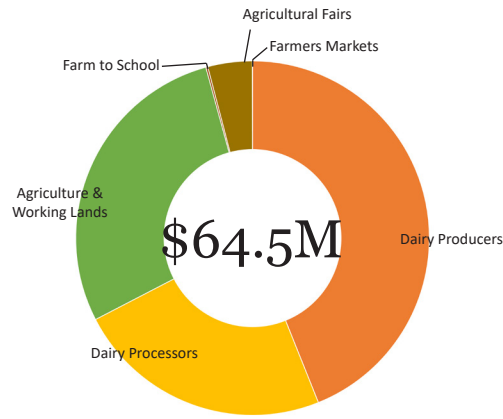


# Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program Application Summary

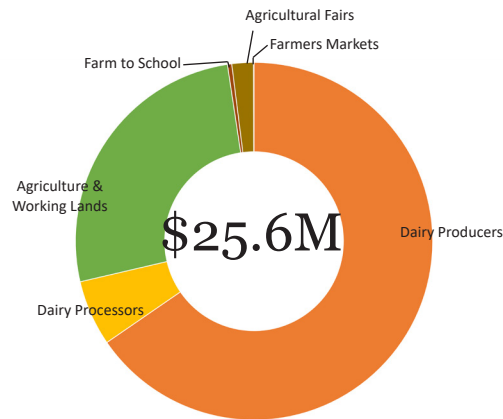
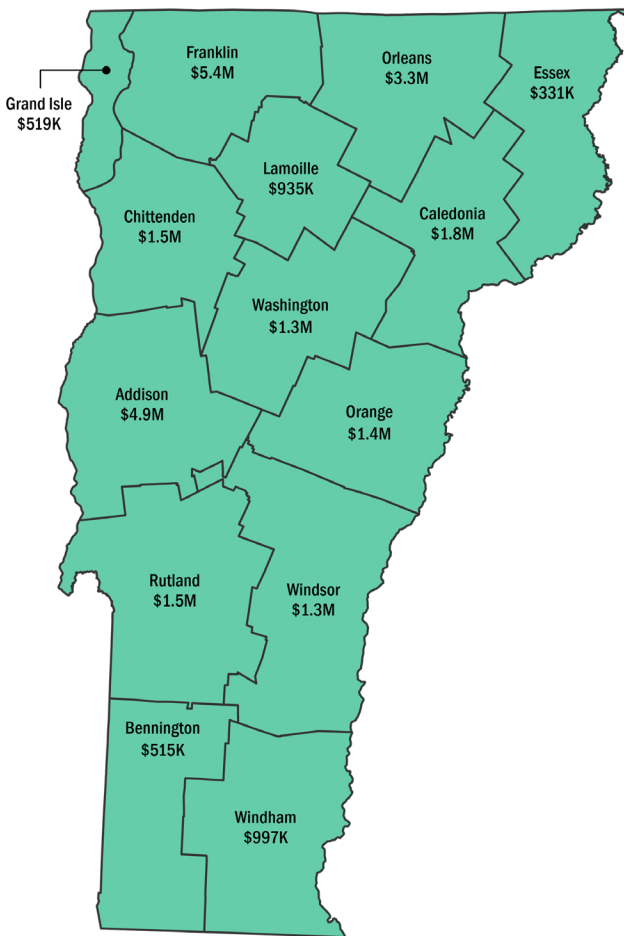
The Vermont State Legislature appropriated Coronavirus Relief Funds for the Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program (VCAAP) in Act 138 (S.351), Act 137 (H. 966), Act 120 (H.961), and Act 154 (H.969). The purpose of these grants was to stabilize agricultural businesses and organizations based on their lost revenues and expenses related to business interruption caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets awarded VCAAP grants to eligible farmers, meat and poultry processors, commercial slaughterhouses, farmers' markets, value-added food product businesses, forest products businesses, producer associations, dairy producers and processors, agricultural fairs, schools and registered or licensed child care providers. Each grant program had maximum funding amounts based on farm size, processor capacity, or business revenues.



