
VERMONTERS FEEDING VERMONTERS (H.167)



Photo credit: Vermont Foodbank

BACKGROUND & STATUS

Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

- Reduce food insecurity
- Provide financial security to Vermont farmers
- Contribute to the Vermont economy
- Decrease environmental footprint by lowering transportation costs

Currently

- H.167 was read for the first time in the Senate on April 1st after it passed the House on March 27th
 - Referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee
- The bill aims to establish an ongoing, annual appropriation of \$500,000 from the Agency of Agriculture
 - Permanent funding

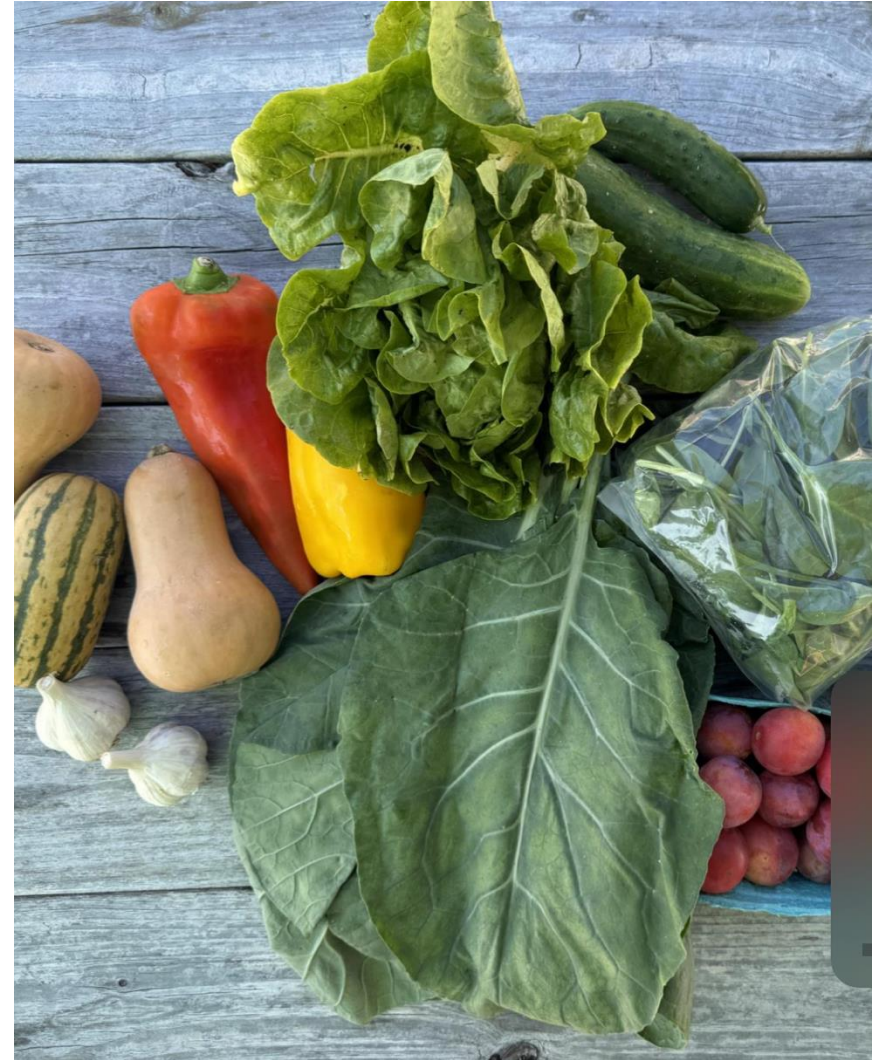


Photo credit: ACORN VT, Middlebury

IMPACTS

299

participating farms

104

types of crops

\$3.8M

contributed to Vermont's
economy

COMPONENTS

1.

Large-scale wholesale
partners

2.

Mini-grants to network
partners

3.

Culturally responsive
farm share CSAs

BENEFITS

Vermont Farmers

- Stable and guaranteed market, early-season contracts, fair market prices, and alignment of values.

Vermont Consumers

- Access to nutritionally-dense, culturally-responsive, affordable foods.

Vermont Economy and Environment

- Elimination of detrimental environmental impacts of multi-state transportation, increased local food purchasing

The UVM Center for Rural Studies has found that every dollar spent on locally produced food contributes an additional 60 cents to the Vermont economy.



Photo credit: Vermont Foodbank/Pitchfork Farm

CHALLENGES

Cause/Challenge	Impact on VFV
Limited funding (core issue)	Restricts purchasing power, diversity, and equity
High prices from small farms	Too costly for bulk purchasing without more funding
Lack of late-season crop storage	Produces gaps between April-June; harder to fill on tight budget
Coordinating with farmers	Adds complexity and costs
Few large-scale farms available	Difficult to meet volume needs affordably or reliably
Limited partner capacity	Hinders distribution of larger food volumes
Extreme weather events	Disrupts supply; adds operational burdens and costs

SIMILAR PROGRAMS

Mainers Feeding Mainers (MFM)

- VFV based their program on MFM
- Good Shepherd Foodbank handles all purchasing and invoices

Farm Fresh Rhode Island's Hope's Harvest (HH) Program

- Volunteers glean fresh food
- Producers list their products at their own rate through the Market Mobile platform
- Partner organizations use grant funds to buy through Market Mobile
- HH distributes fresh food boxes to low-income seniors across RI

New Mexico Grown: Regional Farm to Foodbanks Program

- The Food Depot handles all purchasing and distribution
- Producers are generally small-scale enough that delivery is manageable for them



Omasombo Katuka from OK Community Farm. Photo credit: Mainers Feeding Mainers

SIMILAR PROGRAMS

Vermonters
Feeding
Vermonters

72k served
monthly

299 farm
partners

\$2.3m annual
budget

Mainers Feeding
Mainers

50k served
monthly

90+ farm
partners

\$2m annual
budget

Rhode Island's
Hope's Harvest

35k served
monthly

55+ farm
partners

[Data not
collected]

New Mexico
Regional Farmers
to Foodbanks

[Data not
collected]

200+ farm
partners

\$4m annual
budget

FUNDING MECHANISMS

Seattle's "Sweetened Beverage Tax"

- Imposes a 1.75 cent fee per ounce on beverages deemed high in sugar
- Tax is levied on distributors, not consumers
- Revenue supports food access and education programs
- Brought in \$20.3 million in 2021



Photo credit: Mitaukano/Wikimedia Commons

CONCLUSION

- VFV has collaborated with 299 farms to improve food security and boost Vermont's economy
- The program has delivered a guaranteed stable market for farmers and producers
- Challenges include difficulty scaling up due to limited and unstable funding
- Other funding sources could be explored further to finance VFV programs
- Additional funding could expand and streamline the current processes of the program.



Photo credit: Second Congregational Church, Londonderry

THANK YOU!



Photo credit: Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

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