

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's 2016 IMPACT REPORT



Photo: Pennie Rand

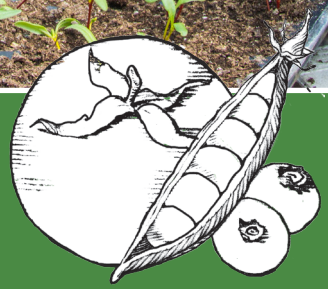


Photo: Grace Butler



Photo: Pennie Rand

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NOFA Vermont is an organization of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system.

>Welcome

We titled our 2016 annual report "Organic Matters" in recognition of our efforts to elevate the critical connection between healthy soil and healthy crops. Thank you for joining us on this mission, for raising your voice to "Keep the Soil in Organic" at the Rally in the Valley in October, and participating in our Winter Conference on "Our Soil, Our Health" in February.

This report outlines the impact of our collective work in 2016 around three strategic areas: 1) Growing the Demand for Organic Food, 2) Growing the Supply of Organic Food, and 3) Raising Our Voice. Since 1971, NOFA-VT has worked to grow a robust local and organic farm and food movement in Vermont. Through achievements like increasing the number of schools with access to local and organic food for Vermont's schoolchildren (growing the demand), the number of farm visits made to provide business and production support to organic farmers (growing the supply), and our work to Keep the Soil in Organic (raising our voice)...you are helping us nurture this movement.

As a membership association, our job is to elevate your voice and the voices of all of our members - whether you are a commercial farmer, gardener or homesteader. We are all eaters and we are all part of NOFA Nation, as I like to think of it, working together to build healthier soils, raise healthier animals, and provide food for all, regardless of income.

Thank you for being an important part of NOFA-VT, and for your contribution to our work, on many levels!



Enid Wonnacott
Executive Director, NOFA Vermont



“

I joined the NOFA-VT board because I support all that NOFA does, and because the farm to school programs and food access programs are instrumental to my farm. NOFA-VT is at the forefront of the organic movement in the northeast and has put Vermont on the map in being a leader in organic agriculture. This helps our farm business because people know more about the benefits of organic food.

Andrew Knafel
NOFA-VT Board Chair



”

→ Growing the demand for organic ←

Growing the demand for organic food in Vermont means *creating relationships* between farmers and eaters, making farmers markets, CSAs, and farmstands *more accessible* to low-income Vermonters, and providing support to institutional buyers to purchase *local & organic foods*.

Below: Students from Jericho Elementary School visit the Davis Farm, an organic dairy farm in Jericho, as part of the Farmer Correspondence Program.



PROGRAM: VT FEED

Developing a farm to school program in every Vermont school is the big picture goal of Vermont Food Education Every Day (VT FEED). In collaboration with our partner, Shelburne Farms, each VT FEED project is rooted in the belief that by reconnecting students and school communities to local agriculture and the food they eat, the diets and eating behaviors of school-aged children will improve and Vermont's agricultural economy will grow.

PROGRAM: Farm to Institution

We are growing the demand for local, regional and organic food by building relationships between farmers and institutions such as schools, colleges, and hospitals. We work to meet purchasing goals, increase collaboration within the local and regional food supply chain, and share promising practices from Vermont with the greater New England region. Developing strong relationships with individuals, businesses and organizations is an important part of building the market and consumer demand for local and organic foods.



Junior Iron Chef VT challenges teams of middle and high school students to create healthy, local dishes that inspire school meal programs. In 2016 there were:

1,200 SPECTATORS
260 STUDENTS
61 TEAMS
43 SCHOOLS
20 JUDGES



PROGRAM:

Farm to Community Mentors

NOFA-VT has 8 regional Farm to Community Mentors who facilitate links between all members of their community—farmers, businesses, gardeners, parents, children—in order to reconnect communities to their local agriculture. The Mentors create community connections through projects such as **Farmer Correspondence** and **Agricultural Literacy Week** (held the 3rd week of November).

FARMER CORRESPONDENCE

(2016-17 school year):

- 55 participating farmers
- 80 participating classrooms
- 9 field trips involving 14 classrooms visiting farms



PROGRAM:

Community Food Access

Our community food security programs support the many farmers and markets we work with who are committed to feeding everyone in their communities. They grow demand for organic food through our **Farm Share Program** which assists limited-income Vermonters in obtaining farm fresh foods by partially subsidizing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares from Vermont farms.

