

## UVM to partner with Harwick agriculture program

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Colchester, VT

(Host) The University of Vermont says it wants to expand its mission as a land-grant college by supporting local agriculture.

President Daniel Fogel says UVM will work with the Center for an Agricultural Economy in Hardwick to broaden its food systems research.

*(Fogel) "The center's vision supports the desire of rural communities to rebuild their economic and ecological health through strong, secure, and revitalized agricultural systems to meet both their own food needs locally as well as to determine and build the best opportunities for value-added agricultural exports."*

(Host) The Center for an Agricultural Economy is an umbrella organization for a group of food businesses in Hardwick. They range from an organic farm to a seed company.

UVM says the university wants to support sustainable communities and local food systems. Fogel signed a memorandum of understanding that commits UVM to helping the center with food research and business planning.

Fogel says the initiative could be a model for other projects around the state dedicated to sustainable agriculture.

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