



VermontStateUniversity

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Monday, May 13th, 2024, 5:00 pm Eastern Time

the following naming convention:

Email Subject Line: Orchard Lease Proposal

## QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RFP

Questions regarding this RFP may be directed to Glenn Evans [Glenn.Evans@vermontstate.edu](mailto:Glenn.Evans@vermontstate.edu). Please put "Orchard Lease RFP Question" in the subject line of your message. All questions must be submitted by April 29, 2024, 4:00pm ET. Answers will be provided by May 3, 2024, 4:00pm ET, and will be available on [www.vsc.edu/rfps](http://www.vsc.edu/rfps).

## SITE VISIT

The Orchard will be available for pre-bid viewing as soon as you have arrived and we will be by momentarily to answer your questions. Please submit any questions in writing prior to the end of the Question & Answer period described above.

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## VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The VSCS is currently undergoing a significant transformation, with the guidance of the Governor, Legislature, the Board of Trustees and the State's Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont. The VSCS began working on internal transformation in summer 2020 with the VSCS Forward Task Force and several institutional tasks forces including NVU Strong and VTC's Transformation Advisory Team.

The [Vermont State Colleges System](#) (VSCS) is comprised of two member institutions – [Community College of Vermont](#) (CCV) and Vermont State University (VTSU). The system educates over ten thousand Vermonters and Vermonters each year, employs over three thousand Vermonters and in Spring 2020 graduated over eighteen hundred Vermonters and out-of-state students into the workforce with certificates and degrees.

## SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Vermont State Colleges System seeks interested parties to submit competitive bids to lease the five-acre YouPick

## EVALUATION

Responses will be evaluated on experience/capabilities, alignment of mission and core values, and costs. Priority will be given to a proposal that shows a

1. Ability to maintain the orchard to a professional standard, using integrated pest management practices (IPM) and other best practices in the care of the trees for the production of healthy quality fruit, and the sustainability of the orchard environment.
2. Willingness to provide VTSU access to Orchard operations to serve as an educational learning space/resource and for coordinated functions with VTSU departments, programs and alumni including
  - a. Being the entry location for an annual campus cross-country race
  - b. Sales of apples to external organizations/partners
  - c. Access to the orchard for alumni day events
  - d. Sale of VTSU Randolph maple syrup at the farm shed during pick-season
  - e. VTSU student, faculty and staff discounts on apples
3. Willingness and qualification to provide instruction (e.g., lead tours, serve as a guest lecturer or provide support in areas of orchard management (e.g., pest management, production systems, pruning, marketing);
4. Openness to taking on VTSU student interns;
5. Retaining a community function to the orchard, including education and exposure of the public to a quality orchard experience, collaborations with local foodbanks for donations, outreach with schools, etc.

### Method of Award

The proposals will be reviewed and scored by Greater for Ag and Food Entrepreneurship team and sent to leadership for final approval based on the submission requirements utilizing the scoring rubric attached. The VSCS, in its best interests, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to accept or reject any



## CONFIDENTIALITY

The Vermont State Colleges System complies with the Vermont Public Records Act, 1 VSA § 315 *et seq.* which requires public agencies to allow any person to inspect or copy any public record upon request. Accordingly, applicants for this RFP are hereby advised that any communications, data or other information received by the Vermont State Colleges System during the RFP process could be subject to a public records request. However, certain public records are exempt from public inspection and copying, as set forth in 1 VSA § 317©, including, for example, those portions of a record which meet the statutory definition of a trade secret. Accordingly, consultant should submit a second copy of their proposal, from which any portion of the proposal that the consultant reasonably believes to be exempt from disclosure under Public Records Act has been redacted. By submitting a proposal, you indicate that you understand the requirements of this section and the potential applicability of Vermont's Public Records Act to your proposal.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All submissions are due no later than May 15, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Write a brief proposal that addresses the services requested. Please clearly state:

1. Your experience and/or existing business.
2. Explain your interest in leasing of the VTSU Orchard.
3. Your timeframe and management plan for taking over daily operations and oversight of the Orchard.
4. The value at which you would be willing to pay for a yearly lease

## ORCHARD INFORMATION

There are roughly 4.5 acres, with 400 apple trees, historically managed by farm staff. Most apples are sold you pick, to third parties, or donated to foodbanks. All oisting

Apple s