We increase access to local foods at direct markets through supporting use of food benefits at CSAs, farm stands and farmers markets and providing Crop Cash coupons.

CROP CASH

CROP CASH is the double value coupon incentive program that promotes the purchase of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs at farmers markets that accept 3SquaresVT benefits.



Below: Farm to Community Mentors meet at Treleven Farm in Vergennes.



IN 2016, THE FARM SHARE PROGRAM:

provided
210
CSA SHARES



feeding
642
INDIVIDUALS



from
39
DIFFERENT FARMS

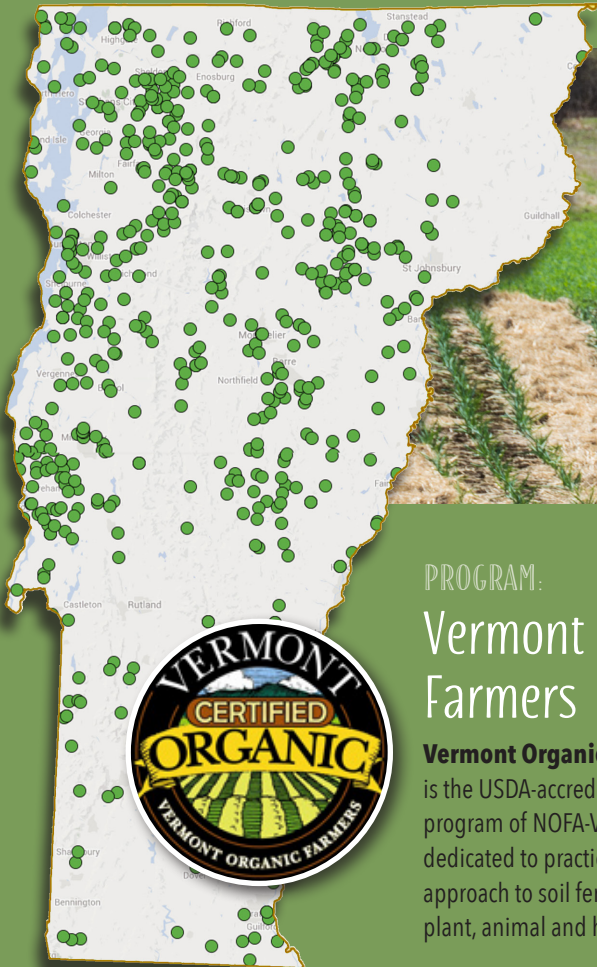


Every Vermonter deserves access to healthy foods.



→ Growing the supply of organic ←

NOFA Vermont works to grow the supply of organic food while maintaining the viability of organic farms. We are growing supply through the Vermont Organic Farmers organic certification program. We also grow the supply by coordinating a team of farm advisors and farmer mentors who work with growers on business, marketing and production plans, and supporting the next generation of organic farmers through our Beginning Farmer programs.



683 Number of certified organic producers in Vermont

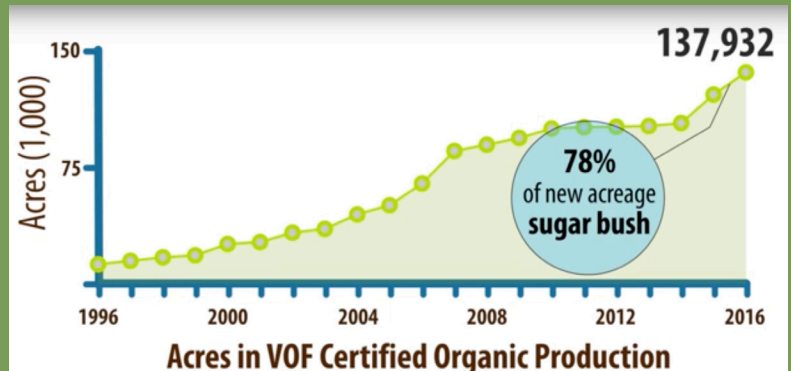
137,932 Acres of certified organic farmland in Vermont

\$271,859,504 Total gross sales of organic products

PROGRAM: Vermont Organic Farmers

Vermont Organic Farmers LLC (VOF) is the USDA-accredited certification program of NOFA-VT. Our producers are dedicated to practices that use a holistic approach to soil fertility, pest control, plant, animal and human health.

