

Opportunities and Obstacles in Accessing Local Markets for Small and Medium-Scale Livestock Producers in Vermont

Demand for locally produced meat in Vermont has been growing steadily over the past several years. However, most livestock farmers in Vermont operate on a small scale thereby limiting their ability to adequately supply larger-scale markets. This study will look at other distribution methods and studies conducted across the United States to identify key lessons and strategies moving forward. In addition to learning from past projects we will work closely with farmer focus groups to further explore the obstacles and potentials of Vermont producers to develop methods of distribution to larger-scale outlets. With this information we plan to design cooperative mechanisms of partnerships between farmers and other supply chain actors while maintaining the identity and value of the products and the farmers. The mechanisms developed will ideally be transferable so as to be used in other scales or agricultural sectors.