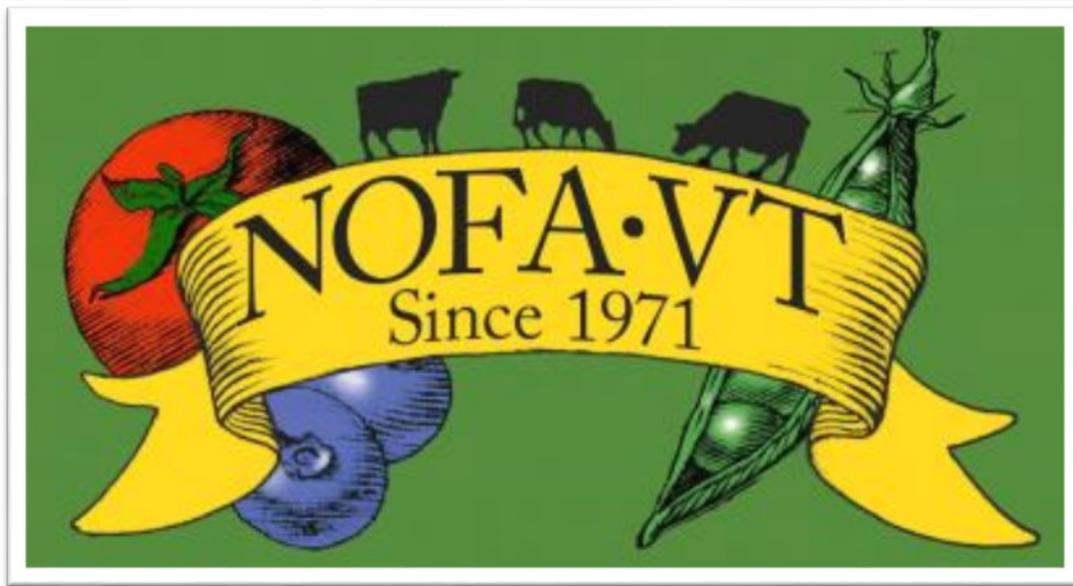


Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont



With this funding, NOFA-VT will: 1) Develop educational programming to reach potential organic dairy farmers (conventional, Jr Gen, and new farmers) to inform them of the current market opportunities and organic practices.; 2) Consolidate industry data and needs to inform a newly created organic dairy stakeholders group that will include lenders, government agencies, land trusts, educational institutions, milk buyers, and other services providers and industry stakeholders,; and 3) Strengthen the direct services offered to recently transitioned dairies to help them implement management strategies and address production challenges. Organic dairy has proven to be a key agricultural industry in the state keeping family farms viable and working lands working. Currently 77,300 acres of pasture, hay and feed are managed organically in Vermont, with expected gross sales of \$54 million in 2015. This project will help to grow this industry, by supporting successful organic farm transitions at this critical time.

Total Working Lands Grant—\$27,222 for strengthening and growing the Vermont organic dairy industry