

# QUARTERLY UPDATE



## **New England Feeding New England**

A project of the New England State  
Food System Planners Partnership

July 27, 2021

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

# Agenda



1. Welcome and Introductions
2. New England State Food System Planners Partnership Overview
3. Meeting Objectives + Etiquette
4. Presentation: Project Overview + Updates
5. Breakout Rooms to Capture Reactions and Feedback
6. Closing and Next Steps

# The New England State Food System Planners Partnership



Ellen Kahler



**NH FOOD ALLIANCE**

Erin Hale & Nicole Cardwell



Tanya Swain



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Nessa Richman



Winton Pitcoff & Brittany Peats

In collaboration with



Lisa Fernandes

# 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.**

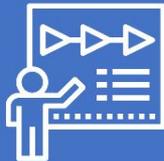
## RESEARCH

2021 through 2022



## PLANNING

2022 through 2023



## IMPLEMENTATION

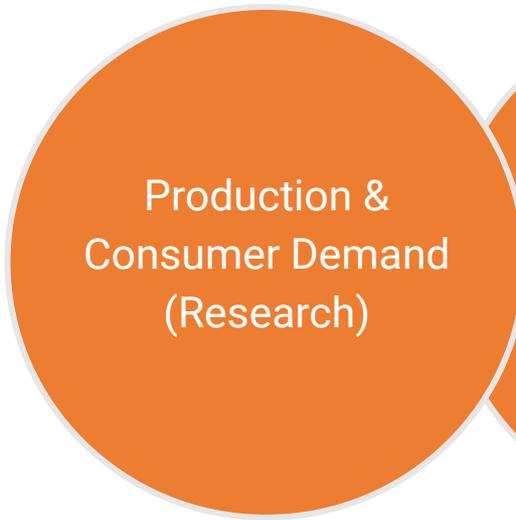
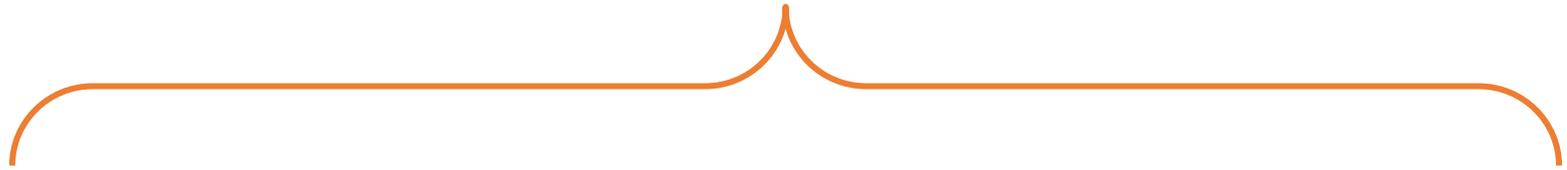
2023 into 2030 and beyond



we are  
here!



# Project Areas of Focus



↑  
today's update

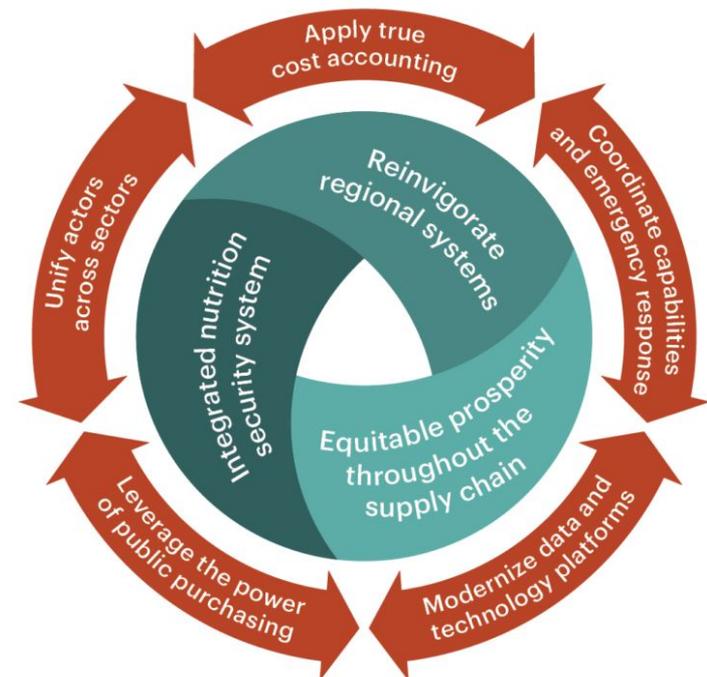
# Why is this project important?



