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Environmental Benefit Spending Baseline Report
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025

Submitted on behalf of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets by
Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture
Abbey Willard, Ag Development Division Director & Environmental Justice Interagency Advisory Council member

February 13, 2026

Environmental Benefits Spending Report Committee members and data contributors
Jeff Cook
Nicole Dubuque
Sonia Howlett
Josh Knight
Sarah McIlvennie
Amy Mercier
Judson Peck
Stephanie Smith
Abbey Willard

Table of Contents

Section 1: Overview 3
What is Act 154? 3
What is the Purpose of this Report? 3
Section 2: Definitions & Criteria for Program Inclusion or Exclusion from Financial Report 4
Section 3: VAAFM Programming & Investments 6
What does AAFM invest in? 6
What Environmental Benefits do AAFM's scope of work contribute to? 7
Quantifiable Programs 7
Investment location 9
Impact radius (quantified programs) 9
Non-Quantifiable Programs 10
Section 4: AAFM Baseline Spending Report Results 12
Table 1: AAFM direct environmental benefit investments by program 12
Table 2: AAFM direct environmental benefit investments by county 13
Table 3: AAFM direct environmental benefit investment proportions 13
Reporting Considerations 14
Next Steps 16
Appendix A – Environmental Justice Quantitative Data Process 19
Appendix B – Excluded Programs Summaries 20

Section 1: Overview

What is Act 154?

The purpose of Vermont's Environmental Justice Law 3 V.S.A. §6004, (Act 154 of 2022) is to "identify, reduce and eliminate environmental health disparities to improve the health and well-being of all Vermont residents". More specifically, Act 154 outlines actions to be taken by the ten "Covered Agencies" so that Vermont is a state where all individuals are afforded:

- Fair, equitable access to environmental benefits
- Fair, equitable access (exposure) to environmental burdens
- Fair, equitable treatment and access to meaningful participation in decision-making processes

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) is one of the ten State agencies covered by Act 154. These agencies work collectively as the Inter-Agency Council (IAC), and in collaboration with the appointed community members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (AC) to interpret and enact the deliverables of Act 154.

What is the Purpose of this Report?

The locations of financial investment by state agencies influences Vermonters' access to environmental benefits. This includes Vermonters meeting the law's definition of Environmental Justice Focus Populations (EJFPs). Covered state agencies have a responsibility to understand how their investments impact Vermonters. Agencies also have a responsibility to identify and make changes to investments, as possible, so that environmental benefits are more equally accessible to EJFPs of Vermonters. This concept is referred to as "proportionality of access" moving forward.

Understanding AAFM's investments is the first step in tracking change over time, towards proportional access. This Environmental Benefits Spending Report uses AAFM program and funding data from July 2022 - June 2025 (across three fiscal years) to create that foundation ("baseline report"). AAFM's next step is to evaluate the baseline spending report results and identify opportunities for change to support proportional access within the scope of its programs. AAFM will also identify barriers to supporting proportional access of its investments. Finally, this report structure will inform the framework for future spending reports, due beginning in January 2027.

This report aims to:

1. Identify the environmental benefits impacted (directly or indirectly) from AAFM investments.
2. Identify AAFM programs and funding sources contributing directly to environmental benefits.
3. Quantify, when possible, the amount of AAFM program investments that provides environmental benefit and the geographic location of the investment.
4. Describe the variety of AAFM programs and funding sources which invest in - and/or contribute indirectly to - environmental benefits but cannot be easily quantified by discrete location within the state.
5. Reflect on current practices and processes to investment data reporting and how current program implementation impacts proportional access to environmental benefits by EJFPs.

Section 2: Definitions & Criteria for Program Inclusion or Exclusion from Financial Report

This report was developed based on Final Guidance articulated by the Agency of Natural Resources (Act 154 of 2022, §6002 (1)). Final Guidance provided definitions and criteria to support categorization of investments to be "included" or "excluded" in the financial portion of this report. Criteria are outlined below, with related definitions included.

Criteria: Does the program impact an **environmental benefit**?

- Definition:
    - **Environmental Benefit** = the assets and services that enhance the capabilities of communities and individuals to function and flourish in society. This includes:

(Clean) air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues	Training and funding disbursed or administered by governmental agencies
Healthcare	Affordable clean renewable energy
Nutritious food	Public transportation
Indigenous food and cultural resources	Fulfilling and dignified green jobs
Environmental enforcement	Healthy homes and buildings

Criteria: Does the program **directly impact** an environmental benefit?

- Definitions:
    - **Benefit =** Outcome of investments that results in net positive change to conditions
    - **Direct benefit** = Benefit that is the *intended and actual outcome* of an investment

Criteria: Does the agency make a **direct investment** in the program?

- Definitions:
    - **Direct investment** = Direct investment of funds, such as grants, loans, payments
    - **Indirect investment** = Indirect investment of staff time and resources such as technical assistance, capacity building, education and outreach, service provision

Criteria: Is the agency able to provide **geographic information** about where the investments were made?

- Definitions:
    - Agencies are required to report on **investment location** and **impact radius** at the level of municipality and, if possible, census block. AAFM will be reporting at the town level based on available data.
    - **Investment location** = Geographic location where the actual investment of funds was made (to municipal or census block level, as able).
    - **Impact radius** = Geographic region that *experienced the environmental benefit as a result of the investment.*

