) is intended to receive an annual appropriation equal to half of the average documented farm losses due to eligible weather conditions from the previous three years.

$$\mathbf{\$94.01M / 3 = \$33.34M \times 0.5 = \$15.6 \text{ million}}$$

Vermont's farms are a significant economic driver.

FARM GATE SALES: VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD, 1997-2022 (IN \$1,000)



ECONOMICS: TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT, 2022

Industry	2022 Sales	Industry Aggregate
Production & Processing		
Agriculture	\$1,033,194,000	\$4,321,520,000
Food Manufacturing	\$3,073,866,000	
Beverage Manufacturing	\$214,460,000	
Distribution		
Wholesaling + Distribution	\$3,606,468,000	\$3,606,468,000
Retail & Food Service		
Stores	\$2,214,468,000	\$3,598,468,000
Food Services + Drinking Places	\$1,384,000,000	
Total	\$11,526,456,000	

Total farm product sales (2022):

\$1,033,194,000



Total economic output (2022):

\$11,536,456,000

State funding is needed to implement S.60 and support the resiliency of our working lands businesses.

- Federal funding is not responsive nor reliable, and often doesn't meet our farmers' needs.
- The state has a substantial stake in ensuring the viability of our agriculture and forestry economies.
- Farmers and loggers need a fund that is simple to access, equitably distributed, and predictably and sustainably funded over time. This requires a financial commitment from the state.

Investing in the resiliency of our working lands businesses supports rural livelihoods, strengthens food security, and ensures strong local economies.



Please appropriate \$15.6 million for the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund in FY2027.

Thank you!

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**Please include NOFA-VT's request
for \$500,000 in ongoing funding in
your FY27 budget memo**

to strengthen Vermont farm viability and address food security by sustaining
proven programs:

Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share

Crop Cash doubles 3SquaresVT (SNAP) benefits for fruits and vegetables purchased at Vermont farmers markets

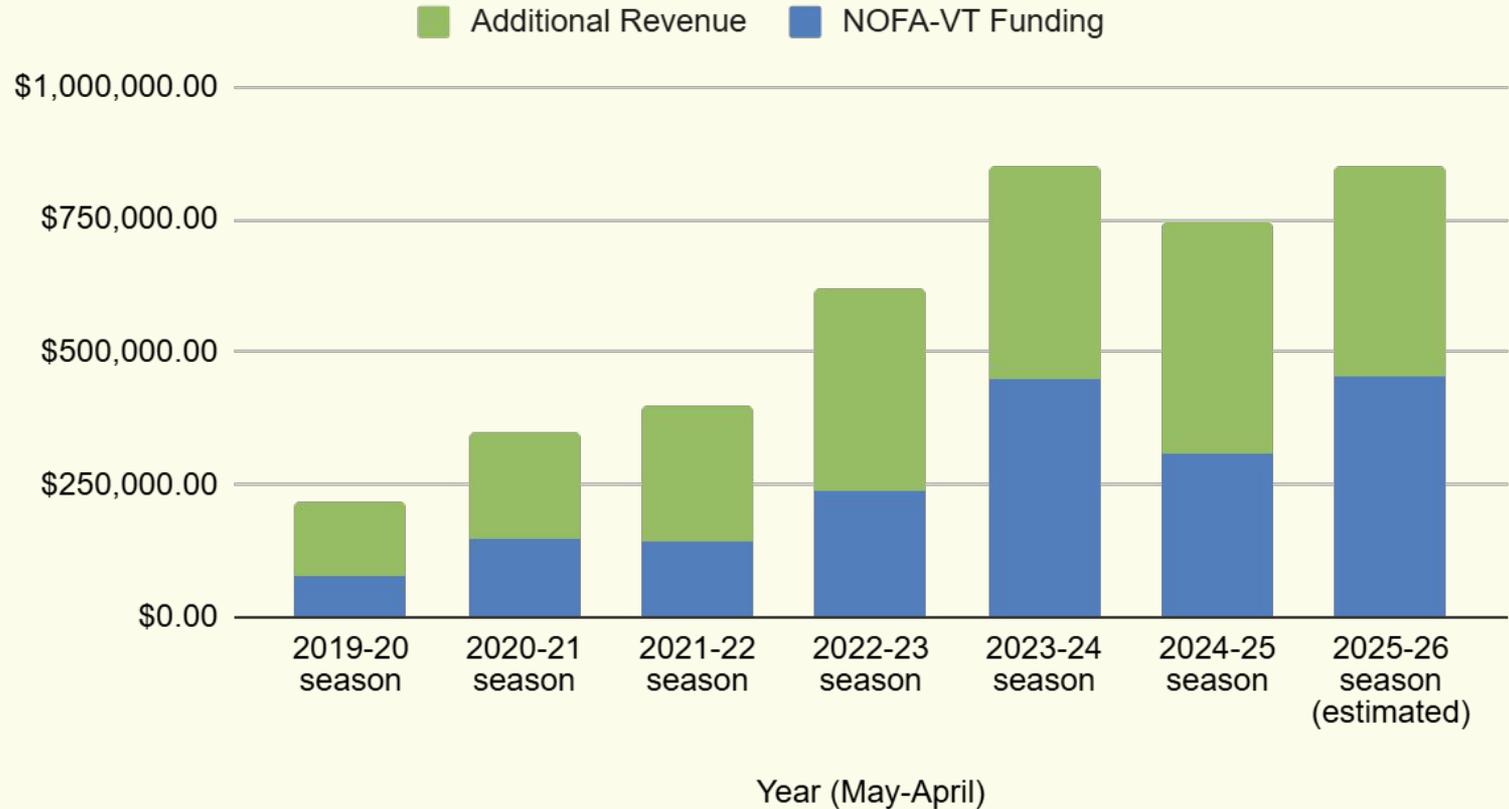
Crop Cash Plus expands Crop Cash to all SNAP-eligible foods (meat, eggs, dairy, bread)

Farm Share subsidizes CSA shares for limited-income Vermonters by paying for 25-75% of the CSA cost



Photo by AS

Farmer Revenue through NOFA-VT Food Security Programs



NOFA-VT's Local Food Security Programs

- Eater **directly purchases food from farmer** (at farmers market, farm stand, or CSA)
- Incentive / cost-sharing program
- State \$ invests in local farms
- FY27 Request: \$500,000



VFB's Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

- **VFB purchases food from farmer in bulk**; eater accesses at food distribution sites (e.g., food shelf)
- State \$ invests in local farms
- FY27 Request: \$2 million



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