

RURAL VERMONT 2022 IMPACT REPORT

www.ruralvermont.org | 802-223-7222 | 46 East State St, Montpelier, VT

-IN MEMORIAM-

Our 2022 Impact Report is dedicated to **Carl Russell**

With his wife, Lisa McCrory, Carl served on Rural Vermont's Board from 2008-17. Before, during, and beyond that time, he was a tireless, passionate, and effective advocate for our working lands and communities. Rural Vermont is a stronger and more impactful organization because of Carl's many contributions over the years. Thank you, Carl.



RURAL VERMONT ORGANIZES, EDUCATES AND ADVOCATES IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL AND GLOBAL MOVEMENTS TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL, ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES THAT CONNECT US ALL.

In 2022, Rural Vermont cautiously returned to in-person gatherings and organizing- and what a joy it's been! As seen in the pages ahead, we launched a Farm Tour that took us to people and places all across Vermont, grew and diversified our peer-to-peer educational events, convened with allies from across the country, and even had the opportunity for international travel and exchange. Another bright spot was hosting our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019, where members and friends shared a meal, (re-)connected, and celebrated a year steeped in solidarity and movement toward our shared vision of a just and equitable world rooted in reverence for the earth and dignity for all.

Rural Vermont's work is only possible because of the support of our members, donors, and allies. We are grateful and humbled to be working alongside you.

"I feel comforted that there is an organization with Rural Vermont's depth and breadth to represent my interests at all levels and across all farming disciplines. I trust Rural Vermont to be thorough, detail oriented, spirited in their work and to persevere to get results that will benefit farms and farmers in Vermont and beyond."
- Rural Vermont Board Chair Julie Wolcott, Fairfield



2022 STAFF

Left to Right: **Graham Unangst-Rufenacht** (Policy Director), **Gabby Doe** (2022 Intern), **Caroline Gordon** (Legislative Director), **Shelby Girard** (Development Director), **Mollie Wills** (Grassroots Organizing Director), **Shannon Varley** (Operations Director, as of Oct 2022)



2022 BOARD

Left to Right: Sue Buckholz, Ryan Yoder, Nour El-Naboulsi, Chris Wood, Jeannie Bartlett, Marya Merriam, Cat Buxton, Stephen Leslie (as of 10/2022), Amanda Andrews (as of 10/2022), Earl Hatley (as of 10/2022), John Cleary

Not pictured: Julie Wolcott & Silene DeCiucies

THANKS TO OUR 2022 INTERNS!

Elena Roig
Gabby Doe



- SINCE 1985 -

RURAL VERMONT

POLICY AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

2022 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 legislative session was the busiest in recent memory! Rural Vermont supported, provided testimony for, monitored, and kept our community informed about 19+ bills related to agriculture and forestry (of which the majority passed).



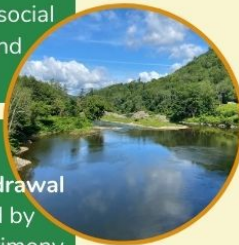
CANNABIS

Act 158: RV and the VT Cannabis Equity Coalition succeeded in having farmers and other community voices heard in testimony on a number of occasions while educating legislators of their challenges and needs related to social justice and repair, economic equity, and agricultural accessibility.



SURFACE WATER

Act 135: Proposed Surface Water Withdrawal regulations were substantially affected by farmers and farming organizations in testimony and in outreach to their representatives. An agreeable compromise was reached amongst all of the agricultural and environmental parties present which reduced the requirements and impacts for many small farms.



PFAS

Act 170: A bill addressing Consolidation of Food Waste Management Streams and the Contamination of Soil with Plastics & PFAS, advocated for by the Protect Our Soils Coalition, prompted a process to regulate de-packaging technology and studies on PFAS & microplastics.



NEONICS & TREATED SEEDS

Act 145: A bill tasked the Agency of Agriculture and the Agriculture Innovation Board to adopt by rule Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds, and the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure access to appropriate varieties and amounts of untreated seed or treated seed that are not neonicotinoid treated article seeds.



SMALL FARM ACTION DAY

Co-hosted three Small Farm Action Days that brought dozens of citizen activists to the virtual State House. The SFADs covered included: Cannabis, On-Farm Slaughter, Open Format/Value-Added Processing.