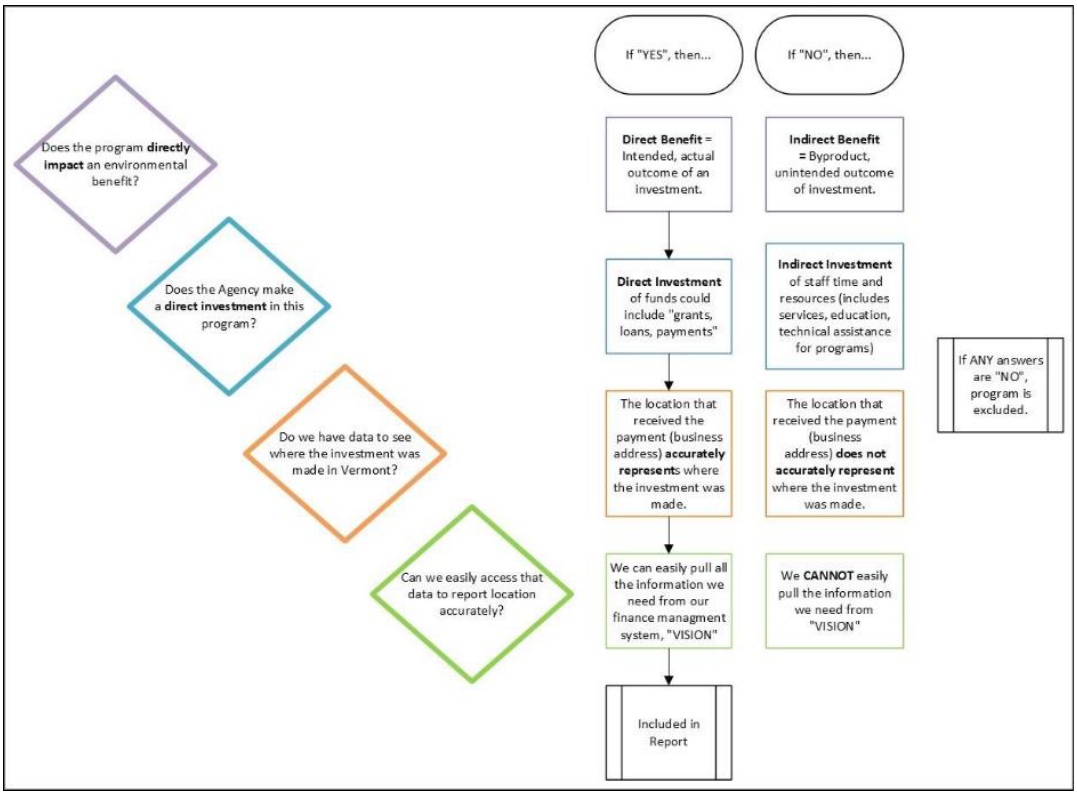
Criteria: Does the investment represent "**usual activity**" for the agency?

- Definition: **One-time funding** should not be the focus of spending baseline reports, as this may not accurately reflect investment patterns over the long term.

Criteria: Is the investment considered **discretionary**?

- Definition: **Discretionary funding** allows the agency to structure how the funds are invested. *Non-discretionary funding* must be invested in pre-specified ways usually informed by federal or state regulations or legislatively structured program parameters.

AAFM applied these criteria and steps outlined in the Final Guidance to categorize programs and funding that made investments during the three-year period (July 2022-June 2025). There are four central criteria for categorizing programs. All four of these criteria *must* be met for a program to be included in the quantitative financial report. The image below provides a visualization of how AAFM applied the above criteria to categorize programs. The column directly to the right of the diamonds explains the scenario if the answer is "YES" for each criterion. The second column (far right) outlines what it might look like if the answer is "NO" for a given criterion.



Section 3: VAAFM Programming & Investments

What does AAFM invest in?

AAFM's scope of work is carried out by approximately 150 staff members housed in 6 divisions. AAFM's work and investments can be categorized into four broad buckets:

1. **Regulation** – Performing routine and for-cause inspection to protect public health (food safety), animal and plant health (biosecurity) and ecological health (water quality and chemical substance regulations).

2. **Education & Training** – Implementation of technical assistance to enhance understanding of and (as needed) compliance with federal and state regulations and industry best practices.
3. **Development** – Direct (funding) and indirect (collaboration and facilitation) investment to strengthen business and industry viability, market access and supply chain resilience for Vermont's agricultural sector and industries.
4. **Promotion** – Support for Vermont's food economies and producer industries, in alignment with the previous three buckets of work.

What Environmental Benefits do AAFM's scope of work contribute to?

AAFM's mission is to facilitate, support and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment. This work most directly impacts the access of Vermonters to the following environmental benefits (as categorized within Final Guidance):

- (Clean) air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues (referred to as "clean air, water, land")
- Nutritious food – AAFM interprets this as "Safe, Nutritious Food"
- Environmental enforcement
- Healthy homes and buildings
- Fulfilling and dignified green jobs

Quantifiable Programs

AAFM categorized **45** different initiatives, including grant programs, services, and support-staff teams that engage with our agricultural community. Of all **45** initiatives, only **11** grant programs were quantified in this report. The 11 programs provide direct impact to two environmental benefits: 1) clean air, water and land, and 2) nutritious food. The summary table below identifies the 11 included programs, provides program summaries and categories them by environmental benefit impacted, funding cycle, and funding type.

Program	Primary Benefit	Program Summary	Funding Cycle	Funding Type
Best Management Practices	Clean Air, Water, Land	Technical and financial assistance for engineering and structural on-farm improvements to protect and promote water quality.	Annual	State
Capital Equipment Assistance Program	Clean Air, Water, Land	Financial assistance for new or innovative equipment that will improve water quality, improve manure management, separate phosphorus (P) from manure, or decrease greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural operations.	Annual	State
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	Clean Air, Water, Land	Technical and financial assistance program designed to reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production to establish vegetative buffers.	Annual	State
Conservation Stewardship Program – Assistance	Clean Air, Water, Land	Supplemental financial assistance to support farmers to enroll in USDA-NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).	Annual	State
Farm Agronomic Practices	Clean Air, Water, Land	Financial assistance for Vermont farms for implementation of soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality and reduce soil runoff and erosion.	Annual	State
Pasture & Surface Water Fencing	Clean Air, Water, Land	Pasture management technical assistance and financial assistance to Vermont farms to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface water (pond, stream, river, lake) statewide.	Annual	State
Seeding & Filter Strip	Clean Air, Water, Land	Technical and financial assistance to address erosion and surface runoff through the establishment of perennially vegetated and harvestable grassed water ways, filter strips, and critical source area seedings.	Annual	State
Vermont Pay for Performance	Clean Air, Water, Land	Innovative, performance-based program providing financial compensation for reducing phosphorus (P) losses from farms. Payment structure is based on modeled P reductions across the farm operation based on practices being used.	Annual	Federal
Farm to School Community Supported Agriculture	Nutritious Food	Provision of financial support to early childhood education providers and after school programs to access more Vermont grown and produced food.	Annual	State
Local Food Purchase Assistance Program	Nutritious Food	Provision of federal financial support to promote development of new marketing opportunities for Vermont producers while also expanding food access for Vermonters.	Periodic	Federal
Produce Safety Innovation Grant	Nutritious Food	Investments in produce farms to upgrade infrastructure and/or production systems to ensure or expand compliance with food safety best practices.	Periodic	State

Investment location

AAFM's baseline report uses investment data provided through VISION, the State of Vermont Finance Department's financial management and tracking system. VISION tracks when payments were made and what individual, at what address, received the payment. AAFM financial staff organized downloaded payment data by fiscal year of expense, program, and town where payment was made. The data was able to be sorted by program name, based on a pre-assigned program code, and consequently environmental benefit type.