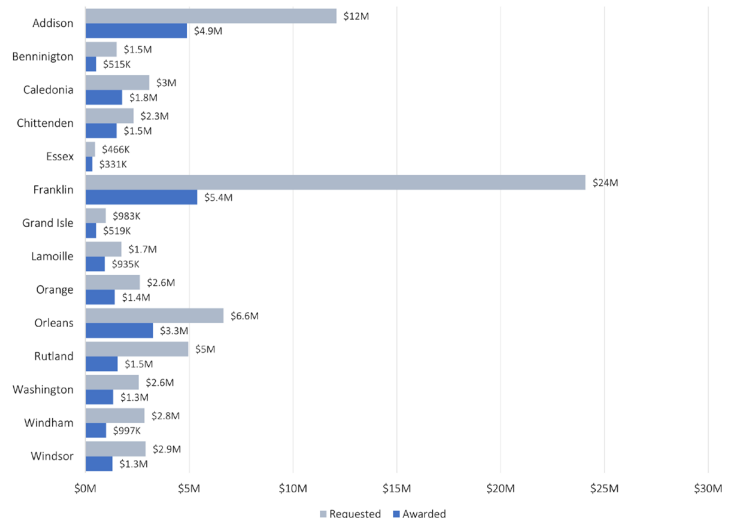
Total Amount Requested

Total Amount Awarded by County



Total Amount Awarded

Requested and Awarded by County



# Dairy Producers and Processors Application Summary

## 793 Awards for \$18.3M

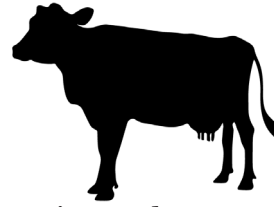
The Dairy Producer and Processor Application was launched on July 17, 2020, closed on October 1, and then relaunched on October 19, with legislative changes, and officially closed again on November 15, 2020.

Milk producers, if qualified, were eligible for two grants up to the following maximum amounts:

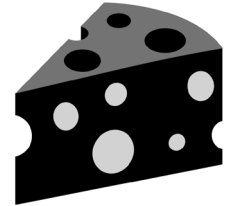
- Small farms shall receive up to \$18,300
- Certified small farms shall receive up to \$34,300
- Medium farms shall receive up to \$56,000
- Large farms shall receive up to \$100,000

Dairy processors, if qualified, were eligible for two grants up to the following maximum amounts. Dairy processors that process:

- Less than 500 lbs. of milk per day shall receive up to \$31,000
- From 500 - 9,999 lbs. of milk per day shall receive up to \$40,000
- From 10,000 - 49,999 lbs. of milk per day shall receive up to \$50,000
- 50,000 lbs. or more of milk per day shall receive up to \$60,000



731 Dairy Producer Awards  
47% at Cap

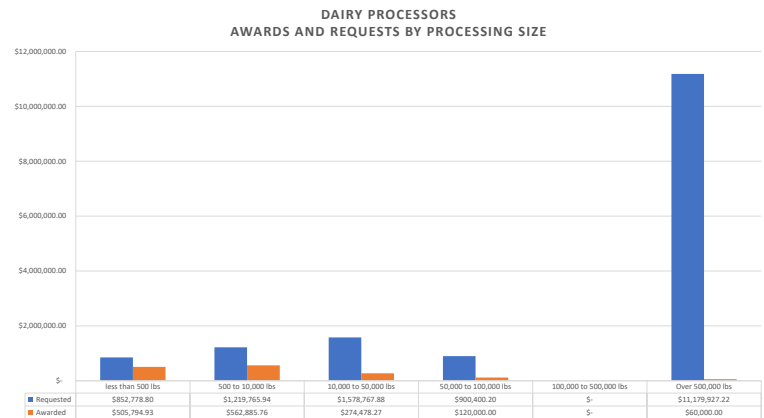
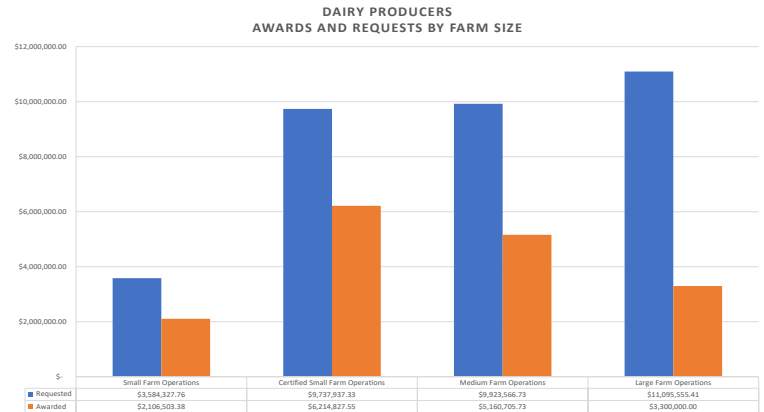


