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Upper Valley Shared Food & Farm Facility

In 2017, Vital Communities began convening discussions about the need for and feasibility of a physical food hub in the Upper Valley. An Upper Valley food hub might contain many components, ranging from storage, aggregation, distribution, value-added processing, year-round retail sales venue, commercial kitchen, community space, or more.

With funding from a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Partnership Grant, we have been working with farmers and others to investigate the priorities and feasibility of various food hub ideas. Many valuable conversations and connections have happened during this project and we keep the ball rolling with funds from the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative.

Would your farm-based business, or the Upper Valley, benefit from a shared facility? What type of shared facility would help your business grow? Would you support a year-round farmers' market? Would you use aggregation and distribution facilities? Are you interested in a farmer cooperative?

We will be convening steering committees to aid in this process as we prepare for feasibility studies and more stakeholder and community gatherings in the fall and winter of 2018-2019.

Please share your ideas, needs, suggestions, etc. via phone (802.291.9100 x106) or email Nancy@VitalCommunities.org

Community Input

MEETING NOTES

BIGGEST CHALLENGES

PRIORITIZATION OF USES

Resources

Area processors/kitchens/etc.

- Genuine Local, Meredith, NH. A purpose-built specialty food production facility.
- Vermont Food Venture Center, Hardwick, VT.
- Mad River Food Hub, Waitsfield, VT
- Kearsarge Food Hub, Bradford, NH
- Coolidge Hotel, White River Junction, VT

Vermont/New Hampshire Aggregators

- Food Connects
- Farm Fresh Connect
- Food Connex
- Green Mountain Farm Direct

Case Studies, Feasibility Studies, etc.

- Farm to Institution New England - case studies, including 7 great reports on New England food hubs.
- Monadnock Food Infrastructure Report

For Inspiration

- Northbound Ventures, Summerville, MA. Project consultant for food system facilities around New England. Lots of interesting project to read about.
- Intervale Center, Burlington, VT
- Unity Food Hub, Unity, ME

Other

Upper Valley inventory of commercially licensed kitchens collected by Vital Communities... Coming soon.

Project Partners



This project is funded by USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

Search Our Valley Food & Farm Guide

What's Happening



WHOLE FARM PLANNING GROUP

Starting or running a farm business can be all-consuming, with tyranny of the urgent monopolizing your days.



2018 FARMER CELEBRATION MIXER

Join us to celebrate the work we did together in 2018! Do your chores early, leave the spreadsheets behind, and come



FARMERS' MARKET ROUNDTABLE

Join Vital Communities and NOFA VT for a Farmers' Market Roundtable November 7, 2018 from 4-7 pm at the Wilder Club

VISIT OUR FOOD & FARM BLOG

Want more information?

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS

FARMER DISCUSSION LIST

VITAL COMMUNITIES

Valley Food & Farm is a program of Vital Communities. Vital Communities' work is at the heart of a vibrant Upper Valley region. We bring citizens, organizations, and municipalities together to address issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential. Learn more about our other programs.

GET IN TOUCH

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QUICK LINKS

- About Vital Communities
- Vital Communities Calendar
- Sign up to receive our newsletter(s)