

# Working Lands Enterprise Fund

## PRODUCER ASSOCIATION GRANTS

### FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Working Lands Enterprise Fund (WLEF) supports, grows, and sustains Vermont's entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance to the agricultural and forestry industries to allow them to innovate and grow.

In FY22, the Vermont State Legislature and Governor Scott appropriated \$5.3 million to WLEF. Of these funds, \$500,000 was allocated for grants related to slaughter, meat processing, and meat processing training proposals. With these funds, WLEF investments have been able to:

- focus on priority sectors, including grant opportunities for meat slaughter & processing and producer associations.
- scale up impact investments to focus on value-added agriculture and secondary grade wood and forest-based products.
- improve business viability by funding equipment automation, local sourcing and supply chain connections, and energy transformation.

#### FY22 AWARDED FUNDS BY PROJECT FOCUS



#### PRODUCER ASSOCIATION GRANTS

Awards between \$10,000 - \$20,000 have been granted to Vermont-based producer association groups that represent and promote Vermont agriculture, food, beverage, forest, or fiber products projects that benefit:

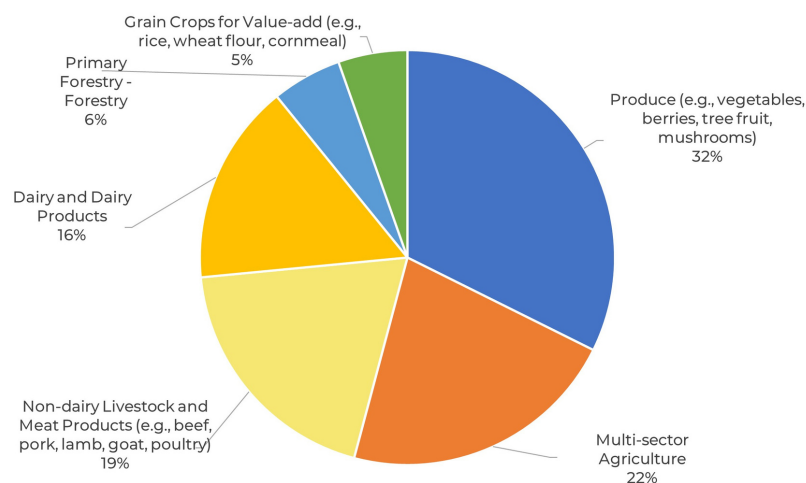
- Market development, marketing plans, and/or sales strategy
- Organizational research and development
- Leadership development
- Governance development, such as board training or strategic planning

#### FY22 FUNDED PROJECTS

FY22 awarded projects will support a range of associations, representing farmer watershed alliances, organic producers, livestock, farm bureaus, and forestry groups.

- 100% of applications funded
- \$635,706 contributed in matching funds

#### FY22 GRANTEE SECTORS REPRESENTED



**\$183,604**

Funds Requested  
From 11 Producer  
Associations

**11**

Applicants

**11**

Projects Funded

**\$183,604**

Investments Awarded  
for FY22 Producer  
Association Grants