

2025-2026

Year in Review



**NH FOOD
ALLIANCE**



University of New Hampshire
College of Life Sciences and Agriculture

PUBLISHED JULY 2026

Who We Are, What We Do

Our Mission

The NH Food Alliance (NHFA) is a statewide network that connects the people, businesses, organizations, and communities dedicated to growing a thriving, fair, and sustainable local food system in the Granite State. Together we build relationships, learn from each other, and catalyze collaboration to advance our common goals, respond creatively to challenges, and amplify our collective impact.

Our Vision

We envision a diverse and well-connected network of trusted partners working together to grow and sustain local farms, fisheries, and food businesses, secure healthy food access for all, build climate resilience, and ensure equity in our communities and workplaces.

Our Impact

We advance our mission and vision by leveraging the connections and relationships we've been building since 2013 across four impact areas: Network Development, Collaborative Action, Communications and Storytelling, and Learning and Leadership. This report highlights the most impactful initiatives, events, and activities from this past year. Thank you to the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, NH Charitable Foundation, You Have Our Trust, Lois Roy Dickerman Fund, generous individual donors, and our network partners for making this work possible.

Land Acknowledgement

The NH Food Alliance is a program of the University of New Hampshire, and operates on land that is N'dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. As we all journey on the trail of life, we wish to acknowledge the spiritual and physical connection the Pennacook, Abenaki, and Wabanaki Peoples have maintained to N'dakinna (homeland) and the aki (land), nibi (water), lolakwikak (flora), and awaasak (fauna), which the University of New Hampshire community is honored to steward today. We also acknowledge the hardships they continue to endure after the loss of unceded homelands and champion the university's responsibility to foster relationships and opportunities that strengthen the well-being of the Indigenous People who carry forward the traditions of their ancestors.

2025-26 Network Leadership Team

Assistant Commissioner John Marshall, NH
Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food
Noah Hodgetts, NH Department of Business and
Economic Affairs

Ian Hanley, State Conservation Committee
Tara Westenhiser, NH Department of Health &
Human Services

Joel Moyer, Fair Food Network
Ben Amsden, NH Charitable Foundation
Steve Saltzman, NH Community Loan Fund
Jesse Stabile Morrell, UNH COLSA
Kelly McAdam, UNH Extension, Food & Agriculture
Michael Young, UNH Extension, Health & Well-Being
Kate Korbas, UNH Extension, 4H

Madison Hardy, Brookdale Fruit Farm, NH Fruit
Growers Association

Michael Faber, Monadnock Food Coop
Mary MacDonald, Genuine Local

Kyle Lacasse, Moulton Farm,
NH Vegetable and Berry Growers Association
Melissa Grella, Taproot

Leandra Pritchard, NH Farm Bureau
Nikki Kolb, NOFA-NH

Sarah Harpster, NH Hunger Solutions
Cameron Huftalen, Vital Communities

Elsy Cipriani, NH Food Bank
Shawn Menard, Seacoast Eat Local
Josephine Porter, NH Center for Justice and Equity
Rob McGregor, Kearsarge Food Hub

NH Food Alliance Team

The NH Food Alliance is a program of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COLSA) at the University of New Hampshire.

Nicole Tocco Cardwell, Director
Colleen Jennings, Network Coordinator
Katelyn Porter, Value Chain Coordinator

A Year of Transition: From Planning to Implementation

This year felt like a turning point for the NH Food Alliance. After years of listening, convening, and collaborating to develop the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan, we shifted our focus to something equally important: bringing the Strategic Plan to life.

The Strategic Plan reflects the ideas and priorities of thousands of people across New Hampshire's food system. But a plan is only valuable if it leads to action. As momentum around the Strategic Plan grew, we found ourselves asking an important question: *What role can the NH Food Alliance play to support this work?*

Over the past year, we've been exploring that question while continuing to strengthen relationships, expand partnerships, and experiment with new ways of working together. We also entered an exciting new chapter as the NH Food Alliance transitioned to the University of New Hampshire's College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COLSA), creating opportunities to connect research, education, and community action.

Much of this year was spent building the foundation for what comes next. We launched new collaborative workgroups, expanded leadership across the network, created more ways for organizations and individuals to get involved, engaged students in meaningful food systems work, and began developing better ways to measure progress toward our shared goals.

