

# Overview of the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association some data and a tour of farms

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February 20, 2025



**We work together on education and applied research**



**Annual meeting, listserv, newsletter, webinars, workshops, etc.**

**production, pollinators, produce safety, soil health and more**

Member Farms List & Map

Commercial Member Directory

Additional Resources

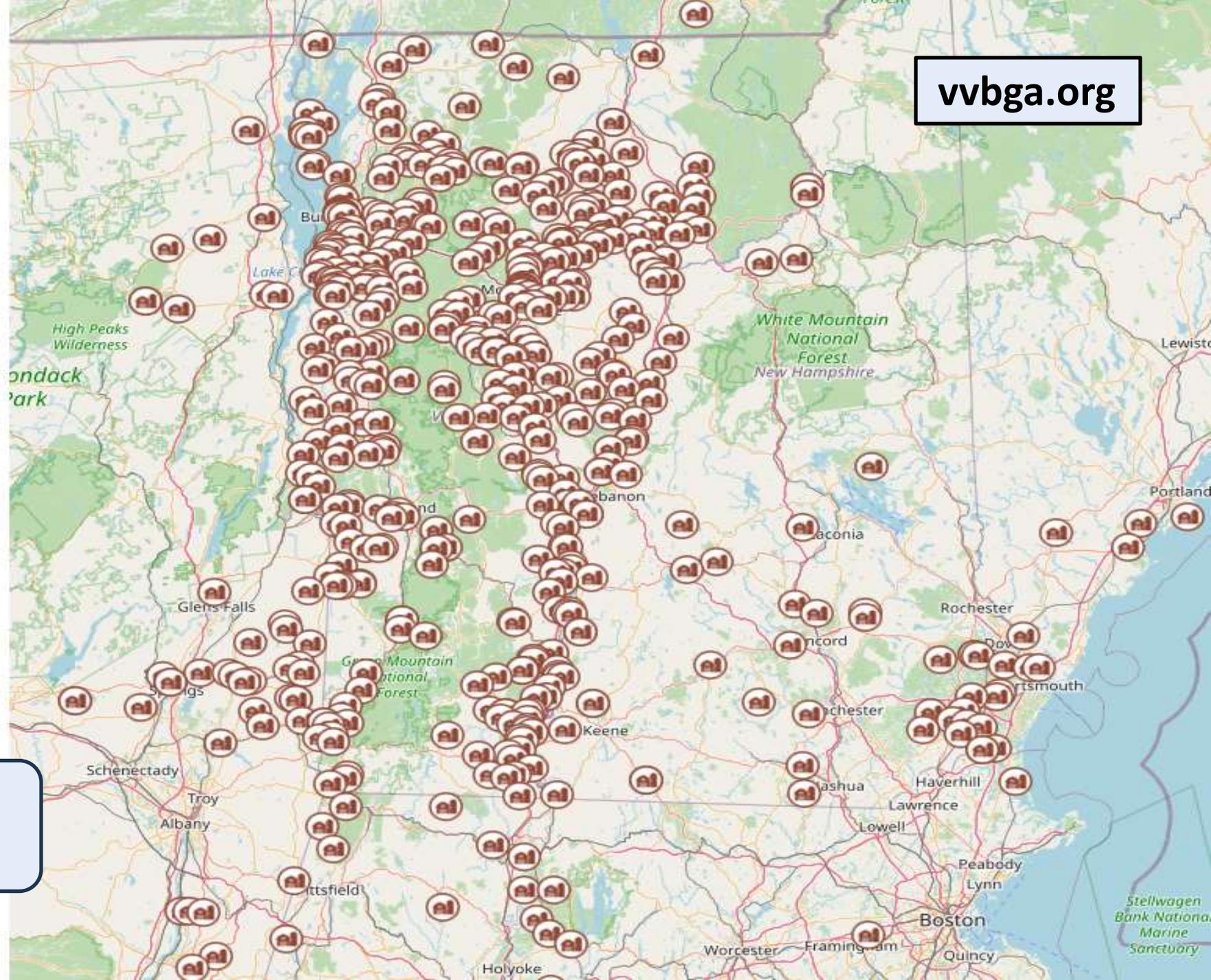
Website Feedback

Log Out

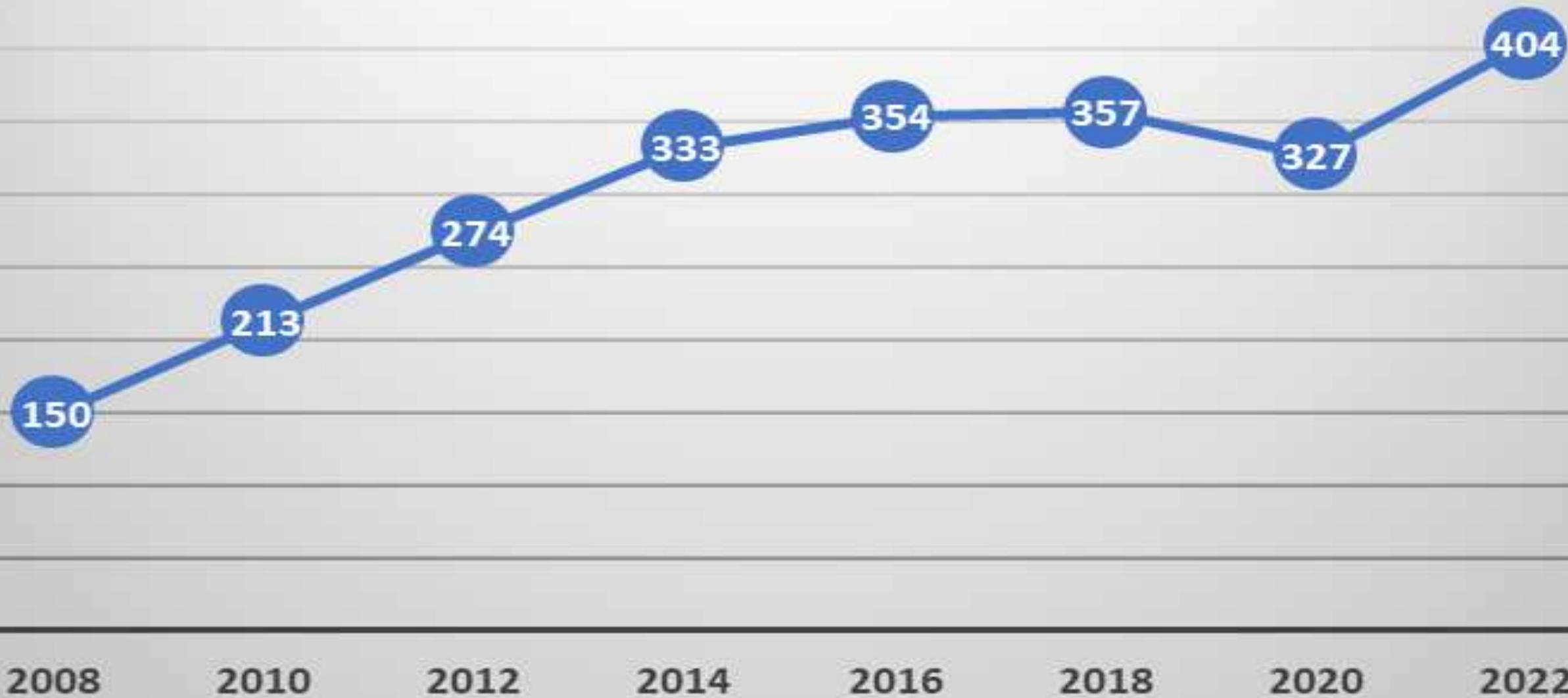


400+ farm members

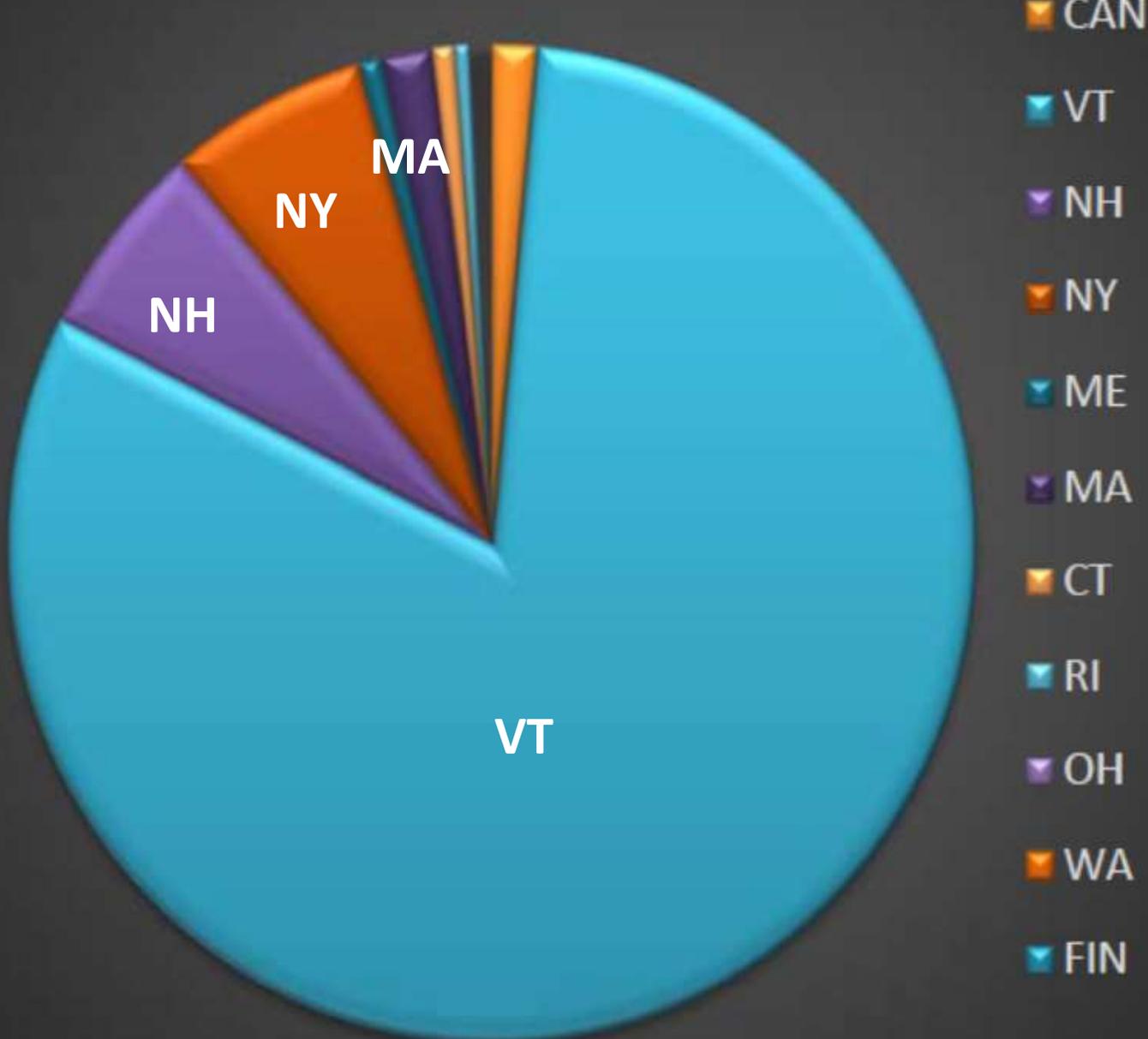
vvbga.org



# VVBGA Member Farms



# VVBGA Membership By State



# 2023 VVBGA member survey



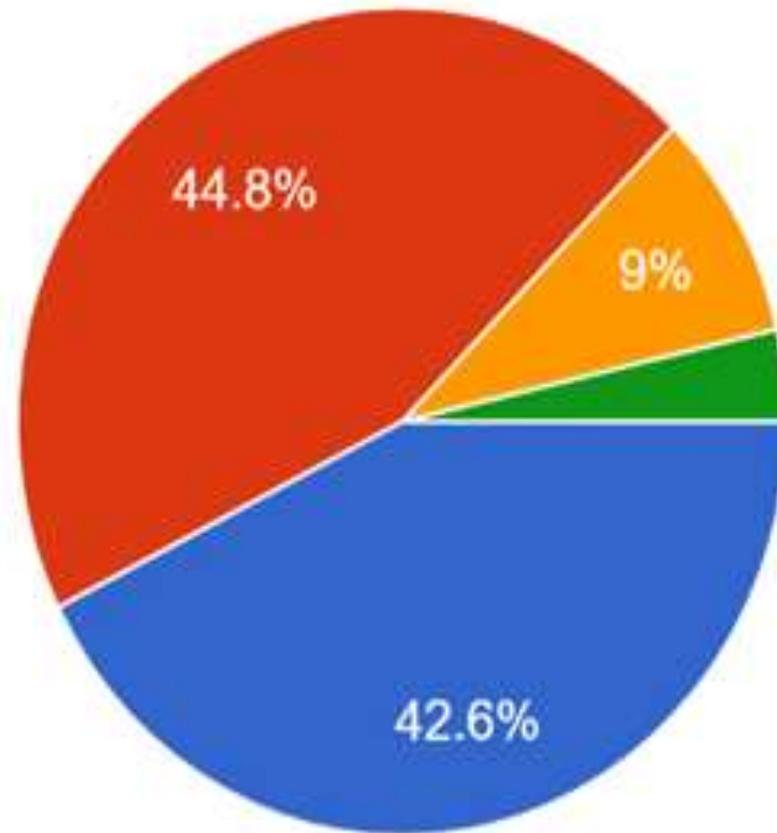
