

# **Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets FY 2027 Budget**

**House Committee on Appropriations - February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**PRESENTED BY**

**| Secretary Anson Tebbetts**

# Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

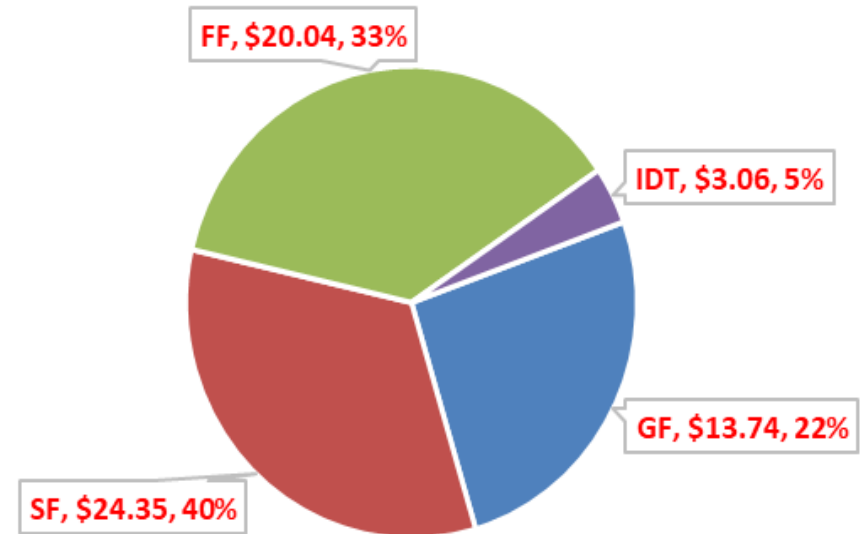
## FY 2027 Governor's Recommend Base Budget

### FY 2027 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

**MISSION:** Facilitate, support and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment.

**VISION:** Help develop a safe, secure, ecologically responsive, profitable and fair local foods system for Vermont and Vermont customers which will enable Vermont to be a leader and participant in the global food system. The Agency will do this by assuming a leadership position important to the evolving food system, through access to and the application of resources (human, financial, social and environmental) and by supporting the creation of new opportunities.

### Governor's Recommend Budget FY 2027 (\$61.19 million)



# Flow of Funds

## AAFM FY 27 Budget

- **General Fund** – 22% of base budget. Our General Fund is appropriated each year, typically with a modest increase, for internal services/benefits and other expenditures that are not eligible for federal funding.
- **Federal Funds** – 33% of base budget. The Agency receives funds from multiple federal agencies to complete work locally, that expands their bandwidth. Our federal funds come through USDA, FDA, and EPA.

**Federal Grant and/or Federal Designation**  **State Department of Agriculture**

- **Special Funds** – 40% of base budget. The Agency is charged with collecting a variety of fees for licenses and registrations. The revenue received from the fees is used as part of our base budget and supports staff and operations. Example: Pesticide registration fees are used to support pesticide enforcement and lab work.

**Registration/License Fees**  **Attributed to Base Budget**

- **Interdepartmental Transfer Funds** – 5% of base budget. Funding that is transferred from another Agency or Department to assist with their work. Example: Funding from the Department of Labor for farmworker housing inspections.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with another Agency/Department**  **Attributed to Base Budget**

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## ▶ **The Agency is comprised of six appropriations**

- ▶ Administration (Admin)
- ▶ Food Safety & Consumer Protection (FSCP)
- ▶ Agricultural Development (Ag. Dev)
- ▶ Plant Industry (PI)
- ▶ Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory (VAEL)
- ▶ Agricultural Water Quality (WQ)

## ▶ **The Agency budget maintains staffing & operations to ensure main areas of focus**

- ▶ Jobs – Agricultural Development, New Businesses and Markets, Fair Marketplace
- ▶ Water Quality
- ▶ Regulation of feed, seed, fertilizer, and pesticides
- ▶ Food Safety Consumer Protection – Food Safety Modernization Act, Animal Health, Dairy, Meat & Weights and Measures

## ▶ **Internal service costs such as Fee for Space, Insurances, VISION, etc., are allocated throughout the Agency, generally based on number of positions**

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

- ▶ **FY'27 Total Budget - \$61,191,197**
- ▶ \$13,737,790 General Funds at 22%
- ▶ \$24,354,834 Special Funds at 40%
- ▶ \$20,036,449 Federal Funds at 33%
- ▶ \$3,062,124 Interdepartmental Transfer Funds at 5%

## **Areas of Change by Fund Category:**

- ▶ \$1,084,810 Net Increase Over FY'26 (1.8% increase)
- ▶ \$899,677 General Fund (7% increase)
- ▶ \$3,331,655 Special Funds (15.8% increase)
- ▶ -\$3,950,388 Federal Funds (16.5% decrease)
- ▶ \$803,866 Interdepartmental Transfer (35.6% increase)

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## Areas of Increase:

- ▶ \$201,479 Net Increase in Retirement
- ▶ \$1,611 Net Increase in Vermont Family Medical Leave Insurance Premium
- ▶ \$3,340 Net Increase in Child Care Contribution
- ▶ \$2,542,381 Increase in Clean Water Grants – Special Funds
- ▶ \$316,504 Increase in Health Insurance
- ▶ \$757,991 Increase in Salaries
- ▶ \$1,500,000 Increase in Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grants – Federal Funds
- ▶ \$675,000 Increase in Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants – Interdepartmental Transfer Funds

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## **Areas of Decrease:**

- ▶ \$(3,520,000) Dairy Business Innovation Center Contracts – Federal Funds
- ▶ \$(300,000) Local Food Systems in Schools Grant – Federal Funds
- ▶ \$(500,000) Local Food Purchase Assistance Grant – Federal Funds
- ▶ \$(1,000,000) Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Federal Funds

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

| Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets<br>FY2027 Budget Request<br>Position Additions and Movement |                                                                                                                                                                  | Admin | FSCP | Ag Dev. | PHARM | VAEL | WQ | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|----|-------|
| FY2026 Total                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                  | 21    | 42   | 21      | 20    | 15   | 31 | 150   |
| Classified<br>Position                                                                              | Position # TBD;<br>Administrative Services Manager III, Position Pool<br>Additional support for grants and contracts and<br>associated administrative functions. | 1     |      |         |       |      |    |       |
| FY2027 Total                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                  | 22    | 42   | 21      | 20    | 15   | 31 | 151   |



## High Profile Budget Items

| Program                               | GF Funding Level   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fair Stipend                          | <b>\$110,000</b>   |
| Farm to Plate                         | <b>\$235,000</b>   |
| Natural Resource Conservation Council | <b>\$612,000</b>   |
| Farm to School                        | <b>\$500,875</b>   |
| Local Foods Grants                    | <b>\$30,000</b>    |
| Working Lands                         | <b>\$1,000,000</b> |

