

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – January 2, 2025

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<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

JANUARY 8 IS THE DEADLINE FOR EASY-TO-GET USDA MONEY

If you grow any type of specialty crop (fruit, vegetables, ornamentals, herbs, maple, etc.) do not miss this opportunity! This is program is simply a payment based on a percentage of your 2023 or 2024 sales. Payments are estimated to be in the range of 2 to 11 percent of gross sales, depending on the number of applications nationwide. A total of \$2 billion is available.

Though the program is titled Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops, it does not require a marketing plan or that you spend the funds on marketing. It is intended to compensate producers for the high costs of production in recent years.

To apply:

- 1) Fill out the simple two-page [FSA form 1140](#) stating your 2023 or 2024 sales of [specialty crops](#). New producers can apply for this program but [it is a little more complicated](#).
- 2) Get the form to your local USDA service center. Calling ahead is a good idea to make sure someone is available to accept your form or to get instructions for mailing in your form. Vermont farms, here are your [service centers](#). Out-of-state farms: see [USDA service center locator](#).
- 3) Be ready to provide documentation of your sales (spreadsheet, etc.). There may also be more paperwork to get set up with USDA or confirm your eligibility, but don't let this deter you. Your USDA service center can help with this.

To view the program, exhibitors, and registration details see <https://go.uvm.edu/vvbga2025>.

Pre-registration closes on January 23. At the door, add \$10 per person.

Thanks to our sponsors who help keep the annual meeting fees low!

VVBGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To renew or join, go to <https://vvbga.org> and log in to your VVBGA account or create a new account. Dues are \$75 per farm for calendar year 2025. If this fee is a barrier to participation, a lower payment can be selected, no questions asked.

Commercial membership in the VVBGA is \$125 per company or organization. Go to: <https://vvbga.org/commercial-membership>. If you want an ad in the 2025 annual meeting booklet, or an exhibit table in the trade show, act now!

CROP MANAGEMENT GUIDES FOR OUR REGION

Vegetable Management Guide. <https://nevegetable.org/>

Small Fruit Management Guide. <https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/ne-small-fruit-management-guide>

Strawberry Production Guide. <https://scholars.unh.edu/extension/1670/>

Tree Fruit Management Guide. <https://netreefruit.org/>

Floriculture Management Guide. https://www.MnsN gg0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBT/F2 12 Tf1 3f*EMC /Sp

This is a two-part workshop for Northeast growers. Topics include management of powdery mildew, thrips and aphids, and IPM practices. View the agenda [here](#), and [register here](#). \$50 per person. Questions? Cheryl Sullivan, cfrank@uvm.edu or (802) 656-5434.

NOFA-VT WINTER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15-16

This event will be held at UVM in Burlington. Stay tuned for program information soon at <https://www.nofavt.org/events/nofa-vt-winter-conference>