



VERMONTERS FEEDING VERMONTERS





VERMONTERS FEEDING VERMONTERS (V F V)

Vermonters Feeding Vermonters provides fresh, local, nutritious food to people facing hunger, strengthens the state economy, provides security to Vermont farmers, and reduces our environmental footprint.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Everyone in Vermont deserves equitable access to fresh, local, nutritious and culturally meaningful food.
- Neighbors may see better health outcomes if they have access to and eat fresh, local food.
- Farmers have more financial security when they can count on purchases of food through this program.
- Our food system is strengthened, and our economy benefits when we keep our food dollars in-state, rather than purchasing food elsewhere.
- Our environmental footprint is reduced because the food is sourced and served locally.

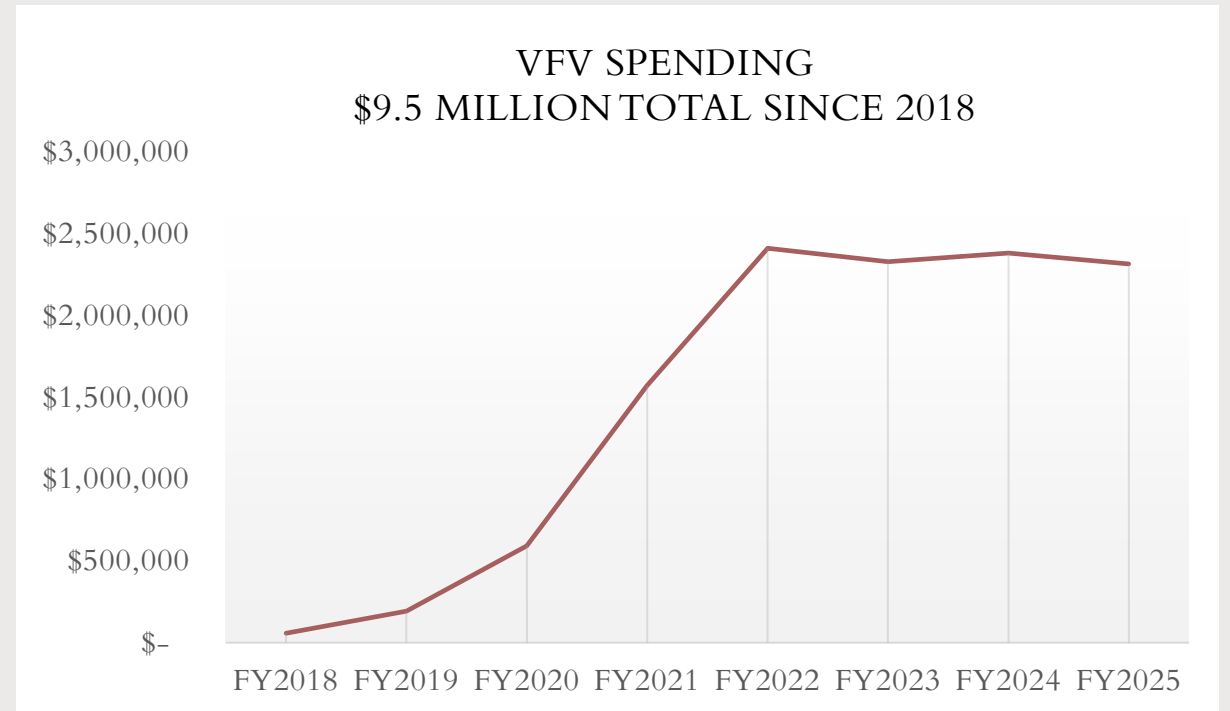
VFV PROGRAM GOALS & STRATEGIES

- Purchase a diversity of fresh, nutritious locally produced food.
- Work with a variety of farms of different scales and across many regions of Vermont.
- Pay a fair price to farmers.
- Provide farmers with large-scale contracts that provide them increased security of predictable sales, volumes, and prices.
- Be a committed partner that is flexible and responsive to the needs of Vermont farmers.
- Provide grant funding to Vermont Foodbank partnering agencies to build relationships and purchase fresh, local food directly from small to mid-sized Vermont farmers.
- Seek out creative partnerships with BIPOC communities, farmers, and other communities that may be disadvantaged or underserved.



