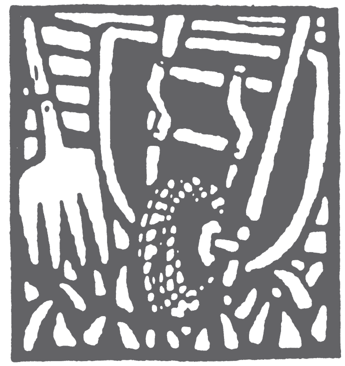



# Northeast Farms to Food

## *Understanding Our Region's Food System*

**UPDATE–OCTOBER 2006**
**With a focus on the federal Farm Bill**


**Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group**
*in collaboration with*
**University of New Hampshire Office of Sustainability**
**Northeast Midwest Institute**
**New Hampshire Center for a Food Secure Future**

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www.sustainableunh.unh.edu

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*But… we should first learn the winds and the nature of the sky,*
*the customary cultivation and the ways of the place,*
*what each region bears and rejects.*
*Here corn shoots up, and there grapes do.*
*Elsewhere young trees grow strong and the wild grasses.*

—Virgil, The Georgics, Book I. 29 B.C.

# INTRODUCTION

## About the 2006 Northeast Farms to Food Update

In 2002 the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) published *Northeast Farms to Food: Understanding Our Region's Food System*. Northeast Farms to Food (NEFTF) provides a comprehensive look at the Northeast food and farming system from production through processing and distribution to consumption and diet. It includes over 100 charts and graphs, "farm and food facts," explanatory text and a chapter on findings and recommendations.

NEFTF was the first phase in an ongoing process to provide our region's policymakers, educators and citizens with accurate and up-to-date information to help them advocate for a variety of food and farm system issues. NESAWG also wanted to chart trends – to see how we as a region are faring on our path toward a more sustainable and secure regional food system.

In 2004, NESAWG and its partner, the Office of Sustainability at the University of New Hampshire (UNH/OS), published a NEFTF Update. The Update focused on new facts and figures from the 2002 Census of Agriculture which released its data earlier that year. The 2004 Update also included new GIS maps that told their own compelling stories.

This year, NESAWG is proud to partner with UNH/OS, the Northeast Midwest Institute and the NH Center for a Food Secure Future to present the *Northeast Farms to Food 2006 Update.* The focus of this Update is the federal Farm Bill which is due for reauthorization in 2007. This Update contains some "snapshots" of the Northeast that relate to the role and impact of federal farm policy on our region. For those not familiar with the Farm Bill, we hope this update offers an informative peek into this complex legislation.

The Update is organized into three sections that parallel those in NEFTF. Each section references the related Farm Bill chapters—known as "titles"—and includes information related to them. You'll find numerous maps, charts and graphs, each of which tells a small part of the story. Please keep in mind that this Update contains only a sampling; it by no means presumes to be inclusive or comprehensive.

The 2002 NEFTF contains 80 pages of information and data about the Northeast farm and food system. It's an essential companion to the 2004 and 2006 Updates. To obtain a copy in PDF or paper, visit www.nesawg.org.

We hope that this Update will contribute to our shared understanding of the trends, issues and opportunities we face as a region, and that you will use it to support your advocacy and educational activities.

## About the Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is a federal omnibus law that periodically reauthorizes permanent legislation passed in the 1930s and '40s. At its heart, the Farm Bill is concerned with farm income support, "namely the methods and levels of support that the federal government provides to agricultural producers."[1] The periodic reauthorization allows U.S. farm and food programs and policies to be adjusted to reflect current needs and conditions. Thus, what was initially focused on farm production now also addresses conservation, food assistance, nutrition programs, trade, marketing, research and education, agricultural credit, food safety, forestry, rural development and energy.

1 Womach, Jasper. Previewing a 2007 Farm Bill, Congressional Research Service, August 2005, p.1.

The most recent Farm Bill was passed in 2002. Many of its provisions expire in 2007—hence the mounting deliberations toward the "2007 Farm Bill." Farm bills are "complex, tightly intertwined and intensely interactive."[2] Changes in one program can impact others. Until the 1980s, farm bills underwent rather modest changes. Since then, forces such as international trade, domestic budget issues and political shifts away from government intervention, compounded by reverberations from the farm crisis of the '80s and unprecedented concentration in production, processing and distribution, have caused policymakers and advocates to debate about more fundamental change to our farm and food policies.

It's likely that the next Farm Bill will undergo unprecedented scrutiny by policymakers, advocates and citizens. It's also a time of opportunity, particularly for the Northeast. Our region's policymakers and advocates are bringing a strong voice to Farm Bill deliberations. It's possible that the next Farm Bill will do a better job of equitably supporting all farmers, adequately fostering conservation and food security, and promoting community infrastructure, research, and farmer assistance.

