



## NOFA-VT is requesting \$500,000 in base funding to Strengthen Vermont Farm Viability and Address Food Security by sustaining two proven programs: Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share

### Crop Cash

- Doubles 3SquaresVT (SNAP) benefits for **fruits and vegetables** purchased at Vermont farmers markets. The program is federally funded, but a local match is required. State funds will allow us to continue to meet increased demand and draw down as much federal funding as possible.

### Crop Cash Plus

- Crop Cash Plus, a 2023 pilot, expanded Crop Cash to **all SNAP-eligible foods**<sup>1</sup> and extended the program's impact to all agricultural vendors. During the 2023 season, **Crop Cash Plus brought over \$200,000 in additional revenue to Vermont farmers, and supported low-income Vermonters.**
- In 2024, Crop Cash Plus was not funded, but we have an opportunity to bring it back for the 2025 season. **State funding is needed so that hundreds more farmers will benefit, and thousands of low-income Vermonters can purchase more local, fresh food.**

### Farm Share

- The Farm Share Program has subsidized CSA shares<sup>2</sup> for limited-income Vermonters for 30 years. The Farm Share Program pays for 25-75% of the CSA cost. **State funding would allow us to support up to 700 families in purchasing a consistent supply of locally grown food.**

<sup>1</sup> SNAP-eligible foods include most foods intended for human consumption, excluding hot prepared meals, tobacco, and alcohol.

<sup>2</sup> CSA (also known as Community Supported Agriculture) is a sales model that connects people directly with farmers. When you sign up for a CSA at a farm, you pay in advance for a portion (or "share") of the farm's upcoming harvest, and receive a weekly box of food all season.

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

**State funding is necessary to continue leveraging federal and philanthropic dollars.** The State of Vermont can make policy choices that will ensure food security for everyone who lives here, while ensuring our farmers can profit from growing the food we all need. Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share are key to Vermont's food security and a viable agricultural sector.



**“Funding for these programs helps to support a world we all deserve to live in: one where everyone knows the joy of a fresh picked tomato on a summer day, where everyone has equitable access to nourishing food, and where we support essential farmers and food producers.”**

**- Barre resident**



**“We are missing the Crop Cash Plus Program! It was such a huge boost for people to access fresh local nutrient dense proteins like meat and eggs that they can't get otherwise.”**

**-Justin Bramhall and Vanessa Rose of Leaping Bear Farm**



**“These programs have made a tremendous difference in supporting low-income households and supporting local farms. **Most farmers are low-income people and can't afford to keep food prices low while still paying our staff and our bills.** These programs help fill the gap between what we need to charge and what low-income households can afford to pay.”**

**- Elizabeth Wood, New Leaf CSA, Dummerston**

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