VERMONT ORGANIC STATISTICS





Molly Willard

PROGRAM:

Farmer Services

NOFA-VT supports farmers as the foundation of our working lands, local economies and agricultural heritage. We provide on-farm technical assistance and organize educational workshops to grow the supply of organic foods. We foster the ecologically based management of our food supply, while expanding markets for Vermont farms and food businesses.



120
visits to

106

farms for technical
assistance provided
by farm advisors and
farmer mentors in
2016.

PROGRAM:

Beginning Farmers

Our beginning farmer programs grow the supply of organic by growing the next generation of organic farmers.

The **Journey Farmer Program** provides hands-on experience and support for beginning organic farmers as they move into independent farming situations. Each Journey Farmer is paired with a farmer mentor based on their skill sets, interests, and learning goals.

The **Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT)**, a partnership with the Rutland Area Farm & Food Link (RAFFL) and Valley Food & Farm, provides on-farm educational experiences for farm workers throughout the growing season, which include farm tours, workshops, and networking opportunities.



NOFA-VT has impacted our farm business through supportive programs that allowed us to have experienced and successful farmer mentors. These mentors have helped us put financial and field management practices in place leading towards efficiency, economic viability and good agricultural practices.



Molly Willard
Willow Brook Farm



Photo: Pennie Rand

→ Raising our voice for organic ←



NOFA Vermont is committed to advocating for policies that strengthen our food system by supporting *organic farming* practices, improving economic opportunities for farmers, and *expanding access* to local and organic foods for all Vermonters.

PROGRAM:

Advocacy

NOFA Vermont works on state and federal policy issues impacting organic farmers and consumers in Vermont and beyond. A few of our key issues and efforts in 2016 included:

- ✦ "Keep the soil in organic"—a campaign to prohibit hydroponics from organic certification
- ✦ Pushing for strong, meaningful federal GMO labeling rules
- ✦ Giving input on new statewide water quality regulations impacting farms
- ✦ Protecting pollinators by advocating for stronger pesticide regulations in Vermont
- ✦ Participating in the creation of the Organic Farmers Association (OFA), a national advocacy voice for organic farmers

Left: Senator Patrick Leahy and NOFA-VT Director Enid Wonnacott speak for the soil at the Rally in the Valley at Cedar Circle Farm in East Thetford, VT.

☞ NOFA-VT 2016 Outreach Events ☜

- 2/15 34th Annual Winter Conference: "Our Soil, Our Health" (Burlington)
- 3/19 Jr Iron Chef Vermont (Essex Jct.)
- 3/24 Farmers Market Conference (S. Royalton)
- 6/19 Celebrate Your Farmer Pizza Social (Monkton)
- 6/21 Getting Started with Grains (Berlin)
- 6/28 2016 Grain Research Tour (Alburgh)
- 6/29 Farmers Market Displays and Sales Techniques (Danville)
- 7/7 Getting Off the Ground: Small Scale Direct Market (Putney)
- 7/12 Organic High Tunnel Tomatoes at Cedar Circle (E. Thetford)
- 7/13 Organic Wheat Production & Processing (Quebec)
- 7/14 Celebrate Your Farmer Pizza Social (Norwich)
- 7/19 Raspberry & Blueberry Varieties for VT Growers (Charlotte)
- 7/21 Celebrate Your Farmer Pizza Social (Wolcott)
- 7/23 Small Scale Regenerative Ag. & Forest Farming (Bristol)
- 7/27 Farmers Market Displays & Sales Techniques (Middlebury)
- 7/31 Farm to Ballet (Manchester)
- 8/3 Young Farmers Coalition & Pizza Social (Peacham)
- 8/9 Farmer Olympics & Pizza Social (Vershire)
- 8/11 Pollinator Plants and Buffers in the Northeast (Fairfax)
- 8/15 Open Farm Week (Vermont, statewide)
- 8/16 Wholesale & Direct Market Flower Production (Roxbury)
- 8/18 Celebrate Your Farmer Pizza Social (Rupert)
- 8/26 Growing & Caring for Elderberries (Greensboro)
- 8/30 Healthy Brassicas w/ Biocontrols & Rotation (Shaftsbury)
- 9/1 Celebrate Your Farmer Pizza Social (Cambridge)
- 9/9 Baking with Local Grains & Flour (Norwich)
- 9/13 Post-Harvest Process: Wash Station Design (Fairlee)
- 9/15 Farmer Veteran Coalition & Pizza Social (Putney)
- 9/20 Celebrate Your Farmer Pizza Social (Barnard)
- 9/21 Learning Journey to Massachusetts' Farms (Granby, MA)
- 11/14 Agricultural Literacy Week (Vermont, statewide)