62 Dairy Processor Awards  
53% at Cap

73% of Vermont  
Dairy Producers  
and Processors were  
Awarded



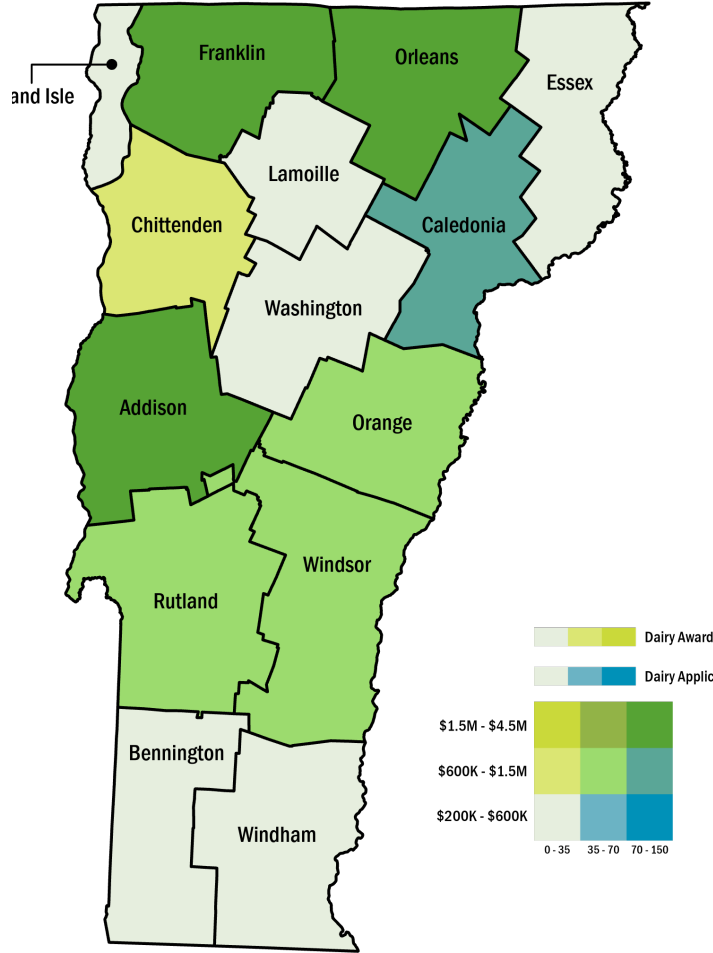
Average Days from  
Submitted to Awarded



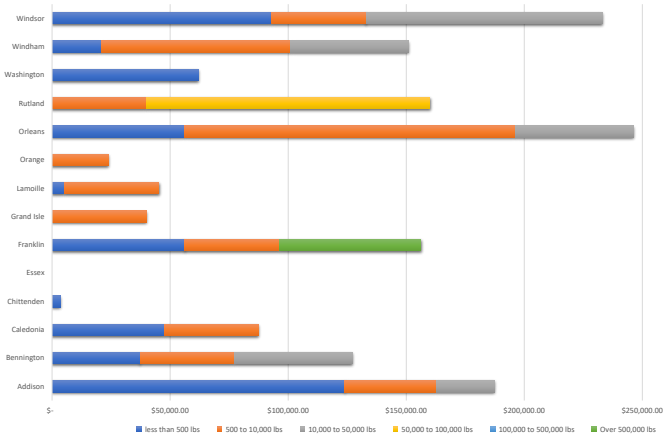
“ These grants are what is keeping our small business open in these trying times during the pandemic. ”