|                                                                                                                         | General \$\$     | Special \$\$     | Federal \$\$    | Interdept'l<br>Transfer \$\$ | Total \$\$       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Approp #1 [2200010000] Administration: FY 2026 Approp</b>                                                            | <b>1,519,601</b> | <b>1,695,613</b> | <b>522,639</b>  | <b>0</b>                     | <b>3,737,853</b> |
| Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget) |                  |                  |                 |                              | 0                |
| <b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                                            | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>                     | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                        | <b>1,519,601</b> | <b>1,695,613</b> | <b>522,639</b>  | <b>0</b>                     | <b>3,737,853</b> |
| <b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>                                                                                | <b>242,582</b>   | <b>224,167</b>   | <b>(24,780)</b> | <b>7,500</b>                 | <b>449,469</b>   |
| <i>Personal Services</i>                                                                                                | <i>183,517</i>   | <i>149,472</i>   | <i>54</i>       | <i>7,500</i>                 | <i>340,543</i>   |
| 500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees                                                                            | 100,965          | 80,579           | 14,741          |                              | 196,285          |
| 500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees                                                                                |                  |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| 501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees                                                                          | 47,284           | (29,706)         | 7,506           |                              | 25,084           |
| 501510: Health Insurance: Exempt Employees                                                                              |                  |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| 502000: Retirement: Classified Employees                                                                                | 29,391           | 22,919           | 4,290           |                              | 56,600           |
| 502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees                                                                                    |                  |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits                                                                      | 3,968            | 1,358            | 1,362           |                              | 6,688            |
| 504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium                                                                     | 633              | (44)             | 91              |                              | 680              |
| 504045: Child Care Contribution                                                                                         | 441              | 357              | 64              |                              | 862              |
| 505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium                                                                         | 2,537            | 126              | 0               |                              | 2,663            |
| 508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings                                                                                        | (3,055)          | (2,117)          | 0               |                              | (5,172)          |
| Miscellaneous Personal Services                                                                                         |                  | 6,000            |                 |                              | 6,000            |
| Miscellaneous Contracted & 3rd Party Services                                                                           | 1,353            | 70,000           | 0               | 7,500                        | 78,853           |
| IT Contracts - Application Support                                                                                      |                  |                  | (28,000)        |                              | (28,000)         |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |                 |                              | 0                |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i>                                                                                               | <i>59,065</i>    | <i>74,695</i>    | <i>(24,834)</i> | <i>0</i>                     | <i>108,926</i>   |
| 515010: Fee-for-Space Charge                                                                                            | 0                | (309)            | (5,879)         |                              | (6,188)          |
| 516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits                                                                          | 14               | 1                | 0               |                              | 15               |
| 516010: Insurance - General Liability                                                                                   | 155              | 8                | 0               |                              | 163              |
| 516671: VISION/ISD                                                                                                      | (3,290)          | 5,974            | 0               |                              | 2,684            |
| 516685: ADS Allocated Charge                                                                                            | 44,617           | 2,231            | 0               |                              | 46,848           |
| 519006: Human Resources Services                                                                                        | 1,398            | 70               | 0               |                              | 1,468            |
| 523620: Single Audit Allocation                                                                                         | 0                | 39               | 779             |                              | 818              |
| 516660: ADS Service Level Agreement                                                                                     | 0                | (2,369)          | (47,392)        |                              | (49,761)         |
| 516662: ADS Timesheet Billing                                                                                           |                  | 55,000           |                 |                              | 55,000           |
| Miscellaneous Operating Costs                                                                                           | 16,171           | 9,050            | 15,219          |                              | 40,440           |
| Rent of Office Space                                                                                                    |                  |                  | 12,439          |                              | 12,439           |
| Rental Auto                                                                                                             |                  | 5,000            |                 |                              | 5,000            |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| <i>Grants</i>                                                                                                           | <i>0</i>         | <i>0</i>         | <i>0</i>        | <i>0</i>                     | <i>0</i>         |
| <b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>                                                                                  | <b>242,582</b>   | <b>224,167</b>   | <b>(24,780)</b> | <b>7,500</b>                 | <b>449,469</b>   |
| <b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>                                                                                       | <b>1,762,183</b> | <b>1,919,780</b> | <b>497,859</b>  | <b>7,500</b>                 | <b>4,187,322</b> |

## **Crosswalk Overview – Administration – B.222**

- Administration Division budget has seen standard increases to salaries and benefits.
- Addition of 1 Administrative Services Manager III position from position pool.
- ADS Timesheet Billing increased cost of \$55,000
- No other notable changes to budget for FY27

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## Crosswalk Overview – Food Safety Consumer Protection B.223

|                                                                                                                         | General \$\$     | Special \$\$     | Federal \$\$     | Interdept'l<br>Transfer \$\$ | Total \$\$        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Approp #2 [2200020000] Food Safety and Consumer Protection: FY 2026</b>                                              | <b>3,663,441</b> | <b>4,048,844</b> | <b>1,875,651</b> | <b>12,000</b>                | <b>9,599,936</b>  |
| <b>Approp</b>                                                                                                           |                  |                  |                  |                              |                   |
| Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget) |                  |                  |                  |                              | 0                 |
| <b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                                            | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>                     | <b>0</b>          |
| <b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                        | <b>3,663,441</b> | <b>4,048,844</b> | <b>1,875,651</b> | <b>12,000</b>                | <b>9,599,936</b>  |
| <b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>                                                                                | <b>572,309</b>   | <b>(218,224)</b> | <b>247,239</b>   | <b>0</b>                     | <b>601,324</b>    |
| <i>Personal Services</i>                                                                                                | <i>459,116</i>   | <i>(236,896)</i> | <i>208,051</i>   | <i>0</i>                     | <i>430,271</i>    |
| 500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees                                                                            | 267,217          | (118,154)        | 39,409           |                              | 188,472           |
| 500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees                                                                                |                  |                  |                  |                              |                   |
| 501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees                                                                          | 156,147          | (32,106)         | 49,353           |                              | 173,394           |
| 501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees                                                                             |                  |                  |                  |                              |                   |
| 502000: Retirement: Classified Employees                                                                                | 76,957           | (34,030)         | 11,348           |                              | 54,275            |
| 502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees                                                                                    |                  |                  |                  |                              |                   |
| All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits                                                                      | 10,386           | (13,484)         | (2,424)          |                              | (5,522)           |
| 504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium                                                                     | 995              | (438)            | 144              |                              | 701               |
| 504045: Child Care Contribution                                                                                         | 1,179            | (519)            | 177              |                              | 837               |
| 505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium                                                                         | 13,986           | (8,660)          | 0                |                              | 5,326             |
| 508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings                                                                                        | (23,839)         | (373)            | 0                |                              | (24,212)          |
| Overtime                                                                                                                | 3,000            | 0                | 50,000           |                              | 53,000            |
| Temporary                                                                                                               | 0                | 0                | 65,000           |                              | 65,000            |
| 507566: IT Contracts - Application Support                                                                              | (46,412)         | (28,632)         | (4,956)          |                              | (80,000)          |
| Other Miscellaneous Costs                                                                                               | (500)            | (500)            |                  |                              | (1,000)           |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i>                                                                                               | <i>113,193</i>   | <i>18,672</i>    | <i>69,188</i>    | <i>0</i>                     | <i>201,053</i>    |
| 515010: Fee-for-Space Charge                                                                                            | 13,285           | 5,432            | (927)            |                              | 17,790            |
| 516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits                                                                          | 341              | (314)            | 0                |                              | 27                |
| 516010: Insurance - General Liability                                                                                   | 3,634            | (3,305)          | 0                |                              | 329               |
| 516671: VISION/ISD                                                                                                      | 15,328           | (9,962)          | 0                |                              | 5,366             |
| 516685: ADS Allocated Charge                                                                                            | 81,371           | 12,324           | 0                |                              | 93,695            |
| 519006: Human Resources Services                                                                                        | 11,907           | (8,971)          | 0                |                              | 2,936             |
| 523620: Single Audit Allocation                                                                                         | 1,429            | 206              | 0                |                              | 1,635             |
| Miscellaneous IT Operating Costs                                                                                        | 13,711           | 49,273           | (5,175)          |                              | 57,809            |
| Other Miscellaneous Operating Costs                                                                                     | 14,097           | 17,599           | 75,290           |                              | 106,986           |
| 516660: ADS Service Level Agreement                                                                                     | (40,910)         | (58,610)         | 0                |                              | (99,520)          |
| 516662: ADS Timesheet Billing                                                                                           | (1,000)          | 15,000           |                  |                              | 14,000            |
| <i>Grants</i>                                                                                                           | <i>0</i>         | <i>0</i>         | <i>(30,000)</i>  | <i>0</i>                     | <i>(30,000)</i>   |
| Food Safety Modernization Act Grant                                                                                     | 0                | 0                | (30,000)         |                              | (30,000)          |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |                  |                              | 0                 |
| <b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>                                                                                  | <b>572,309</b>   | <b>(218,224)</b> | <b>247,239</b>   | <b>0</b>                     | <b>601,324</b>    |
| <b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>                                                                                       | <b>4,235,750</b> | <b>3,830,620</b> | <b>2,122,890</b> | <b>12,000</b>                | <b>10,201,260</b> |