The Farm Bill is divided into "titles" and "subtitles". In the 2002 Farm Bill there were ten titles:

I. Commodity Programs
II. Conservation
III. Trade
IV. Nutrition Programs
V. Credit
VI. Rural Development
VII. Research and Related Matters
VIII. Forestry
IX. Energy
X. Miscellaneous (includes crop insurance, disaster assistance, animal welfare, specialty crops and other subtitles)

2 Ibid. p.2.

As mentioned, this Update has harvested recent information about the Northeast that relates to the Farm Bill. By no means does it tell the whole story. As Farm Bill deliberations unfold, there will be more information and more stories. Please visit www.nesawg.org to locate other resources about the Farm Bill and Northeast groups that are working on it.

Why care about the Farm Bill? Because it affects all of us in more ways than most of us are even remotely aware. Michael Pollan, author of *The Botany of Desire* and *Omnivore's Dilemma,* states it this way:

> "… But in fact the American food system is a game played according to a precise set of rules that are written by the federal government with virtually no input from anyone beyond a handful of farm-state legislators. Nothing could do more to reform America's food system—and by doing so improve the condition of America's environment and public health—than if the rest of us were suddenly to weigh in."[3]

We invite you to use the information in this Update to increase your knowledge and understanding about farm and food policy, to form opinions about changes to federal policy that will enhance our region's food system… and to weigh in.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, data is from USDA.

3 Pollan, Michael in "One Thing to do About Food: A Forum", The Nation, September 11, 2006, http://www.thenation.com/doc/20060911/forum/2.

## SECTION ONE:
## Farm and Land Resources

This section includes information pertaining to the following Farm Bill titles: Commodity Programs, Conservation, Forestry and Miscellaneous.

### Commodity Programs

The 2002 Farm Bill provides support for 25 farm commodities. This support comes in the form of direct payments and loans. Major (or "covered") commodity crops are corn, wheat, sorghum, cane and beet sugar, barley, oats, cotton, rice, soybeans, oilseeds, dry peas, lentils, chickpeas and peanuts. These programs are paid for through the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). There are also programs for milk, honey, mohair and wool.

Why these commodities? Most of these programs were established in the 1930s and reflect the important traded commodities at the time. It is also argued that some crops are more susceptible to market manipulation and therefore more in need of a support program.[1]

There are several pressing policy issues around the commodity programs. One is compliance with international trade agreements. Most commodity programs are seen as "trade distorting" within the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework. Another issue is payment limitations. The questions of: (1) whether there should be farm-level limits on commodity payments; and (2) what they should be have been controversial for many years.[2] A third issue is which farmers for which commodities? Should farm support programs aim to be more equitably distributed among farmers, regardless of what they produce?

USDA Secretary Mike Johanns stated that one of the Administration's three main objectives for the next Farm Bill is to increase "equity" with greater support of those 60 percent of U.S. farmers who currently receive no commodity payments under current programs.[3] If the next Farm Bill moves in this direction, it will have a positive impact on Northeast farmers.

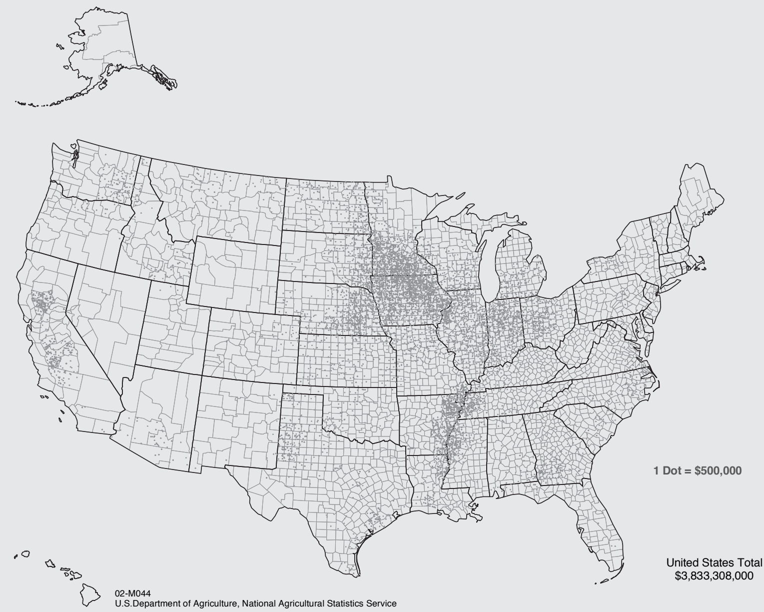
1 Marlow, Scott. The Non-Wonk guide to Understanding Federal Commodity Payments, RAFI USA, 2005, p. 3.
2 Womach, p. 14.
3 Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Weekly Update, September 18-22, 2006.

