

Vermont

NMTC Allocatee

Vermont Rural Ventures
Beth Boutin
Beth@hvt.org
802-861-3822



Community Profile

North Springfield, VT

**Median Income
Compared to AMI** 77.1%

Project Highlights

- Investor: People's United Bank
- Total Project Cost: \$9.26M
- NMTC allocation: \$9.5M
- Jobs: 97 new full-time jobs, and ancillary job creation, retention, and wealth generation on farms through increased local meat production is also anticipated.



Black River Meat & Seafood

Black River Produce, a distributor of fresh, locally sourced foods grown in New England, recognized the need for processing locally raised meats and in 2014 sought to develop a fully equipped meat slaughter, processing, and cold storage facility. However, the costs to purchase, renovate and equip the facility far exceed the \$2.5 million appraised value. Bank financing was restricted to lending at 60% of the value of the project at \$1.5M, which left Black River Produce with a \$7.7 million gap.

Vermont Rural Venture's New Markets Tax Credit \$2.7 million in financing filled the gap along with \$1.5 million in subordinated debt from the Vermont Economic Development Authority and \$3.5 million of owner capital.

Tenant Vermont Packinghouse now slaughters and processes animals from Vermont and neighboring areas into primal cuts, retail portioning, ground meat, and sausage. Seafood is also processed and stored within the facility. The products are marketed, sold, and distributed to area and metropolitan retailers, restaurants, and institutions by Black River Produce.

This project brings 97 new jobs into the low income community – well beyond the 65 projected new jobs. Ancillary job creation, retention, and wealth generation on farms through increased local meat production is also anticipated.

As a further benefit to the community, Black River Produce will share a percentage of its net profits with producers for producer scale up or infrastructure improvement; scholarship awards for Vermont Technical College, Howard Dean Educational Center and Hannaford Career Center students; on-site internships; and the Vermont Food Bank and other community organizations.