Across the 45 initiatives, 7,702 individual payments were made during the baseline reporting period. These payments were made to 1,879 individuals or organizations in 193 of Vermont's towns. AAFM staff decided to share summarized investment data at the county level to ensure the data is accessible and comparable. Town-level data for quantified programs is available through impact radius visualizations. Census block group level data was not available at the time for use in this report, but county level data felt like a relatable geographic proxy.

Impact radius (quantified programs)

The Act 154 statute requires covered agencies to report on the impact radius of environmental benefits, as able. AAFM can report on impact radius for 8 of the 11 included programs. Existing payment and data reporting structures for these programs allow us to capture uniform metrics at the town level. AAFM staff utilized the Power BI platform to report investment impact radius in a visual and dynamic way. The maps represent quantified environmental benefits utilizing four metric areas:

Metric	Programs Quantified
Acres of conservation practices implemented	• Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) • Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) • Pasture & Surface Water Fencing Program (PSWF) • Seeding & Filter Strip Program (SFS) • Vermont Pay for Performance (VPFP)
Phosphorus reductions in Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog basins	• Capital Assistance Equipment Program (CEAP) • Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) • Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) • Pasture & Surface Water Fencing Program (PSWF) • Seeding & Filter Strip Program (SFS) • Vermont Pay for Performance (VPFP)

Volume of food distributed at no cost to Vermonters ($)	• Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA) • Community Supported Agriculture Grant (CSA)
Number of children accessing 'free' food through programming	• Community Supported Agriculture Grant (CSA)

The following programs cannot be reported regarding impact radius: Best Management Practices (BMP), Conservation Stewardship Program – Assistance (CSP-Assist), Produce Safety Innovation Grant (PSIG).

AAFM anticipates these maps are a low estimate of the actual impact. Impact Radius data can be accessed by clicking here. (Full link: FY2023-2025 EJ Law Dashboard - Power BI).

Non-Quantifiable Programs

Thirty-four (34) programs are excluded from quantification according to the criteria described in section 2. Appendix B (pg. 19
-31) provides program summary and identifies exclusion criteria for each program. Below are examples of the types of programs that are excluded from quantification and why:

Criteria for exclusion: The program has **indirect impact** on the environmental benefit.

- Many granting programs within the Agriculture Development Division focus on topics such as increasing business viability and enhancing effective supply chain coordination. While these programs provide direct investments, they do not directly impact environmental benefits (as defined in statute).
- Example: The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) has a yearly grant focused on Business Enhancement for agriculture and other working lands businesses (including forestry businesses). While the viability of these businesses *does* impact availability of nutritious food and a clean landscape, the direct focus of the funding is on the economic viability of the business and industry.

Criteria for exclusion: The program makes **indirect investments** towards the environmental benefit.

- Many of AAFM's programs offer direct environmental benefits to the agricultural community and the public, but the investments are made indirectly through staff support, services, and environmental regulation and monitoring. Because investments are indirect, they cannot easily be connected to the measurable impacts of these programs.

- Example: Regulatory and inspection staff addressing water quality, pesticide use and monitoring, farmworker housing, and food safety (dairy, meat, eggs, maple, produce) offer valuable environmental benefits, but the services provided are funded through "indirect investments" in form of staff time and expertise and connection to resources.

Criteria for exclusion: The location receiving payment **does not accurately represent where the investment** was made.

- AAFM's grants, contracts and "pass-through" funding support partner organizations' work and Vermont's agriculture industry and general protection of the environment. Organizations receiving these funds often work at regional or statewide scales. AAFM does not collect data to categorize where partner organizations use funds across their scopes of work. We have the address of the organizations that receive payment (often the business address), not the individual recipients of benefit.
- Example: AAFM's Water Quality division annually disseminates grants through the Agriculture Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP). Partner organizations utilize these funds to support the improvement of water quality across the state of Vermont through education and outreach, technical assistance, and organizational capacity development. Partners use this funding to work with farms across the state but are not required to report on what proportions of their total grant were invested by individual farm or specific geography.

Criteria for exclusion: We **cannot easily access** all the detailed data we need from our financial management and tracking system "VISION".

- AAFM utilizes different payment structures – grants and contracts dispersed through programs. To be able to "pull" the data we need to report, we "Query" the financial management and tracking system based on defined parameters. The defined parameters available are "grant program", "grantee organization", or "remit address" (where payments go). Other programs within the system don't contain the specific identifying details needed to be able to categorize queried data based on the defined parameters of this report. In these situations, the whole program is excluded.
- Example: The New England Dairy Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) distributes funding with the focus of expanding capacity for innovative practice sharing within Vermont's dairy sectors. Within these programs, grants have been awarded to *both* individual businesses (where the location data does accurately represent location) AND organizations that provide statewide

technical assistance (where the location data *does not* accurately represent investment location). Because grantees aren't identified as 'individual business' or 'partner organization' in VISION, we cannot sort the data to only include investments where we can track data to a town location in Vermont.

Section 4: AAFM Baseline Spending Report Results

This report demonstrates the direct environmental benefit investments across the 11 included AAFM program initiatives in a variety of summary tables: a) by direct environmental benefit program, b) by county, c) by fiscal year and over entire baseline spending period, and d) as a proportion of AAFM fiscal year base budget. AAFM offers context around the nature of its work and how that influences investments covered in this report.

