



NOFA-VT Introduction to Senate Agriculture Committee

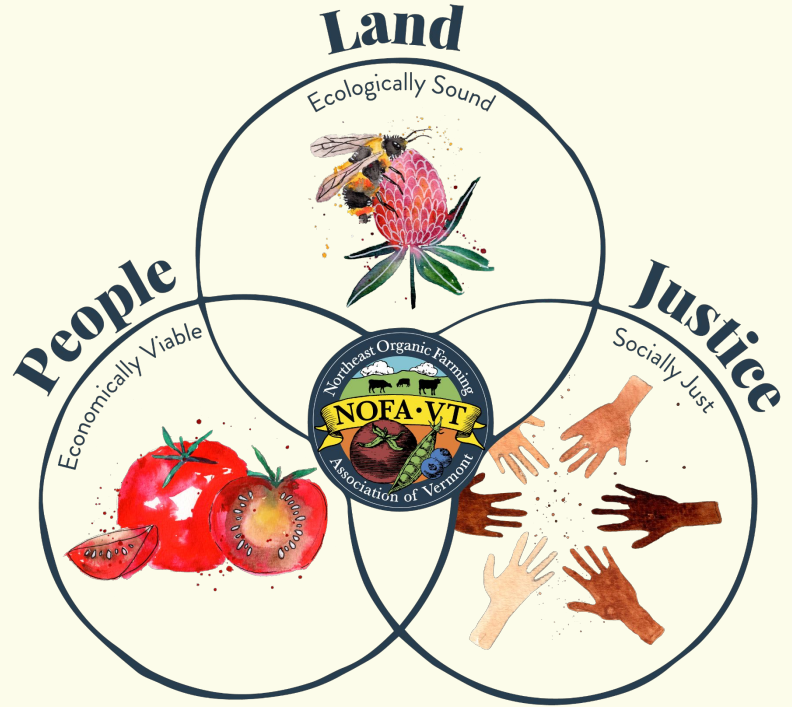
Maddie Kempner, Policy & Organizing Director
Johanna Doren, Local Food Access Director
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)



About Us

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) is a member-driven 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting organic practices to build a food system in Vermont that is economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just.

NOFA-VT was founded in Putney, VT in 1971, making it one of the oldest organic farming associations in the United States.



LOCAL FOOD
SECURITY

HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES

PROTECTED
NATURAL
RESOURCES

BIODIVERSITY

CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

SOIL HEALTH +
LONG-TERM
PRODUCTIVITY

MUTUAL
AID

CLIMATE
CHANGE
RESILIENCY

STRONG LOCAL
ECONOMIES

SHORTER
SUPPLY CHAINS

THRIVING RURAL
COMMUNITIES

ACTIVE
WORKING
LANDS





Farmer Services

We support the viability of Vermont farms via technical on-farm assistance, business planning, transition planning, funding opportunities, and other critical resources.



Food Access

We make local and organic food findable and affordable for everyone—including schools and institutions—because it benefits farmers, communities, and the local economy.



Advocacy & Policy

We rally our community and work in coalition with partner organizations to ensure better laws and regulations for farmers and consumers at both the state and federal levels.



Education & Community-Building

We facilitate knowledge-sharing and foster a more connected and resilient community through our on-farm workshops, annual winter conference, mobile pizza oven events, and more.



NOFA-VT 2025 Winter Conference

February 15 & 16, 2025 | University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

- Keynote Speakers: Dãnia Davy & Tim Gibbons
- 40+ workshops
- Sunday "Intensives"
- Children's Conference
- Art, music, and really good snacks





Vermont Organic Farmers

Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) is an LLC owned by NOFA-VT. Since 1985, VOF has served as a third-party verification of organic food production and has been accredited by the USDA National Organic Program since 2002.

VOF currently certifies over 700 farms and producers around Vermont including vegetable, dairy, livestock, and maple producers.



2024 Statistics on Organic Agriculture in Vermont

2024 Vermont Certified Organic Producers

Total Producers	725
Processors (non-farm)	96
Processors (on-farm)	72
Vegetable/Fruit	168
Field Crop	56
Dairy	117
Non-Dairy Livestock	74
Maple	250
Mushroom	8

*Farms producing a variety of products may be listed more than once.

- 161,907 acres certified organic farmland
- Total gross sales (farmers and processors): \$377,076,727
- Total number of producers: 725



NOFA-VT Legislative Priorities for 2025

- Increase and provide base funding for **Crop Cash (Plus)** and **Farm Share**.
- Pass the **Farm Security Fund** to provide permanent, rapidly available recovery funding for farmers impacted by climate emergencies and extreme weather.
- Provide level, base funding for **Local Foods Incentive Grants** and **Farm to School / Early Childhood Grants**.
- Support the policy priorities of the **Food Security Roadmap Coalition**.



Please support NOFA-VT's request for \$500,000 in base funding

to strengthen Vermont farm viability and address food security by
sustaining these two proven programs:

Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share



Crop Cash doubles 3SquaresVT (SNAP) benefits for fruits and vegetables purchased at Vermont farmers markets

Crop Cash Plus expanded Crop Cash to all SNAP-eligible foods (meat, eggs, dairy, bread) in 2023, but was paused in 2024 due to lack of funding

Farm Share subsidizes CSA shares for limited-income Vermonters by paying for 25-75% of the CSA cost



Photo by A...



“Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus make fresh local produce an accessible option for many people in our community that otherwise would spend their benefits elsewhere... Those producers are then able to invest that money into their business to add to their viability.”

–Caledonia Farmers Market Association market manager

“Crop Cash Plus added an extra 20% to my weekly sales.” *–Laini Fondiller, Lazy Lady Farm, Westfield*

“I’m a low-income senior and I wouldn’t be able to afford a CSA without NOFA’s help. The cancer I’ve been battling for the past 5 years is now in remission, thanks in part because of my access to organic, quality food and without the NOFA’s [Farm Share] program, I would not have been able to maintain a healthy diet. This program is a life-saver for us all.” *- Farm Share participant with Walker Farm, East Dummerston*



Farm Security Fund

Farmers need reliable, rapidly available funding to be able recover from climate emergencies and extreme weather.

The past two years have taught us what farms need to recover from a weather emergency. We can use what we learned.

Farmers are essential to Vermont's food security - we must ensure that funds are available when farmers need them most.



NOFA-VT Staff in the State House



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Policy & Organizing Director



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Executive Director



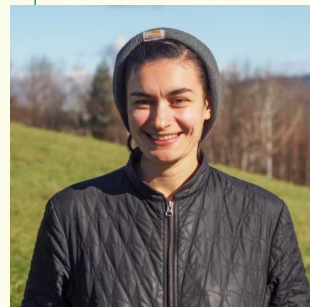
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Thank You!

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