SOIL HEALTH

Three years monitoring and engaging with the Payments for Ecosystem Services & Soil Health Working Group culminated in a unanimous vote to pilot the expansion of the existing CSP program, a path advocated for by Rural Vermont and allies.



GMO WIN!

Through a lawsuit filed by the Center for Food Safety, of which Rural Vermont was a plaintiff, it was determined that QR codes alone are not sufficient for labeling GMOs. To further challenge the original USDA rule on GMO labeling, we join the appeal of this ruling to make further gains.

CONGRESSIONAL FORUM

RV was among the host organizations that facilitated a Congressional Candidate Forum on Food & Agriculture that drew almost 250 registrants for a virtual discussion that covered land access, on-farm slaughter, healthcare, and the dairy crisis.



ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

When On-Farm Slaughter came under threat in VT, Rural Vermont responded by launching a federal advocacy campaign - with support from partners at Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund, Farmers & Ranchers Freedom Alliance, and National Family Farm Coalition - to protect this critically important practice.

Below, Mary Lake at a lamb slaughter and processing workshop at Argyll Farm in December 2022.

Photo Credit: Allen Reetz



"The way that [Rural Vermont] moves and grows with our changing social, agrarian and working lands climate in Vermont and beyond is inspiring and keeps me a very dedicated member."
- Rural Vermont Board Member, Cat Buxton, Sharon

COMMUNITY & GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING HIGHLIGHTS

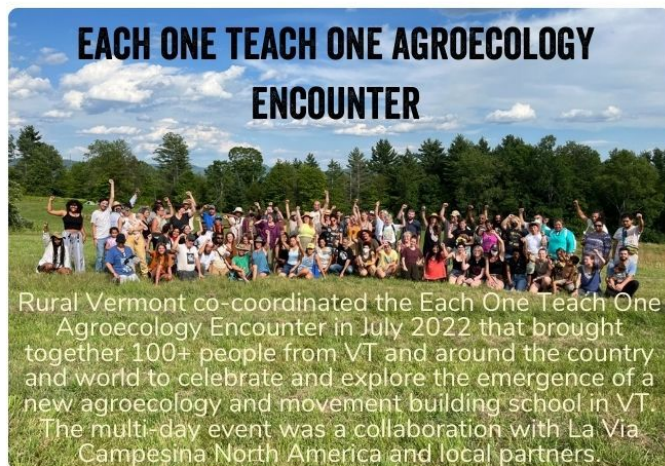
NFFC GATHERING

Rural Vermont traveled to National Family Farm Coalition's Gathering in August which brought together its member organizations from across the country. These important relationships provide greater context and inform our actions and perspectives close to home, while enabling us to grow collective power and contribute to broader movements for transformative change.



EACH ONE TEACH ONE AGROECOLOGY ENCOUNTER

Rural Vermont co-coordinated the Each One Teach One Agroecology Encounter in July 2022 that brought together 100+ people from VT and around the country and world to celebrate and explore the emergence of a new agroecology and movement building school in VT. The multi-day event was a collaboration with La Via Campesina North America and local partners.



PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Rural Vermont offered a number of Peer-to-Peer Educational Workshops. After a hiatus of 5+ years, Rural Vermont resumed its Value-Added Raw Dairy Classes where farmers taught folks how to make butter, cheese, and more! We continued our popular On-Farm Slaughter Workshop Series and partnered with new farms and locations. And we hosted a Korean Natural Farming Workshop!



8TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL AGROECOLOGY ENCOUNTER

In November, a contingent of Rural Vermont staff, Board, and members joined a US delegation to Cuba for the 8th Annual International Agroecology Encounter where they traveled to many farms and farming cooperatives, learned from and grew relationships with small farmers, agroecological organizations, and other delegates from all over the world.



ADDITIONAL OUTREACH & EVENTS

- * Launch of Rural Vermont Quarterly Member Forums
- *Vermont Wild Kitchen Cooking Series
- *Youth Encounter in Mexico to strategize advancing Food Sovereignty
- *Vandana Shiva Documentary Film Screening & Discussion
- *May Day Rally at Hannaford in solidarity with Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity Campaign
- *Agrarian Storytelling Event in Corinth
- *Voices from the Land: Cultivating Food Justice in Puerto Rico

FARM VISITS

Rural Vermont staff spent the summer and fall months making dozens of Farm Visits around the state to hear our constituents' stories, challenges, and ideas; to offer support and resources; and even to help plant seeds!