Table 1: AAFM direct environmental benefit investments by program

AAFM Program	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Baseline Prog. Totals
Benefit: Clean Air, Water, Land....				
BMP	$4,315,005.50	$4,389,637.04	$3,681,409.98	**$12,386,052.52**
CEAP	$1,267,102.53	$1,615,250.17	$1,414,597.83	**$4,296,950.53**
CREP	$15,987.30	$25,717.20	$29,460.00	**$71,164.50**
CSP ASSIST	$145,000.00	$423,000.00	$243,500.00	**$811,500.00**
FAP	$985,726.70	$1,144,806.19	$1,388,137.00	**$3,518,669.89**
SFS	$0.00	$0.00	$64,559.00	**$64,559.00**
VPFP	$921,733.70	$543,852.60	$2,089,110.80	**$3,554,697.10**
PSWF	$266,142.53	$223,440.19	$201,835.18	**$691,417.90**
Benefit subtotal	***$7,916,698.26***	***$8,365,703.39***	***$9,112,609.79***	***$25,395,011.44***
Benefit: Nutritious Food				
FTS CSA	$16,614.00	$53,244.00	$15,075.00	**$84,933.00**
LFPA	$203,859.00	$515,830.00	$258,895.00	**$978,584.00**
VPSIG	$0.00	$69,760.00	$24,240.00	**$94,000.00**
Benefit subtotal	***$220,473.00***	***$638,834.00***	***$298,210.00***	***$1,157,517.00***
Total Quantitative Programs	**$8,137,171.26**	**$9,004,537.39**	**$9,410,819.79**	**$26,552,528.44**

Table 2: AAFM direct environmental benefit investments by county

County	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025		Baseline County Totals
Env Benefit Type	*Clean air, water..*	Nutritious Food..	*Clean air, water..*	Nutritious Food...	*Clean air, water...*	Nutritious Food...	
Addison	$1,282,872.76	$12,189.00	$1,174,986.97	$18,194.00	$2,068,575.19	$6,179.00	**$4,562,996.92**
Bennington	$90,794.71	$1,000.00	$55,516.50	$5,804.00	$20,788.00	$2,900.00	**$176,803.21**
Caledonia	$960,046.01	$23,460.00	$1,032,572.12	$57,049.00	$1,144,492.45	$27,379.00	**$3,244,998.58**
Chittenden	$477,693.54	$62,179.00	$498,400.42	$126,032.00	$486,590.25	$53,821.00	**$1,704,716.21**
Essex	$8,000.00	$0.00	$4,387.50	$0.00	$21,244.36	$0.00	**$33,631.86**
Franklin	$2,353,391.78	$20,110.00	$2,603,850.66	$63,105.00	$2,259,232.13	$33,600.00	**$7,333,289.57**
Grand Isle	$177,950.47	$0.00	$78,689.00	$0.00	$82,137.80	$0.00	**$338,777.27**
Lamoille	$41,342.92	$2,000.00	$125,249.41	$17,970.00	$104,146.00	$0.00	**$290,708.33**
Orange	$527,249.06	$6,192.00	$458,401.69	$16,772.00	$762,521.85	$9,340.00	**$1,780,476.60**
Orleans	$1,380,939.53	$1,728.00	$1,592,987.62	$4,525.00	$1,188,813.23	$3,000.00	**$4,171,993.38**
Rutland	$201,739.75	$4,630.00	$170,548.40	$32,126.00	$217,858.52	$32,537.00	**$659,439.67**
Washington	$219,647.59	$54,588.00	$273,610.48	$145,308.00	$221,733.71	$46,550.00	**$961,437.78**
Windham	$57,281.32	$31,374.00	$89,655.19	$102,222.00	$270,985.55	$53,955.00	**$605,473.06**
Windsor	$137,748.82	$1,023.00	$206,847.43	$49,727.00	$263,490.75	$28,949.00	**$687,786.00**
Benefit by County subtotal	**$7,916,698.26**	**$220,473.00**	**$8,365,703.39**	**$638,834.00**	**$9,112,609.79**	**$298,210.00**	**$26,552,528.44**

Table 3: AAFM direct environmental benefit investment proportions

Investment Categorization	**Baseline Totals**
FY23 base budget	$38,288,801.00
FY23 quantifiable investments	$8,137,171.26
Clean air, water, land subtotal	$7,916,698.26
Nutritious Food subtotal	$220,473.00
FY23 non-quantifiable investments	$16,317,349.61

FY24 base budget	$51,879,841.00
FY24 quantifiable investments	$9,004,537.39
Clean air, water, land subtotal	$8,365,703.39
Nutritious Food subtotal	$638,834.00
FY24 non-quantifiable investments	$28,609,203.51

FY25 base budget	$55,574,099.00
FY25 quantifiable investments	$9,410,819.79
Clean air, water, land subtotal	$9,112,609.79
Nutritious Food subtotal	$298,210.00
FY25 non-quantifiable investments	$27,423,358.19

Reporting Considerations

AAFM Populations of Focus

AAFM serves the entire state through a variety of businesses and organizations, however large portion of investments are focused in rural and agricultural areas of the state. Consequently, we make significant investments in Franklin, Addison, and Orleans counties – Vermont's largest agricultural counties by land (acres) in farming. This may be a distinguishing characteristic of AAFM's direct environmental benefit investments that our work is often not delivered to the most populus areas of Vermont.

Approximately 80+% of AAFM function is regulatory in nature and includes sampling, testing, inspection, compliance, and on-site technical assistance conducted by staff to individual businesses. As previously stated, the majority of investments in regulatory work are categorized as "indirect" as they fund staff capacity and resources to support these activities. Because AAFM currently does not track these regulated or compliance investment amounts to individual businesses or regions of work, the environmental benefits from these programs cannot be captured in AAFM's financial report. Two examples are below:

1. Investment in Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory staff capacity and resources funds testing of milk samples to reduce risk of mastitis and other infections in Vermont's milk supply.
2. Investments that fund water quality engineers work with individual livestock farms developing and implementing strategies to better manage manure and wastewater movement on the farm and within the ecosystem.

A large portion of AAFM's grant programming to strengthen Vermont's food supply chains and maintain working landscapes frequently result in individual business investments. Services, assistance, and funding may be provided directly to individual agricultural, food and working lands, and other types of businesses. It is important to highlight this function of AAFM, respective to investment and impact reporting for two reasons:

1. Many of the entities AAFM works with are privately owned businesses and/or landowners. While investments are made directly to these individuals or businesses, the investment is made to provide broader environmental impact. For example, investments made in individual farms are necessary to support the availability of safe, nutritious food for Vermont's communities, and to strengthen Vermont's food economies. Additionally, engaging individually owned farms or

landowners in conservation practices is necessary to invest in large-scale ecosystem impacts on water quality in Vermont.

2. Because of this model, the remit address of direct investments often includes personally identifiable information. AAFM is not reporting investment data at the level of individual transactions as this would include personally identifiable information such as home addresses. Instead, environmental benefit impacts are reported at the town and county level.

