



RFSI

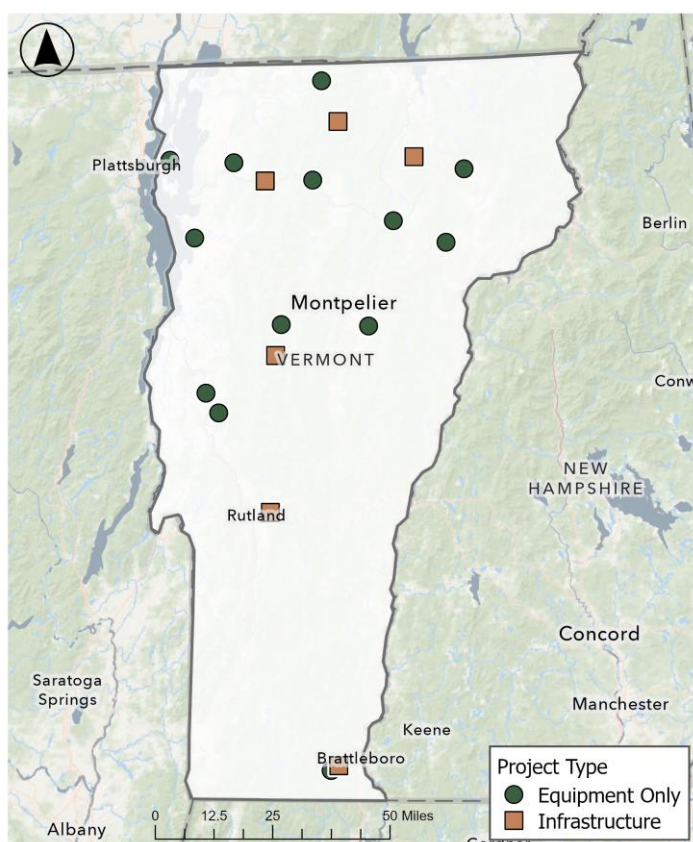
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Vermont



State Overview

USDA awarded the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets **\$4.5 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 19 Vermont infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Build a maple syrup processing facility** to develop five new value-added products for wholesale markets, benefiting 25 Vermont producers.
- **Convert a historic dairy barn into a shipping, receiving, and storage hub** to process local dry beans from five local producers.
- **Purchase new packaging equipment** for a farm to develop 16 new goat cheese products with a specialized modified atmosphere machine to tray form, vacuum seal, cut, and label various pack sizes, extending extend shelf life and increasing access to 2 new markets.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,290

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

416

New Market Outlets
Established

99

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

New
Facilities
Constructed

13

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

2

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

31

Processing Equipment
Purchased

20

Jobs Created

**These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.*

RFSI was awarded to the 56 States and Territories in May 2023. Each state conducted a competitive grant review and selection process. States identified their funding priorities through extensive outreach with key industry stakeholders, which guided their selection process to ensure a robust state and local food system representation. Selected projects fund locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.

Vermont invested more than **\$2.1 million** across 6 Infrastructure projects, benefiting 1,062 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Developing digital infrastructure to expand dairy, eggs, grain, and other product distribution and increase 155 local producers' access to 125 new markets;
- Constructing a 6,000 square foot storage, processing, and shipping facility to produce five new value-added products using local maple syrup; and
- Building a processing facility to transform local grains, fruits, and maple syrups into bourbons and brandies to support 12 local producers.

Equipment Only Projects: Snapshot

Equipment Only projects are intended to purchase special purpose equipment such as cold/dry storage, distribution vehicles, and processing and packaging equipment.

Vermont invested more than **\$964,000** across 13 Equipment Only projects purchasing 32 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including cold storage, freezers, labeling equipment, and delivery vehicles. The state expects 228 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 246 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Vermont is investing more than \$1.4 million to process local produce into value-added products such as frozen fruits and vegetables, corn chips, and ciders for 109 new markets.



More than \$835,000 of Vermont's RFSI funding supports maple syrup producers enhance value-added production with new equipment, including a reverse osmosis machine, labeling and processing equipment, and storage space.



Nearly \$1 million of Vermont's RFSI funding purchases new freezers, coolers, and value-added production equipment, enhancing local producer access to cold storage and processing.