New England Feeding New England
A project of the New England State Food System Planners Partnership

July 27, 2021

www.nefoodsystemplanners.org
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The New England State Food System Planners Partnership

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In collaboration with
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.
Meeting “Etiquette”

- Please stay on mute unless you are speaking
- Please rename yourself with: Name, Org, Pronouns
- Please ask questions in the chat and we will do our best to answer or will follow-up after the call
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.
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
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).

Rockefeller Foundation: True Cost of Food and Reset the Table
Comparing New England Food Production to Food Flows

One of our central questions is: What would it take to increase New England food production circle and decrease the food imports and food exports circles over the next 10 years?

Food Flows: Downscaled to All Counties

Analysis of food flows between counties in the United States.
What to call climate change where you live

Intensity shows risk level from low (lighter) to very high (darker)

80% of most “every day” grocery items are supplied by less than 5 companies
PepsiCo controls almost 90% of the dip market
Over 90% of sodas are owned by 3 companies
More than 70% of breakfast cereals are owned by 3 brands
Over 80% of beef and 70% of pork processing is controlled by 4 multinational corporations

Illustration: Guardian Design

The illusion of choice: five stats that expose America’s food monopoly crisis - The Guardian
The U.S. food system has contributed to costly impacts on the health of people, society, and the planet and the burden of these costs are disproportionately experienced by communities of color, many of whom are the backbone as farmers, fishers, ranchers, and food workers.

- 63% of Hispanic and 54% of Black farm workers reported earning low wages BEFORE the pandemic

- $1.1 trillion a year spent on food in the U.S. → $3.2 trillion if you include impacts of the food system on different parts of our society (ie. health care costs, climate change, and biodiversity loss)

Rockefeller Foundation: True Cost of Food and Reset the Table
Estimating Food Production in New England

**TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD**
- Vermont: 2,907,305,972 (38.7%)
- Maine: 2,645,124,763 (35.2%)
- Massachusetts: 735,361,473 (9.8%)
- Connecticut: 556,268,165 (7.4%)
- New Hampshire: 323,731,934 (4.3%)
- Rhode Island: 112,043,466 (1.5%)

**MILK AND POTATOES**
- Milk: 4,354,000,000 (57.9%)
- Vegetables, Potatoes, Melons: 1,853,443,450 (24.7%)
- Everything else: 1,302,205,224 (17.3%)

Vermont and Maine account for the majority of food production in New England (74%). Milk from Vermont and potatoes from Maine account for the majority of pounds of food produced or caught in New England. Data for chickens and eggs was suppressed in 2018.
USDA and NOAA data for 2018 indicate that the six New England states produced, grew, or caught between 7.5 - 10 billion pounds of food. Thus, we can say that New England produced or caught 10.5% of the weight of food transported into the region.

### New England Food Flows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLOW IN</th>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>FLOW OUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,060,451,028</td>
<td>LIVE ANIMALS</td>
<td>1,031,697,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,347,505,073</td>
<td>CEREAL GRAINS</td>
<td>1,149,997,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,592,995,754</td>
<td>AG PRODUCTS</td>
<td>5,843,938,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,127,946,730</td>
<td>ANIMAL FEED</td>
<td>5,838,699,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,513,821,420</td>
<td>MEAT, POULTRY, FISH</td>
<td>1,951,576,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,847,242,567</td>
<td>MILLED GRAIN + BAKERY PRODUCTS</td>
<td>4,320,392,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39,668,996,875</td>
<td>OTHER PREPARED FOODSTUFFS</td>
<td>46,087,826,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>71,337,697,286</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,224,129,184</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparing New England Food Production to Food Flows

One of our central questions is: What would it take to increase New England food production circle and decrease the food imports and food exports circles over the next 10 years?

The NEFNE food supply chain resilience project is an example of how some participants in the regional Food Solutions New England (FSNE) network are taking critical steps towards realizing components of the New England Food Vision.
An update to the 2014 version of a New England Food Vision (NEFV) is now underway. The NEFV update will lift up network values of democracy, racial equity, sustainability & trust. The research being conducted by the NEFNE project will constitute a critical aspect of the NEFV update. The NEFV update and the NEFNE project are harmonized toward the “30x30” orientation.
Research Update

There are FIVE major components of the research:

- Update the dietary needs data based on the FSNE Food Vision using dietary recommendations from health and nutrition experts
- Identify market demand by product category: what are New Englanders eating, where are they purchasing food, and what opportunities exist to increase the region’s food supply?
- Develop production milestones by state and food category: what will it take to produce and distribute 30% of the food needed by New Englanders, representing the diversity of ethnic, racial, and cultural preferences by 2030
- Update baseline of number of jobs and establishments in the food system for 2020 within each state and all 6 states in aggregate
- Generate a 2020 baseline for overall economic value / impact of the food system in each state and all 6 states in aggregate
Call for Researchers

- We have been conducting interviews with potential project researchers since April 2021
- We issued a ‘call for researchers’ in May across a variety of platforms specifically looking for researchers of color and researchers who use an equity lens
- Have conducted over 50 interviews and follow-up conversations with potential researchers
- Will likely have between 10-15 researchers on the team
- Currently, planning is underway for an Advisory Council to provide additional expertise and support
- Additional researchers and subject matter experts will be engaged as needed to supplement the core team
Resilience Assessment

EXAMPLE OF AN ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS FOR WATER PLANNING:

1. Water Demand

- Are crops grown in your region climate-sensitive? Would shifts in daily heat patterns, such as how long heat lingers before night-time cooling, be prohibitive for some crops?
  
  - Fruit and nut crops are climate sensitive and may require additional water as the climate warms.

Excerpt from *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning (Appendix B. Vulnerability Assessment Checklist)*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Resilience Assessments For Food Supply Chains

For Planners
To plan for infrastructure investments to help strengthen or grow community / regional food production, processing and distribution

For Economic Developers & Government
To consider priority infrastructure and business investments

For Emergency Management
To determine if a community or region has capacity to produce and distribute a diversity of foods, year-round
Breakout Rooms

• 30 minutes in breakout rooms led by a NEFNE Partner
• Time for clarifying questions
• Breakout room discussion:
  – What excites you about what you just heard and how might this project help you in your work or your community?
  – Do you have suggestions for things we could be doing throughout the project to ensure it is inclusive?
Closing and Next Steps

- Reviewing input and feedback
- Next quarterly update meeting: late fall
- Ongoing communication
For more information, contact your state lead, email nefne@vsjf.org, or visit www.nefoodsystemplanners.org

Thank you!