Summaries of regulatory, granting and other programs excluded from AAFM's financial report are described in Attachment B (pg. 19).

Nature of AAFM funding

Most state agency funding is directed by state statute, guided by legislative intent, or part of a prescribed federal program. A very small portion of program funding is discretionary where AAFM has the opportunity to direct a program's focus and/or structure. As a result, most non-discretionary funds are not captured in the financial report but are categorized as a non-quantifiable program.

Additionally, AAFM priorities are often informed and driven by one-time appropriations. During the baseline spending period, AAFM received numerous federal and state one-time allocations, which are not considered reliable annual funds and therefore not included in this report. Some one-time appropriations can become ongoing funding sources that contribute to established programs or be formulated into new established programs; these allocations were considered for inclusion in this report.

AAFM Act 154 Capacity

AAFM has approximately 150 staff and none have direct scope of work direction to work on Act 154 environmental justice (EJ) tasks. AAFM has identified a small core team as responsible to coordinate the completion of Act 154 deliverables. Additionally, an "AAFM EJ Committee" has been established, with representation from each of the six Agency divisions, plus individual subgroups to work on the various deliverables under the law. Staff capacity is extremely limited and therefore the decision was made to utilize only readily accessible data from VISION and other data sources that didn't require additional manipulation for this baseline spending report. There are supplemental data that might be available for inclusion in future AAFM annual environmental benefit reporting, with more time, resources, and staff capacity.

AAFM downloaded information from Vermont Department of Finance and Management's VISION system for our Agency's baseline environmental benefit spending data. This financial management system query gathered information from the accounts payable module for all AAFM's grant payments for the baseline reporting timeframe. Contract payments were not included in this query and thus excluded from the baseline financial report. The project team used query: VT_AP_PAYMENTS_BU_USER. Each grant payment queried contains information on the entity paid, the mailing address, amount paid, payment date, funding source, program and associated grant coding. The payment information does not contain specifics regarding the reason for payments or program purpose. Given existing staff capacity and currently available tracking systems, AAFM decided to rely exclusively on this data for the baseline spending reporting.

Next Steps

AAFM will continue evaluation of spending data alongside the factors identified above, and the goals of this Act 154 deliverable. This period will also include integration of feedback on our report and lessons learned through report development as we prepare to submit annual spending reports. Ultimately, AAFM will develop a Proportionality Plan (due in statute by July 2026). The proportionality plan will identify opportunities where AAFM has agency and capacity to adjust investment approaches and structures to support more proportional access to environmental benefits.

Simultaneously, AAFM will engage with the IAC and AC bodies of Act 154 to further development reporting structures that support the goals of accessibility and transparency across Covered agency budget reports. Two examples of areas that arose during AAFM's reporting process are below. We anticipate that other Covered agencies had similar experiences and look forward to sharing and learning from those together.

- **Shared vocabulary** across agencies regarding types of funding to support literacy regarding government budgets. This is multi-dimensional, with just one factor illustrated below.
    - Within the category of Federal Funds alone, there are many different types of funding agreements and program purposes. Funding structure dramatically impacts how programs can be structured, how money can be spent and what can be purchased. A stark example includes Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) funds and Block Grants. Both are from federal agencies, however the first is far more restrictively structured than the second.
- **Uniform metrics for quantifying impact** when possible.

- AAFM identified two areas of programming that have similar goals and outcomes as programs within other Covered agencies. Utilizing clear and uniform metrics to measure impact of these programs seems the clearest way to support accessibility of data for the public across agencies. For example, both AAFM and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) provide funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Districts. Additionally, both AAFM and the Agency of Education have programs focused on increasing accessibility of nutritious food for children through early childcare and school programs.

Finally, AAFM will continue to navigate accessible and transparent implementation of the goals of Act 154 alongside the realities of incredibly limited capacity. In addition to limited staff capacity for this work this also includes limitations of current payment and data collection systems. As previously mentioned AAFM relied on data that was currently accessible and structured to allow categorization based on report requirements. This resulted in 11 of 45 programs with available data to be reported on financially. Of these only 8 had data available in ways for AAFM to provide a quantification and visualization, albeit somewhat conservative, of impact radius.

In order to report more investments and impact radius', accurately to a discrete location within Vermont, multiple adjustments would be needed within internal systems that are either already at capacity and/or involve financial investment to access. Each of these is paired with increased staff capacity to implement and operate – at least in the short-term (implementation, onboarding) if not the long-term (continuous operation, maintenance) Three examples are given below.

- **More detailed program coding within VISION.** Within VISION's system there are a limited number of "fields" where AAFM staff can add identifying tags to a program and investment. Already, AAFM must be selective with how program and investments can be tagged. This leaves little to no room to add additional tags that would allow more data to be categorized to meet the requirements of this reporting structure.
- **Access to Census Block layer for mapping.** AAFM utilizes visualization of data to report quantified impact in an accessible and digestible way. For us to add the layer of census blocks to our mapping systems, this requires an adjustment in subscription with ArcGIS, which requires additional cost.
- **More Location-Specific Data Collection.** For programs that do not currently collect data meeting the parameters of this grant report, adding additional reporting requirements requires more capacity from AAFM staff and for the entities we work with. For example, AAFM's regulatory programs have substantial impact on Vermonters' access to environmental benefits. For these programs to be

quantifiable given reporting parameters, AAFM regulatory staff would need to track their time by individual business/operation/location. AAFM is not prepared to request this additional capacity of staff for this sole reporting purpose.

Appendix A – Environmental Justice Quantitative Data Process

AAFM's financial staff used the following step-by-step process to access and organize VISION data and develop the agency's financial report.

