

RURAL VERMONT MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW 5/28/20

Rural Vermont is a member-based organization. We depend on the support of people who have a strong desire to live in a landscape populated by thriving community-scale farms, and an economy that prioritizes reverence for the land and close relationships.

Rural Vermont Offers Four Types of Membership:

1. Basic Membership *

Base membership to Rural Vermont is \$35 per year. (Of course we'd welcome your support at a higher level too!)

2. Sustaining Membership

Sustaining members make a budget-friendly automatic monthly or annual contribution via our website or a direct deposit through your bank. Sustainers enjoy uninterrupted membership status while providing Rural Vermont with a reliable stream of income and minimized administrative costs. Monthly dues can be of any size (\$5 minimum); annual dues start at \$35.

3. Working Membership

To maintain accessibility for all, we also offer a Working Member Program, which grants membership in exchange for three working hours per annum. This commitment can be fulfilled all at once, or spread over the year; and done from the office in Montpelier, your home, or in the field. **Through the end of 2020, Rural Vermont is offering Working Membership status to folks who make a three hour commitment to COVID-19 relief efforts.** Please call the office or email shelby@ruralvermont.org to join as a Working Member.

4. Partner Membership

Rural Vermont's Partner Members are businesses and organizations that make an annual gift valued at a minimum of \$1,000, and in return, Rural Vermont offers a number of visibility perks among our broad and statewide network. For more info and to join as a Partner Member, please call the office or email shelby@ruralvermont.org.

*** If joining or renewing is a hardship at this time due to COVID-19, please email Shelby Girard at shelby@ruralvermont.org and we will gladly offer a reduced or complimentary 2020 membership. Our members are the heart of Rural Vermont, and we need you!**

What Does Membership to Rural Vermont Mean?

Membership to Rural Vermont is a vote for an equitable local food system that benefits all Vermonters, along with a vibrant working landscape that supports generations to come. It is a vote for our efforts to advocate on behalf of Vermont farmers and the consumers who depend on them, and for our work to build resilient coalitions of related organizations and engaged individuals. But perhaps more than anything, membership to Rural Vermont means that you are one of the many who believe that this state is stronger and more vibrant when all Vermonters have equal opportunity to live in deep connection to one another and to the land that nourishes us all.

What Are the Benefits to Rural Vermont Membership?

- Voting rights at annual meeting
- Free or discounted admission to many events and social gatherings
- Stipends for attendance to many events and State House opportunities
- Direct access to all resources at our disposal
- A voice in our decision-making process around specific campaigns
- Our enduring gratitude and perhaps the occasional fist bump

Note: Some of the above benefits will look slightly, or significantly, different as we navigate health and safety protocols in a post-COVID world. (Fist bumps, of course, were the first to go!) One thing that has not changed – and has even amplified amid the current circumstances – is Rural Vermont's endless gratitude to all of our supporters.

Why Does Rural Vermont Need You as a Member?

Like all member-based organizations, Rural Vermont's influence and capacity to carry out our work correlates directly to the strength of our membership. Part of this strength comes from membership dues, which comprise a significant portion of our modest annual budget. But equally, this strength derives from the simple fact that your membership means that your voice is added to the chorus of Vermonters (and a growing number of non-Vermonters) calling for the on-going resurgence of community-scale agriculture, for living soils and healthy humans, and for a vibrant working landscape that delivers vitality to all. Less visible (but no less important), Rural Vermont's members are a wellspring of morale support for our small, hardworking staff.

Thank you!