

---

---

# LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

## CELEBRATE THE ABUNDANCE OF VERMONT

A poll conducted earlier this year found, not surprisingly, that most Americans wanted their food to be locally produced. Why is “local” so important? If you ask ten different people, you’ll most likely get ten different answers.

Perhaps it’s about keeping land open and productive, or maybe it’s having more influence on production techniques. To some, food security issues are the overriding factor; for others, the value may be pure economics: local production helps the local economy, and a viable agricultural economy is essential for Vermont’s overall economy to prosper.

I welcome this new and exciting publication to Vermont. *Edible Green Mountains* is a wonderful celebration of the local and seasonal foods of Vermont. It also serves as a resource to bring together producers, cooks, consumers, farmers and others interested in food and community.

We have ambitious goals with our Buy Local and Eat Local campaigns and I want to congratulate the many partners who are working together to make these campaigns a success. Some of the groups working to offer education and address the challenges we face in our endeavors include the Agency of Agriculture, the Vermont Fresh Network, VT! Farms Association, Vermont Public Television and Shelburne Farms, just to name a few!

Buying local is important. Understanding where our food comes from and knowing the producers and their philosophy is a crucial step to a healthier and more sustainable Vermont.

GOVERNOR JIM DOUGLAS



Governor Jim Douglas and his wife Dorothy buying local.