



**Local Farms,  
Fresh Food,  
Healthy  
Communities**





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# Vision

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...for Rutland County to have a diverse and thriving agricultural industry supported by residents and communities throughout the area...



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# Mission

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- ◆ To **connect** an economically viable and diverse agricultural industry with local communities and consumers
- ◆ To **promote** a diverse agricultural industry which supports dynamic communities
- ◆ To **connect** all people in Rutland county area to local agriculture resulting in viable farms and communities



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# Board of Directors

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## Representatives from:

- ◆ Local farmers
- ◆ Vermont Farmers Market
- ◆ Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- ◆ Green Mountain College
- ◆ Localvore groups: Rutland and Addison Counties
- ◆ Rutland Natural Food Market: The CO-OP
- ◆ Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District



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# Additional Partners

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- ◆ Vermont Land Trust
- ◆ Rutland Redevelopment Authority
- ◆ Rutland Economic Development Corporation
- ◆ The Intervale Center
- ◆ UVM Extension Service
- ◆ George D. Aiken RC&D Council



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# History

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Formed in 2004

- ◆ Regional Economic Strategy focused on agricultural sector
- ◆ Working group formed to identify regional needs
- ◆ Focus shifted from traditional land conservation approach to interest in future economic viability



# Economic Approach – Supporting Identified Trends

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- ◆ Focus on “what’s working” in region’s agriculture
- ◆ Identified shift in composition of farms:
  - Census of Ag. showed number of farms increasing, while average size (overall acreage) decreased
  - Profitability of farms was increasing
  - Diversification of farm production
- ◆ Renewed interest consumer interest – locally and nationally



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# Identified Priorities

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- ◆ Distribution networks and processing infrastructure meet region's needs
- ◆ Market demand for local agricultural products increases
- ◆ Production capacity to meet increased market demand
- ◆ Community pride for the working landscape



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# 2007 - 2008 Projects

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## DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS, PROCESSING & MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE

- ◆ Rutland Winter Farmer's Market
- ◆ Farm to Institution Program Facilitation
- ◆ Processing Infrastructure Business Planning



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# 2007 - 2008 Projects

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## MARKETING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ◆ Locally Grown Guide
- ◆ Heart of Vermont Branding Campaign
- ◆ Farmer's Calendar
- ◆ Farm Tours
- ◆ Gleaning projects



# 2007 - 2008 Projects



## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

- ◆ Third Annual Farmers' Gathering
- ◆ Community Farm & Agricultural Resource Center



# 2007 - 2008 Projects



## CAPACITY BUILDING

- ◆ Received 501(c)3 status
- ◆ Fundraising for full-time staff



## Rutland Area Farm & Food Link

India Burnett Farmer  
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