

# QUARTERLY UPDATE



## **New England Feeding New England**

A project of the New England State  
Food System Planners Partnership

June 21, 2022

[www.nefoodsystemplanners.org](http://www.nefoodsystemplanners.org)

# Meeting Objectives



- Participants gain an understanding of the project goals and current status.
- Participants begin to explore how they and their work can fit into this project.
- Participants have an opportunity to connect with others in the project and understand how to stay involved.
- Participants have the opportunity to provide input and feedback into project direction.

# Agenda



1. Project Overview
2. Research Update
3. Presentation of the Food Systems Resilience Assessment Tool
4. Breakout Groups
5. Closing and Next Steps

# The New England State Food System Planners Partnership



Ellen Kahler



NH FOOD ALLIANCE

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Nicole Cardwell



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In collaboration with



Lisa Fernandes

New England Feeding New England  
**PROJECT GOAL**



**By 2030, 30% of the food consumed in New England is produced/harvested/caught within New England.**

Our collective effort will focus on expanding and fortifying the region's food supply and distribution systems in an equitable and inclusive way that ensures the availability of adequate, affordable, socially and culturally appropriate products under a variety of rapidly changing climate, environmental, and public health conditions.

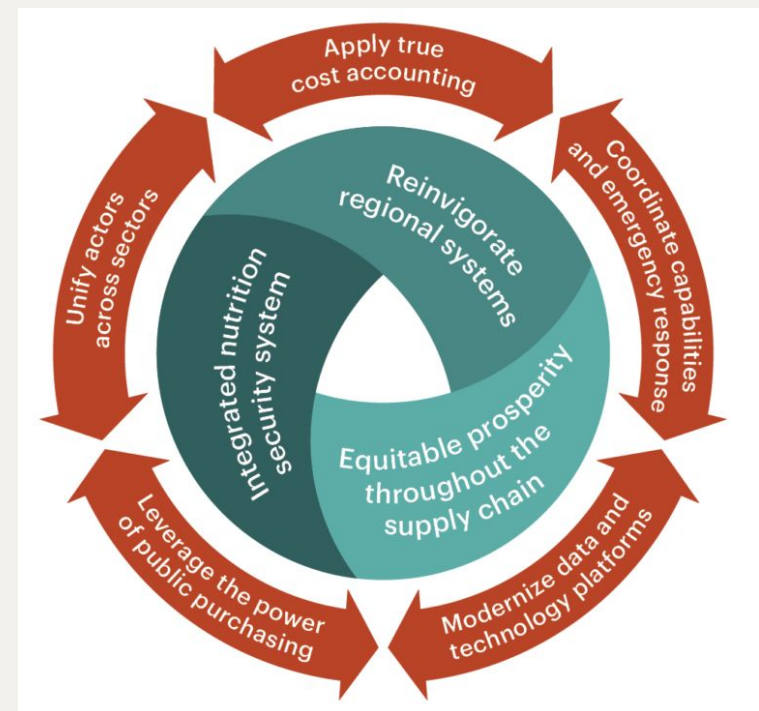
# Why is this project important?



To ensure the food security of all New England residents as national and international supply chains shift.

To reduce health and economic disparities related to food in marginalized communities.

To reduce unintended costs imposed by the current food system (ie. health care costs, climate change, and biodiversity loss).



# New England Feeding New England

## PROJECT TIMELINE



**By 2030, 30% of the food consumed in New England is produced/harvested/caught within New England.**

### RESEARCH

2021 through 2022



### PLANNING

2022 through 2023



### IMPLEMENTATION

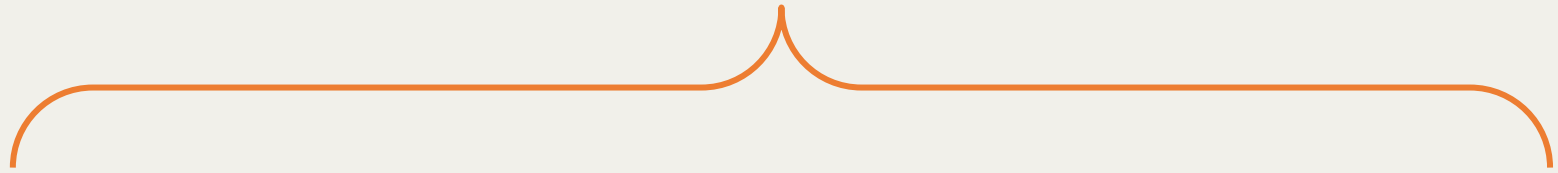
2023 into 2030 and beyond



we are  
here!



# Project Areas of Focus



Production &  
Consumer Demand  
(Research)

Communications  
and Engagement

Resilience  
Assessment



today's update



# Project Outputs



- Relevant, timely foundational data and analysis provided for each state and the 6-state region, which can be used for public, private, nonprofit, community, and philanthropic planning and investment decisions.
- Broadened and strengthened networks within and between states -- working collaboratively to establish regionally-coordinated and prioritized implementation goals, objectives, and activities.
- Regional coordination among state-level, public sector decision makers on critical topics and priorities related to the development of a just and resilient regional food system.