"I value Rural Vermont because they fill a much needed space in the agricultural advocacy landscape in Vermont; as a member based organization RV is not beholden to one industry or set of practices, but advocates for the rights and livelihoods of ecologically minded agrarians across different scales, practices, and industries." - RV Board Member Amanda Andrews, Tamarack Hollow Farm, Plainfield

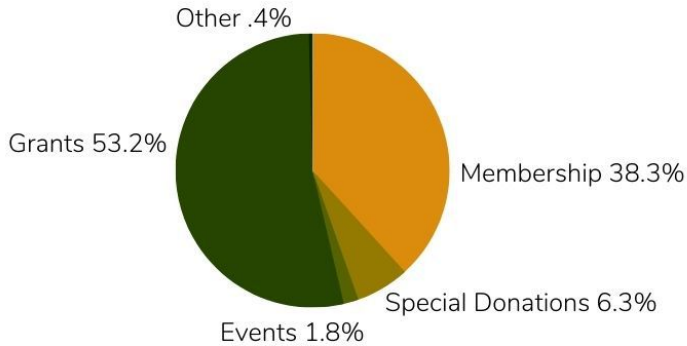


2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Starting Balance 2022: \$184,755.15
Ending Balance 2022: \$190,142.49

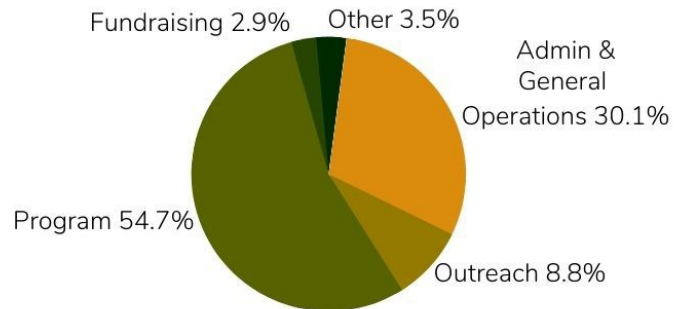
2022 INCOME

Total: \$ 286,054.20



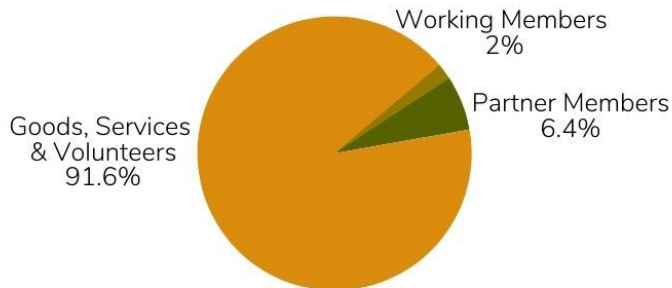
2022 EXPENSES

Total: \$ 280,542.67



IN-KIND INCOME

Total: \$23,335.42



FISCAL NOTES:

- Rural Vermont served as the Fiscal Sponsor to the Each One Teach One Agroecology Encounter (AE) in 2022. The numbers below are reflected in the chart totals above:
 - > AE 2022 Income = \$43,976.65
 - > AE 2022 Expenses = \$38,890.95
- These numbers are not audited.
- Form 990s available upon request.

JOIN US!

"I support Rural Vermont because it is one of the only organizations I have been a part of that feels truly fearless. Fearless to stand up to the powers that be. Fearless to speak up for the rights of our farmers. And fearless to fight against injustice, whether or not it is the popular thing to do."

- Rural Vermont Board Vice Chair Nour El-Naboulsi,
The People's Farmstand, Burlington (pictured right)

Join Nour and Rural Vermont's 500+ members from every corner of Vermont and beyond in co-creating a just and equitable world rooted in reverence for the earth and dignity for all.

Please donate or become a member today.
Dues are sliding scale and start at \$35/year.

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY AT [RURALVERMONT.ORG/DONATE!](https://ruralvermont.org/donate/)

Interested in giving time instead of cash? Working Memberships are available! Contact Shelby@ruralvermont.org for more info.