Top left: A sign at Sweetland Farm from a Pizza Social in July. Top right: Farm teams compete in the round bale roll race as part of the 2nd Annual Farmer Olympics in Vershire, Vermont. Bottom: Enid Wonnacott introduces Heather Darby, one of the keynote speakers at the 34th Annual Winter Conference, to a full room at UVM's Davis Center.



Looking back at 2016

JAN 25 VOF ANNUAL MEETING

Certified organic farmers & producers meet for a full day of decision-making, information-sharing, and networking.



January

FEB 10 FARM TO SCHOOL AWARENESS DAY

A day long event at the VT statehouse to advocate for and celebrate farm to school programs.



February

MARCH 5 BULK ORDER

Pickup day! Hundreds of farmers & gardeners gather at 5 regional sites to pick up supplies. Income from the bulk sale benefits the Farm to Community Mentor Program.



March

APRIL 1 SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NOFA-VT launches annual member drive, increases supporting members & awareness.



April

MAY 1 CROP CASH

Coupon incentive program for farmers markets kicks off 2nd year, with \$66,603 to support farmers and 3SquaresVT recipients.



May

JUNE 21 ON-FARM WORKSHOPS BEGIN

"Getting started with Grains" was the first of 17 exciting and diverse learning opportunities offered statewide



June

JAN 28 "WHY ORGANIC?" VIDEOS RELEASED

Series of 5 videos released by Vermont Organic Farmers to promote the value of organic farms.



FEB 13 34TH ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

"Our Soil, Our Health": more than 1,000 organic enthusiasts took part in a 3-day weekend of workshops, speakers, exhibitors, food and fun.



MARCH 19 JR IRON CHEF VERMONT

Teams of creative kids from all over the state compete in a timed culinary competition.



MARCH 23 FARMERS MARKET CONFERENCE

An array of learning and networking opportunities for market managers, board members, and organizers.



APRIL 15 NOFA INTERSTATE COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT

Northeast NOFA leaders gathered at Shelburne Farms to discuss base building and membership engagement.



JULY 9 SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS & TEENS

Winooski & St. Johnsbury Farmers Market hosted this new program to provide free lunch for area youth.



July

AUG 15 OPEN FARM WEEK

Hands-on events throughout the state of Vermont, promoting agri-tourism. A partnership with DiginVT and Farm to Plate.



August

AUG 15 NOFA SUMMER CONFERENCE

NOFAvores from all over the Northeast gathered for a 3 day conference in Massachusetts.



September

OCT 6 SHARE THE HARVEST

More than 65 businesses participated and donated a percentage of the days' profits for our Farm Share Program.



October

NOV 3 FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Advocates for farm to school work gathered together in Fairlee to learn and share ideas.



November

DEC 31 ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to our supporters! The 2016 year-end appeal raised \$ 61,875 from 257 donors to support our programs!



December

AUG 9 2ND ANNUAL FARMER OLYMPICS

12 farm teams competed for glory at Shire Beef in Vershire.



SEP 30 MOBILE PIZZA OVEN

In July, August, and September, the oven travelled to 54 events across the state, and baked up 2,949 pizzas!



OCT 30 RALLY IN THE VALLEY

250+ farmers, politicians, and activists attended this event to send the message to the National Organic Standards Board to "Keep the Soil in Organic".