**n = 177 farm owners / managers  
44% of VVBGA member farms**

# Our farms are diversified!

<b>Vegetables</b> 165 farms	<b>1,870 acres</b> 11.3 acres average	<b>92% of farms</b>
<b>GH / tunnels</b> 159 farms	<b>2.2 million sq. ft.</b> 14K sq. ft. average	<b>88% of farms</b>
<b>Ornamentals</b> 117 farms	<b>112 acres</b> 1 acre average	<b>65% of farms</b>
<b>Berries</b> 116 farms	<b>271 acres</b> 2.3 acres average	<b>64% of farms</b>

**2022 sales of vegetables and berries reported in survey = \$42 million**  
**(n=168 farms, less than half VVBGA membership)**

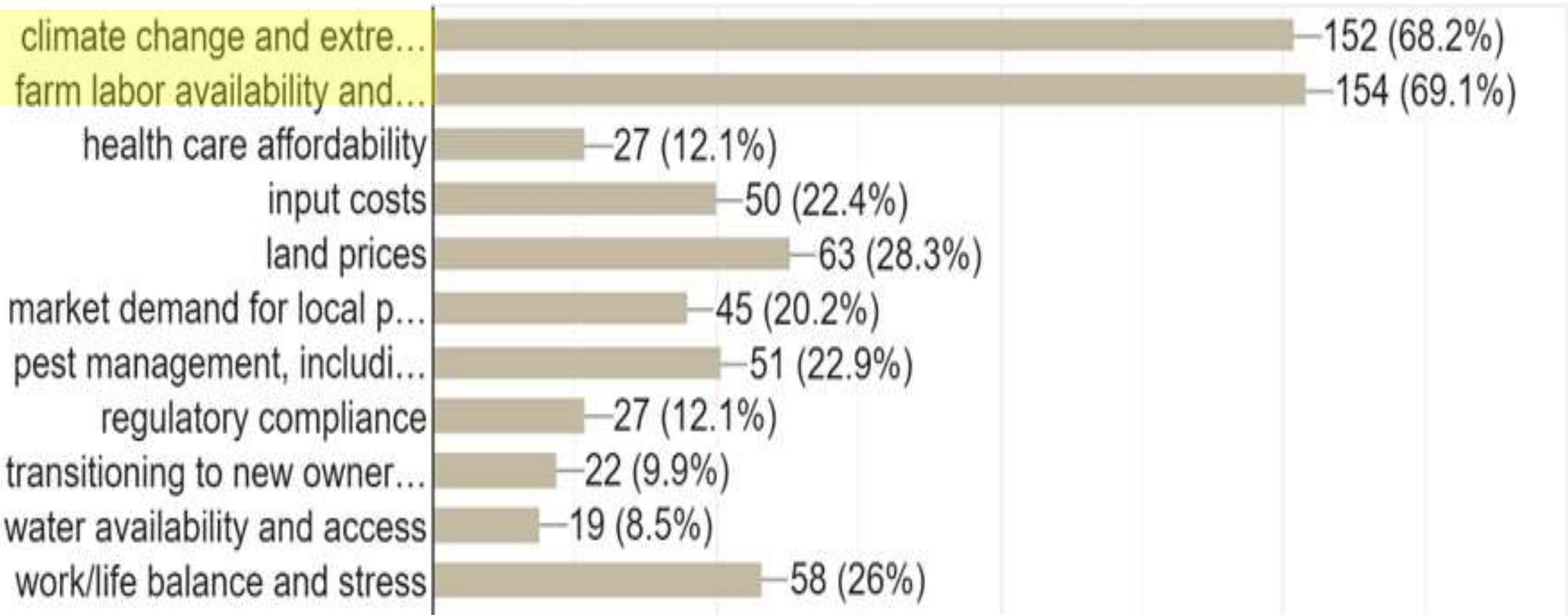
# Growers are optimistic about the future of vegetable and berry farming



