

2023 IMPACT

REPORT

Dear Friends of ACORN,

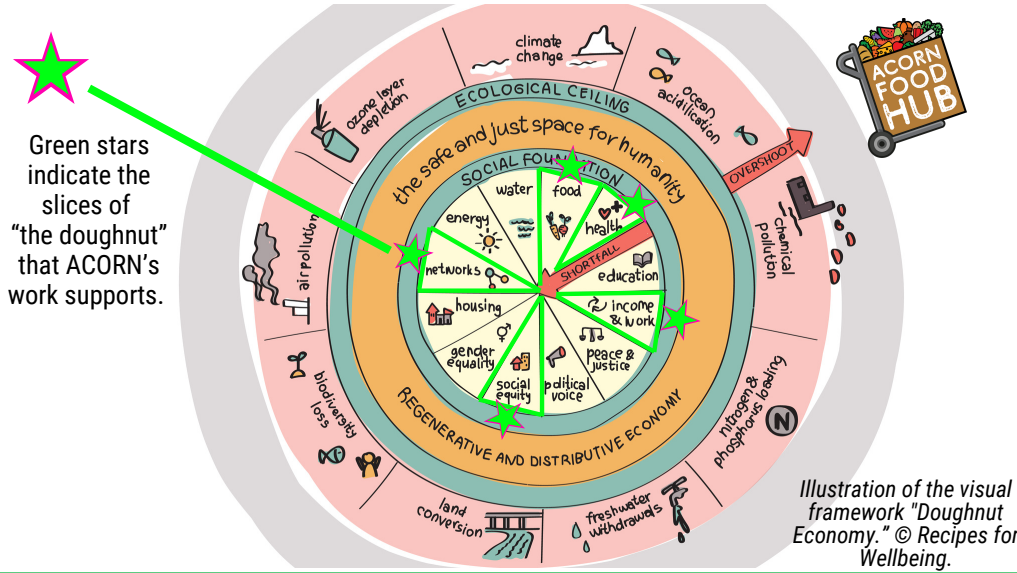
2023 was a momentous year for us! We added a new full time staff member (Lilah!), expanded and finetuned the Food Hub and online market, purchased a cargo van for deliveries around the Champlain Valley (Addison, Chittenden & Rutland Counties), and launched a Farmer Climate Network.

We dug into how ACORN can be part of Vermont's emerging Solidarity Economy (similar to Doughnut Economics, see below) and how we can further support the Viva el Sabor Collective. Please continue reading to learn more about our work. We look forward to continue building this movement together with you, our community, in 2024.

With gratitude,

Lindsey Berk

Executive Director, ACORN



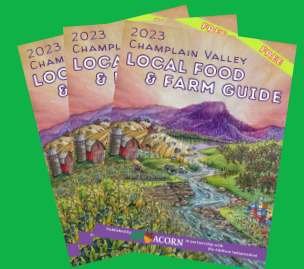
2023 BY THE NUMBERS



\$61,400 in online market sales (11/1/22-10/31/23)



14,000 pounds of produce distributed to **312 people** through Farmacy: Food is Medicine Program



Over **250 Champlain Valley food producers** catalogued in the **2023 Food & Farm Guide**

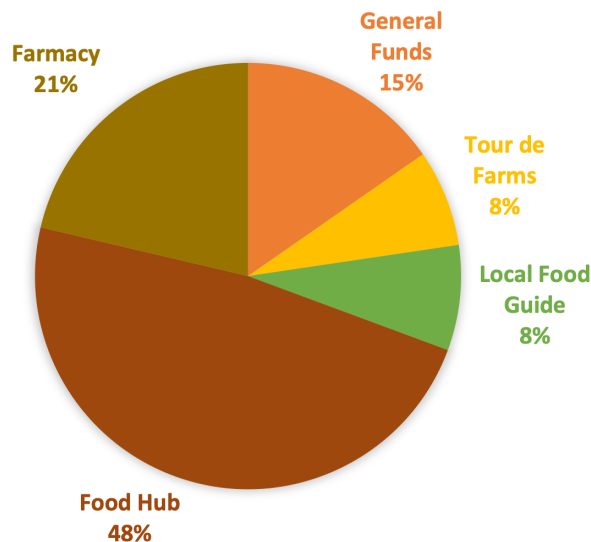
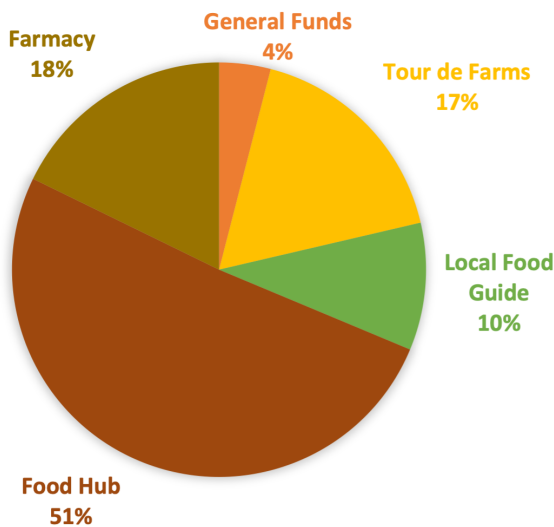


500 riders enjoyed the 15th Annual Tour de Farms

IN 2023, ACORN PUT \$120,000 DIRECTLY INTO THE POCKETS OF CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FOOD PRODUCERS!

2023 REVENUE

2023 EXPENDITURES



\$110,675*

IN GRANT FUNDING
WAS AWARDED TO SUPPORT

ACORN PROGRAMS



*In addition, ACEDC was awarded \$50,000 to conduct a feasibility study of the future development of the ACORN Food Hub! To be completed by 6/30/24.