We're still learning, and that's by design. Building a stronger food system is long-term work that requires curiosity, collaboration, and a willingness to adapt. As we move forward, the Strategic Plan continues to guide us, and we're excited to keep connecting people, ideas, and resources to help turn shared priorities into meaningful progress across New Hampshire.

Our Network is Growing

Through our work this past year, the NH Food Alliance network of partners increased from 362 businesses, organizations and coalitions last year to over 490 this year. Newly engaged and involved partners include Vouchers for Veterans, Kawasiwajo Community Land Trust and many others.

Scan the QR code to meet the network!



123

new network partners
joined our community

202

organizations actively
involved in the network
this year

5

Implementation
Workgroups launched

547

Network Cafe
registrations

Network Development

We aim to deepen our existing network connections and actively develop new relationships between individuals and organizations, especially among traditionally underrepresented communities, policy makers, and groups. This year, we accomplished this through the following events and initiatives.

Expanding the Network Leadership Team

Since the NH Food Alliance was established in 2013, the Network Leadership Team has helped guide our work, strengthen relationships across sectors, and keep us connected to the needs of New Hampshire's food system.

In Fall 2025, we expanded the team to include 25 leaders representing agriculture, food businesses, nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, state agencies, UNH Extension, and other key partners. Together, they help steward the Strategic Plan, identify emerging opportunities, and ensure implementation stays grounded in the priorities of communities across the state.

The Network Leadership Team is an important hub for communication, coordination, and collaboration. Members are actively advancing Strategic Plan priorities and many also lead or participate in Implementation Workgroups. This connected team keeps our network connected, aligns efforts, strengthens partnerships, and builds momentum toward our shared goals. A full list of Network Leadership Team members can be found on page 1.



Members of the NH Food Alliance Network Leadership Team at the 2026 NH Food System Statewide Gathering. From left to right: Joel Moyer, Cameron Huftalen, Ben Amsden, Hanna Flanders, Ian Hanley, Nicole Cardwell, Michael Young, Kelly McAdam, Shawn Menard, Leandra Pritchard, Jesse Stabile Morrell, Sarah Harpster, Tara Westenhiser, Josh Marshall.

Sharing the Strategic Plan with Governor Ayotte



In July 2025, we had the opportunity to present the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan to Governor Ayotte and members of her team to share how the Strategic Plan can serve as a roadmap for strengthening New Hampshire's food system and inform future collaboration with the Governor's office.

Left to right: Becca White, Associate Director of Cooperative Identity, Hanover Co-op Food Stores, Nicole Cardwell, NH Food Alliance Director, Governor Kelly Ayotte, Allan Reetz, Director of Public and Government Affairs, Hanover Co-op Food Stores, Anton Bekkerman, Associate Dean of Research and Director of the NH Agricultural Experiment Station, and Commissioner Shawn Jasper, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food.



2026 NH Food System Statewide Gathering

April 10, 2026 | Owl's Nest Resort | Thornton, New Hampshire



Each year, the NH Food Alliance hosts the NH Food System Statewide Gathering as an event that brings together individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities from across sectors who are dedicated to growing a local food system that works for all in the Granite State.

The theme of this year's gathering was strategic momentum. Attendees gathered to learn about and engage in work happening in support of our food system and the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan. The gathering highlighted Strategic Plan work and investments that have been made across our food system while also offering collaborative opportunities to address pressing issues and build skills to help all of us do more together.

197 participants
6 breakout sessions
109 organizations represented
25 event sponsors
Every New Hampshire region represented
***98% of attendees agreed the Gathering was valuable to their work**

*attendees who filled out the evaluation





This gathering is a highlight of the year for me-- for my work, for the connections, the informational breakouts, and deepening friendships.

