



The University of Vermont

## UVM Farmer Training Program (FTP) Statement of Solidarity



As a program dedicated to educating and empowering the next generation of farmers, we fully believe that there can be no just way to produce, consume, and in any way engage with food and farming without racial justice at the core of this act.

During this intense time of social upheaval and unrest, the UVM Farmer Training Program stands in solidarity with Black-led movements, and individuals and organizations doing the deep work of challenging systemic racism and white supremacy.

We acknowledge and uphold that an offering of a few typed words such as these are not a substitute for serious recalibrating and institutional dismantling on all levels.

With these words, we express our commitment to continually evolving our approach in ways that are informed by principles of collaboration and justice.

We, as staff of the UVM Farmer Training Program, commit to:

- 1) Continue the development of the Food & Social Justice curriculum taught throughout the course of our 6-month program
- 2) Deepen our relationship with Chief Don Stevens and the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk, growing native corn, beans, squash, and flowers for Abenaki Nation sustenance and seed
- 3) Launch a fundraising campaign to be able to provide scholarship funds for farmers-to-be without the financial means to pay full tuition
- 4) Extend the personal internal work that is perpetually necessary on ourselves as farmers and educators
- 5) Complete an annual programmatic audit dedicated to confronting and denouncing the systems of oppression we see manifested in our institution, and regenerating our structure to uplift the voices, experiences, wisdom, and teachings of BIPoC leaders, farmers, movements, and beyond