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## Crosswalk Overview – Food Safety Consumer Protection B.223

- Food Safety Consumer Protection Division budget has seen standard increases to salaries and benefits.
- Increase in both Overtime and Temporary Employees due to HPAI Bulk Milk Testing – Federal Funds
- Removal of \$30K grant to UVM for FSMA as work is being performed by Agency staff.



|                                                                                                                         |                  |                 |                    |               |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <b>Approp #3 [2200030000] Agricultural Development: FY 2026 Approp</b>                                                  | <b>3,157,499</b> | <b>646,995</b>  | <b>18,934,382</b>  | <b>0</b>      | <b>22,738,876</b>  |
| Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget) |                  |                 |                    |               | 0                  |
| <b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                                            | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>           |
| <b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                        | <b>3,157,499</b> | <b>646,995</b>  | <b>18,934,382</b>  | <b>0</b>      | <b>22,738,876</b>  |
| <b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>                                                                                | <b>74,985</b>    | <b>36,154</b>   | <b>(2,830,427)</b> | <b>50,718</b> | <b>(2,668,570)</b> |
| <i>Personal Services</i>                                                                                                | <i>7,966</i>     | <i>117,532</i>  | <i>(3,503,527)</i> | <i>50,718</i> | <i>(3,327,311)</i> |
| 500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees                                                                            | 7,175            | 22,551          | 20,016             | 31,415        | 81,157             |
| 500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees                                                                                |                  |                 |                    |               |                    |
| 501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees                                                                          | 625              | 2,764           | 428                | 7,450         | 11,267             |
| 501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees                                                                             |                  |                 |                    |               |                    |
| 502000: Retirement: Classified Employees                                                                                | 2,066            | 6,495           | 5,764              | 9,047         | 23,372             |
| 502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees                                                                                    |                  |                 |                    |               |                    |
| All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits                                                                      | (2,834)          | 1,038           | (4,420)            | 2,609         | (3,607)            |
| 504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium                                                                     | 4                | (66)            | (404)              | 59            | (407)              |
| 504045: Child Care Contribution                                                                                         | 30               | 100             | 89                 | 138           | 357                |
| 505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium                                                                         | 2,663            | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 2,663              |
| 508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings                                                                                        | (1,263)          | 0               | 0                  | 0             | (1,263)            |
| Other Miscellaneous Personal Services                                                                                   | (500)            | 5,000           |                    | 0             | 4,500              |
| 507566: IT Contracts - Application Support                                                                              | 0                | 0               | (5,000)            | 0             | (5,000)            |
| Other Contracted & 3rd Party Services                                                                                   | 0                | 79,650          | (3,520,000)        | 0             | (3,440,350)        |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                 |                    |               | 0                  |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i>                                                                                               | <i>67,019</i>    | <i>(71,378)</i> | <i>(21,900)</i>    | <i>0</i>      | <i>(26,259)</i>    |
| 515010: Fee-for-Space Charge                                                                                            | 31,921           | 2,046           | (24,000)           | 0             | 9,967              |
| 516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits                                                                          | 14               | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 14                 |
| 516010: Insurance - General Liability                                                                                   | 163              | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 163                |
| 516671: VISION/ISD                                                                                                      | 2,684            | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 2,684              |
| 516685: ADS Allocated Charge                                                                                            | 46,848           | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 46,848             |
| 519006: Human Resources Services                                                                                        | 1,468            | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 1,468              |
| 523620: Single Audit Allocation                                                                                         | 818              | 0               | 0                  | 0             | 818                |
| 516660: ADS Service Level Agreement                                                                                     | (49,761)         | 0               | 0                  | 0             | (49,761)           |
| Other Miscellaneous IT Costs                                                                                            | 21,764           | (1,450)         | 4,700              | 0             | 25,014             |
| Other Miscellaneous Operating Costs                                                                                     | (3,300)          | (71,974)        | (17,000)           | 0             | (92,274)           |
| Rent of Office Space                                                                                                    | 14,400           |                 | 14,400             |               | 28,800             |
| <i>Grants</i>                                                                                                           | <i>0</i>         | <i>(10,000)</i> | <i>695,000</i>     | <i>0</i>      | <i>685,000</i>     |
| FSMIP Grant                                                                                                             |                  |                 | (5,000)            |               | (5,000)            |
| Local Food Systems in Schools                                                                                           |                  |                 | (300,000)          |               | (300,000)          |
| Resilient Food Systems                                                                                                  |                  |                 | 1,500,000          |               | 1,500,000          |
| Local Food Purchase Assistance                                                                                          |                  |                 | (500,000)          |               | (500,000)          |
| Farm to School                                                                                                          |                  | (30,000)        |                    |               | (30,000)           |
| Local Foods Donations                                                                                                   |                  | 20,000          |                    |               | 20,000             |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                 |                    |               | 0                  |
| <b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>                                                                                  | <b>74,985</b>    | <b>36,154</b>   | <b>(2,830,427)</b> | <b>50,718</b> | <b>(2,668,570)</b> |
| <b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>                                                                                       | <b>3,232,484</b> | <b>683,149</b>  | <b>16,103,955</b>  | <b>50,718</b> | <b>20,070,306</b>  |

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## **Crosswalk Overview – Ag Development – B.224**

- The Ag Development Division has seen standard increases to salaries and benefits.
- Local Food Systems in Schools - reduction of \$300K due to USDA rescinding this grant on 3/7/25
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) – \$1.5 million – one-time cooperative agreement
- Local Food Purchase Assistance - reduction of \$500K due to USDA rescinding this grant on 3/7/25
- Farm to School reduction of \$30K– Vermont Dairy Promotion Council funding ended.

## AAFM FY 27 Budget

# Agricultural Development Program Highlights

- . \$12.7 million in grant awards
  - \$1.78 million in state dollars awarded
  - \$10.96 million in federal dollars awarded

Here's a link to the [FY25 data dashboard](#) if you're interested in greater detail.



## Agricultural Development Working Lands Enterprise Initiative – FY 25 & FY26 Highlights

### Working Lands Enterprises Initiative: Total FY26 Budget \$1,020,000

- ▶ \$1,000,000 of General Fund
- ▶ \$20,000 from Ski Vermont

#### FY25 Investments:

- ▶ Total Funds awarded \$1,064,208
- ▶ Matching Funds leveraged \$998,162
- ▶ Counties benefitted: 12
- ▶ Total funds requested: \$5,372,191
- ▶ Number of applications: 150
- ▶ Number of awards made: 38
- ▶ Number of acres in production by awarded business grantees: 1524
- ▶ Percent of business grantees that are first-time WLEI grantees: 76%
- ▶ Number of people employed by awarded business grantees: 146
- ▶ Annual sales of awarded business grantees \$12.2M

#### Cumulative Program Impact 2012–2025:

- Invested \$19.5 million in 593 farm, food, and forestry projects
- Leveraged an additional \$31.9 million in matching funds
- Investments made across all 14 counties
- Over 25,000 acres kept working
- ▶ In FY2026, for the Business Enhancement Grant, WLEI received **115 eligible applications** totaling **\$4.27 million** in requests for **\$620,000** in available funds.
- ▶ For the Service Provider and Producer Association Grants, WLEI received **31 eligible applications** totaling **\$1.68 million** for **\$425,000** in available funds.
- ▶ Trade Show Assistance Grant is still open.