— 2026 NH Food System Statewide Gathering Participant

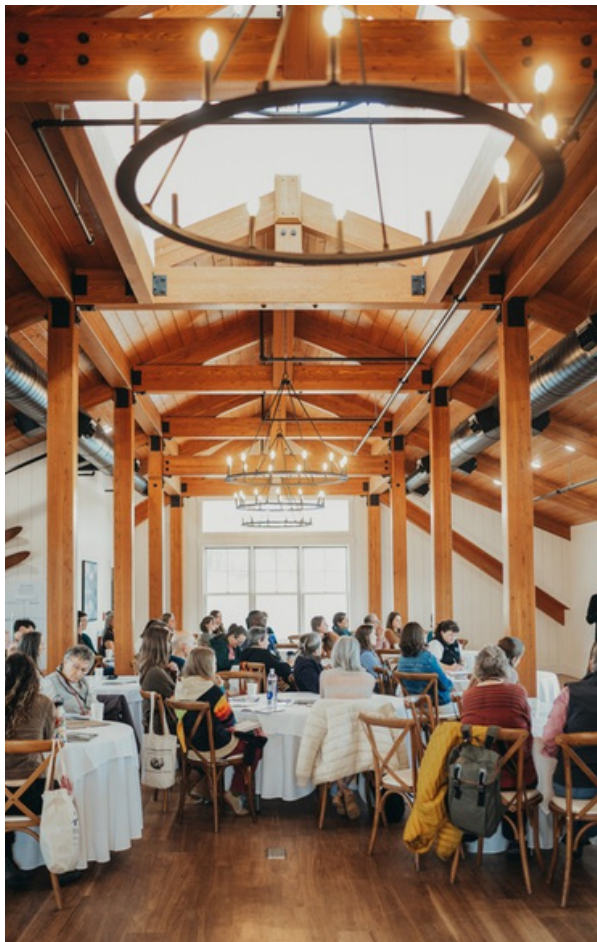


In between connecting with food system friends and colleagues, these were some of the highlights of the gathering:

The gathering kicked off with welcoming remarks from the NH Food Alliance Director, Nicole Cardwell, and Assistant Commissioner of NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, Josh Marshall. Participants enjoyed a storytelling showcase of four Resilient Food System Infrastructure (RFSI) Program grant recipients: Doug Morin of Tellman Hill Farm, Nico Kimberly of NOK Vino, Madeline Ferland of the Sullivan County Conservation District, and Sarah Cox of Tuckaway Farm + Food Commons.

Each shared about their RFSI projects and how the infrastructure and equipment they were able to add to their businesses will increase their capacity to process local food and allow other food producers in their regions to do the same.

Pictured right: Doug Morin of Tellman Hill Farm sharing about his RFSI grant project to increase on-farm apple cider production.



Morning breakout sessions were hosted by Strategic Plan Implementation Workgroups.

- **Shared Ground: Lessons from a North Country Project balancing Housing and Land Conservation** was hosted by the **Housing & Farmland Protection Workgroup**. Sally Manikian of The Conservation Fund, Ben Frost of the Kawasiwajo Community Land Trust, and Lono Hunter of the Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm shared about their projects at the intersection of housing, conservation, and agriculture. Each project highlighted a different approach to balancing housing development with farmland and working lands conservation.
- **Stronger by Association: Learning from our Neighbors to Support NH's Farmers' Markets** was hosted by the **Farmers' Market Workgroup**. This session featured Andrew Graham of NOFA-VT and the Vermont Farmers Market Association (VTFMA) who shared how Vermont has built a statewide network that supports market managers, vendors, and community markets. The session provided an interactive opportunity for participants to help identify priorities, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration not only for the workgroup but farmers' markets across New Hampshire.
- **Food Access, Locally: Mapping the Gaps & Opportunities for Farmers & Eaters** was hosted by the **Local Food Access Workgroup**. The session focused on understanding the landscape of New Hampshire food access programs that prioritize access to locally grown, caught, and produced foods. Participants came together to share about programs, from federal nutrition assistance programs and nutrition incentive programs to community-led local food access initiatives.

Afternoon breakout sessions focused on professional development opportunities to mitigate burnout, navigate conflict, and understand the quickly evolving world of artificial intelligence.

- Cynthia Paciulli Barbarits, MD of When All Else Fails Body as Guide Coaching offered somatic techniques to regulate stress and prevent burnout.
- Cara Cargill of the New Hampshire Agricultural Mediation Program hosted a workshop about navigating challenging conversations, turning tension into dialogue.
- Rebecca Emery of Seacoast AI provided practical ways to incorporate AI into workflows.

Celebration and closing activities included an advocacy postcard coloring activity, as well as poster presentations from University of New Hampshire students in this Spring's EcoGastronomy capstone course. Each student took on a research project inspired by a recommendation from the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan. As attendees enjoyed afternoon refreshments, they were able to meet the students and engage with the outcomes of their projects.



“

I learned so much, I wish I could listen to it again.

