



Center For Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship - Overview

The Center for Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship (CAFE) was created through a highly-collaborative process. Then-VTC faculty, staff, and industry and organizational stakeholders, came together in 2020-2021 to envision a thoughtful “reboot” of workforce and community education in the areas of agriculture, food systems, and forestry.

First, a [comprehensive investigation and Transformation Report was completed, and made public](#); which included the recommendation to create CAFE. With leadership and faculty approval and support, subsequent efforts resulted in successful procurement of over three million dollars of grant funding. These funds were specifically allocated to: (1) create a staffing runway for CAFE, (2) support for-credit and not-for-credit program development and marketing, and (3) support construction of a dedicated meat processing facility.

Currently, CAFE is working to follow through on the broad recommendations of the Transformation Report, and each specific grant deliverable, all through a period of great transformation at the University level. We are managing and adapting the resource base of the Randolph campus/farm, and developing partnerships that align with our educational mission and that will make it financially viable to maintain living laboratory spaces (farmland, forests, facilities) for diverse educational uses. Our two program focus areas are:

1. Offering and expanding non-credit certificate trainings across a spectrum of working lands topics.
 - a. We currently provide around a dozen certificate training programs in agriculture, food and forests. These trainings include: organic certification, wetlands delineation, welding, grafting, artificial insemination of dairy cattle, butchery and distilling. These offerings are attended by current industry (e.g., meat processing, natural resources, farms) employees and diverse individuals looking to re-skill or up-skill for workforce and personal reasons.
 - b. We are working to increase our current portfolio of certificate trainings in two areas. The first are federally and state-mandated trainings, such as worker protection and equipment safety training. The second are trainings to target areas of regional specialty or workforce need, such as the art of maple sugaring and the Vermont beer-making experience. We will expand our butchery trainings once our meat processing facility is complete. We also intend to add at least one asynchronous online training option.
2. Evaluating the potential to offer a unified Agriculture, Food, and Forests Associates Degree.
 - a. In direct alignment with the recommendations of the Transformation Report, this degree would be tailored to meet diverse student interests, and to provide them with marketable, industry-ready, workforce skills. This degree pathway would include robust for-credit internships with vetted partners. This offering would position VTSU to meet a regional need – not just VT State.
 - b. Faculty direction through the curriculum development, approval and delivery process is essential. While the three current CAFE staff (Ex. Director – Ph.D. Horticulture; Meat Director – Ph.D. Meat Science; Training and Internship Manager – M.A. Global Studies & Food Studies) have relevant academic qualifications, there are limited core subject-matter faculty (as former related degree programs were discontinued) to lend their expertise. A financial and programmatic analysis of this degree pathway is underway, and if feasible, collaborative development of a formal proposal (Policy 102) would follow.



**Vermont State
University**

Center for Agriculture
& Food Entrepreneurship

CAFE: An Overview and Action Update

June 10th, 2024

- Overview of activities/projects/progress
- Meat processing facility updates
- Degree programming... process snapshot

The Center for Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship (CAFE) is Vermont State University's gateway to applied skill-building within agriculture, food, and forest systems.

Immersive workforce development opportunities:

Associates Degree (*pending*)
Certificate-Trainings (*current*)

Randolph-based land, facilities, equipment and instructors:

Hands-on skill building resources

Private partnerships With businesses that are innovative and entrepreneurial:

Efficiently and effectively facilitate internships and on- and off-campus experiences