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).



# Comparing New England Food Production to Food Flows



ESTIMATE OF NEW  
ENGLAND FOOD  
PRODUCTION



ESTIMATE OF FOOD IMPORTS



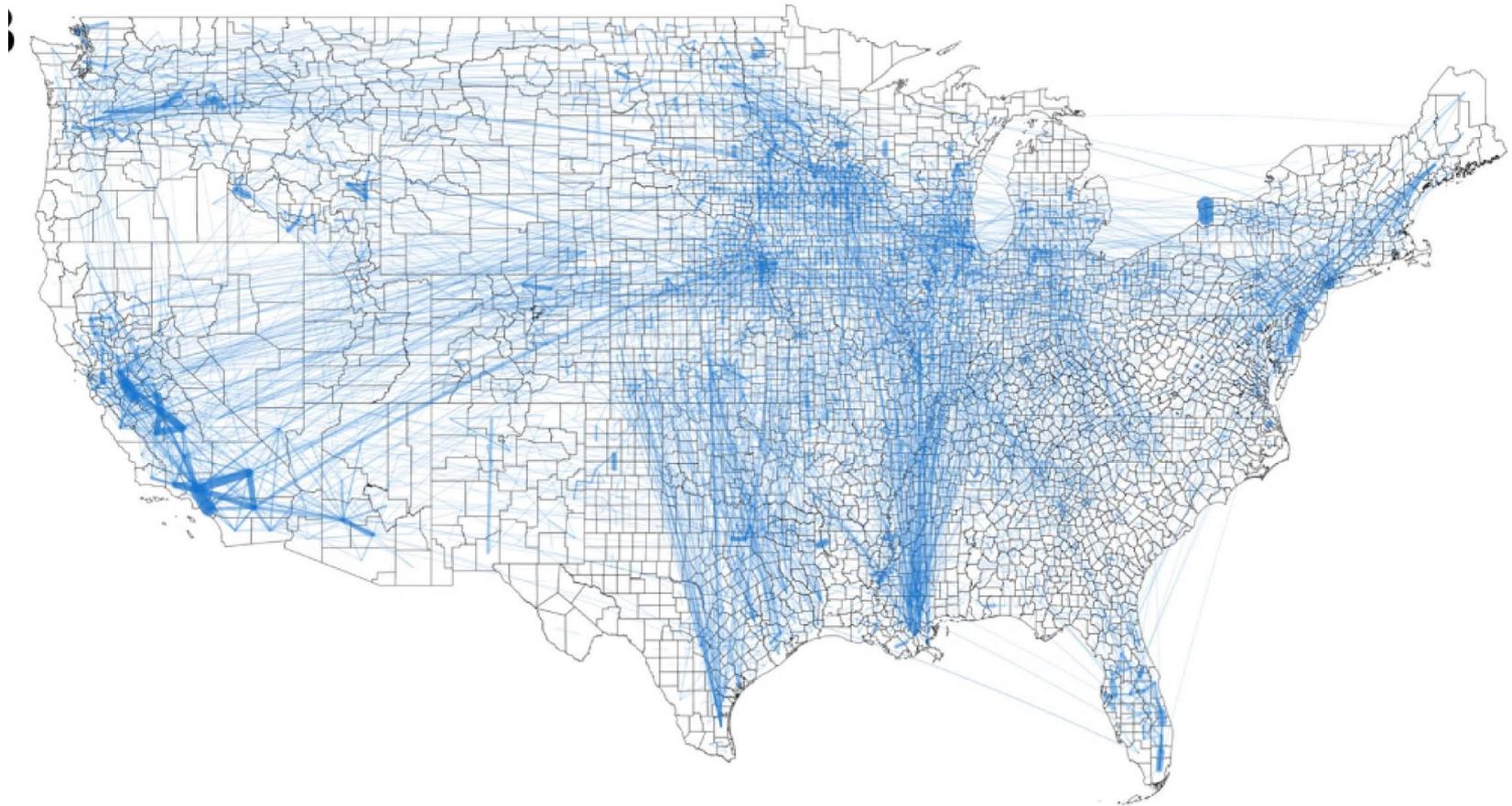
ESTIMATE OF FOOD EXPORTS



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?

