



STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE CHAMBER

MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Andrew Perchlik, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
From: Sen. Russ Ingalls, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture
Date: April 7, 2026
Subject: Comments on Provisions in the Governor's Proposed FY2027 State Budget

The Senate Committee on Agriculture wants to thank you for the opportunity to offer our thoughts regarding the FY2027 budget. We also want to thank you for your hard work and honor the hard decisions you have to make.

First, we support the money in the Governor's Budget for Farm to School (\$500,000) and Early Childhood Grants Program (\$500,000).

In addition, we support the following requests for funding in the FY 2027 budget:

1. \$500,000 for NOFA-VT Local Food Initiative that includes Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus and Farm Share, \$1,900,000 for the Vermont Food Bank, \$912,000 for the Vermont Conservation Districts, \$1,500,000 for working Lands, \$460,000 for Vermont Fairs (\$300,000 Capital Grants, \$160,000 stipend funds) \$100,000 Salvation Farms
2. \$1,000,000 to seed fund S.60

Senate Agriculture understands that you've asked us to rank our requests in order. We just can't do that at this time. All of these requests are requests that make all of these organizations tick. Other than the Vermont Food Bank, most of the funds are monies that help promote and move forward our Vermont Farmers whether it's the single mom baking and selling 12 loaves of bread daily, or the farmer that is milking 7000 cows. These are the Vermont Farmers that contribute \$9,400,000,000 to our State economy not to mention what it does to bring tourism dollars into our state by attracting visitors here not to see solar fields and wind towers but Vermont's vibrant landscape, much of which can be attributed to what our farmers do. When you add up all of our requests of \$6,372,000, we are only asking that you appropriate Senate Agriculture .001% of the total budget.

We feel that over the biennium, we have been modest in our requests, especially if you were to consider what Agriculture does for our State as mentioned above. We also do understand it's a tight budget year and are not envious of your tasks but grateful for what you do!

Sincerely,
The Senate Agriculture Committee