— 2026 NH Food System Statewide Gathering Participant

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Want to know more? You can see the full schedule of the day, follow up from each breakout session, and more [here](#).



UNH EcoGastronomy tackles the NH Food and Ag Strategic Plan

In partnership with the UNH EcoGastronomy Program, ten students in the Spring 2026 Capstone course completed projects aligned with recommendations from the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan. Working alongside mentors from across the food system, students conducted applied research and presented their findings at the 2026 NH Food System Statewide Gathering. This collaboration demonstrated the potential for meaningful student engagement in advancing New Hampshire's food system priorities and was a first step in exploring different opportunities to introduce the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan into curriculum at UNH and across the state.



CARROT
\$4



Collaborative Action

We catalyze collaboration to find shared interests, advance policy changes, generate knowledge, and build collective solutions at the community, state, and regional levels through workgroups, convenings and the facilitation of various strategic meetings.

Implementation Workgroups

Implementation Workgroups move the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan from vision to action. These collaborative groups bring together individuals, organizations, and businesses from across New Hampshire to advance specific recommendations and priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.

Led by network partners and supported by NH Food Alliance staff, workgroups provide a structure for coordinated action, shared learning, and collective problem-solving. Together, participants identify opportunities, develop strategies, and advance initiatives that contribute to the long-term goals of New Hampshire's food system.

The current Implementation Workgroups are below; we hope to launch additional workgroups later in 2026.

Housing & Farmland Protection Workgroup

The Housing & Farmland Protection Workgroup brings together housing, planning, farmland conservation, and land use professionals interested in working together to address issues that arise at the intersection of housing development and agricultural land use in New Hampshire. Launched in October 2026, this workgroup:

- Created an inventory of inspiring projects, tools, and frameworks that supported the protection of farm or conservation land and provided housing.
- Developed a proposal for a tool to further explore and document this inventory in a way that will catalyze further efforts in the state.
 - The proposal is moving forward with the generous support of the NH Charitable Foundation, administered by NH Housing, and led by the workgroup. The tool is anticipated to be completed in June 2027.



35
Members

Led by:



New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



Local Food Access Workgroup

The Local Food Access Workgroup brings together individuals and organizations interested in collaborating to make local food accessible to people of all income levels across New Hampshire. Launched in March 2026, this group is honing in on specific opportunities within this broad topic, spanning federal programs, nutrition incentive programs, such as Granite State Market Match and Double Up Food Bucks, gleaning, and local sourcing through the NH Food Bank.

43
Members

Led by:



Department of
**HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**



Farmers' Market Workgroup

The Farmer's Market Workgroup aims to support and strengthen farmers' markets and the organizations that manage them. The workgroup focuses on improving market sustainability, farmer participation, and food access while addressing shared needs among market managers related to infrastructure, operations, professional development, and policy alignment. Launched in March 2026, the group spent its first few meetings learning from Farmers' Market Associations in neighboring states as the group considers what it would take to launch something similar in NH. The group successfully set up a listserv for market managers across the state to catalyze connection and the ability to learn from each other.

33
Members

Led by:



NH Farm to School Workgroup

The NH Farm to School Workgroup, which met from February through May, convened to inform the future direction, priorities, and strategic focus of NH Farm to School as it transitions into its next phase at UNH Extension. Over the course of four meetings, the workgroup gathered input from key stakeholders to assess current needs, opportunities, and gaps across education, agriculture, and food systems. Insights from this process will help guide programmatic, policy, and partnership decisions to strengthen farm to school efforts statewide and better support New Hampshire farmers, schools, and communities.

38
Members

Led by:



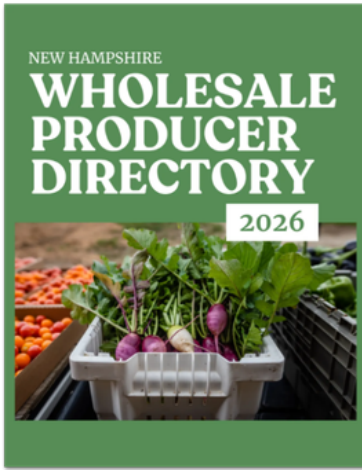
NH Food Funders Workgroup

The NH Food Funders Workgroup is focused on alignment of philanthropic and mission driven capital to advance the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan. The workgroup brings together funders that are interested in supporting a stronger food system in New Hampshire to build relationships, learn together, and coordinate funding as it relates to the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan.

