



Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

Nourishing people, land, and justice
through organic agriculture.



Subject: NOFA-VT FY27 Budget Requests

Submitted February 18, 2026

Hi Chair Marcotte,

Thank you so much for taking the time yesterday to hear NOFA-VT's FY27 budget requests for Local Food Security and the Farm Security Fund. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Maddie Kempner with any questions as you consider your committee's budget memo to the House Appropriations Committee.

I wanted to briefly follow up to correct a number I stated about the [Farm to Family Program](#), which is run through the state. Participants who qualify by being enrolled in the Department of Health's WIC Program can get \$30 in coupons per year to buy locally-grown fresh fruits, vegetables and fresh-cut herbs at participating farmers markets and farm stands. Participants age 60 and over can get \$48 in coupons per year. Again, this program is administered by the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. It is distinct from NOFA-VT's Local Food Security programs.

NOFA-VT's Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus programs provide an important complement to programs like Farm to Family. People who receive SNAP benefits can match up to \$20 of their benefits with Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus coupons each market day, with no limit per year. Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus help ensure that low-income Vermonters can access locally produced food each week, year-round, while directly supporting our Vermont farmers. State funding is also necessary to continue drawing down federal funds through the Crop Cash program.

Thank you for considering NOFA-VT's FY27 budget requests for \$500,000 for NOFA-VT's Local Food Security Programs: Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus, and Farm Share; and \$15.6 million for the Farm Security Fund.

Sincerely,

Johanna Doren

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