

We, the undersigned, fully support an appropriation of \$500,000 in base funding in fiscal year 2027 to strengthen Vermont farm viability and improve food security by sustaining 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** expands Crop Cash to meat, dairy, eggs, bread, and more, extending the program's impact to all agricultural vendors. State funding is necessary to continue this critical program so that hundreds more farmers will benefit, and thousands of low-income Vermonters can purchase more local, fresh food.
- **The Farm Share Program** pays for 25-75% of the CSA cost. It has subsidized community supported agriculture (CSA) shares for limited-income Vermonters for 30 years. State funding would mean up to 700 families could be supported in purchasing a consistent supply of locally grown food.

Vermonters count on these programs every week. Thanks to the State's support, these programs have leveraged nearly \$1.6 million in local food purchases in the past two years. This support was also vital during the federal shutdown, as we were able to ensure that folks could continue using Crop Cash Plus even during the delay in SNAP benefits distribution.

These programs have a double impact. With every dollar invested, low-income Vermonters can purchase healthy, fresh, local food and Vermont farmers receive a reliable, fair price for their products.

Vermont Environmental Justice Network

Alburgh

Delicious Dirt Farm

Bakersfield

Greater Bennington Community Services

Bennington

Bethel Area Food Shelf

Bethel

Wild Carrot Farm

Brattleboro

Brattleboro Area Farmers Market

Brattleboro

Burlington Farmers Market

Burlington

At a time when food prices are increasing dramatically, wages are stagnant, unemployment is up and farmers are struggling with economic and environmental stresses, the Crop Cash, Crop Cash Plus and the Farm Share programs are a lifeline for consumers and farmers. Please support these programs.

- Ross Conrad, Owner and Beekeeper at Dancing Bee Gardens



Food Systems Collaborative

Burlington

Intervale Community Farm

Burlington

CVOEO & Feeding Champlain

Valley

Burlington

Pete's Greens

Craftsbury

Craftsbury Farmer's Market

Craftsbury

New Leaf CSA Farm

Dummerston

Root 5 Farm

Fairlee

Rubys run creations LLC

Jamaica

The Farm Share program is one more way that ensures our farm has a customer base and a reliable income so that we can continue to do the work we do, cover our costs, and profit. We also see and hear firsthand from our members in the NOFA Farm Share Program that it is truly a gift and sometimes a lifeline for the recipients to be able to have fresh, healthy food.

- Michelle Norfolk, CSA Manager at Pete's Greens



Johnson Food Shelf

Johnson

Ludlow Farmers Market

Ludlow

Dancing Bee Gardens

Middlebury

Addison County Farmers Market

Middlebury

New Haven Food Closet

New Haven

Giant Journey Farm

Newfane

NEK Council on Aging

Newport

Sweetland Farm

Norwich

Peacham Farmers Market

Peacham

Peacham Greens

Peacham

Notch

Richford

Richmond Food Shelf & Thrift Store

Richmond

Drift Farmstead

Roxbury

Hunger Free Vermont

South Burlington

Maquam Bay of Missisquoi Inc

Swanton

Have Justice Will Travel

Vershire

Waitsfield Farmers Market

Waitsfield

Milkweed Farm

Westminster

Vital Communities

White River Junction

Winooski Farmers Market

Winooski

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

Lebanon, NH

Food Security is vital for many Vermonters due to economic strain, rural isolation, low wages, rising living costs, overall health impacts, and child development. This program supports low-income Vermonters and Vermont Farms.

- Heather Mallory, Market Manager at Waitsfield Farmers Market



Our food shelf customers take advantage of Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus program, which enables them to go to our local farmers market and support local farmers and food producers. They wouldn't be able to afford to go to the farmers market without Crop Cash. A common need of our food shelf shoppers at the food shelf is fresh produce, and folks would prefer to have locally produced produce. The Farm Share program expands the accessibility of local produce to many more Vermonters. It's a win-win to support NOFA-VT's Local Food Security Programs.

- Mary Joy Patchett, Executive Director at Richmond Food Shelf & Thrift Store