Policy Workgroup

The Policy Workgroup, launched in June 2026, serves as a forum for coordinated engagement on state-level policy that advances the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan. In this pilot year (2026-2027), the workgroup will test and refine an approach for identifying a focused set of annual policy priorities, building teams of subject matter experts and advocates around those priorities, and strengthening relationships with legislators and partner organizations. The workgroup will help determine how the network can most effectively and collaboratively engage in policy development and advocacy while ensuring that priorities are grounded in the shared goals and recommendations of the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan. To support learning and refinement, participation in the pilot year will be limited to a small group drawn from the Network Leadership Team, with the intention of developing a model that can be expanded and adapted for broader network engagement in future years.





2026 NH Wholesale Producer Directory

Building off of the success of the 2025 edition, the NH Food Alliance team updated and redistributed the NH Wholesale Producer Directory. The 2026 edition features a total of 52 businesses, including 35 NH producers, 9 wholesale food hubs, and 8 regional producers, doubling the number of NH producers featured in the 2025 edition.

The NH Wholesale Producer Directory offers at-a-glance information about farms and food businesses from across New Hampshire and New England ready to sell produce, meat and eggs, dairy, maple syrup and honey, and other value-added products to wholesale buyers of NH's retail and grocery stores, restaurants, schools and institutions. Each farm or food business featured in this directory has been vetted for wholesale readiness and individual profiles offer details about product availability, delivery schedules and locations, and ordering processes.

“

I share this all over the nation with anyone who will listen! [The NH Wholesale Producer Directory] is the best resource I've ever seen.

– Moss Crutchfield, Epping School District

”

Supporting the Local Food for Local Schools Purchasing Incentive Pilot Program

Starting in August of 2025, the NH Food Alliance and the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food launched a cohort of eight school districts participating in the Local Food for Local Schools Purchasing Incentive Pilot Program. The NH Food Alliance supported food service directors from each district by hosting monthly meetings to provide technical assistance with local product sourcing, reporting, and reimbursement processes, as well as any other support the schools needed.

The pilot program offered a 33% reimbursement incentive on New Hampshire grown and produced food purchased by New Hampshire school districts for breakfast, lunch, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program services. It concluded at the end of June 2026 after the schools had one year to spend available funds. While there were challenges, many lessons were learned along the way and the pilot program served a critical role in informing future incentive program legislation, while catalyzing eight school districts' local food purchasing.

NH Food Alliance participated in the following coalitions, groups, and networks:

- the NH Food Access Coalition and Leadership Team, coordinated by NH Hunger Solutions, to represent the intersection of local agriculture and food access work happening in the state;
- the Local Food Count Project, as research lead for New Hampshire, to establish baseline local food purchasing data, allowing us to begin to measure progress towards the goal of New Englanders consuming and producing 30% of our own food by the year 2030;
- the New England Food System Planners Partnership with the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food to represent New Hampshire's food system interested in variety of regional work, including the New England Feeding New England Project;
- NH Small Business Network Hub, coordinated by the NH Small Business Development Center.





Communications & Storytelling

NH Food Systems News You Need to Know

NH Food Systems News You Need to Know, the NH Food Alliance's monthly newsletter, reaches nearly 2,800 subscribers. In addition to sharing information from the NH Food Alliance, the newsletter delivers food system-focused events, news stories, jobs, grants, and other announcements from partners directly into the inboxes of our network. The information shared in each newsletter is housed on the Network News page on the NH Food Alliance website. The Network News page allows network partners to filter and search food system content from across New Hampshire and beyond, making information accessible and available to all.



Filterable Clearinghouse for Food System Grants

We continued to maintain, manage, and promote our filterable clearinghouse for grant opportunities available to farmers, fishermen, food producers, and food system organizations.

Local Food Count

The NH Food Alliance was the lead organization for the Local Food Count Project in New Hampshire. The Local Food Count Project, lead by the New England Food System Planners Partnership, is a New England-wide campaign that measures and tracks how much local food is being purchased by food businesses and institutions that serve and sell food on a state-by-state basis. The Local Food Count Project provides the regional food system with valuable insights on current food purchasing patterns, identifies sectoral opportunities to increase local food sourcing, and furthers New Hampshire's and New England's progress toward a stronger, more resilient food system. The NH Food Alliance attended regular meetings, developed contact lists, pushed out communications, and educated buyers about the project to increase awareness and participation.

