

# Please Support S.60, the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund Bill



## Funding for Farmers & Loggers in the Wake of Extreme Weather

Farms and forestry operations across the state have come together to ask the legislature to establish a Farm & Forestry Operations Security Fund to ensure farmers and loggers have financial assistance they need to recover from the impacts of extreme weather. The Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund (S.60) passed unanimously out of both the Senate and the House Agriculture, Food Resiliency & Forestry Committee in 2025. Grants from the fund will reimburse a farm or logging operation for up to 50% of uninsured or otherwise uncovered losses, up to \$150,000, or no more than 5% of the funds available at the start of the fiscal year. The fund would be administered by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets in collaboration with a review board.



## Why This, Why Now

A storm, frost, or drought at the wrong time can devastate a farm or forestry business. We all rely on farmers and loggers for our basic needs, and we are all responsible for supporting them as they face increased climate instability. It's time to start adapting to the climate crisis and ensuring our farms and loggers can continue producing the food and forest products we need.

The Farm Security Fund coalition is led by the following organizations, with support from a growing list of organizations including ACORN, American Farmland Trust, Hunger Free VT, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, Vermont Foodbank, and Shelburne Farms:



Supporting Vermont's working lands businesses means supporting rural livelihoods, protecting the health of our land, preserving the heart of our communities, and ensuring strong local economies—critical as communities around the globe face their own extreme weather challenges.



"Farms are the backbone of Vermont's culture, heritage, and economy. They contribute in so many ways to food security, land stewardship, tourism, jobs. The list is endless. We need to support farmers through the Farm Security Fund to ensure that farms can weather this changing climate and thrive as they protect our working lands."

- Meg Emmons, farmer at Bourdon Maple Farm in Woodstock, VT



"Vermont's farms need the Farm Security Fund for extremely challenging seasons like this one. Farmers have planned and prepared for yearly fluctuations but can't control the weather, nor a year in which we produce only half our usual crops. Passing and funding this bill will provide crucial support for farmers having to purchase feed we normally wouldn't have to."

- Jesse Wilbur, farmer at Lazy Dog Farm in Orwell, VT



"Extreme weather events can have devastating effects on my business. The Farm Security Fund would help give me a better sense of security as a farm business owner and fill major gaps in the safety net for us farmers. It also would mean that we farmers can feel better supported by the folks we elect to represent us in government."

- Owen Tatum, farmer at Makeshift Farm in Derby, VT

To learn more about the Farm Security Fund, visit [nofavt.org/FarmSecurityFund](https://nofavt.org/FarmSecurityFund) or contact Maddie Kempner, NOFA-VT's Policy & Organizing Director, at [maddie@nofavt.org](mailto:maddie@nofavt.org) or 802-419-0072.

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