

Karyl Kent
Director of Child Nutrition
Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District
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FY2027 Budget
02/11/2026

Dear Members of the Vermont Legislature,

My name is Karyl Kent, and I live in Huntington, VT. I am connected to Salvation Farms as a Pre-K through 12 Educational Partner.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today.

I respectfully ask that you please appropriate \$100,000 of base funding to Salvation Farms starting in FY2027 to support operations of their surplus crop food processing program.

I began working with Salvation Farms about six years ago, during Covid, when I was the Nutrition Director for Lamoille North School District. At that time we were working together to get surplus farm foods into the homes of families through our meal kits to kids program.

Our partnership continued as school resumed normal operations and we purchased surplus foods for our meals programs.

Currently, I am the Child Nutrition Director at Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District and Salvation Farms has expanded into processing surplus crops from Vermont Farms into production ready, labor efficient products that are valued in our district's local foods program. These items are enjoyed by our students throughout the winter months.

This program is a win, win, win, for Farmers, Schools and Communities.

Funding will allow more school districts and Vermont children to benefit from Vermont grown produce all through the year. Keeping crops turned into fresh meals instead of being turned under, and putting more money into local farms and the local economy.

For these reasons, I again urge you to please appropriate \$100,000 of base funding to Salvation Farms starting in FY2027 to support operations of their surplus crop food processing program.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Karyl Kent
Huntington, Vermont
Director of Child Nutrition
Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District