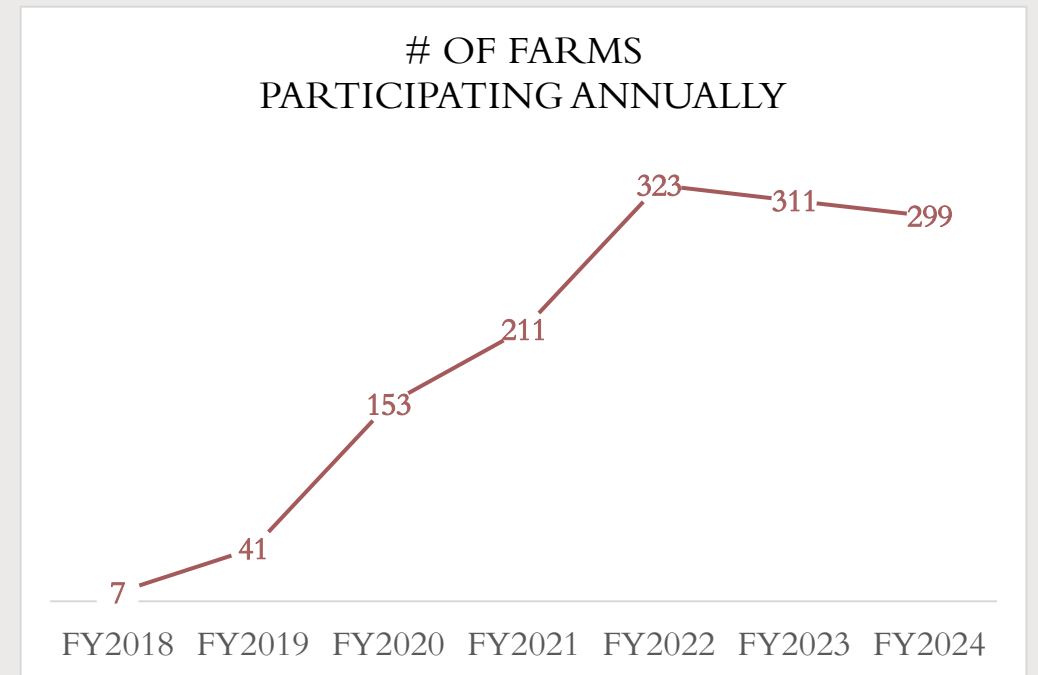


VFV SPENDING 2018-2025





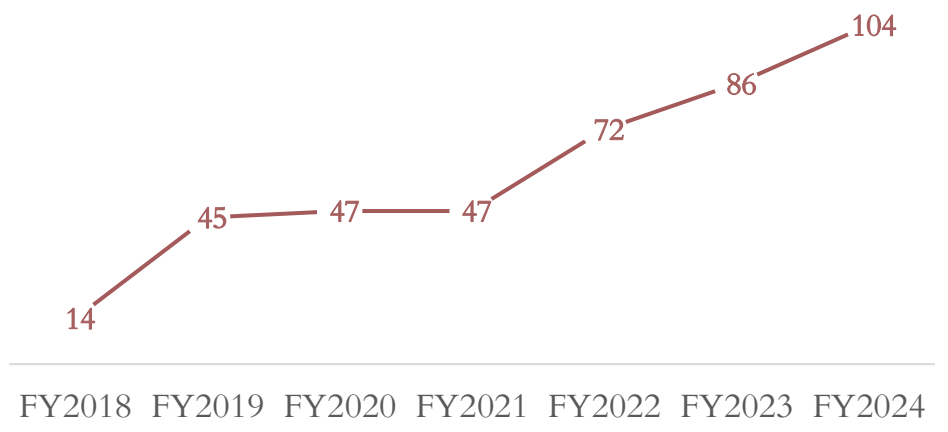
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OF TYPES OF
CROPS PURCHASED





OVERALL VFV PROGRAM IMPACTS FY 24

- **\$2.38 Million** in purchases
- **1.4 Million lbs.**
fresh local foods distributed
- **299** farmers and food producers
Producers in all 14 Vermont counties
- **\$3.8 Million** is the estimated
contribution to the Vermont
economy **

** Based on large-scale wholesale food purchasing research conducted by the Center for Rural Studies at UVM, every dollar spent on locally produced food contributes an additional 60 cents into the Vermont economy.



