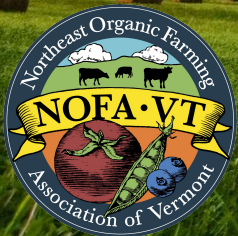


# NOFA-VT Budget Request Testimony FY2027



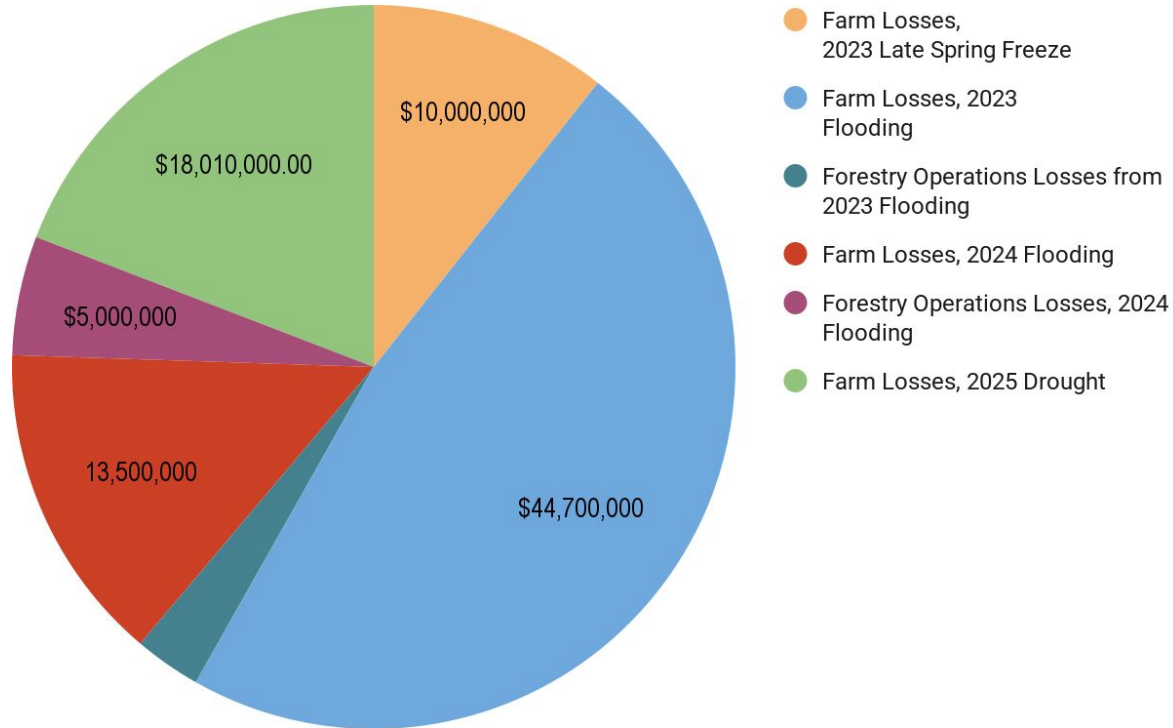
Maddie Kempner, NOFA-VT  
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# Please appropriate \$15.6 million for the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund (Act 78) for FY2027.



**Investing in the resiliency of our working lands businesses supports rural livelihoods, strengthens food security, and ensures strong local economies.**

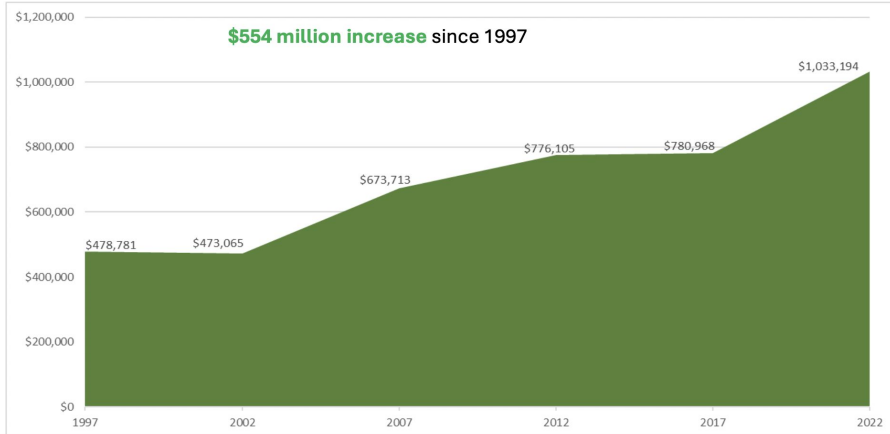
# Total Documented Farm & Forest Sector Losses due to Extreme Weather, 2023-2025: \$94 million



Extreme weather conditions are here to stay. Farmers and loggers need state-based, rapidly available financial support to recover.

# Vermont's farms are a significant economic driver.

**FARM GATE SALES: VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD, 1997-2022 (IN \$1,000)**



**ECONOMICS: TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT, 2022**

Industry	2022 Sales	Industry Aggregate
<b>Production &amp; Processing</b>		
Agriculture	\$1,033,194,000	\$4,321,520,000
Food Manufacturing	\$3,073,866,000	
Beverage Manufacturing	\$214,460,000	
<b>Distribution</b>		
Wholesaling + Distribution	\$3,606,468,000	\$3,606,468,000
<b>Retail &amp; Food Service</b>		
Stores	\$2,214,468,000	\$3,598,468,000
Food Services + Drinking Places	\$1,384,000,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,526,456,000</b>	

**Total farm product sales (2022):**

**\$1,033,194,000**



**Total economic output (2022):**

**\$11,536,456,000**

# Protecting working lands businesses is key to Vermont's climate resiliency.

## Updated Climate Action Plan (2025):

**"Create dedicated climate impact emergency recovery funding for farms and forestry operations** and related infrastructure, support and expand programs to support the adaptive capacity and restoration of farms and forests, and promote insurance for farm and forest landowners and businesses **to ensure that they can equitably and viably recover from climate-induced disasters."**

Source: [Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025](#), see p. 106

# Protecting working lands businesses is key to Vermont's climate resiliency.

## Resilience Implementation Strategy (2025):

"Identify long-term sustainable funding for the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide grants to farms and forestry operations to cover losses resulting from climate disasters."

Source: Resilience Implementation Strategy, Economic and Environmental Sustainability Action 9C



# **State funding is needed to implement Act 78 and support the resiliency of our working lands businesses.**

- Federal funding for farmers in the face of climate change is not responsive nor reliable, and often doesn't meet our region's needs.
- The state has a substantial stake in ensuring the viability of our agriculture and forestry economies.
- Farmers and loggers need a fund that is simple to access, equitably distributed, and predictably and sustainably funded over time. This requires a financial commitment from the state.

**Investing in the resiliency of our working lands businesses supports rural livelihoods, strengthens food security, and ensures strong local economies.**



**Please appropriate \$15.6 million for the Farm & Forestry Operations Security Special Fund in FY2027.**

**Thank you!**

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