



USDA BFRDP Grant Overview

The Vermont New Farmer Network

January 2012

In 2011, the Vermont New Farmer Network was awarded a 3-year USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant to build a coordinated program of education, technical assistance, coaching and mentoring for beginning farmers throughout Vermont and the adjoining region. Our goal is to increase the number of farmers owning and operating profitable small and medium-sized farms. *Our primary target will be beginning farmers currently reporting less than \$50K in sales who want to scale up to meet a threshold of earning at least 51% of their income from the farm.* Our approach will offer a balanced menu of program opportunities that will accelerate aspiring farmers' progress from start-up to operating a profitable, sustainable business.

Building on over a decade of service delivery and inter-organizational collaboration, VNFN will pilot an innovative coaching model that meets the individualized needs of new farmers while maximizing the efficiency of service providers. This model ensures each farmer has a personalized business development plan that helps him/her obtain the services s/he most needs at the point that those services will be most effective. This coaching will be paired with a variety of training and education opportunities including classes, workshops, apprenticeships, and individualized technical assistance.

VNFN Partnering Organizations:

- Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV)
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)
- Valley Farm & Food Network of Vital Communities
- Rutland Area Farm & Food Link (RAFFL)
- Intervale Center
- UVM Extension New Farmer Project
- Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN)

Program Features:

- Personalized Business Development Plan
- Online New Farmer Coach (UVM Ext)
- Regional New Farmer Coaches
- Advanced Apprenticeship & Mentoring (NOFA-VT)
- Success on Farms for Start-Up Farms (Intervale)
- New Farmer Web Hub-- online resources and links to regional organizations (UVM Ext)
- Business & Marketing Classes
- Legal & Financial Consulting
- Updated Legal Guide to the Business of Farming in Vermont

For more information: www.uvm.edu/newfarmer, newfarmer@uvm.edu, or 802-223-2389 x203

University of Vermont Extension and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