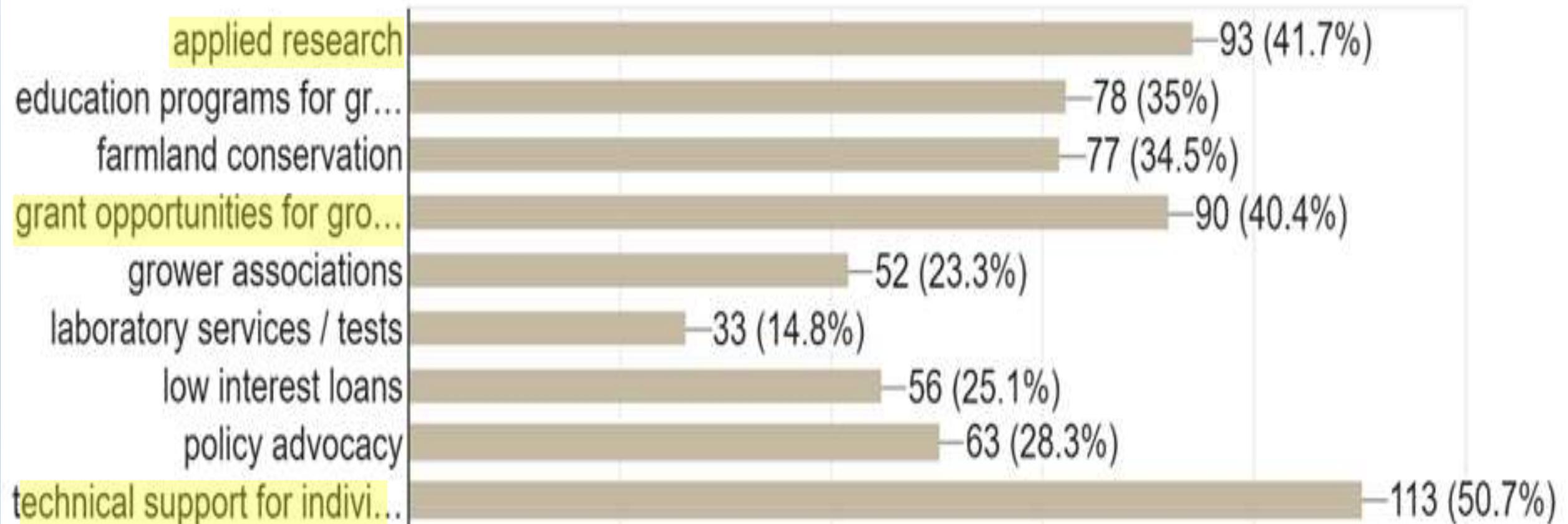
- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neutral
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative

**87% have a very or somewhat positive view**

# Top concerns of growers: farm labor availability and retention, climate change and extreme weather



## Most important resources: technical support for individual farms, applied research, grant opportunities



# 1/3 of farmers rent some crop land



# Half of farms irrigate most or all their crops





**10% of farms have more than 10 FT employees**

**3/4 of farms sell half or more  
of their crops directly to consumers**



**1/8 of farms sell mostly or all wholesale**

**Retail and wholesale market channels**

**CSAs**

**Farmers'  
markets**

**Farm  
stands**

**Pick your  
own**

**Direct-to-  
stores**

**Restaurants**

**Institutions**

**Distributors**

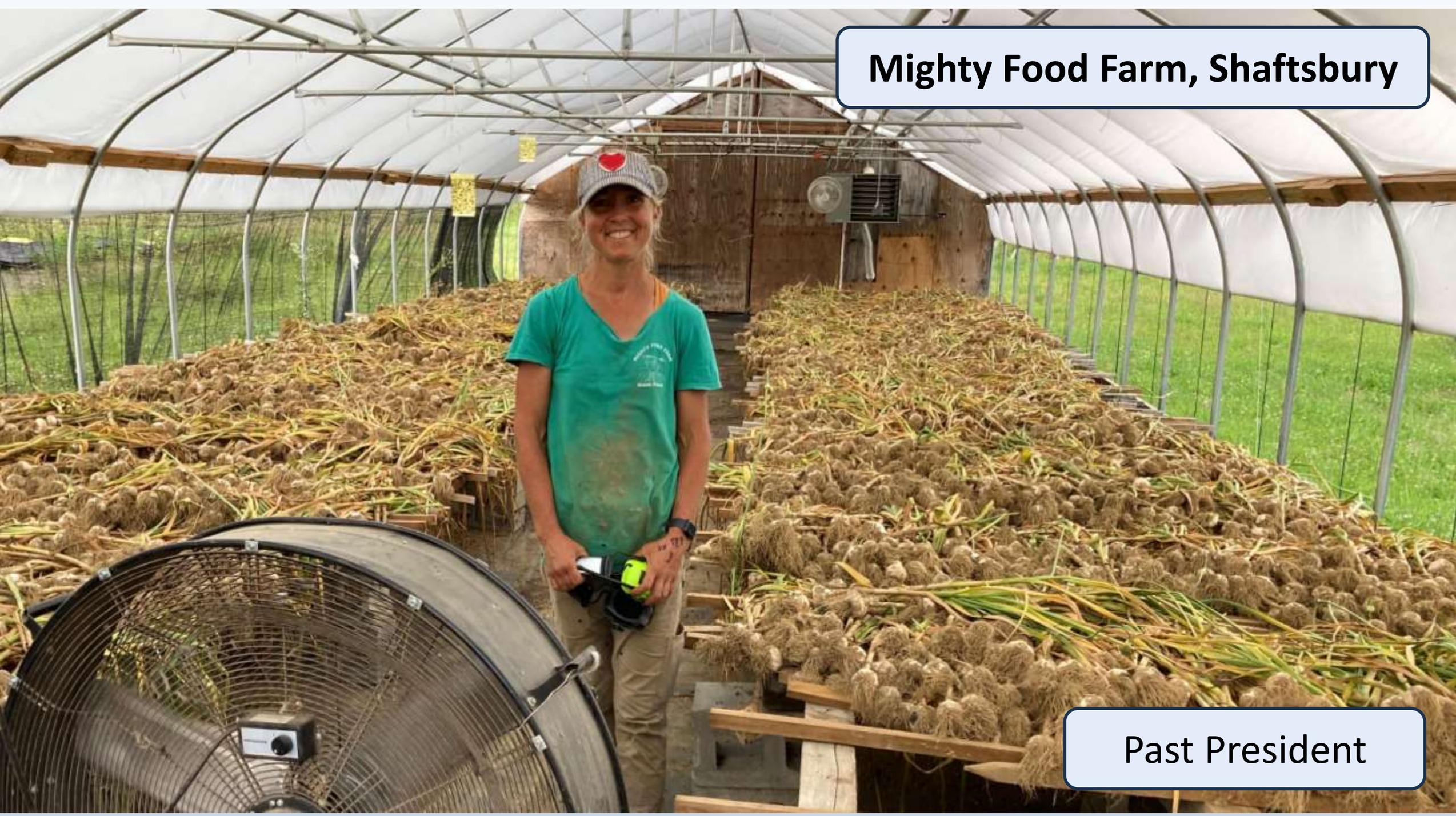
**Supermarket  
chains**

**Terminal  
markets**

**Burnt Rock Farm, Huntington**



**VVBGA President**

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey cap with a red heart, a teal t-shirt, and khaki pants, stands smiling in the center of a large greenhouse. She is holding a pair of black gloves and a yellow tool. The greenhouse is filled with rows of harvested onions on wooden pallets. A large industrial fan is visible in the foreground on the left. The structure is made of metal hoops and white plastic covering, with a wooden wall at the far end.