Process for accessing and organizing data from financial management system:

1. Download AAFM's expenditure information from VISION using a query: "VT_AP_PAYMENTS_BU_USER"
2. Save downloaded data, making a copy for cleaning and re-organizing.
    a. Original data sheet titled ***FY 23 – 25 EJ SPENDING DATA (corrected DL)***
    b. Copied spreadsheet titled ***FY 23 – 25 EJ SPENDING DATA (corrected) jbc***
3. Catalogue payments by program.
    a. Each individual transaction includes a code that can identify the expenditure to one of AAFM's programs or initiatives. Financial staff used these codes to sort data by program.
4. Cross-reference categorized programs against list of the 11 "included programs" developed by AAFM's spending report team, according to received guidance.
    a. Remaining programs categorized as "Excluded" to contribute to program summaries (appendix B) and total financial summary figures.
5. Clean data for included programs by moving offsetting payments to "Removed" tab. Examples of offsetting payments include items such as tax diversion claims & releases, reissuance of payments, payments refunded to Agency and journal vouchers.
    a. Hide "Removed" tab.
6. Add Columns K (EJ VT Town), Z (Program Name) & AA (Fiscal Year) to "DL" tab for sorting purposes.
7. Search for payments outside of Vermont to remove as needed.
8. Change towns in Column K to reflect the physical town where the payments occurred.
9. Create formatting to calculate investment total by program, across all Vermont towns ("ProgSum" tab).
10. Create formatting to calculate investment total for each of Vermont's towns, across all programs ("TownSum" tab).
11. Saved work as new spreadsheet: ***FY 23 – 25 EJ SPENDING DATA (summary).***
12. Create static data tables and pivot tables (as published) utilizing cleaned data.

Regulatory Programs – Page 1

Program: Water Quality Inspection Program
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Implementation of federal and state regulatory requirements regarding non=point source water pollution. This includes inspection and compliance and emphasis on technical assistance regarding coming under inspection and maintaining inspected status.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of regulatory compliance assessments (inspections):
F.Y. 2023 = 355 ; F.Y. 2024 = 358 ; F.Y. 2025 = 308

Number of enforcement Actions issued:
F.Y. 2023 = 129 ; F.Y. 2024 = 120 ; F.Y. 2025 = TBD

Number of full=time Equivalent (FTE) staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 13 ; F.Y. 2024 = 13 ; F.Y. 2025 = 14

Program: Agricultural Products Inspection Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Implementation of federal and/or state regulatory requirements to protect consumers from unsafe produce, eggs, and maple products.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of regulatory compliance assessments (inspections):
F.Y. 2023 = 52 ; F.Y. 2024 = 59 ; F.Y. 2025 = 71

Number of full=time Equivalent (FTE) staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 1 ; F.Y. 2024 = 1 ; F.Y. 2025 = 2

Program: Vermont Meat Inspection Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Implementation of federal and state regulatory requirements for different scenarios of slaughter an/or processing of poultry and livestock for personal use or resale. This includes inspection and compliance and emphasis on technical assistance regarding coming under inspection and maintaining inspected status.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of regulatory compliance assessments (inspections):
F.Y. 2023 = 3547 ; F.Y. 2024 = 4492 ; F.Y. 2025 = 4756

Number of enforcement Actions Issued:
F.Y. 2023 = 92 ; F.Y. 2024 = 66 ; F.Y. 2025 = 45

Program: Vermont Dairy Inspection Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Implementation of federal and state regulatory requirements to protect consumers from unsafe dairy products.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of regulatory compliance assessments (inspections):
F.Y. 2023 = 3319 ; F.Y. 2024 = 3746 ; F.Y. 2025 = 3768

Regulatory Programs – Page 2

Program: Pesticide Inspection Program
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Statewide program that provides inspection services to ensure that pesticides are used in accordance with federal and state laws and rules.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Regulatory compliance assessments (inspections):
F.Y. 2023 = 180 ; F.Y. 2024 = 155 ; F.Y. 2025 = 201

Number of Enforcement Actions issued:
F.Y. 2023 = *unavailable* ; F.Y. 2024 = 32 ; F.Y. 2025 = 83

Number of Full=time Equivalent (FTE) staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 4 ; F.Y. 2024 = 4 ; F.Y. 2025 = 3.5

Program: H-2A Program Housing Inspection
Benefit: Healthy Homes & Buildings.

Summary: Agency staff perform annual inspections on dwellings used to house H-2A program workers to ensure they meet Federal and State labor and safe housing laws.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Regulatory compliance assessments (inspections):
F.Y. 2023 = 60 ; F.Y. 2024 = 63 ; F.Y. 2025 = 107

Number of Enforcement Actions issued:
This data is not available

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 4 ; F.Y. 2024 = 4 ; F.Y. 2025 = 3.5

Technical Assistance and Education – Page 1

Program: Pesticide Applicator & Dealer Certification and Training
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Implementation of federal and state regulations to support safe storage, handling and utilization of regulated substances (pesticides).

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Certified Applicators:
F.Y. 2023 = Unknown ; F.Y. 2024 = 1,592 ; F.Y. 2025 = 1,616

Number of Approved Recertification Courses:
F.Y. 2023 = 199 ; F.Y. 2024 = 245 ; F.Y. 2025 = 270

Program: Vector Surveillance Program
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Annual program to trap mosquitoes and ticks across Vermont. Specimens are tested for diseases of public health concern in collaboration with the Department of Health.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Routine Inspections for Pests:
F.Y. 2023 = 229 ; F.Y. 2024 = 257 ; F.Y. 2025 = 153

Number of Full=time Equivalent (FTE) staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 5.5 ; F.Y. 2024 = 7 ; F.Y. 2025 = 6

Program: Rabies Hotline Investment.

Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: AAFM invests fund to support the availability of the national Rabies hotline for Vermont residents.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 1 ; F.Y. 2024 = 1 ; F.Y. 2025 = 1

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $9,437.91
F.Y. 2024 = $9,225.47
F.Y. 2025 = $9,895.26

Program: Tire Slicer Program
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Program to reduce mosquito breeding habitat when water collects in unwanted tires, including to cover feed bunks or used in nurseries. AAFM owns and operates the tire slicer equipment and pays use costs.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment

Number of tire sidewalls donated to farms:
20,000

Reduction in mosquito breeding habitat:
Eliminated from 10,000 tires on VT farms

Technical Assistance and Education – Page 2

Program: Land Use & Climate Change Technical Assistance (TA)
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues..

Summary: TA Grant from USDA Rural Development= supports small and medium dairies install equipment to provide long=term income while improving manure management and air and water quality through manure digester installation. Grant received F.Y. 2025.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment.

Future metrics (beginning F.Y.26):
Number of farms receiving invitations for TA.
Number of total candidate farms applying for REAP grant, including the full feasibility study.
Number of applicants receiving a REAP grant before July 1, 2027.

Program: Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) Service Provider Grant
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues..

Summary: Safe Nutritious Food.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Impact on Benefit.

