

Title: Exploring partnerships in Vermont's livestock industry to address barriers of processing and marketing of meat products

Abstract:

Demand for sustainably produced meat in Vermont has been growing steadily over the past several years. With increasing demand, there is great opportunity for increasing sustainable, pasture-based livestock production. Pasture-based livestock production also has many non-economic benefits to producers, consumers and the environment that can provide further incentive for this type of production. However previous research shows that most livestock production in Vermont is facing several barriers limiting this potential growth. The barrier most often cited, and this project will directly explore, involves access to adequate processing and in order to overcome this barrier in a complex system, it needs to be understood in greater detail. Therefore this research project will conduct a value-chain analysis, specifically detailing the partnerships between producers and processors to identify characteristics of strong strategic partnerships.