Learning & Leadership

We foster learning and skill-building among our network partners so that we can be effective leaders, collaborators, and advocates for change in our food system.

Field Tripping Through the Middle of the Food Supply Chain: Exploring Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure

In partnership with the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food and UNH Extension, the NH Food Alliance hosted a three-part field trip series to explore the critical "middle of the food supply chain" — the processing, aggregation, and distribution infrastructure that connects farms to markets.

Each day-long field trip brought together producers, partners, and stakeholders to tour innovative businesses in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont that are strengthening regional food systems. Participants learned firsthand about successful business models, explored opportunities to expand New Hampshire's food infrastructure, and heard from recipients of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) grant program.

Following each trip, key insights and takeaways were shared with the broader network through our monthly Network Café series.

New Hampshire

📍 Laconia & Weare, NH

Site Visits

- Genuine Local: specialty food production accelerator
- Trillium Farm to Table: locally sourced lunch and discussion
- Micro Mama's: fermented vegetable producer sourcing exclusively from local farms

Featured RFSI Awardees

- Doug Morin, Tellman Hill Farm
- Sarah Cox, Tuckaway Farm + Food Commons
- Lionel Chute, Sullivan County Conservation District

Explored opportunities to expand value-added processing and strengthen local supply chains within New Hampshire.

Maine

📍 South Portland & Brunswick, ME

Site Visits

- Fork Food Lab: shared-use food business incubator and processing facility
- Harvest Maine: snack food company utilizing excess and non-market local produce

Other Projects Featured

- Maine Immigrant Greens Project
- Maine Marinara Collaborative

Examined innovative models that create new markets for local agricultural products while supporting food entrepreneurs.

Vermont

📍 Hardwick, VT

Site Visits

- Just Cut: farm-to-institution vegetable processing company
- Farm Connex: local food distribution service
- Littleton Food Coop: successful retail outlet in the North Country

Other Projects Featured

- Green Mountain Farm Direct

Learned how coordinated processing and distribution infrastructure can strengthen regional food systems and expand market access for local farms.





This is the most beautiful Strategic Plan I've ever seen!

- U.S. Representative Maggie Goodlander



In the Community

The NH Food Alliance presented at, attended, and participated in a number of conferences, events, and committees, this past year:

- NOFA-NH Winter Conference: Advancing New Hampshire's Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan
- Carsey Policy Hour: An Actionable Roadmap Toward Positive Change: How the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan Is Changing NH's Food System
- NOFA-NH Farmer Roundtable: Access to Markets: Food Aggregators, Hubs and Distributors
- NOFA-NH Farmer Roundtable: Access to Markets: Directories & Online Platforms
- Kearsarge Food Hub 2025 Love Local: Meeting the Movement
- Maine Food Convergence Project: Food Processing Infrastructure Workgroup webinar series: Food Hubs
- NH Vegetable and Berry Growers Annual Meeting
- Taste of COLSA reception
- Experience NH Reception hosted by Senator Jeanne Shaheen
- Farm-a-Q at Tuckaway Farm
- New England Food System Planners Partnership Supply Chain Development Meeting
- New England Food System Planners Partnership Retreat



NH Food Alliance Director, Nicole Cardwell, pictured above with Senator Maggie Hassan and Elsy Cipriani, Executive Director of the NH Food Bank at Senator Shaheen's "Experience NH Reception"

In the Classroom

The NH Food Alliance team presented in the following University of New Hampshire classes:

- Exploring Sustainability
- Introduction to EcoGastronomy
- Food Systems & Community Resilience
- Sustainable Living - Global Perspectives
- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems Seminar



Nicole Cardwell (left) speaks on a panel at Love Local: Meeting the Moment alongside Nikki Kolb (NOFA-NH) and France Hahn (Keararge Food Hub)



NH Food Alliance Intern, Jasmine "Jaz" McPherson, pictured above with NHFA Value Chain Coordinator, Katelyn Porter, helped to inform and create the 2026 NH Wholesale Producer Directory.

NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan wins Best of Business Award from NH Business Review



In 2026, the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan won Best of Business Award, issued by NH Business Review. The recognition belongs to the hundreds of partners, farmers, organizations, and community members who contributed their time, insight, and leadership to shape this work.

Together, we're building a stronger, more connected food system for New Hampshire.