Number of Grants and Contracts executed:
F.Y. 2023 = 11 ; F.Y. 2024 = 14 ; F.Y. 2025 = 9

Total expenditure in fiscal year:
Note: Because of data availability this data is grouped with the other Working Lands program entries on the next page.

Program: Produce Safety Rule Education
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Annual sub-award of federal funds for education and outreach directly related to the Produce Safety Rule.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 1 ; F.Y. 2024 = 1 ; F.Y. 2025 = 2

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $95,263.06
F.Y. 2024 = $30,000
F.Y. 2025 = $60,000

Program: Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)
Benefit: Dignified, Green Jobs.

Summary: Grant from USDA NIFA for investment in partner capacity to expand access to mental health resources and Farm First and Migrant Health Program professionals for farmers, farm families, and farm workers. Grant received F.Y. 22.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $38,498.40
F.Y. 2024 = $42,800.00
F.Y. 2025 = $0.00

Technical Assistance and Education – Page 3

Program: Act 250 Criterion 9(B) Review
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: If a development project subject to Act 250 jurisdiction contains primary agricultural soils, the Agency will review and provide recommendations under Criterion 9(B).

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Permit Applications Reviewed
F.Y. 2023 = 53 ; F.Y. 2024 = 93 ; F.Y. 2025 = 84

Number of Onsite Acres Recommended for Mitigation:
F.Y. 2023 = 142 ; F.Y. 2024 = 167 ; F.Y. 2025 = 113

Number of Off=site Acres Recommended for Mitigation:
F.Y. 2023 = 253 ; F.Y. 2024 = 755 ; F.Y. 2025 = 877

Program: Vermont Phosphorus Innovation Challenge (VPIC)
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Pilot project issued by Gov. Phil Scott seeking proposals for processes or technologies to remove phosphorus from manure or other waste streams and make phosphorus available for beneficial reuse. Funding supported research and implementation of prototype technologies.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $61,808.75
F.Y. 2024 = $11,560.00
F.Y. 2025 = $61,726.69

Program: Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC) Services Award
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: AAFM serves as vehicle for state appropriated funding for Natural Resources Conservation Council.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Grants and Contracts executed:
F.Y. 2023 = 1 ; F.Y. 2024 = 1 ; F.Y. 2025 = 1

Total expenditure in fiscal year:
F.Y. 2023 = $553,463.88
F.Y. 2024 = $633,022.70
F.Y. 2025 = $712,000

Program: Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (AgCWIP)
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Provide grants to local/regional partners to work with farms to improve water quality across Vermont.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Grants and Contracts executed:
F.Y. 2023 = 11 ; F.Y. 2024 = 7 ; F.Y. 2025 = 1

Total expenditure in fiscal year:
F.Y. 2023 = $2,625,835.26
F.Y. 2024 = $2,034,525.50
F.Y. 2025 = $4,273,516

Development Programs – Page 1

Program: Water Quality Division Grant Program Implementation (Program Staff)
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Program coordination and implementation capacity for Water Quality focused financial and technical assistance programs.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by Staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 424 ; F.Y. 2024 = 503 ; F.Y. 2025 = 308

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 16 ; F.Y. 2024 = 18 ; F.Y. 2025 = 18

Program: Mosquito Control Grant Program
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Provide grants to formed joint municipal survey committees (2), serving 9 towns in West Central Vermont. Funds support larvicide treatments to reduce mosquito populations.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 2 ; F.Y. 2024 = 2 ; F.Y. 2025 = 2

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $92,381
F.Y. 2024 = $111,790
F.Y. 2025 = $99,705

Program: Pesticide Disposal Program
Benefit: Clean air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

Summary: Collection and disposal of obsolete and unwanted pesticides in alignment with federal and state law.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect Investment.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 14 ; F.Y. 2024 = 17 ; F.Y. 2025 = 13

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $39,856.75
F.Y. 2024 = $112,293.93
F.Y. 2025 = $93,091.84

Program: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Federal financial support administered through the agency. Industry=level focus to enhance the viability of specialty crop production (produce, horticulture crops, Christmas trees, maple operations).

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by Staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 7 ; F.Y. 2024 = 7 ; F.Y. 2025 = 6

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $227,139
F.Y. 2024 = $433,111.28
F.Y. 2025 = $200,647

Development Programs – Page 2

Program: Farm to School and Institution Programming
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: A suite of perennial grants implemented to increase agricultural literacy, strengthen markets for Vermont grown and produced products, improve equitable access to nutritious food, and celebrate Vermont's agricultural identity.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 26 ; F.Y. 2024 = 24 ; F.Y. 2025 = 22

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $287,640.00
F.Y. 2024 = $435,210.40
F.Y. 2025 = $424,647.00

Program: Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) Business Enhancement Grant
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Perennial state=funded grant to make direct investments in Vermont's working lands businesses and adjacent businesses who support viability of the working landscape.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 18 ; F.Y. 2024 = 14 ; F.Y. 2025 = 17

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $246,548
F.Y. 2024 = $500,656
F.Y. 2025 = $517,316.40

Program: WLEI Small Farm Diversification & Transition Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: ONE=TIME state funding used to support small=farm diversification and/or transition. Maximum award $15,000.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 0 ; F.Y. 2024 = 12 ; F.Y. 2025 = 3

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0
F.Y. 2024 = $8,251.20
F.Y. 2025 = $122,625.80

Program: WLEI Remaining ONE TIME programs
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Numbers below represent two, one=time funding opportunities for food producers and working lands businesses. Supply Chain Impact (State funded) and Primary Producer Grant (federally funded)

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 9 ; F.Y. 2024 = 13 ; F.Y. 2025 = 0

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $2,340,114.40
F.Y. 2024 = $1,991,577.51
F.Y. 2025 = $3,696,457.49

Development Programs – Page 3

Program: Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC)
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Regional food business center housed at agency. Infrastructure, food safety, worker protection and market development investments across 11 states for dairy industry.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed for Vermont: businesses F.Y. 2023 = 41 ; F.Y. 2024 = 37 ; F.Y. 2025 = 38

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year in VT:
F.Y. 2023 = $1,522,675.43
F.Y. 2024 = $3,637,858.36
F.Y. 2025 = $9,024,566.40

Program: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic Cost=share program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Provide cost-share reimbursement to support transition from conventional to organic production for dairy operation.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 681 ; F.Y. 2024 = 634 ; F.Y. 2025 = 618