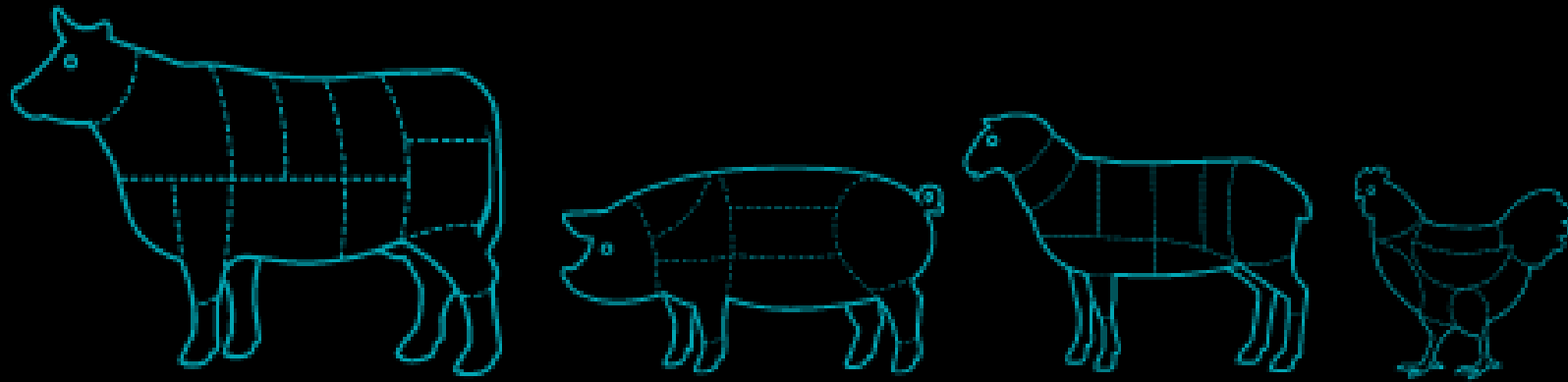
Updates: VTSU Randolph Farm

- Partnerships/Leases
 - Dairy & Agronomy
 - Grass-Fed Beef
 - Orchard
- Equipment
 - Sales
 - Reinvestment
- Facilities
 - Silos, Sugaring
- Staffing – Farm Management



Updates, cont.:

- Communicating about CAFE...
 - House and Senate Ag. and Forest committees
 - Academic leadership
 - Partner organizations/industries
- New Hire – Taylor Paone, CAFE Training and Internship Manager
- Meat Processing Facility – Design complete and out to bid!



BUTCHER BLOCK 1787

Vermont State University-Randolph

Center for Agriculture, Food, and Entrepreneurship

Meat Training & Education Facility

Functions of the VTSU Meat Facility

◆ Education

- ◆ The Meat facility provides carcasses and cuts for class instruction. Students are taught how to break down beef, pork, and lamb carcasses in addition to learning how to make processed meat products.

◆ Outreach/Extension

- ◆ Meat Specialists and Educators utilize the VTSU Meat Facility to provide training for meat processors, livestock producers, consumers, and youth throughout the state and region.

◆ Meat Judging- Coming Soon

- ◆ The Meat facility seeks to provide carcasses and cuts for the Meat Judging Team. Students have the opportunity to learn how to Quality and Yield Grade carcasses based on USDA standards. They will also learn how to evaluate cuts of meat to identify if they have been cut according to specifications. All of these skills are directly applicable to future careers in the meat industry.



Associate Degree in Ag., Food and Forests:

Achievable Objectives

- Meet critical regional, state and industry needs (workforce, career pathways, food security, sustainability...)
AND
- Meet aspirational goals of prospective students (engaging, experiential, open, orienting, achievable...)
AND
- Meet University needs (exemplify quality instruction, innovative, distinctive, fiscally-sound...)

Degree Program: Agriculture, Food and Forests (AFF)