# Dairy Producers and Processors Application Summary Continued

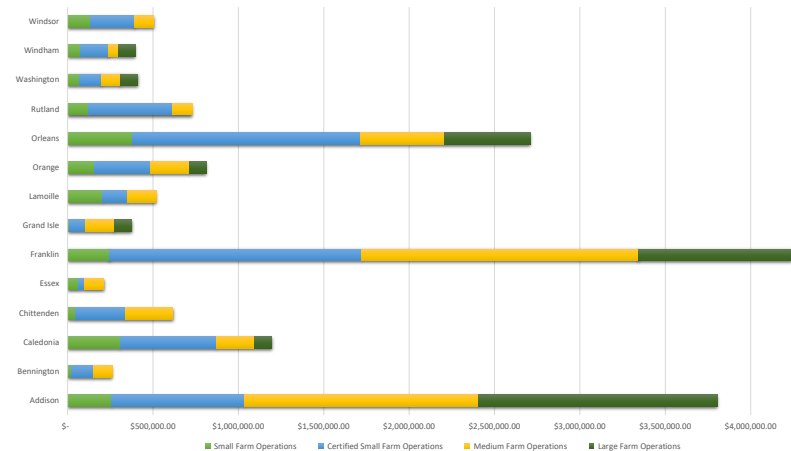
## Dairy Awards Applications per County



### DAIRY PROCESSORS AWARDS BY COUNTY AND PROCESSING SIZE



### DAIRY PRODUCERS AWARDS BY COUNTY AND FARM SIZE



# Agriculture and Working Lands Application Summary

## 302 Awards for \$6.7M

The Agriculture and Working Lands Assistance Application launched on Wednesday August 19, 2020, closed on October 1, and then relaunched on October 19, with legislatively initiated eligibility changes, and closed officially on November 15, 2020. On November 18, 2020, AAFM requested a transfer of \$2M from Dairy (S. 351) to Agriculture and Working Lands appropriation (H.961) due to increased demand in this program.

Agriculture and Working Lands Applications, if qualified, were eligible for one grant up to the maximum amounts. Applicants with 2019 annual gross sales of:

- \$10,000 - \$24,999 shall receive up to \$2,500
- \$25,000 - \$49,999 shall receive up to \$5,000
- \$50,000 - \$99,999 shall receive up to \$10,000
- \$100,000 or more shall receive up to \$20,000
- \$250,000 or more shall receive up to \$50,000



Average Days from Submitted to Awarded



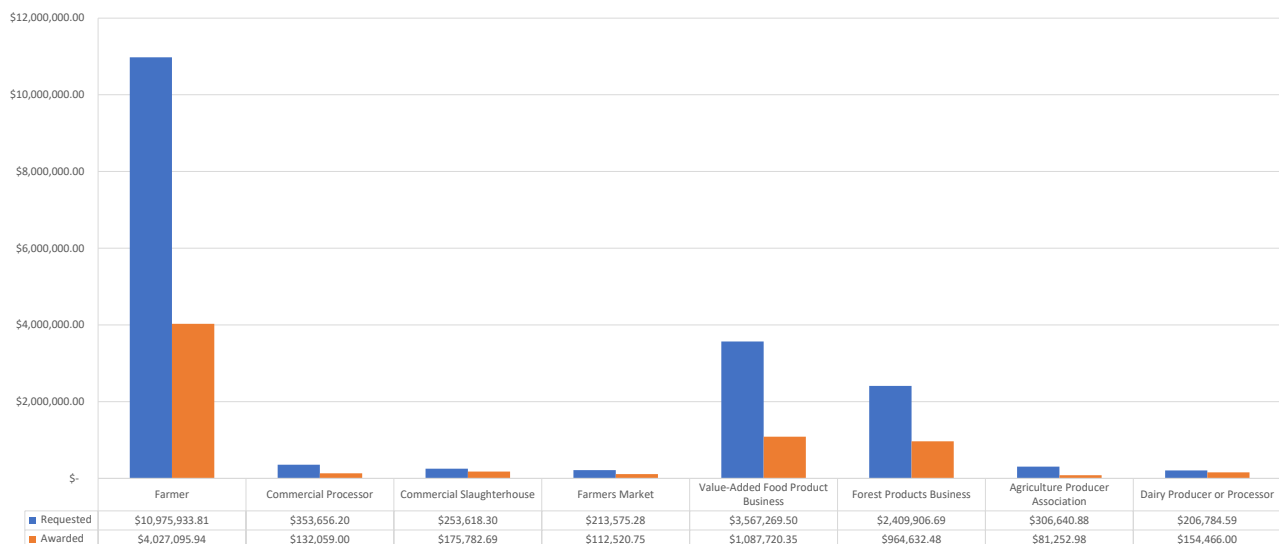
302 Awards  
71% at Cap

To be eligible for Agriculture and Working Lands Assistance, an applicant must demonstrate that their business is one of the following categories with annual gross sales exceeding \$10,000:

- A farmer
- Commercial processor
- Commercial slaughterhouse
- Farmers' market
- A value-added food product business
- A forest products business
- A dairy producer or processor
- An agriculture producer association

“The VCAAP grant was a huge help to us. Help with filling out the application was always a phone call away. We are very grateful for our grant.”