**Source:** USDA New England Agricultural Statistics, 2018, [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/New\\_England\\_includes/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/2018/2018%20New%20England%20Annual%20Bulletin.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_England_includes/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2018/2018%20New%20England%20Annual%20Bulletin.pdf). Xiaowen Lin, Paul J. Ruess, Landon Marston, and Megan Konar, "Food flows between counties in the United States," *Environmental Research Letters*, 14(8), 2019, <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab29ae/meta>. The food flows data is based on the year 2012.

# 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)



<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/18/opinion/wildfire-hurricane-climate.html>

# Controlling the Food Supply Chain



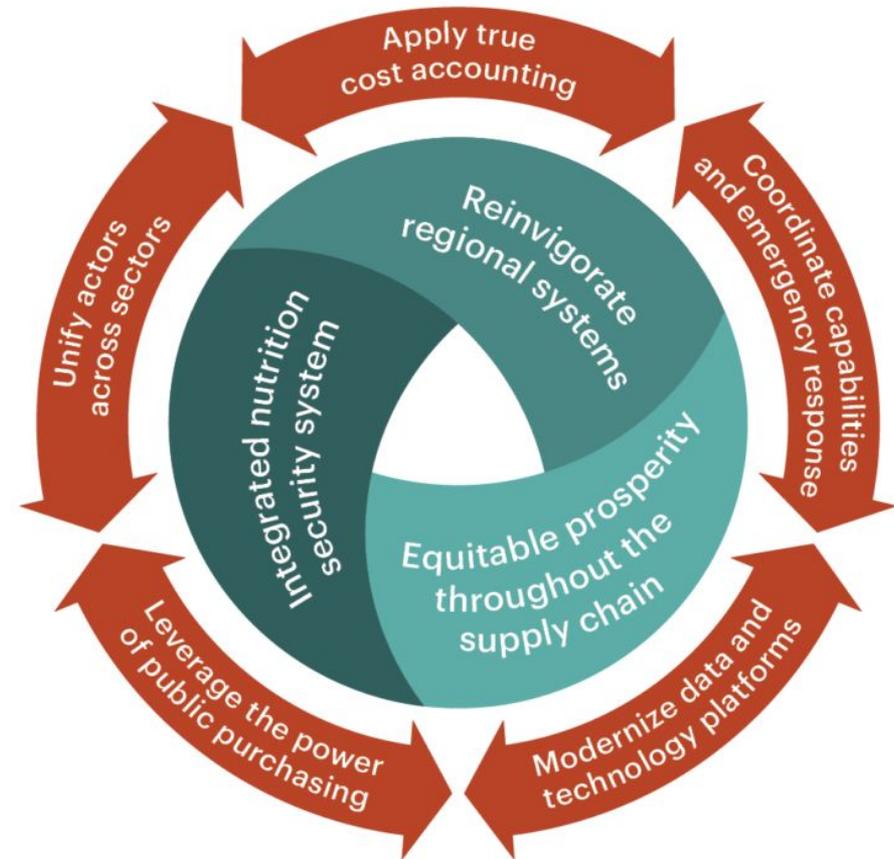
Illustration: Guardian Design

- 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

# Inequities in the Food System



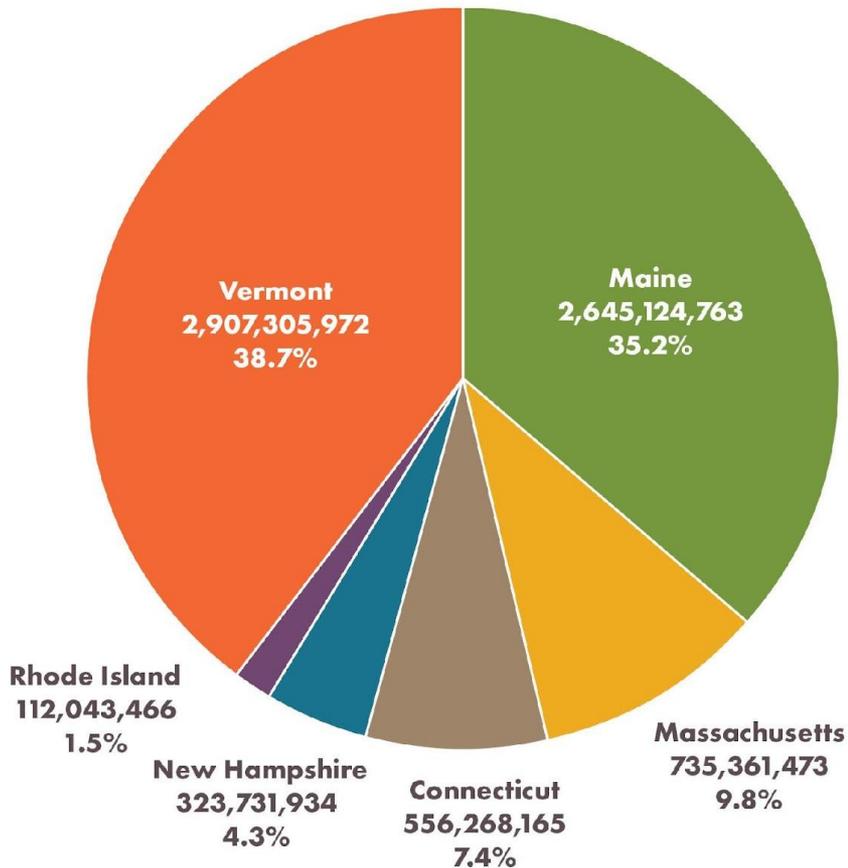
- The U.S. food system has contributed to costly impacts on the health of people, society, and the planet and the burden of these costs are disproportionately experienced by **communities of color, many of whom are the backbone as farmers, fishers, ranchers, and food workers.**