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### **One of four regional USDA Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBII) in the nation.**

Established as part of the 2018 Farm Bill, the DBII was created to support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products. All DBI funding is allocated in the Farm Bill and comes through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

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### **The NE-DBIC serves an 11-state region:**

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont are all part of the NE-DBIC's region. We are based at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

\$49.2

### **Amount awarded to NE-DBIC for projects extending through 2027.\***

The NE-DBIC prioritizes using funds as grants to dairy businesses. Past and current projects include farm modernization, processor expansion, food safety improvements, access to technical assistance, and marketing and branding services.

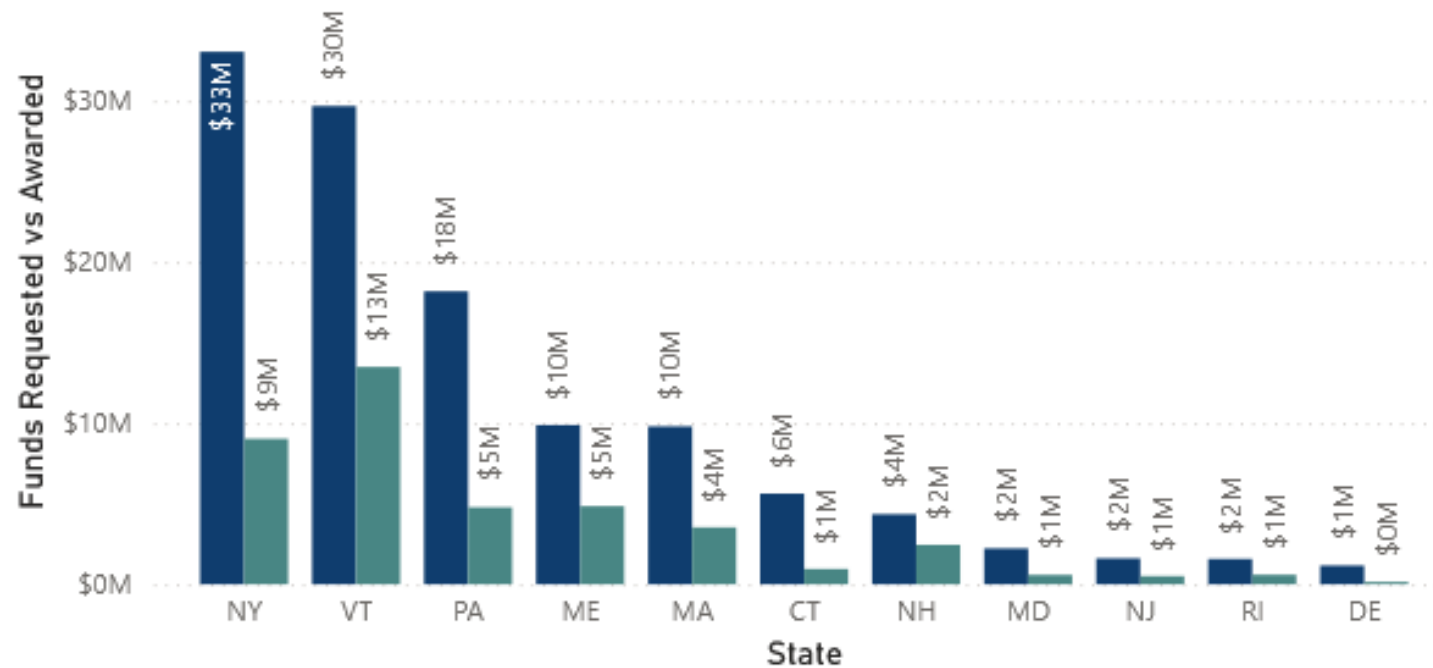
*\*Previously, we reported that we'd received \$53 million. This was adjusted in July 2025, when the funding awarded for the Organic Dairy Product Promotion Grant was cancelled by the USDA. Congressionally approved funding through the Farm Bill remains, allowing our core grant programs to continue moving forward.*

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**



## Funds Requested vs Funds Awarded by State

● Funds Requested (All) ● Funds Pending or Awarded



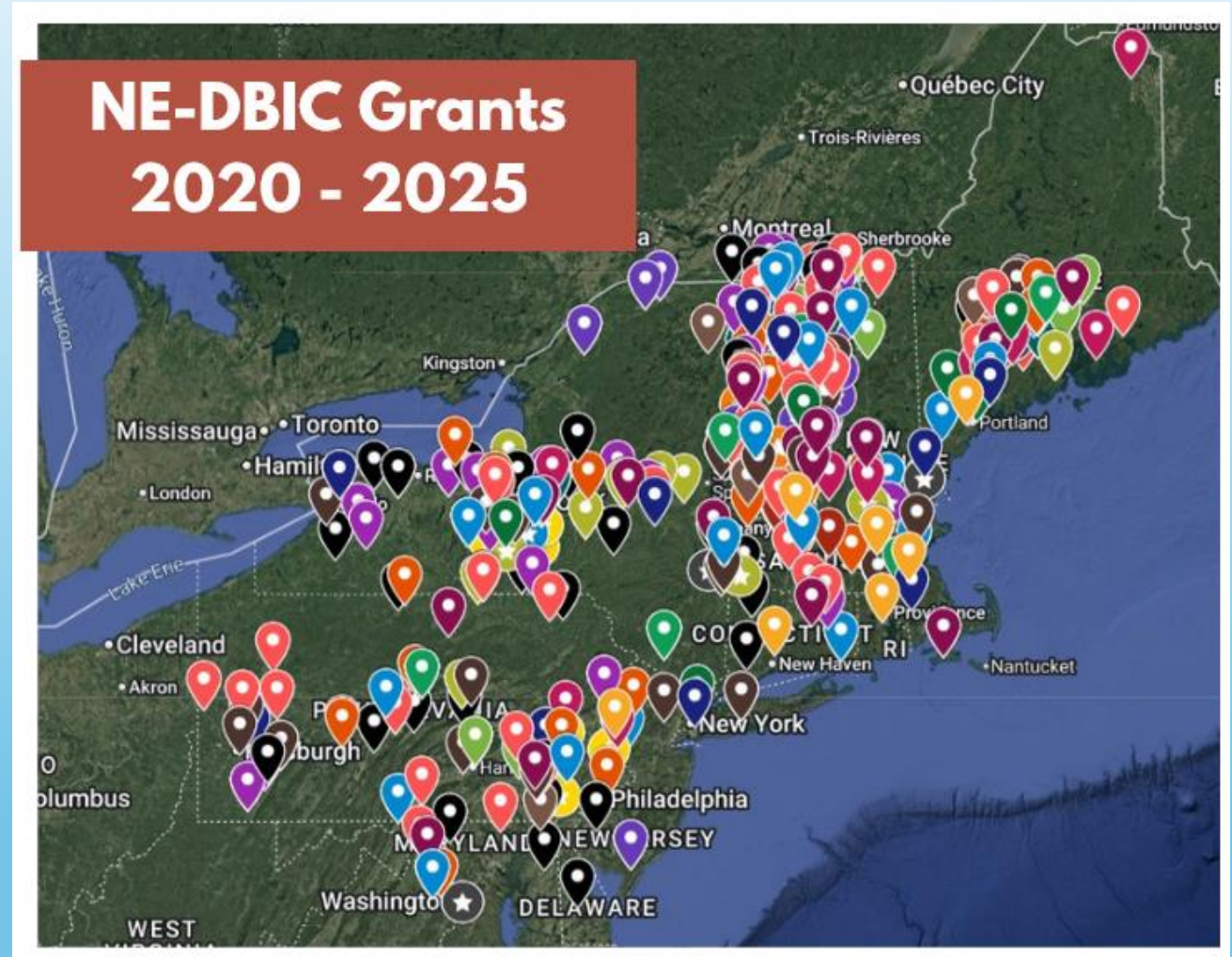
## Vermont Statistics

- **375** applications received
- **\$29.3 million** in funds requested
- **163** applications awarded
- **\$13.4 million** in funds awarded
- Average award: **\$82,725**
- **43.5%** of applications awarded