# Project Areas of Focus



Production &  
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today's update

# Food Systems Resilience Assessment



Introduction and Progress Update by:

**Emily Spiegel**

Professor of Law, Faculty Fellow  
Center For Agriculture and Food Systems at  
Vermont Law School

J.D, Duke University  
BS, Georgetown University





# Food Systems Resilience: Resilience Assessment Tool

June 21, 2022 Progress Update

Emily J. Spiegel, Jenileigh Harris & Elena Chang  
Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont  
Law School

# Policy Approaches to Improving Food System Resilience



Food security is proposed as the normative threshold for a resilient food system, with a focus on the *availability, accessibility, and utilization* of food.

A resilient food system is defined as one that is *aware, diverse, integrated, self-regulating, adaptive, and inclusive & equitable*.

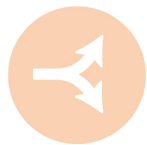
# Resilience Criteria



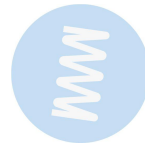
Aware



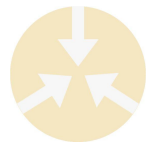
Self-regulating



Diverse



Adaptive



Integrated



Inclusive & Equitable

# Project Process

- Initial meetings with NEFNE Resilience Assessment Team
- Review of existing resilience assessment tools
- Collected information and feedback from regional planning commissions & food councils (survey, focus groups)
- Partnered with North Country Council (NCC) to develop initial assessment tool

Today and going forward:

- Continuing tool drafting process
- Focus group meeting 6/28
- Draft tool to test
- Refine and finalize

# Draft Assessment Tool

- Introductory guidance for using the tool
- Three modules focused on the three food security pillars - availability, accessibility, and utilization.
- Each module contains two sections:
  - Section 1: assessment and rating system to identify priority areas to address
  - Section 2: suggested policy strategies, including examples











# Introductory Guidance

- Defining your assessment area
- Gathering an assessment team
- Best practices for conducting an assessment

# Section 1: Assessment Questions



Assessment Questions	Answer	Rating	Explain
Ensuring food and agricultural production systems have existing and spare capacity <input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>1.) What is the <b>spare production capacity</b> in your assessment area?</p> <p><i>Example: If one farmer loses access to land or cannot repair a piece of equipment, there is additional land and equipment for the farmer to access in a given growing season.</i></p>			
<p>2.) What is the <b>spare processing capacity</b> in your assessment area?</p> <p><i>Example: If one slaughterhouse or mill is unavailable, there are other options in the region for farmers to easily access without significant delay.</i></p>			

What change do you want to see?	Planning	Regulations	Funding and Incentives	Information Sharing and Outreach
Increase in the number of farms, including cropland, pastureland, and orchards in your region	Update comprehensive plan (e.g., Land use chapter)	<a href="#">Zoning to preserve agricultural land</a> <b>Tag: Self-regulating</b> 	Fund agricultural land protection efforts <b>Tag: Integrated, Inclusive</b>   Provide incentives for institutions to purchase local food <b>Tag: Integrated, Inclusive</b> 	
Increase in diversity of livestock and agricultural products grown, processed, and distributed in your region	Update comprehensive plan (e.g., Agriculture chapter)			
Increase diversity of farmers, ranchers, and food businesses within the region	Remove barriers for participation in regional planning efforts <b>Tag: Inclusive</b> 	<a href="#">Zoning to preserve agricultural land</a> <b>Tag: Self-regulating</b> 	Fund agricultural land access initiatives <b>Tag: Integrated, Inclusive</b>   Fund agricultural land protection efforts <b>Tag: Self-regulating</b> 	Connect “socially disadvantaged” farmers to funding opportunities such as USDA’s <a href="#">Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program</a> grant  <b>Tag: Inclusive, Self-regulating</b> 

# Section 2: Policy Strategies

Thank you!  
Any questions?

Contact me:  
[espiegel@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:espiegel@vermontlaw.edu)

# Breakout Group Discussions



- What are your impressions of the tool?
- What stakeholders groups would use this? What contacts or groups? How should we get them involved?

# What's next, and how can I participate?



## **Quarterly meetings (Fall 2022)**

Results of the 30 by 30 research will be presented at this meeting.

## **Timely research reports**

Help us share this data more widely with state decision makers - invite your state NEFNE lead to present to your state planning councils, climate commissions, and public finance entities.

## **Engagement with community-based organizations**

We are reaching out to community based organizations to gain their insight on matters of food security and find out what is most important to them. Tell your state NEFNE lead who to contact.



For more information, contact  
your state lead, email [nefne@vsjf.org](mailto:nefne@vsjf.org),  
or visit [www.nefoodsystemplanners.org](http://www.nefoodsystemplanners.org)

**Thank you!**