**Mighty Food Farm, Shaftsbury**

**Past President**

4 Corners Farm, S. Newbury



Vice President

A man with glasses, wearing a green baseball cap, a red and black plaid shirt over a green t-shirt, and dark pants, stands smiling in a storage room. He is surrounded by numerous wooden crates filled with various types of produce, including pumpkins, squash, and potatoes. To his right, there is a stack of blue plastic crates containing yellow squash. The room has a white wall and a door in the background.

**Intervale Community Farm, Burlington**

**Treasurer**



**Jericho Settlers Farm,  
Jericho and Richmond**

**Board member**

A man in a green t-shirt and a cap with sunglasses on his forehead stands with his arms crossed in a field. Behind him are long, parallel rows of garden beds covered with white plastic mulch. Some beds are covered with black plastic. In the background, there are several large, arched greenhouses and a line of trees.

**Naked Acre Farm, Hyde Park**

**Board member**



**New Leaf CSA, Dummerston**

**Board member**

**Elmer Farm, E. Middlebury**



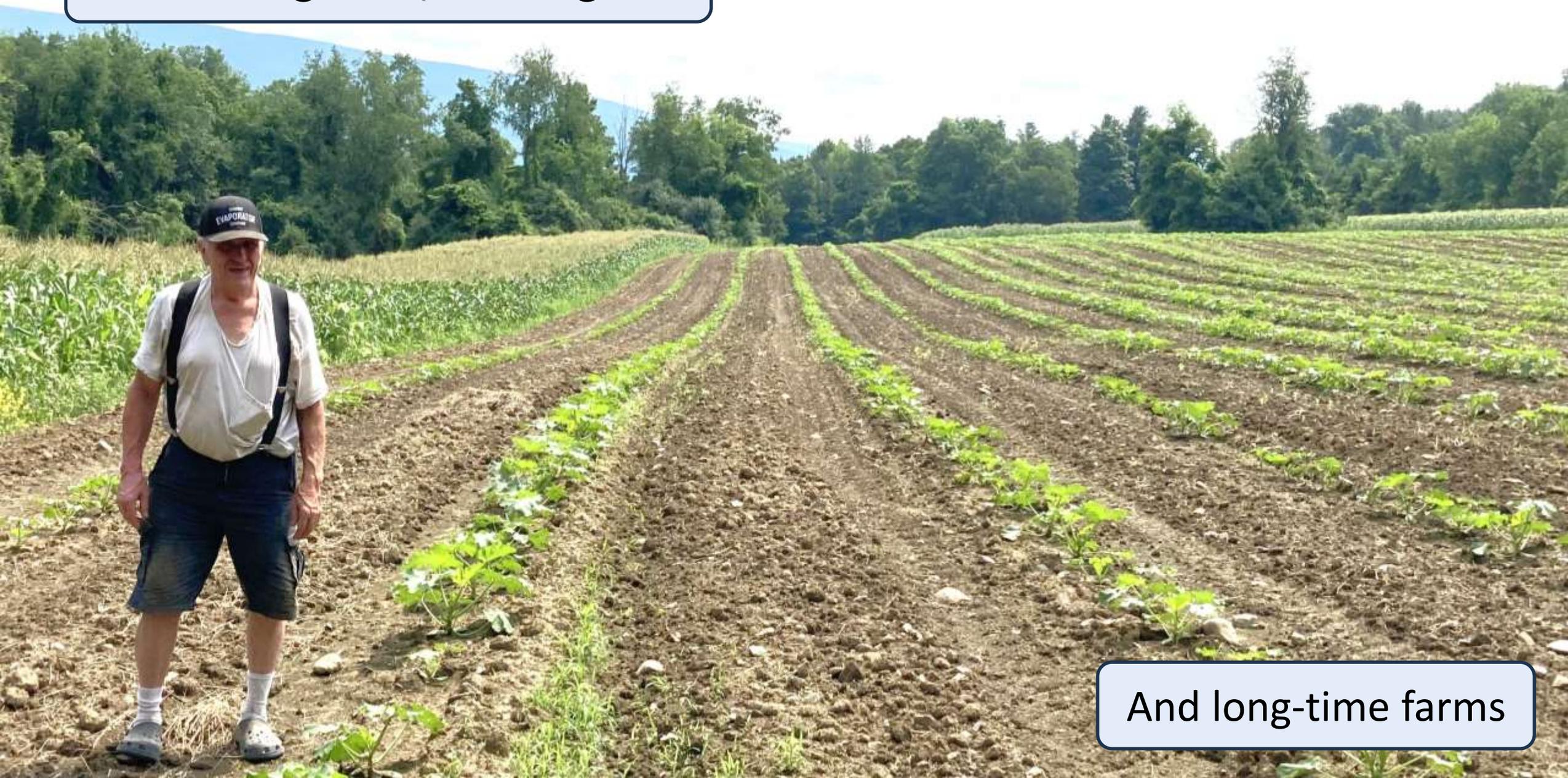
**Board member**

# Eureka Farm, Springfield



Members include  
new farms

# Armstrong Farm, Bennington



And long-time farms

A photograph of three people standing in a field of green onions. The man on the left is wearing a green t-shirt and holding a large purple onion. The man in the middle is wearing a black t-shirt and a visor, holding a yellow onion. The woman on the right is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and a yellow hat, holding a white folder. They are all smiling. In the background, there are rows of green onions and some white structures, possibly greenhouses or covered walkways. The sky is bright and clear.

**Pomykala Farm, Grand Isle**

**Multi-generation  
farms**



**Paul Mazza's Fruits and Vegetables  
Essex Junction, Colchester, Richmond**

Smart kids coming into  
a complex business

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a grey t-shirt and dark pants, stands in the center of a large, arched greenhouse. The greenhouse is filled with rows of black plastic trays containing young green seedlings. The structure is made of metal poles and covered with clear plastic. A large white fan is visible hanging from the ceiling. In the background, a wooden building and a green field are visible through the plastic walls.

**Blais Produce, Springfield**

Third generation  
vegetable farm

## Hurricane Flats, S. Royalton



Many “farmer to farmer” transitions