## Application Stats

- 1,385 applications received
- 488 awarded
- 35% award rate
- Average grant: \$84,962
- Grant range: \$10,000 - \$1,000,000



# AAFM FY 27 Budget

|                                                                                                                         | General \$\$    | Special \$\$     | Federal \$\$    | Interdept'l<br>Transfer \$\$ | Total \$\$       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Approp #4 [2200040000] Laboratories, Agricultural Resource Management: FY 2026 Approp</b>                            | <b>822,914</b>  | <b>2,473,045</b> | <b>482,577</b>  | <b>367,853</b>               | <b>4,146,389</b> |
| Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget) |                 |                  |                 |                              | 0                |
| <b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                                            | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>                     | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                        | <b>822,914</b>  | <b>2,473,045</b> | <b>482,577</b>  | <b>367,853</b>               | <b>4,146,389</b> |
| <b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>                                                                                | <b>(14,144)</b> | <b>504,538</b>   | <b>(70,826)</b> | <b>17,894</b>                | <b>437,462</b>   |
| <i>Personal Services</i>                                                                                                | <i>16,891</i>   | <i>58,693</i>    | <i>(29,226)</i> | <i>12,232</i>                | <i>58,590</i>    |
| 500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees                                                                            | 12,246          | 75,967           | 20,427          | 5,429                        | 114,069          |
| 500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees                                                                                |                 |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| 501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees                                                                          | 6,097           | 22,597           | (1,714)         | 3,743                        | 30,723           |
| 501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees                                                                             |                 |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| 502000: Retirement: Classified Employees                                                                                | 3,524           | 21,879           | 5,884           | 1,564                        | 32,851           |
| 502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees                                                                                    |                 |                  |                 |                              |                  |
| All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits                                                                      | (274)           | (308)            | 1,054           | 325                          | 797              |
| 504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium                                                                     | 45              | 279              | 76              | 21                           | 421              |
| 504045: Child Care Contribution                                                                                         | 53              | 332              | 89              | 24                           | 498              |
| 505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium                                                                         | 126             | 2,285            | 0               | 126                          | 2,537            |
| 508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings                                                                                        | (1,226)         | (6,838)          | 0               | 0                            | (8,064)          |
| Catamount Health Assessment                                                                                             | (3,700)         | 0                | 0               | 1,000                        | (2,700)          |
| 507566: IT Contracts - Application Support                                                                              | 0               | (32,500)         | 0               | 0                            | (32,500)         |
| Other Contracted & 3rd Party Services                                                                                   | 0               | (60,000)         | (55,042)        | 0                            | (115,042)        |
| Temporary Employees                                                                                                     |                 | 35,000           |                 |                              | 35,000           |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i>                                                                                               | <i>(31,035)</i> | <i>137,845</i>   | <i>(41,600)</i> | <i>5,662</i>                 | <i>70,872</i>    |
| 515010: Fee-for-Space Charge                                                                                            | (8,980)         | 0                | 0               | (514)                        | (9,494)          |
| 516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits                                                                          | 1               | 11               | 0               | 1                            | 13               |
| 516010: Insurance - General Liability                                                                                   | 8               | 140              | 0               | 8                            | 156              |
| 516671: VISION/ISD                                                                                                      | 127             | 2,302            | 0               | 127                          | 2,556            |
| 516685: ADS Allocated Charge                                                                                            | 2,231           | 40,155           | 0               | 2,231                        | 44,617           |
| 519006: Human Resources Services                                                                                        | 70              | 1,258            | 0               | 70                           | 1,398            |
| 523620: Single Audit Allocation                                                                                         | 39              | 701              | 0               | 39                           | 779              |
| 516660: ADS Service Level Agreement                                                                                     | (2,369)         | (45,022)         | 0               | 0                            | (47,391)         |
| 516662: ADS Timesheet Billing                                                                                           |                 | 32,000           |                 |                              | 32,000           |
| Other Miscellaneous IT Costs                                                                                            | (6,662)         | 65,650           | (2,000)         |                              | 56,988           |
| Other Miscellaneous Operating Costs                                                                                     | (15,500)        | 31,741           | (39,600)        | 3,700                        | (19,659)         |
| Rent of Office Space                                                                                                    |                 | 8,909            |                 |                              | 8,909            |
| <i>Grants</i>                                                                                                           | <i>0</i>        | <i>308,000</i>   | <i>0</i>        | <i>0</i>                     | <i>308,000</i>   |
| Pesticide Safety Education Program                                                                                      | 0               | 5,000            | 0               | 0                            | 5,000            |
| Pesticide Waste Disposal Grants                                                                                         | 0               | 228,000          | 0               | 0                            | 228,000          |
| Worker Protection Safety Standard Grant                                                                                 | 0               | 50,000           | 0               | 0                            | 50,000           |
| Bee Survey Grant                                                                                                        | 0               | 25,000           | 0               | 0                            | 25,000           |
|                                                                                                                         |                 |                  |                 |                              | 0                |
|                                                                                                                         |                 |                  |                 |                              | 0                |
| <b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>                                                                                  | <b>(14,144)</b> | <b>504,538</b>   | <b>(70,826)</b> | <b>17,894</b>                | <b>437,462</b>   |
| <b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>                                                                                       | <b>808,770</b>  | <b>2,977,583</b> | <b>411,751</b>  | <b>385,747</b>               | <b>4,583,851</b> |

## **Crosswalk Overview**

### **Plant Industry (PI) B.225**

- PI Division budget has seen standard increases to salary and benefits.
- Increase Pesticide Safety Education Program Grant with UVM - \$5K
- Increase to Pesticide Waste Disposal Grants due to increased pesticide product fee - \$228K
- Creation of Worker Protection Safety Standard Grant as a result of increased pesticide product fee - \$50K
- Creation of Bee Survey grant – \$25K



# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## Crosswalk Overview – VT Agriculture & Environmental Lab (VAEL) B.225.1