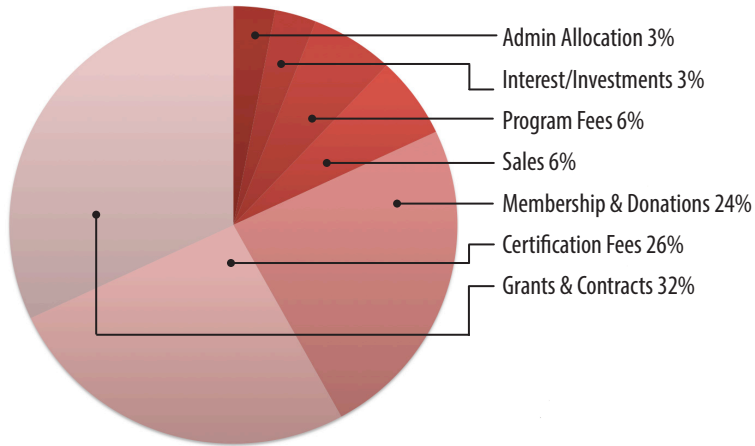
NOV 14 AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

More than 40 events around the state, led by NOFA-VT Farm to Community Mentors, raised awareness about our agricultural heritage.



2016 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

SOURCES OF INCOME



Income: \$2,564,080

Expense: \$2,081,582

Expenses by Category

Administration	\$170,217
Fundraising	\$30,887
Membership Services	\$35,999
Programs (see chart at left)	\$1,844,479

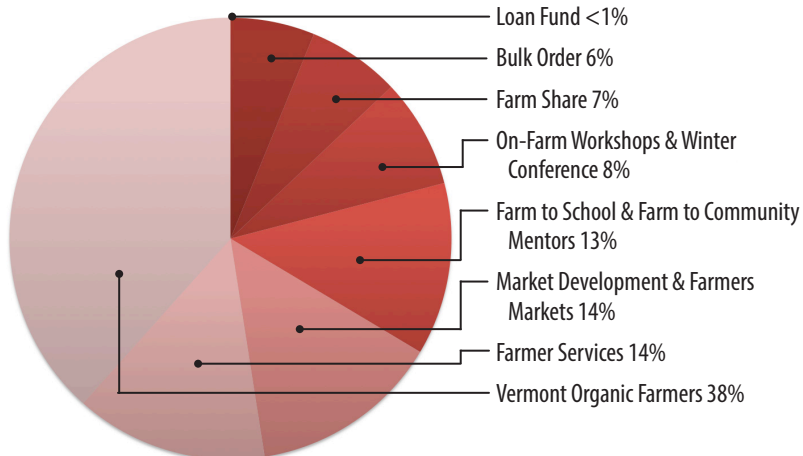
Key Cash & Investments

Beginning 2016: \$2,574,883

Ending 2016: \$2,688,191

These are unaudited numbers. A copy of NOFA's 990 tax form is available upon request.

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ORGANIC!

NOFA Vermont would like to thank our many members and donors: all the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have supported us through their generous donations between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016.

Members & Donors

Members are noted with "*" . Other donors have supported NOFA's annual appeal and/or Farm Share program.

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Sue Aikman*
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 VPIRG, Organic Consumer Fund

Albert Lea Seed
 American Flatbread Middlebury Hearth
 American Flatbread-Waitsfield
 Arvard's Grill
 Blue Benn Diner
 Brattleboro Food Co-op
 Brotbakery
 Buffalo Mountain Food Co-op
 Capitol Grounds Coffee
 Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center
 Champlain Valley Compost
 Chelsea Green Publishing
 Citizen Cider
 City Market
 Clean Yield Asset Management
 Colatina Exit
 Co-operative Insurance Companies
 Courtyard Middlebury Marriott Bistro
 Deep Root Organic Cooperative
 Drew's LLC
 El Cortijo Taqueria
 Farmer Veteran Coalition of Vermont
 Farmhouse Tap & Grill
 Fedco Seeds
 Fire and Ice Restaurant
 Foothill's Bakery
 Frazer Insurance
 Gardener's Supply Company
 Good Times Café
 Green Mountain College
 Green Mountain Feeds
 Green Mountain Power
 Green Peppers Restaurant
 Gringo Jack's
 Grower's Discount Labels
 Guild Tavern
 Harvest Market
 Hatchet
 Hen of the Wood
 High Mowing Organic Seeds
 Hotel Vermont
 Hunger Mountain Coop
 Johnny's Selected Seeds
 King Arthur Flour
 Lake View House Restaurant
 Leonardo's Pizza
 Leunig's Bistro
 Local Buzz
 Main Street Landing
 Meadows Bee Farm
 Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op
 Morrison's Custom Feeds