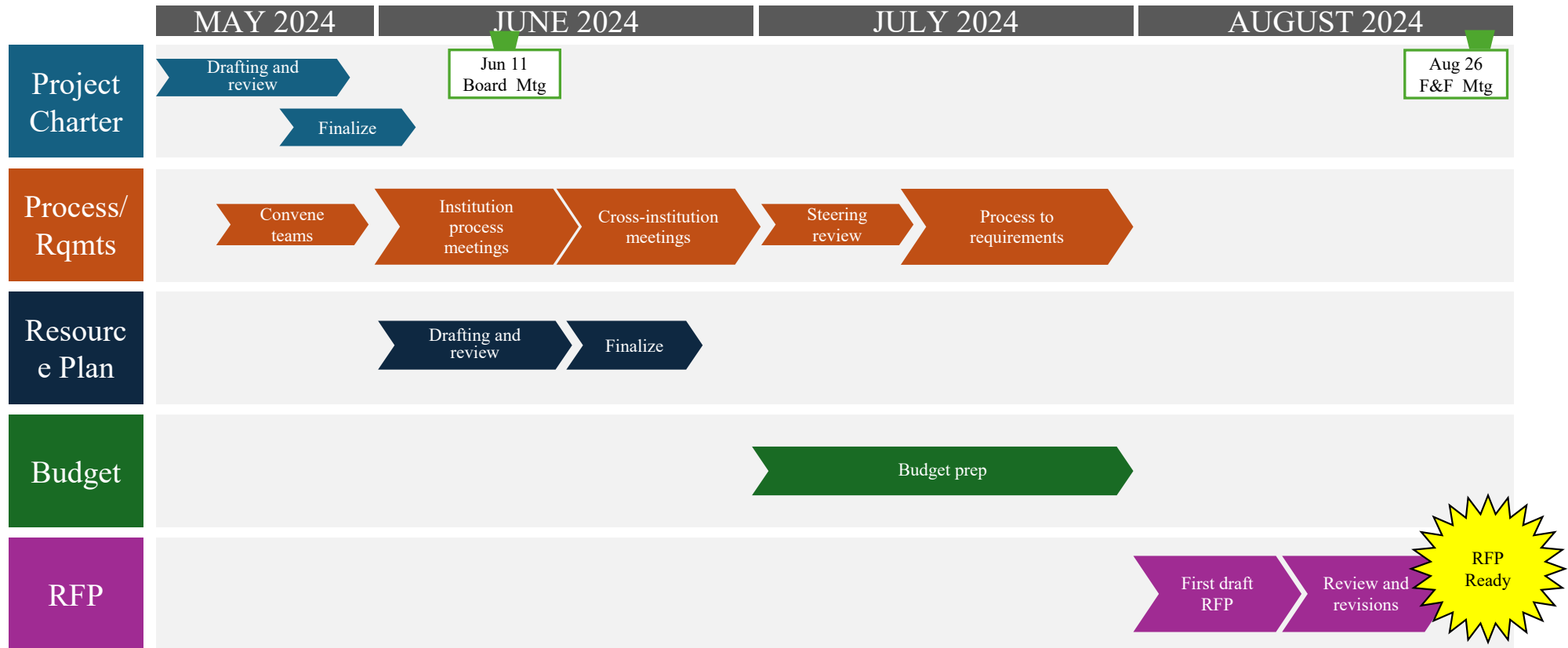
Process Steps

1. Budget projection
2. Leadership support
3. Curriculum development w/ faculty
4. Faculty teaching model (identifying & hiring)
5. Policy 102 proposal submission
6. Academic review of new programming
7. Approval, accreditation, availability in course catalog
8. Targeted marketing campaign...Regional, CTEs, High schools, industry, events...
9. Students! An engaging experience!

ERP Project – June 10, 2024



Pre-RFP Timeline



VSC Board of Trustees

Training and Compliance Schedule

Timeframe	Topics	Policies	Other resources
August Board Meeting (via Zoom)	Title IX and Discrimination Updates; protection of minors	Policies 311, 311A, 316	Power Point Presentation
September Retreat (in-person)	Fiduciary Duty and Conflict of Interest Communication Practices Attorney-client Privilege Public Records Law Open Meeting Law	Policy 207	PowerPoint Presentation PowerPoint Presentation
Committee Chairs (via Zoom)	Meetings tips and practices (voting, quorum, motions, Robert's Rules, etc.)		