- **63%** of Hispanic 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)



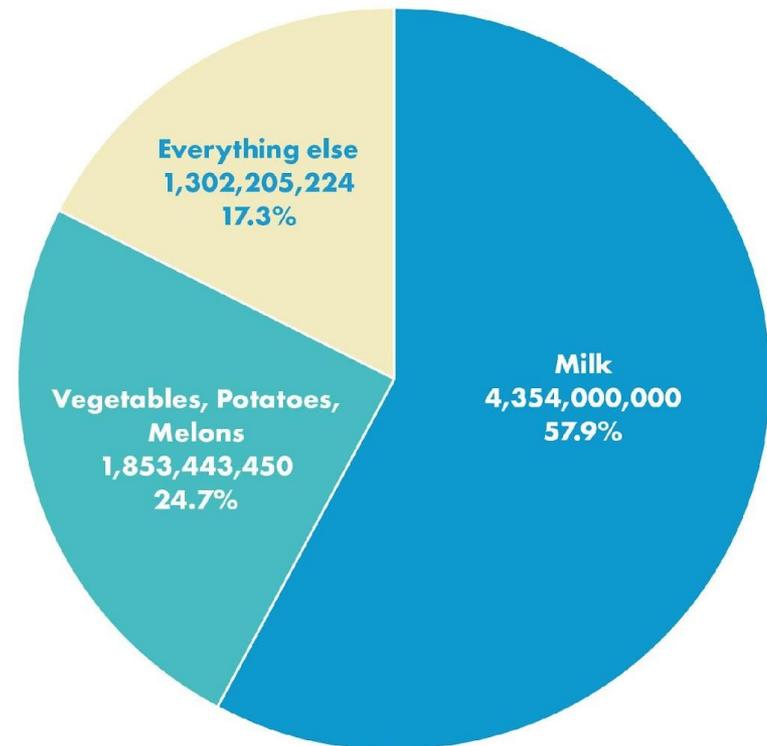
# Estimating Food Production in New England



**TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD**  
7,509,648,674



**MILK AND POTATOES**



**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.

# New England Food Flows



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

**Source:** Xiaowen Lin, Paul J. Ruess, Landon Marston, and Megan Konar, "Food flows between counties in the United States," *Environmental Research Letters*, 14(8), 2019, <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab29ae/meta>.

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.

# Comparing New England Food Production to Food Flows



ESTIMATE OF NEW  
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PRODUCTION



ESTIMATE OF FOOD IMPORTS



ESTIMATE OF FOOD EXPORTS



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# Connection to Broader Regional Food System Network



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*.



# Connection to Broader Regional Food System Network



- 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](mailto:nefne@vsjf.org),  
or visit [www.nefoodsystemplanners.org](http://www.nefoodsystemplanners.org)

**Thank you!**