

VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Mad River Food Hub and Vermont Food Venture Center

Hardwick and Waitsfield, VT



The Mad River Food Hub is a fully equipped, licensed vegetable and USDA inspected meat processing facility located in Waitsfield, Vermont. Each processing room is available for rent by the day, the facility also offers dry, refrigerated and frozen storage as well as weekly distribution services to retail markets throughout the Mad River Valley, Waterbury, Montpelier, and Burlington. The experienced staff on site can also provide valuable business planning assistance, HACCP plan development, and access to a vast network of other food enterprises. The facility is uniquely designed for the small scale food producer who needs a licensed facility at an affordable rate, allowing them to grow their business, one step at a time.



The Equipment Access Program is designed to provide equipment access and financing solutions for small and emerging Vermont based value added food businesses, as they address the critical growth stages of their business. This program is built to combine the food equipment expertise and food business incubation at Vermont's two food hub processing facilities, with finance expertise from the Vermont Community Loan Fund. Value-added food processors dedicated to using local products, and growing at the food hub facilities, will have accelerated access to equipment via flexible lease arrangements which will increase their product quantity, quality and consistency through a match of appropriately scaled equipment and payment terms. The outcome of earlier access to equipment will be to accelerate jobs creation and food production. In the first 18 months of the EAP at least 23 Vermont businesses will benefit.

Total Working Lands Grant—\$50,000.00

Total Match provided by Mad River Food Hub and VFVC—\$150,000.00