*Should a Board member have an interest in incorporating additional legal trainings, we encourage you to contact Patty Turley and/or Kathryn Santiago.



Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Mission

The Community College of Vermont supports and challenges all students in meeting their educational and career goals through an abiding commitment to access, affordability, and student success.

Vision

CCV is deeply rooted in Vermont communities, providing students opportunities for academic and professional growth through flexible, innovative programs and exemplary support services. CCV will cultivate a rich network of partners through collaboration and workforce development to create vibrant and economically thriving Vermont communities.

Values

CCV holds at its core the belief that education has the power to transform lives, inspire families, and strengthen communities. We believe all people are entitled to a high-quality, affordable postsecondary education, and all students have the ability to learn. The following values guide CCV's work:

Collaboration

CCV values teamwork and actively reaches out to its diverse communities, developing deep partnerships to achieve shared goals.

Empowerment

CCV empowers its students, faculty, and staff to change their lives in positive ways and become active members in local and global communities.

Engagement

CCV offers small classes, embracing quality active learning and student engagement as the core of its teaching and learning environment.

Innovation

CCV fosters creative problem solving, responsiveness, entrepreneurship, and the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Integrity

CCV promotes institutional and individual responsibility, honest and ethical conduct, fairness, and transparency.

Learning

CCV develops the capacity of students, faculty, and staff to fulfill their potential through continuous education, improvement and growth.

Respect

CCV embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion, and provides welcoming, safe, and supportive teaching and learning environments.

Sustainability

CCV is committed to the wise use of resources to offer an affordable college education and to ensure the long-term health of the College. Community College of Vermont is a not-for-profit public institution.

2025-2030 Strategic Pillars & Priorities

CCV SERVES.

We serve the communities we live and work in. We serve the state we call home. And we serve the thousands of learners, partners, and businesses that work to create a vibrant and economically thriving Vermont.

Student Experience

Relevance

Value

Excellence

Sustainability

CCV Strategic Pillar	CCV Strategic Priorities	Alignment w/VSCS Strategic Priorities
Student Experience Place the student experience at the forefront, fostering an environment where students achieve their academic and career goals and derive significant value from their time at CCV.	1. Design academic terms and modalities that support accelerated completion and flexibility for students. 2. Provide an integrated system of student services that clarifies and supports students' career goals from pre-admission through completion, including graduation and transfer.	Accessibility Excellence
Relevance Deliver high quality programs that align with regional workforce needs and advance students' economic mobility.	3. Integrate a range of best-fit work-based learning options into program and course design to ensure students gain relevant work experience, accounting for teaching and learning goals as well as capacities. 4. Align program offerings with labor market opportunities, clarify earning trajectory and career pathways by program for students, and foster equitable enrollment and completion rates across programs.	Relevance

	5. Leverage current and emerging technology in teaching, learning, and workplace contexts.	
Value Enhance and promote the College's compelling value proposition, establishing it as a vital leader in shaping the state's future with a focus on quality, accessibility, and affordability for all Vermonters.	6. Establish CCV as Vermonters' premier college choice for advancing their education and career aspirations. 7. Generate value for stakeholders by nurturing strategic partnerships, leveraging our statewide presence, and driving positive change within our communities, serving as a hub for collective impact in the state.	Relevance Quality Affordability
Excellence Scale Learner-centered Best Practices in Teaching to ensure accessible, inclusive, and supportive learning experiences centered around student success.	8. Cultivate learning environments that promote engagement, provide predictable course design, and prioritizes the student experience. 9. Ensure student support across teaching and learning formats are responsive, substantive, and individualized.	Quality
Sustainability Cultivate a growth oriented, agile culture and a sustainable organization.	10. Grow enrollment and retention across a variety of sectors, especially Vermont's underserved and underrepresented populations. 11. Hire, develop, and retain outstanding and diverse faculty and staff. 12. Ensure the College's processes, design, and infrastructure are durably and responsibly deployed to meet evolving needs and provide for an affordable student experience.	Affordability