Mulligans of Manchester
 Natural Provisions Market
 Neighboring Food Co-op Association
 New Chapter
 New Morning Natural Foods
 North Country Organics
 Nourse Farms Inc
 Organic Valley
 Otter Creek Bakery
 Pascolo
 Penny Cluse Café
 People's United Bank
 Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs
 Pete's Greens Waterbury Farm Market
 Plainfield Food Co-op
 Prohibition Pig
 Putney Food Co-op
 Red Hen Baking Company
 Red Mill Restaurant at Basin Harbor Club
 Rural Vermont
 Sarducci's
 Shelburne Farms
 Skinny Pancake - Burlington
 Skinny Pancake - Montpelier
 Skunk Hollow Tavern
 South Royalton Market
 Springfield Food Coop
 Stone Leaf Teahouse
 Stonyfield Farm
 Sweet Clover Market
 Sweet Simone's
 Switchback Beerworks
 Taproot Magazine
 The Farmhouse Group
 The Fertrell Company
 The Inn at Shelburne Farms
 Toscano Café/Bistro
 Trattoria Delia
 University of Vermont Food Systems
 Upper Valley Food Co-op
 UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
 Vermont Bread Company
 Vermont Coffee Company
 Vermont Community Garden Network
 Vermont Compost Company
 Vermont Farm Bureau
 Vermont Soap
 Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
 VHCB Farm & Forest Viability Program
 VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
 Waybury Inn
 Wellscroft Fence Systems, LLC

West Hill Energy & Computing, Inc.
 Wood Meadow Market
 Woodstock Farmers' Market
 Yankee Farm Credit, ACA

Intervale Community Farm
 Intervale Food Hub
 Kimball Brook Farm
 King Arthur
 Lake Champlain Chocolates
 MMCTV-15
 O Bread Bakery
 Olivia's Croutons
 Organic Valley
 Pete & Gerry's Organic Eggs
 Pete's Greens
 Plymouth Artisan Cheese
 Real Pickles
 Red Hen Baking Co.
 Shelburne Farms
 Shire Beef
 Skinny Pancake/Have Your Cake Catering
 Sodexo
 Stonewood Farm
 Stonyfield Farm
 Strafford Organic Creamery
 Sugar Snap
 Trader Joes
 Vermont Coffee Company
 Vermont Law School
 Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
 West Lebanon Feed & Supply

Legacy Gift

Sarah Crocker Trust

Gifts In-Kind

April Cornell
 Aqua Vitea
 Boyden Farm
 Burnt Rock Farm
 Butterworks Farm
 Cabot Creamery Cooperative
 Champlain Orchards
 Clearbrook Farm
 Dancing Bee Gardens
 Diggers Mirth Farm
 Drew's All Natural
 Equal Exchange
 First Step Print Shop
 Flack Family Farm
 Gildrien Farm
 High Mowing Organic Seeds
 Hotel Vermont

Interested in making a charitable contribution to NOFA-VT?

If you'd like information about making a planned gift which will support our work, please contact Executive Director Enid Wonnacott at (802) 434-4122 x 17 or enid@nofavt.org. Your gift will support your vision of a future of thriving organic farms, healthy food for all, and strong communities.



We have made every effort to properly recognize all of our donors and supporters, but we know there may be mistakes. We apologize for any errors, and hope you will contact us at (802) 434-4122 to let us know!

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Members are the *heart* of NOFA VERMONT!

When you join us, you'll experience the profound satisfaction of supporting local, organic agriculture in Vermont by connecting with the farmers, gardeners, and local food lovers in your community to build a sustainable food system.



Artist Bonnie Acker with her team of young artists at the Children's Conference.
(Photo: Becca Weiss)

Join today: www.nofavt.org/join

I was inspired to become a member, twenty years ago, because NOFA has a remarkable inclusiveness where everyone—farmers and gardeners and consumers—is equally important. This is an outstanding strength, the belief that everyone has a 'place at the table for honoring farmers.' I love being a NOFA member!

Bonnie Acker, Artist/Activist, Burlington, VT

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