*Also in addition, \$95,000 was awarded by the Kendall Foundation to support farm to school work in Addison County for 2024-2025.



"I am beyond thrilled to have the Food Hub in operation in Middlebury, thanks to ACORN. Blue Ledge Farm benefits from the Food Hub in two ways: as a local marketplace and as a convenient consolidation point for access to markets outside of Addison County. Having a convenient location to drop cheese has been critical in addressing our distribution challenges. We are also able to curb our carbon footprint when we put our products on trucks that are already in the area and headed to our destination. The ACORN marketplace has filled a great niche in the area! With consolidations in the food system at every level very common these days, having the Food Hub is a real bright spot and source of hope for us family farms."

- Hannah Sessions, Blue Ledge Farm, Salisbury

WHERE IS THE FOOD GOING?

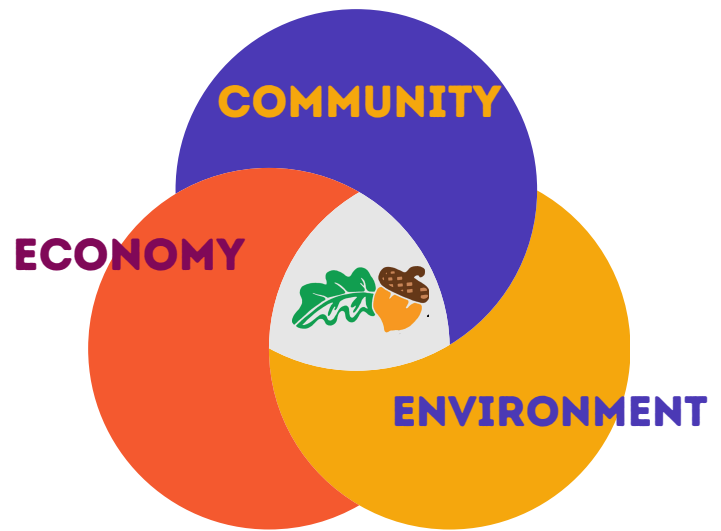


"We feel very lucky to have ACORN in our local community. Being new farmers in town, the food hub connected us to both customers for our veggies and other local products for our farmstand. We share a mission with ACORN in that we want local food to be more widely available and accessible throughout our community and region. There are many barriers that make this hard, and we're really grateful to have ACORN's support and resources in our corner. Everyone who works there is fantastic and very pleasant to work with. We hope to be able to partner with ACORN more and more in the coming years."

-Dan Wulfkulhe, Woods Market Garden, Brandon



ACHIEVEMENTS



How does ACORN's work create a more just, resilient food system?

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOMES
Online Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online, wholesale platform. • Built for institutional and bulk buying opportunities. • Multiple vendors with the convenience of one invoice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$61,400 in Online Market sales from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023. • Increased market access for 50 producers. • Improved perceived local farm visibility.
ACORN Food Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frozen, cold, and dry storage; cross-docking; delivery services. • Physical infrastructure for the online market and Farmacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New, accessible centrally located space for agricultural exchange. • Collaboration with CVOEO, Farm Connex, Middlebury College + more. • A sense of place for ACORN.
Farmacy: Food is Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free CSA and nutrition education. • Healthcare CSA in collaboration with Porter Medical Center, Village Health, HOPE, NOFA-VT + YouFirst. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 families with 312 people, 15 weeks, 14,000 pounds of local food distributed • \$47,000 in produce purchasing from 4 local farms.
Tour de Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACORN's largest fundraiser in the form of a 30-mile biking farm tour. • Opportunity for expanded markets for growers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised \$40,000 in unrestricted funds. • 500 riders exploring the diversified products from 20 different vendors.
Champlain Valley Local Food and Farm Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual guide printed and distributed in partnership with <i>The Addison Independent</i>. • Catalogues the presence and markets of farms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20,000 copies distributed. • Listed over 250 farmers + food producers. • 13th edition featured articles and profiles on local food system news.
Farmer Climate Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster a community of climate-resilient farmers. • Emphasize peer-to-peer learning through working bee projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Kick-off events in Fall 2023 • 6-8 potential working bee projects in Winter and Spring 2024



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA + PANEL

- 6:00 PM Dinner + drinks
- 6:25 PM Opening remarks
- 6:30 PM ACORN Presentation by E.D. Lindsey Berk & Food Hub Manager Jessica Purks
- 7:00 PM Farming on the Forefront of a Changing Climate Panel
- 7:30 PM Q+A
- 8:00 PM Wrap-up

PANEL: FARMING ON THE FOREFRONT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

With Faciliator Emily Landenberger of NOFA-VT + Taproot Nursery (Weybridge)

**OLLIE
CULTRARA**

Seasoned farmworker with Elmer Farm (Middlebury), Blue Ledge Farm (Salisbury) + Singing Cedars Farmstead (Orwell)

**OLIVIA
GLASCOE &
MATT BRYAN**

Co-owners, Lower Notch Berry Farm (Bristol)

**SILAS DOYLE-
BURR**

Co-owner, Last Resort Farm (Monkton)

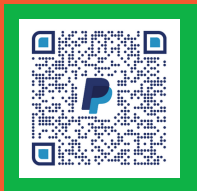
**ANNAJO
SMITH**

Co-owner, Smith Family Farm (New Haven)

*If this evening's presentation resonates with you, **please consider supporting ACORN.** A one-time or monthly donation goes a long way to strengthening our community's local food resilience and creating a regenerative, distributive economy.*

**WE WELCOME
DONATIONS
BY:**

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ACORN
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BRISTOL, VT
05443

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