



University of Vermont

Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – December 3, 2025

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<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

JOIN THE VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWER ASSOCIATION FOR 2026

Go to <https://vvbga.org/> to renew your membership or to become a new member. Farm membership is for farms or individuals that grow vegetables, berries, and other horticultural crops. Commercial membership is for businesses and organizations that provide products and services to farmers. Dues are \$75 per farm. If this payment poses a financial hardship, you may select a reduced rate, no questions asked. Commercial member dues start at \$125.

Member benefits include:

- Access to the VVBGA listserv to buy/sell plants and equipment, share farming information, and tap the vast experience of our growers.
- Access to the Community Accreditation for Produce Safety (CAPS) program designed to help you write and implement a useful plan to meet food safety expectations.
- Access to the Pollinator Support Planning Tool, a template to describe and document best practices for taking care of pollinators on your farm.
- Access to the Pick-Your-Own market listing, which allows you to quickly share, and update, information to the public about PYO crops and availability.
- Access to the Soil Health Platform, where you can organize all your soil tests, and create or store your soil amendment plans and records.

VVBGA ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026

Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

Join us for a day of education, conversation and good food! Presentations include: Farmers in their Fields, Growing, Packaging, and Selling Vegetables the Italian Way, Innovative Tools for Efficiency on a Diversified Farm, Produce Marketing in Quebec, Financial Benchmarking for Decision Making on Produce Farms, Update on the H2-A Program, Adventures with Undersown Cover Crops, A Decade of New Ownership at an Established Blueberry Farm, Four Decades of Multiple Farm Enterprises that All Need Heated Bench Space, Our Evolving Strawberry Production Practices, Insects and Diseases to Look Out For in 2026.

The trade show will include 40+ exhibitors. To see program details please go to

<https://go.uvm.edu/annualmeeting2026>

Meeting tickets cost \$65 per person, including lunch. You have the option to pay online or mail a check after registering. The deadline to register online is January 16. Full refunds for the meeting are available prior to January 10; no refunds after that date. At-the-door registration will be \$85 per person, cash or check only. To register, go to <https://vvbga.org/>

Overnight lodging is available at Lake Morey Resort for \$161 or \$168 (deluxe) per room. To make your reservation call 802-333-4311 ext. 1 and reference the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Annual Meeting or go to lakemoreyresort.com and enter the group code VEGBERRY. To request disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact vvbga@uvm.edu by January 3, 2026. Questions? Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension, 802-656-7534, or vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VEGETABLE AND FRUIT FARMS

Thinking about grants for upcoming projects on the farm? Please reach out if you want to talk through ideas! Julie Callahan- help with any type of funding for your farm- Julie.callahan@uvm.edu; Rachel Stievater- help understanding and accessing NRCS programs- Rachel.Stievater@uvm.edu

A regularly updated list of funding opportunities for Vermont vegetable and fruit farms at:
<https://go.uvm.edu/vegfundlist>

Vermont grant programs currently accepting applications:

NOFA VT Farmer Resilience Grants- Opens December 1

<https://www.nofavt.org/services-resources/farmers/funding-opportunities/farmer-resilience-grants>

Vermont Family Farmer of the Month Award- Opens in December for March- June awards

<https://www.vermontfamilyfarmeraward.org/>

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board Water Quality Grant- Due January 9

<https://vhcb.org/farm-forest-viability/viability-grants/>

Vermont Working Lands Advanced Wood Heating Initiative- first come, first served

Please contact Molly Willard at molly.willard@vermont.gov or 802-261-1681 for questions and to request a grant application.