AGRICULTURE & WORKING LANDS  
AWARDS AND REQUESTS BY BUSINESS CATEGORY





## Farm to School

### 22 Awards for \$100,000

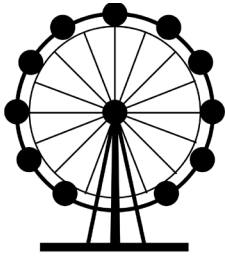
The passage of Act 154 (H.969) allocated \$100,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Farm to School Program to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program (VCAAP) Farm to School Application reimbursed schools and registered or licensed child care providers for equipment and supply purchases that were necessitated by the COVID-19 global health pandemic and help support farm to school program goals.



## Agricultural Fairs

### 12 Awards for \$500,000

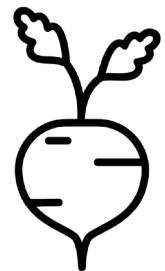
The Vermont State Legislature appropriated funding in Coronavirus Relief Funds for the purpose of awarding grants to Vermont's agricultural fairs that have suffered lost revenues or expenses caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Governor Scott signed this legislation, Act 138, on July 2, 2020. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFMM) awarded funds to agricultural fairs that are registered with VAAFMM and have experienced income loss, additional expenses, and event disruption.



## Farmers Markets

### 7 Awards for \$12,643

The Vermont COVID-19 Agriculture Assistance Program (VCAAP) Farmers' Markets Relief Application was created to alleviate the economic hardship suffered by small and medium-sized farmers' markets due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This application was open to farmers' markets with less than \$10,000 in annual gross sales. Farmers' markets with annual gross sales of more than \$10,000 could apply for assistance under the Agriculture and Working Lands Application.



# Customer Experience Survey Summary

VAAFM sent 1,241 survey invitations to VCAAP grantees, applicants, those who started an application but did not apply, and service providers who assisted applicants. 409 individuals responded.

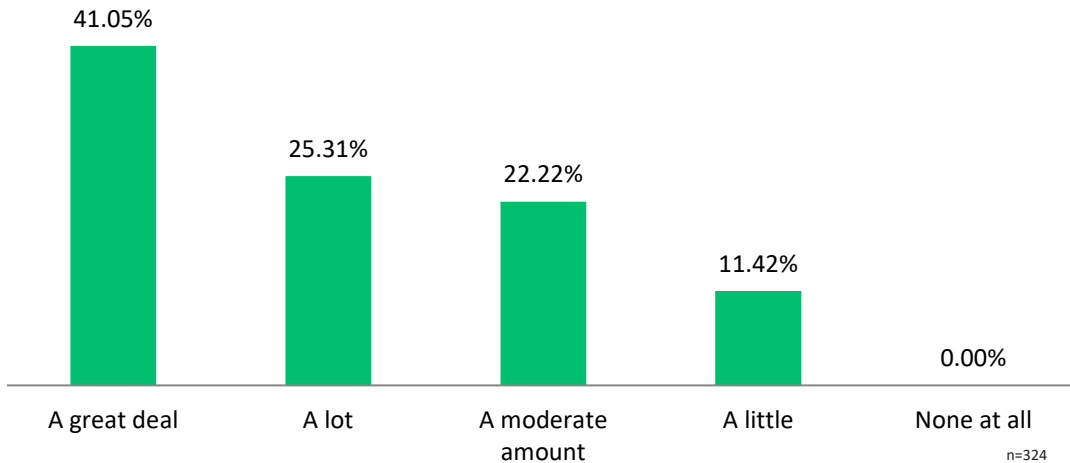
**60%**  
of respondents  
received help with their  
applications

n=388

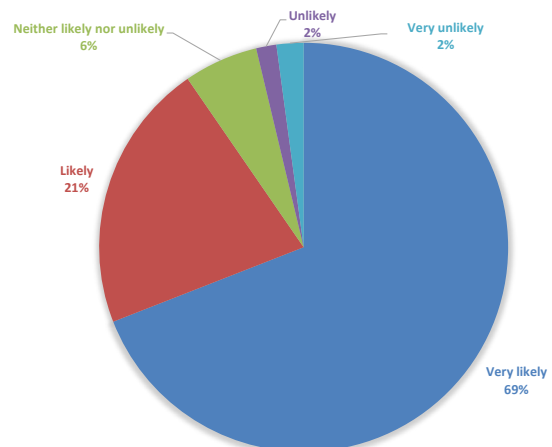
**86%**  
of respondents reported  
they received the  
application help they  
needed

n=388

How much did receiving a VCAAP grant help to stabilize your business or organization?



Would you be likely to apply for a similar grant in the future?



“

*I never expected to receive a grant of the size I did receive and am so very grateful. It will help replace so many losses in 2020 and it also allowing me to increase salaries for all my deserving staff members.*

”