New England Young Fishermen's Alliance Deckhand to Captain Training Program

Since 2022, the NH Food Alliance has partnered with the New England Young Fishermen's Alliance (NEYFA) to support its annual Deckhand to Captain Training Program. Through a series of collaborative marketing sessions, trainees were connected with seafood businesses, buyers, and technical assistance providers to help prepare them for launching and sustaining successful small boat fishing businesses.

This year's program featured speakers representing a range of seafood market channels—including direct-to-consumer, restaurant, and wholesale markets—as well as training on food safety and harvesting best practices. While this year concludes NH Food Alliance's formal partnership with NEYFA, we remain committed to supporting New Hampshire's seafood sector and maintaining strong relationships with partners working to strengthen opportunities for small boat producers.



Farm to Aisle, Farm to Table Convening Series

Farm to Aisle, Farm to Table Convening Series

RESTAURANT LEADERS, JOIN US!
November 18



In the fall, the NH Food Alliance team hosted two virtual opportunities for leaders in the grocery and restaurant industries to strengthen their connections to the local food system by bringing together leaders in each sector to network, learn, and identify collaborative steps toward buying and selling more locally grown and caught food.

During each event, the NH Food Alliance team shared industry insights and recommendations for each sector from the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan, provided direction on how to utilize the NH Wholesale Producer Directory, and laid out the opportunities for engagement with the Local Food Count Project.

Participants left with concrete next steps, including how to connect with producers through the directory and get involved in the Local Food Count Project. The NH Food Alliance team looks forward to building on this momentum to deepen local sourcing connections in the year ahead.

2025-2026 Network Café Series

On the first Friday of each month, September through April, the NH Food Alliance network hosts an informal and lively conversation with partners across the New Hampshire food system and beyond as part of their Network Café Series. Each Network Café is designed to be inclusive opportunities for learning and growing in our food systems work.

The 2025-2026 Network Café Series offered a space to learn about and discuss the critical topics and issues facing our food system. Each month, we spent an hour talking about a program, policy, or issue, ranging from farm to school to middle of the food system supply chains and beyond. An expert joined us to share about their understanding of the topic at hand and lay out the implications the issue has for our individual and collective work in creating a thriving food system here in the Granite State. Following the presentation, there are opportunities to ask questions, discuss, and connect about what we learned, strengthening our relationships and connections to inspire solutions through collaboration.

2025-2026 Network Café Topics

September Your Plan, Our Plan: Moving Forward the NH Food and Agriculture Strategic Plan <i>hosted by NH Food Alliance team</i>	January What Gets Measured, Gets Managed: Inside the Local Food Count Project <i>hosted with the New England Food System Planners Partnership</i>
October Federal Legislation, Local Impact: What's Next for SNAP in NH <i>hosted with NH Hunger Solutions and UNH Extension's Health & Well-Being team</i>	February Cast Your Vote! The Strategic Plan Workgroups You Want <i>hosted by NH Food Alliance team</i>
November NH's Middle of the Food Supply Chain: Where We Are, Where We're Going <i>hosted with Genuine Local, Micro Mama's, Tuckaway Farm + Food Commons, Sullivan County Conservation District</i>	March What You Need to Know about the USDA NRCS's Regenerative Agriculture Pilot Program <i>hosted with USDA NRCS</i>
December Maine's Middle of the Food Supply Chain: Learning from Our Neighbors <i>hosted with Fork Food Lab and Harvest Maine</i>	June NH's Local Food for Schools Incentive Pilot: Let's Talk About It! <i>hosted with the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food and NH Farm to School</i>

547
registered
participants
across 8
network
cafes!



Pictured right: various photos from the RFSI middle of the food supply chain field trips

490

network partners
(and counting!)

26 Network Leadership Team members
35 Housing & Farmland Protection Workgroup members
43 Local Food Access Workgroup members
33 Farmers' Markets Workgroup members
38 NH Farm to School Workgroup members
7 NH Food Funder Workgroup members
191 participants in the NH Food System Statewide Gathering
25 sponsors of the NH Food System Statewide Gathering
+ self identified network partners on our partner map!



Thank you for your
ongoing support of the
NH Food Alliance.



The NH Food Alliance is a program of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire. Our work is made possible by generous support from the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, NH Charitable Foundation, You Have Our Trust, Lois Roy Dickerman Fund, and generous individual donors.