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $346,418.98
F.Y. 2024 = $523,277.25
F.Y. 2025 = $534,782.10

Program: Organic Dairy Farm Transition Support
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: ONE-TIME state-funded financial support for dairy businesses following departure of a large=scale processor from Vermont and loss of purchasing contracts.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 12 ; F.Y. 2024 = 0 ; F.Y. 2025 = 0

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0
F.Y. 2024 = $7,176,802
F.Y. 2025 = $0

Program: Northern Borders Region Commission (NBRC) Food Hub Infrastructure
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: ONE-TIME federal funds sub=awarded to Vermont food hubs to support capacity expansion and market access across Vermont.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
Awards executed in fiscal year 2022.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $94,048
F.Y. 2024 = $26,551.60
F.Y. 2025 = $90,906.40

Development Programs – Page 4

Program: Agriculture Development Grant Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: ONE=TIME state=funded grant to support infrastructural investments in Vermont's maple, produce and meat production, slaughter and processing industries.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by Staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 0 ; F.Y. 2024 = 24 ; F.Y. 2025 = TBD

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0
F.Y. 2024 = $963,967.40
F.Y. 2025 = $1,026,443.60

Program: Local Food for Schools
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: One=time federal funding from USDA= each of Vermont school supervisory unions worked with a food hub to access local food for distribution, free of cost. Vermont state legislature funded a smaller version in F.Y.26 with state funds.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0.00
F.Y. 2024 = $273,285.94
F.Y. 2025 = $60,420.27

Program: Organic Dairy Farm Transition Support
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: ONE=TIME state=funded financial support for dairy businesses following departure of a large=scale processor from Vermont and loss of purchasing contracts.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 =12 ; F.Y. 2024 = 0 ; F.Y. 2025 = 0

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0
F.Y. 2024 = $7,176,802
F.Y. 2025 = $0

Program: Regional Food Sustainability Infrastructure (RFSI) – ONE TIME
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: ONE=TIME federal USDA funding to invest in middle of the supply chain activities and support with specific focus on wholesale and institutional markets.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 0 ; F.Y. 2024 = 1 ; F.Y. 2025 = 19

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0
F.Y. 2024 = $0
F.Y. 2025 = $2,058,718

Development Programs – Page 5

Program: NOFA-VT Crop Cash Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Agency served as disbursing body for legislatively appropriated program. Investing funds in supplementing program implementation through NOFA-VT.

Criteria for Exclusion: Statewide data tracking.

Number of Grants Executed by Staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 0 ; F.Y. 2024 = 0 ; F.Y. 2025 = 1

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0.00
F.Y. 2024 = $0.00
F.Y. 2025 = $270,000

Program: Salvation Farms Appropriation
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Agency served as disbursing body for legislatively approved funding. Invested in supporting Salvations Farms to complete expansion and infrastructure investment.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 0 ; F.Y. 2024 = 1; F.Y. 2025 = 0

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0
F.Y. 2024 = $400,000
F.Y. 2025 = $0

Program: "Beef on Dairy Project"
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Agency served as a disbursing agent for legislatively approved project to explore and expand beef farming operations to support transitions in Vermont's dairy and beef industry.

Criteria for Exclusion: State-level tracking.

Number of Grants Executed by staff:
F.Y. 2023 = 1 ; F.Y. 2024 = 0 ; F.Y. 2025 = 0

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0.00
F.Y. 2024 = $180,000
F.Y. 2025 = $100,000

Program: Federal State Marketing Investment. Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Grant from USDA AMS focused on developing and facilitating new market access opportunities. AAFM received funds to develop marketing guidelines and resources for Vermont's farms and properties interested in agritourism. Objective is to elevate the agritourism sector in Vermont, in support of economic development, farm viability, and community connections. Grant received F.Y. 23.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $33,557
F.Y. 2024 = $0.00
F.Y. 2025 = $0.00

Promotion of Agriculture Work – Page 1

Program: Trade Show Assistance Grant
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Grants for agricultural and forestry businesses to exhibit and sell Vermont products at trade shows to out=of=state buyers. Grants offset expenses of attending tradeshows while supporting opportunities to network explore new markets.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $0.00
F.Y. 2024 = $0.00
F.Y. 2025 = $5,966.88

Program: Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Scholarship

Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Reimbursement-based scholarship available Veterinarians located in Vermont to offset burden of graduate school costs.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures ($) in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $30,000.00
F.Y. 2024 = $30,000.00
F.Y. 2025 = $30,000.00

Program: Dairy Industry Scholarship
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Scholarship developed with legislative input to support dairy industry workforce by offsetting costs of higher education related to the industry. Program has been on pause during reorganization.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $33,557
F.Y. 2024 = $0.00
F.Y. 2025 = $0.00

Program: Fairs & Field Days Capital Grants
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Stat funded grants for 20-year capital (infrastructure) improvements for Vermont's agricultural fairs and field days. Program also offers stipends to support operations.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $354,691.00
F.Y. 2024 = $273,285.94
F.Y. 2025 = $60,420.27

Promotion of Agriculture Work – Page 2

Program: Vermont Dairy Promotion Council (VDPC)
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Perennial investment in Vermont's Dairy sector. This programming is funded by federally required milk check=off payments. All producers pay a small amount per weight of raw milk towards this program under federal law.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $2,330,026.61
F.Y. 2024 = $2,322,761.17
F.Y. 2025 = $1,961,785.52

Program: Dairy Margin Coverage Reimbursement Program
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: State legislature appropriated funds to provide reimbursement for Vermont dairy farms who enroll in the USDA Dairy Margin Coverage program. This program is a safeguard against variable or low Tier 1 milk prices.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect benefit impact.

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $2,581,580.89
F.Y. 2024 = $375,673.91
F.Y. 2025 = $9,082.53

Program: Farm to Plate Network
Benefit: Safe Nutritious Food.

Summary: Annual funding appropriated by the state legislature. Funds are passed through AAFM to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Funds (VSJF) in support of the Vermont Farm to Plate Network, implementation of the 2021=2030 Strategic Plan, and delivery of tailored business coaching and intensive entrepreneurial technical assistance to working lands businesses.

Criteria for Exclusion: Indirect investment

Total Expenditures in Fiscal Year:
F.Y. 2023 = $135,000
F.Y. 2024 = $215,000
F.Y. 2025 = $235,000