V F V PROGRAM C O M P O N E N T S

1. Large-Scale Wholesale Purchasing
2. Mini-Grants to Vermont Foodbank Partners
3. Farm Share CSAs of Culturally Responsive Food



LARGE SCALE WHOLESALE PURCHASING FY24

- **\$1.74 Million** in purchases
- **22+** Large Scale Farm Partners
- **39** Types of Produce
- **Variety** of Protein / Dairy
- **300+** Vermont Foodbank Network and Community Partners supported statewide distribution via Food Shelves, Meal Sites, Veggie Van Go School and Hospital sites, SASH and via other community partners.

LARGE-SCALE WHOLESALE PURCHASING: FARMER IMPACTS

- 100% of participating growers reported **increased stability** related to selling large reliable quantities and **increased gross sales**.
- 100% of participating growers reported **increased amount of food** going to families with **limited income** and/or who struggle with food insecurity.
- 92% of participating growers reported **increased amount of food** that their business sells/keeps **in Vermont**.

“It feels really good to know that, yes, our food is going to Vermonters and **staying within the state.**”

“By working with you, you are increasing the amount of our product that **goes to food insecure families.**”



***data collected from 22 VFV large-scale produce farmers.

Photo Credit: Vermont Foodbank

LARGE-SCALE WHOLESALE PURCHASING FARMER IMPACTS

- “A sure sale at a **reasonable price.**”
- “The **stability** of knowing that we can sell significant amounts.”
- “The **efficiency** that comes with these large orders.”
- “I was **able to hire** another full-time person and plan for that.”
- “We’ve probably doubled in size on **acreage** since we started the program.”
- “Allowed us to invest in that **equipment** that just makes farming more **sustainable.**”
- “You’re one of the most **reliable** customers.”

★★ Quotes from VFV large-scale produce farmers



V F V MINI-GRANTS FY 24



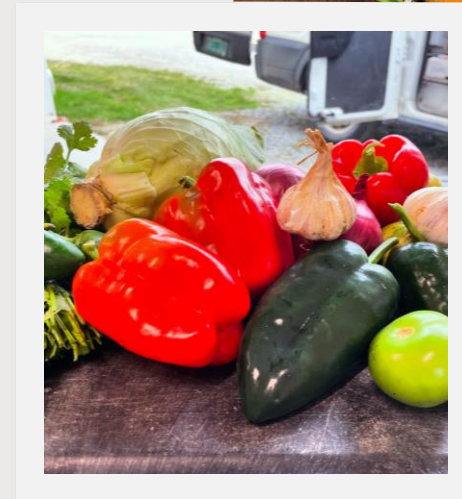
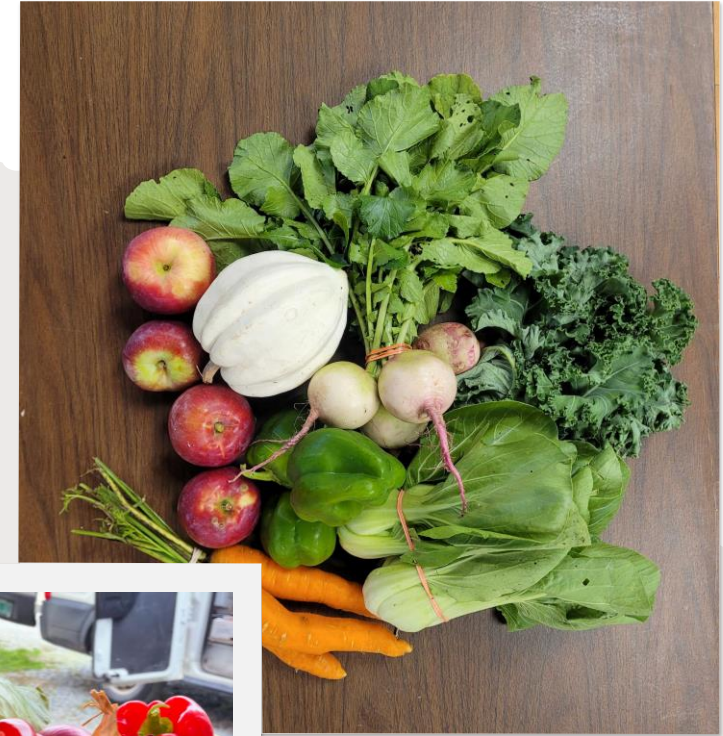
- 156 Network and Community partners received mini-grants to purchase local food.
- \$500,000 distributed in mini-grant funding
- 80% reported spending additional funds on local food
 - \$296,664 additional funds spent
- 52% reported that donations from farms increased as a result of this program
- 281 farms and producers engaged
- 76 different crops purchased