|                                                                                                                         | General \$\$     | Special \$\$     | Federal \$\$ | Interdept'l   | Total \$\$       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Approp #5 [2200150000] Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratories: FY 2026 Approp</b>                       | <b>1,698,826</b> | <b>1,647,441</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>71,813</b> | <b>3,418,080</b> |
| Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget) |                  |                  |              |               | 0                |
| <b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                                            | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                        | <b>1,698,826</b> | <b>1,647,441</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>71,813</b> | <b>3,418,080</b> |
| <b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>                                                                                | <b>(41,204)</b>  | <b>152,542</b>   | <b>0</b>     | <b>14,830</b> | <b>126,168</b>   |
| <i>Personal Services</i>                                                                                                | <i>45,793</i>    | <i>9,407</i>     | <i>0</i>     | <i>4,830</i>  | <i>60,030</i>    |
| 500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees                                                                            | 28,325           | 34,937           | 0            | 3,567         | 66,829           |
| 500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees                                                                                |                  |                  |              |               |                  |
| 501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees                                                                          | 16,291           | 16,902           | 0            | 0             | 33,193           |
| 501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees                                                                             |                  |                  |              |               |                  |
| 502000: Retirement: Classified Employees                                                                                | 8,159            | 10,063           | 0            | 1,028         | 19,250           |
| 502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees                                                                                    |                  |                  |              |               |                  |
| All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits                                                                      | (1,112)          | (937)            | 0            | 206           | (1,843)          |
| 504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium                                                                     | 104              | 127              | 0            | 13            | 244              |
| 504045: Child Care Contribution                                                                                         | 125              | 153              | 0            | 16            | 294              |
| 505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium                                                                         | 1,902            | 0                | 0            | 0             | 1,902            |
| 508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings                                                                                        | (3,001)          | (3,530)          | 0            | 0             | (6,531)          |
| 507566: IT Contracts - Application Support                                                                              | 0                | (70,000)         | 0            | 0             | (70,000)         |
| Other Contracted & 3rd Party Services                                                                                   | (5,000)          | 21,692           | 0            | 0             | 16,692           |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |              |               | 0                |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i>                                                                                               | <i>(86,997)</i>  | <i>143,135</i>   | <i>0</i>     | <i>10,000</i> | <i>66,138</i>    |
| 515010: Fee-for-Space Charge                                                                                            | 9,111            | 5,084            | 0            | 0             | 14,195           |
| 516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits                                                                          | 10               | 0                | 0            | 0             | 10               |
| 516010: Insurance - General Liability                                                                                   | 117              | 0                | 0            | 0             | 117              |
| 516671: VISION/ISD                                                                                                      | 1,917            | 0                | 0            | 0             | 1,917            |
| 516685: ADS Allocated Charge                                                                                            | 33,462           | 0                | 0            | 0             | 33,462           |
| 519006: Human Resources Services                                                                                        | 1,049            | 0                | 0            | 0             | 1,049            |
| 523620: Single Audit Allocation                                                                                         | 584              | 0                | 0            | 0             | 584              |
| 516660: ADS Service Level Agreement                                                                                     | (35,543)         | 0                | 0            | 0             | (35,543)         |
| Other Miscellaneous IT Costs                                                                                            | (17,766)         | 78,571           | 0            | 0             | 60,805           |
| Other Miscellaneous Operating Costs                                                                                     | (79,938)         | 59,480           | 0            | 10,000        | (10,458)         |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |              |               | 0                |
| <i>Grants</i>                                                                                                           | <i>0</i>         | <i>0</i>         | <i>0</i>     | <i>0</i>      | <i>0</i>         |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |              |               | 0                |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                  |              |               | 0                |
| <b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>                                                                                  | <b>(41,204)</b>  | <b>152,542</b>   | <b>0</b>     | <b>14,830</b> | <b>126,168</b>   |
| <b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>                                                                                       | <b>1,657,622</b> | <b>1,799,983</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>86,643</b> | <b>3,544,248</b> |



# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## **Crosswalk Overview**

### **Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Laboratory (VAEL) B.225.1**

- VAEL Division budget has seen standard increases to salary and benefits.
- No other notable changes to budget for FY27

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## Crosswalk Overview – Ag Clean Water Initiative B.225.2

|                                                                                                                         | General \$\$     | Special \$\$      | Federal \$\$       | Interdept'l      | Total \$\$        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Approp #6 [2200160000] Clean Water Initiative: FY 2026 Approp</b>                                                    | <b>1,975,832</b> | <b>10,511,241</b> | <b>2,171,588</b>   | <b>1,806,592</b> | <b>16,465,253</b> |
| Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget) |                  |                   |                    |                  | 0                 |
| <b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                                            | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>          |
| <b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>                                                                        | <b>1,975,832</b> | <b>10,511,241</b> | <b>2,171,588</b>   | <b>1,806,592</b> | <b>16,465,253</b> |
| <b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>                                                                                | <b>65,149</b>    | <b>2,632,478</b>  | <b>(1,271,594)</b> | <b>712,924</b>   | <b>2,138,957</b>  |
| <i>Personal Services</i>                                                                                                | <i>194,341</i>   | <i>(68,106)</i>   | <i>18,406</i>      | <i>37,924</i>    | <i>182,565</i>    |
| 500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees                                                                            | (11,705)         | 101,366           | 10,723             | 10,795           | 111,179           |
| 500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees                                                                                |                  |                   |                    |                  |                   |
| 501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees                                                                          | (22,003)         | 35,983            | 4,594              | 24,269           | 42,843            |
| 501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees                                                                             |                  |                   |                    |                  |                   |
| 502000: Retirement: Classified Employees                                                                                | (3,373)          | 12,308            | 3,088              | 3,108            | 15,131            |
| 502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees                                                                                    |                  |                   |                    |                  |                   |
| All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits                                                                      | (4,462)          | (1,157)           | (87)               | (336)            | (6,042)           |
| 504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium                                                                     | (42)             | (66)              | 40                 | 40               | (28)              |
| 504045: Child Care Contribution                                                                                         | (53)             | 449               | 48                 | 48               | 492               |
| 505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium                                                                         | 3,931            | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 3,931             |
| 508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings                                                                                        | 548              | (8,744)           | 0                  | 0                | (8,196)           |
| Other Miscellaneous Personal Services                                                                                   | 0                | 23,255            | 0                  | 0                | 23,255            |
| Elimination of Large Farm Operations & Medium Farm Operations Fees to Farmers - Revenue Replacement with General Funds  | 231,500          | (231,500)         |                    |                  | 0                 |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                   |                    |                  | 0                 |
| <i>Operating Expenses</i>                                                                                               | <i>(129,192)</i> | <i>158,203</i>    | <i>(290,000)</i>   | <i>0</i>         | <i>(260,989)</i>  |
| 515010: Fee-for-Space Charge                                                                                            | (72,094)         | 71,949            | 0                  | 0                | (145)             |
| 516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits                                                                          | 21               | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 21                |
| 516010: Insurance - General Liability                                                                                   | 242              | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 242               |
| 516671: VISION/ISD                                                                                                      | 3,962            | 0                 | 0                  | 0                | 3,962             |
| 516685: ADS Allocated Charge                                                                                            | 10,099           | 59,057            | 0                  | 0                | 69,156            |
| 519006: Human Resources Services                                                                                        | (29,572)         | 31,740            | 0                  | 0                | 2,168             |
| 523620: Single Audit Allocation                                                                                         | 1,129            | 79                | 0                  | 0                | 1,208             |
| 516660: ADS Service Level Agreement                                                                                     | (28,456)         | (44,999)          | 0                  | 0                | (73,455)          |
| Other Miscellaneous IT Costs                                                                                            | 0                | 15,284            | (290,000)          | 0                | (274,716)         |
| Other Miscellaneous Operating Costs                                                                                     | (10,365)         | 7,265             | 0                  | 0                | (3,100)           |
| Rent of Office Space                                                                                                    | (4,158)          | 17,828            |                    |                  | 13,670            |
| <i>Grants</i>                                                                                                           | <i>0</i>         | <i>2,542,381</i>  | <i>(1,000,000)</i> | <i>675,000</i>   | <i>2,217,381</i>  |
| State Clean Water Grants                                                                                                | 0                | 2,542,381         | 0                  | 0                | 2,542,381         |
| Regional Conservation Partnership Program                                                                               | 0                | 0                 | (1,000,000)        | 0                | (1,000,000)       |
| Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants                                                                                     | 0                | 0                 | 0                  | 675,000          | 675,000           |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                   |                    |                  | 0                 |
|                                                                                                                         |                  |                   |                    |                  | 0                 |
| <b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>                                                                                  | <b>65,149</b>    | <b>2,632,478</b>  | <b>(1,271,594)</b> | <b>712,924</b>   | <b>2,138,957</b>  |
| <b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>                                                                                       | <b>2,040,981</b> | <b>13,143,719</b> | <b>899,994</b>     | <b>2,519,516</b> | <b>18,604,210</b> |