# Crossroad Farm, Post Mills



A man and a woman are standing in a large, open field with rows of green plants. The man is wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a dark t-shirt, and tall black boots. The woman is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and shorts. A large, fluffy dog is sitting on the ground to the right of the man. In the background, there are rolling hills covered in dense green trees under a clear blue sky. Power lines are visible in the distance.

**Full Belly Farm, Monkton**

**Formerly Norris  
Berry Farm**

# Honey Field Farm, Norwich



Financing can be complicated



**Formerly Killdeer Farm, Norwich**

Following “founders”  
of the industry



**Harlow Farm, Westminster**

Transitions often take a while

# Sweetland Farm, Norwich



Many farms are on conserved land

**True Love Farm, Shaftsbury**

Many farms grow high value crops on small acreage



**Deer Run Farm, Guilford**



Flowers, syrup, berries  
at farmers' market

# High Meadows Farm, Putney



regional herb  
distribution

# Sam Mazza's Farm Market, Colchester



**SAM MAZZA'S**  
Farm Market  
Bakery • Greenhouses  
*OPEN YEAR ROUND*



Large retail market,  
PYO, wholesale

# Dutton Farm. Markets in Brookline, Newfane, Manchester, W. Brattleboro



Multiple farms and  
retail locations

## Pete's Greens, Craftsbury



New markets and  
new products

# Sweetland Farm, Norwich



On-farm marketing  
is expanding

## Wild Carrot Farm, Brattleboro

Some are small,  
self-serve



# Allen Bros. Farm, Westminster



Lots of innovation  
in tunnels



**Knee Deep Farm, Jeffersonville**

Shading, screening,  
drainage, automation

A photograph of two women standing in a greenhouse. The woman on the left is wearing a teal knit sweater, olive green pants, and a brown beanie. The woman on the right is wearing a brown Carhartt jacket, tan pants, and a grey beanie. They are both smiling and have their arms around each other. The greenhouse has a curved metal frame and white plastic covering. Rows of green plants are visible in the background.

**Bread and Butter Farm,  
S. Burlington**

“Winter growing”  
is common

**Foote Brooke Farm, Johnson**



**Year-round storage  
is important**

A man and a woman are standing in a large, open field. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The man on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt, glasses, and a cap. They are both smiling. The field is green and appears to be a mix of grass and soil. In the background, there are rolling hills and a line of trees under a clear sky.

## River Berry Farm, Fairfax

Lots of adaptation  
to flooding



**Root5 Farm, Fairlee**

Lots of attention  
to soil health

# Sunshine Valley Berry Farm, Rochester



A community that  
shares information

Thank you!