V F V M I N I - G R A N T C O M M U N I T Y I M P A C T S

“Our Food Shelf participants simply appreciate the **opportunity to have fresh local food**. They know about proper nutrition. A single mother of 3 children shared: ‘When I come and can select fresh foods from **local farms**, I feel like I am **nourishing my children**, not simply feeding them.’ ” – **South Burlington Food Shelf**

“**This grant is stunning**. The way it **weaves the community together** and **deeply supports all parties**. From the farmers to the kitchen right to the children's mouths! My favorite moments are when carrots are served and classmates ask the kiddo, [whose] family runs the farm, ‘**Are these your [family’s] carrots?**’ So sweet!” – **The Garland School**

“[This program] is **vital to our rural community**. The **dignity** provided to both the grower and the end user is so beautiful. Our **local providers need the income**. And our **local people need the quality food**.”
– **Grafton Community Church**





VFV MINI-GRANT COMMUNITY IMPACTS

“Vermonters Feeding Vermonters is a wonderful program that has benefitted our Food Shelf and our community. Not only does it allow us to **provide high-quality, fresh foods** to our clients while simultaneously **supporting local farms**, the

VFV program also connects our Food Shelf, both our [volunteers] and our clients, with our neighbors who operate local farms. The **forging of connections within the community** has made a **genuine difference** for our Food Shelf, our clients, and our farm partners. The VFV program creates what is best described as a "virtuous circle", where **not only are all the individuals involved better off, the community is as well**. The VFV program is a wonderful idea, well-executed. Our community is grateful for it.”

– Reading West Windsor Food Shelf

V F V MINI - GRANTS FARMER IMPACTS



"This is so helpful to us and our **small farm** stand. By **supporting us** and encouraging your clients to access healthier food items you're **making the community better for all of us**. We hope to continue working with you every year and support the mission of this grant." **Emma Lee, Benmont Ave Produce**

"...The grant allowed us a viable **market, that was close to home**, valued our produce at a **fair price**, and purchased what we had the most of to sell. It **helped our business stay viable** during such a tough economic year. To top it all off, we were providing local, nutritious, and **delicious food to people in our community** that also really need help. I couldn't think of a better **partnership**. I feel fortunate and proud to be a part of this grant. Thank you again for this opportunity." - **Heather, The Darby Farm**

"I have loved working with Neighbors in Action! They have amazing volunteers and staff who really care about their community and **providing fresh, quality food for those who are struggling to meet needs**. Having been a part of this grant program for several years now, it has really helped **support my bottom line by giving me flexibility** in what I choose to bring, **reducing waste on the farm** and helping support our mission of **servicing our community**." - **Jessica, Wilder Farm**

FARM SHARE CSAS OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE FOOD FY24



Photo Credit: The Janet S. Munt Family Room (Burlington)

Results

- 595 CSA shares of culturally responsive produce for New American families, migrant farm workers, etc.
- 1563 people served through these projects
- \$138,900 spent on produce and protein

FARM SHARE CSAS OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE FOOD

FY24 Projects

- **Box of Resilience Shares** – Newfane
SUSU CommUNITY Farm
- **Migrant Farmworker CSA Shares** – Northeast Kingdom
Craftsbury Food Shelf
- **Migrant Farmworker CSA Shares** – Manchester
Community Food Cupboard
- **Goat Project** – Chittenden County
CVOEO/Feeding Champlain Valley
- **Culturally Responsive CSA for New Americans** – Burlington
Janet S. Munt Family Room
- **Culturally Responsive CSA Project** – Addison County –
CVOEO/Feeding Champlain Valley
- **Culturally Responsive CSA Project** – Chittenden County–
CVOEO/Feeding Champlain Valley