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## **Crosswalk Overview**

### **Ag Clean Water Initiative B.225.2**

- \$2,542,381 Increase in State Clean Water Grants approved by the State Clean Water Board
- Reduction of \$1,000,000 in Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternative Funding Arrangement – Fed Funds – grant is coming up on expiration in June 2027
- Increase of \$675K in Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants (MOU with DEC) - funds support multiple WQ programs in coordination with DEC and originate from EPA funding
- Elimination of Large Farm Operations (LFO) annual fees of \$2500 per farm and Medium Farm Operations (MFO) fees of \$1500 per farm. There are currently 35 LFO's and 96 MFO's. These fees would be replaced with General Funds totaling \$231,500

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Produce Program – OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Help Vermont fruit and vegetable growers implement on-farm produce safety practices through outreach, education, technical assistance, and financial assistance.
- ✓ Ensure compliance with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule by conducting annual inspections for all farms covered by the rule.

| Programs                                            | Measure Name                                                                   | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Agricultural Development<br>Vermont Produce Program | % PSIG grantees who indicate new markets reached or current markets maintained | Result       | 88%  | SFY              |
|                                                     | # support services provided to Vermont produce farms                           | Quality      | 104  | SFY              |
|                                                     | # verified farms in the Vermont WinWam database                                | Quality      | 717  | SFY              |

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

### WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

**OBJECTIVE:** To advance entrepreneurship, develop business and increase the value of Vermont raw and value-added products in order to develop Vermont Agricultural and Forest product economies

| Programs                                             | Measure Name                                                                  | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Agricultural Development<br>Working Lands Initiative | % of business grantees that show increase in net income over the grant period | Result       | 56%  | SFY              |
|                                                      | % of grantees that added FTEs over the grant period by business grantees      | Quantity     | 49%  | SFY              |
|                                                      | % increase in product output for business grantees over the grant period.     | Result       | 68%  | SFY              |

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

### DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

The NE-DBIC serves the Northeast region, supporting dairy businesses across 11 states, which includes all New England as well as Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania through projects that promote the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products.

| Programs                                                              | Measure Name                                                                                                | Measure Type | 2024  | 2025   | Reporting Period |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|------------------|
| Agricultural Development – Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center | Number that experienced increased sales because of marketing &/or promotion activities.                     | Quantity     | 70    | 319    | FFY              |
|                                                                       | Number of new &/or existing delivery systems/access points reached.                                         | Quantity     | 1,645 | 19,544 | FFY              |
|                                                                       | Number of farmers who have learned new management strategies.                                               | Result       | 1,427 | 323    | FFY              |
|                                                                       | Percentage of participants that expressed satisfaction & positive outlook for the future of their business. | Quantity     | 99%   | 99%    | FFY              |



# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

**OBJECTIVE:** To advance a safe and secure food supply within a marketplace that provides fair and equal access to consumers and processors in order to enhance Vermont's working landscape, rural character & local economies

| Programs                                                  | Measure Name                                                               | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Food Safety Consumer Protection<br><b>Meat Inspection</b> | # of licenses, registrations, permits                                      | Context      | 1558 | SFY              |
|                                                           | # of in plant non-compliance reports                                       | Quantity     | 23   | SFY              |
|                                                           | # of Inspection visits (Plant)                                             | Quantity     | 3056 | SFY              |
|                                                           | # Inspections resulting in enforcement actions from compliance inspections | Result       | 28   | SFY              |
|                                                           | # of compliance inspections (Commerce/Retail)                              | Context      | 876  | SFY              |
|                                                           | # of recalls of state-inspected Product                                    | Result       | 0    | SFY              |
|                                                           | # of in plant microbiological/residue samples positive.                    | Result       | 0    | SFY              |

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

**OBJECTIVE:** Assure that sanitation standards are followed to minimize the risk of unsafe products entering the marketplace.

- Meat Inspection
- **Dairy Inspection**
- Animal Health
- Weights & Measures
- Maple
- COOL
- Produce Safety Inspection Program

| Programs                                                  | Measure Name                                                               | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Food Safety Consumer Protection – <b>Dairy Inspection</b> | Number of License and/or Registrations                                     | Quantity     | 2497 | SFY              |
|                                                           | Number of Inspections Completed                                            | Context      | 3768 | SFY              |
|                                                           | Number of compliance activities beyond level of field staff (Point of NOV) | Context      | 8    | SFY              |

**OBJECTIVES:** Maintain the ability of Vermont's livestock, poultry, and livestock products to be sold locally, nationally and internationally. Technical assistance and inspection programs provide education on appropriate animal agricultural practices that assure the health and humane treatment of livestock and compliance with best practices, laws and regulations.

- ➡ Meat Inspection
- ➡ Dairy Inspection
- ➡ **Animal Health**
- ➡ Weights & Measures
- ➡ Maple
- ➡ COOL
- ➡ Produce Safety Inspection Program

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

| Programs                                               | Measure Name                                                | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Food Safety Consumer Protection – <b>Animal Health</b> | Number of License and/or Registrations                      | Quantity     | 99   | SFY              |
|                                                        | Number of Inspections Completed                             | Context      | 94   | SFY              |
|                                                        | Number of compliance activities beyond level of field staff | Context      | 3    | SFY              |

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

**OBJECTIVE:** coordinate inspection and testing of devices and products in commerce, such as scales, gas pumps, heating oil and propane delivery truck meters, scanners used in retail stores, and firewood.

| Programs                                                      | Measure Name                          | Measure Type | 2025   | Reporting Period |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------|------------------|
| Food Safety Consumer Protection – <b>Weights and Measures</b> | #of licenses, registrations, permits  | Quantity     | 11,878 | SFY              |
|                                                               | # of inspections                      | Quantity     | 10,589 | SFY              |
|                                                               | # of device inspections               | Quantity     | 9,921  | SFY              |
|                                                               | # of calibrations performed (W&M Lab) | Quantity     | 6,598  | SFY              |
|                                                               | # of device inspections failed        | Result       | 305    | SFY              |
|                                                               | # of enforcement actions              | Result       | 73     | SFY              |

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

**OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that Maple requirements for Grade A maple syrup, maple product labeling, maple dealer and processor licensing, and general requirements relating to the safe and sanitary production of maple products are in compliance, protecting consumers.

| Programs                                           | Measure Name                         | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Food Safety<br>Consumer Protection<br><b>Maple</b> | # of consumer complaints resolved    | Context      | 1    | SFY              |
|                                                    | #of licenses, registrations, permits | Context      | 30   | SFY              |
|                                                    | # of inspections completed           | Quantity     | 16   | SFY              |
|                                                    | % passed retail inspections          | Result       | 66   | SFY              |
|                                                    | # of retail enforcement actions      | Result       | 28   | SFY              |

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

**OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that produce in retail outlets are properly labeled for Country Of Origin, protecting consumers.

| Programs                                    | Measure Name                               | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Food Safety Consumer Protection <b>COOL</b> | Percentage % of assigned reviews completed | Result       | 100% | SFY              |



## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION

**OBJECTIVE:** The Vermont Produce Program works with fruit and vegetable farms to enhance produce safety and promote public health.

| Programs                                                                           | Measure Name                             | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| <b>Food Safety<br/>Consumer Protection</b><br><b>Produce Safety<br/>Inspection</b> | # of produce farms verified in inventory | Quantity     | 717  | SFY              |
|                                                                                    | # of inspections                         | Quantity     | 15   | SFY              |
|                                                                                    | # of consumer complaints resolved        | Quantity     | N/A  | SFY              |
|                                                                                    | # of enforcement actions                 | Quantity     | 5    | SFY              |
|                                                                                    | % passed inspection                      | Result       | 47%  | SFY              |

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### PLANT INDUSTRY

#### OBJECTIVE:

Plant Industry is the cultivation and protection of crops, ornamental plants, and landscapes. The Plant Industry Division regulates pesticides, protects against the spread of plant pests and diseases that can harm the environment, registers producers and distributors of plant fertilizers, regulates seed distributors, and registers and inspects apiaries.

| Division       | Program                            | Measure                                                       | Measure Type | 2025 | Reporting Period |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------|
| Plant Industry | Apiary Registration & Inspection   | % inspected w/regulated disease                               | Quantity     | 0    | CY               |
|                | Beneficial Products Registration   | % in compliance on first sample analysis for VT manufacturers | Quality      | 65%  | CY               |
|                | Certified Applicator Registrations | % passing exam on first try                                   | Result       | 66%  | CY               |

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## **PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET**

### **PLANT INDUSTRY**

| <b>Division</b>       | <b>Program</b>             | <b>Measure</b>                                                     | <b>Measure Type</b> | <b>2025</b> | <b>Reporting Period</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Plant Industry</b> | Feed Products Registration | % in compliance on first sample analysis for Vermont manufacturers | Quality             | 77%         | CY                      |
|                       | Mosquito Control           | # of mosquitos collected and identified                            | Quantity            | 89,179      | CY                      |
|                       | Plant Nursery Inspections  | % inspected that receive stop sales                                | Result              | 10%         | CY                      |
|                       | Pesticide Use Compliance   | % of inspections resulting in enforcement                          | Result              | 57%         | CY                      |

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### VERMONT AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL LAB (VAEL)

#### OBJECTIVE:

The Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory provide accredited analytical testing for Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) & the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) who rely on VAEL to provide high quality, scientific data, which is the basis for many program decisions.

| Programs                                                      | Measure Name                                                                                                                                                                         | Measure Type | 2023   | 2024   | 2025   | Reporting Period |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|
| Vermont<br>Agricultural<br>and<br>Environmental<br>Laboratory | Number of completed analytical tests for clients provided by VAEL                                                                                                                    | How Much?    | 26,669 | 32,925 | 35,489 | SFY              |
|                                                               | Number of unique Vermont-based projects who rely on VAEL's analytical services for essential environmental monitoring, consumer protection, animal health and regulatory compliance. | Context      | 84     | 81     | 90     | SFY              |

# **AAFM FY 27 Budget**

## **PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET**

### **WATER QUALITY**

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Agricultural Water Quality Specialists provide regulatory oversight of farm operations through permitting, investigations, and inspections. Technical and financial assistance is available for farmers to comply with regulations through division staff as well as through partner organizations. On farm pollution prevention projects and support for partner organizations are provided through various funding programs.

# AAFM FY 27 Budget

## PROGRAMMATIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE BUDGET

### WATER QUALITY

| Programs      | Measure Name                                          | Measure Type | 2024        | 2025        | Reporting Period |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Water Quality | Number of Regulatory Farm Visits                      | Quantity     | 337         | 375         | SFY              |
|               | Number of Non-Regulatory/Technical Assistance Visits  | Quantity     | 1,438       | 2,000       | SFY              |
|               | Acres of Production Area Inspected                    | Quantity     | 2,946       | 2,643       | SFY              |
|               | Percentage of Compliant Productions Areas (By Acres). | Quantity     | 68%         | 70%         | SFY              |
|               | Number of Educational Events                          | Quantity     | 101         | 186         | SFY              |
|               | Value of On Farm Implementation Investments           | Quantity     | \$8,771,229 | \$8,209,672 | SFY              |



## **Carry Forward Funds – As of July 2025**

### **Agricultural Development - \$ 1,825,969.37**

- ▶ **\$993,417.45 – Working Lands:** Funds are obligated through existing grant and contractual agreements.
- ▶ **\$702,976.92 – Farm to School:** Funds are obligated through existing grant and contractual agreements.
- ▶ **\$47,000.00 – Farm to Plate:** Funds are obligated through grant agreement with the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund.
- ▶ **\$58,042.00 – Local Foods:** Funds are obligated through existing grant agreements.
- ▶ **\$24,533.00 – Fairs:** Funds are obligated through existing grant agreements.

### **Plant Industry Division (formerly PHARM) - \$ 364,368.94**

- ▶ **\$336,393.94 – Mosquito Control:** 2014 Act 179 Section E.225.1 provides for unexpended funds to be carried forward for mosquito control activities to include addressing public health hazards due to West Nile Virus, EEE or other mosquito-borne illness. The statewide mosquito surveillance program includes surveillance for Zika vectors, as well as enhanced tick surveillance.
- ▶ **\$27,975.00 -** Funds are set aside for Pay Act

### **Agricultural Clean Water Division - \$ 440,400.95**

- ▶ **\$440,400.95 – Water Quality –** Funds are obligated through existing grant and contractual agreements.

### **Agricultural Water Quality Fund (21933) - \$ 14,629,207.89**

- ▶ **\$14,629,207.89 – Water Quality –** Clean Water Funds are obligated through existing grant and contractual agreements.

## Carry Forward Funds – As of September 2025 (continued)

### One-Time Appropriations - \$2,366,593.99

- ▶ **\$372,200.76 – 2200892106 – VT Working Lands Grants:** Funds per Act 9 of 2021 sec 22(a)(1) as amended by Act 74 of 2021 sec C. 115. Funds have been obligated through existing grant and contract agreements.
- ▶ **\$81,532.19 – 2200892201 – AGR Working Lands Grants:** Funds per Act 74 of 2021 sec 300(b)(9). Funds have been obligated through existing grant and contract agreements.
- ▶ **\$242,200.00 – 2200892301 – AAFM Ecosystems Services:** Funds per Act 185 B.1100(7)(A) of 2022. Funds will be obligated through grant agreements. The incentive program was launched in May 2023 and another funding round is currently in process which will obligate these funds.
- ▶ **\$6,000.00 – 2200892305 – AAFM Organic Milk & Produce Safety:** Funds per Act 185 B.1100(7)(E) of 2022. Funds are obligated through existing grant agreements.
- ▶ **\$1,070,000 – 2200892402 – AAFM Replacement of the Existing Food Safety Inspection Database:** Funds per Act 78 B.1100(i)(2) of 2023. Project is underway.
- ▶ **\$100,000 – 2200892403 – AAFM Salvation Farms to Expend Access to Locally Grown Food for all Vermonters:** Funds per Act 78 B.1100(i)(3) of 2023. Funds are obligated through an existing grant agreement.

## **Carry Forward Funds – As of July 2025 (continued)**

### **One-Time Appropriations (con't)**

- **\$175,935.47 – 2200892404 – AAFM Working Lands Enterprise Grant Program:** Funds per Act 78 B.1100(g)(1) of 2023. Funds are obligated through existing grant and contract agreements.
- **\$247,021.20 – 2200892405 – AGR-Meat/Produce/Maple:** Funds per Act 78 B.1100(g)(2) of 2023. Funds are obligated through existing grant and contract agreements.
- **\$20,000.00 – 2200892407 – AAFM Sustainable Jobs for the Independent Retail Grocers Project and Beef on Dairy Project:** Funds per Act 78 B.1100(g)(4) of 2023. Funds are obligated an existing grant agreement.
- **\$21,704.37 – 2200892409 – AAFM Small Farmer Diversification and Transition Program:** Funds per Act 78 B.1100(g)(7) of 2023. Funds are obligated through existing grant agreements.
- **\$30,000.00 - 2200892503 – AAFM – NOFA Crop Cash and Farm:** Funds per Act 113 H.883 of 2025. Funds are obligated through an existing grant agreement.

## ► Questions?