Photo Credit: SUSU CommUNITY Farm (Newfane)

FARM SHARE CSAS COMMUNITY IMPACT

“The 2024 season of SUSU’s Box of Resilience CSA program exemplifies the power of **community-centered agriculture** to nourish, connect, and empower... This season saw significant advancements in production and growing space. We transitioned to five new, expansive plots in the lower field, which allowed us to dedicate the Circle Garden to flowers, medicinal herbs, and African American heritage crops... Our commitment to **food as medicine** remained at the heart of our CSA... These efforts not only **deepened our members’ connection to the land** but also **fostered self-sufficiency and cultural reclamation**, laying the foundation for an even more vibrant and resilient future.”

- SUSU Community Farm

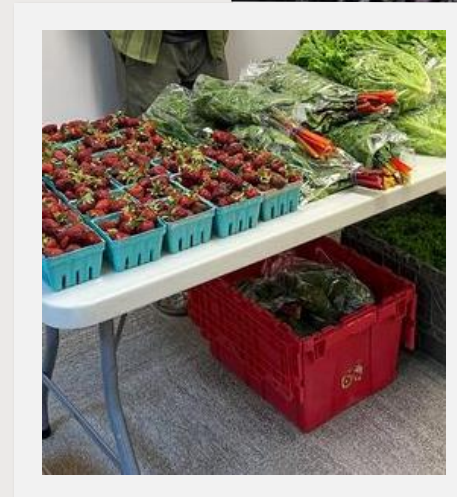
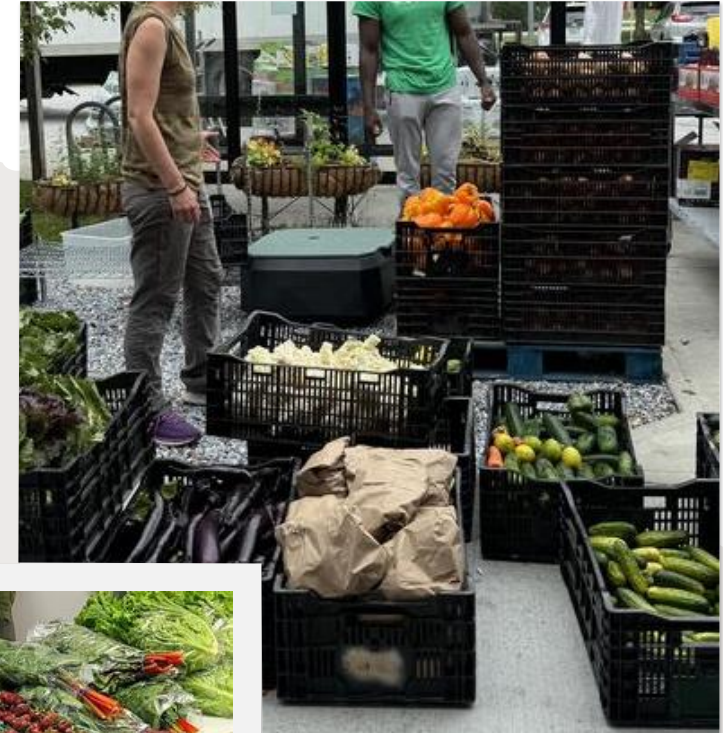


Photo Credits: SUSU CommUNITY Farm (Newfane)

FARM SHARE CSAS COMMUNITY IMPACT

"This program has been amazing ... and it has given us a great opportunity to work together with **local farmers** and the folks at the Manchester Community Library to **welcome newcomers into our community!** This program has been providing a locally grown/raised food share to 20 families each week. Manchester has a growing population of people who are **new to our area, climate, language, and culture....** Our hope is that combining the food share with the **English Language Learning** classes at the library will help to bridge some of the **accessibility** gaps so that our new neighbors are both **fed and welcomed** into the community."

- Manchester Community Food Cupboard, Migrant Farm Worker CSA





FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Vermont Foodbank