*Figure 1.* Commodity Subsidies Allocation To States

| State | FY - 2002 | FY - 2003 |
|---|---|---|
| Connecticut | $3,905,270 | $4,025,249 |
| Delaware | $10,040,047 | $10,961,491 |
| Maine | $7,403,042 | $6,273,847 |
| Maryland | $30,854,087 | $36,163,986 |
| Massachusetts | $4,362,898 | $4,567,256 |
| New Hampshire | $2,405,304 | $3,383,421 |
| New Jersey | $5,055,160 | $6,617,727 |
| New York | $116,672,455 | $133,084,698 |
| Pennsylvania | $94,870,964 | $134,062,900 |
| Rhode Island | $188,434 | $317,956 |
| Vermont | $22,993,786 | $22,199,837 |
| West Virginia | $4,301,786 | $5,468,948 |
| Northeast (including W. VA.) | $303,053,233 | $367,127,316 |
| Other States | $9,341,754,321 | $11,120,170,516 |
| U.S. Total | $9,644,807,554 | $11,487,297,832 |

Source: EWG from USDA data

*Figure 2.* Total Ammount Recieved from Government Commodity Credit Corporation Loans, 2002




This chart describes the distribution of Commodity Credit Corporation loans received by U.S. farmers and ranchers.

*84% of commodity program spending is for five crops: corn (32%), cotton (20%), wheat (13%), soybeans (13%) and rice (6%).*

*Nationally, 25% of farmers qualify for commodity payments; of those, 10% receive 72% of subsidies.*

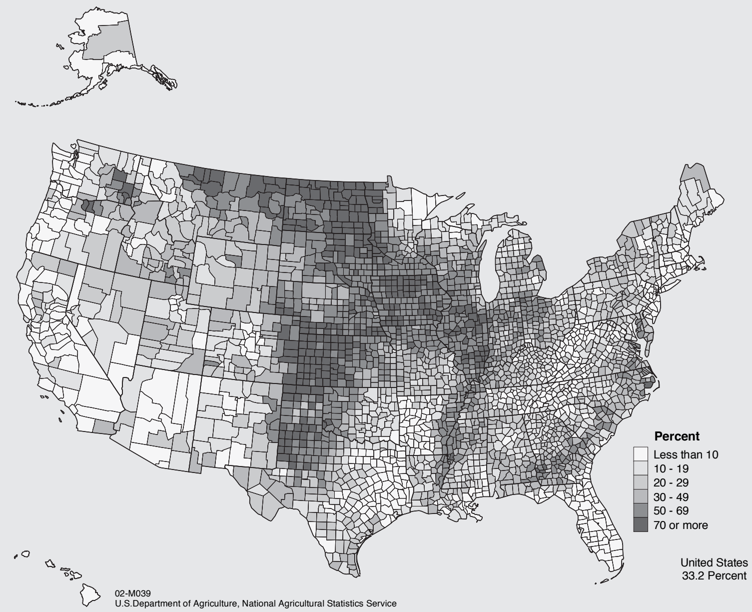
*Northeast farms receive approximately 3% of federal commodity subsidies.*

—EWG and OXFAM

*Figure 3.* CCC Payments for MILC program
(October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2004)

| State | Contract Total | Percent of U.S. |
|---|---|---|
| Connecticut | $6,842,547 | 0.3% |
| Delaware | $1,952,724 | 0.1% |
| Maine | $11,235,504 | 0.6% |
| Maryland | $19,930,391 | 1.0% |
| Massachusetts | $7,502,523 | 0.4% |
| New Hampshire | $5,615,233 | 0.3% |
| New Jersey | $4,386,384 | 0.2% |
| New York | $186,715,393 | 9.3% |
| Pennsylvania | $180,252,560 | 9.0% |
| Rhode Island | $488,331 | 0.0% |
| Vermont | $45,223,800 | 2.3% |
| West Virginia | $4,411,394 | 0.2% |
| Northeast Total | $474,556,784 | 23.7% |
| U.S. Total | $2,001,173,469 | 100.0% |

*Figure 4.* Percent of Farms Recieving Government Payments, 2002




Milk and sugar are the only two commodities that currently are supported by maintaining farm prices above what the market might otherwise dictate.[4] The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program provides dairy farmers with direct payments when market prices fall below a mandated target price. Nearly 25% of MILC payments have gone to Northeast dairy farmers.

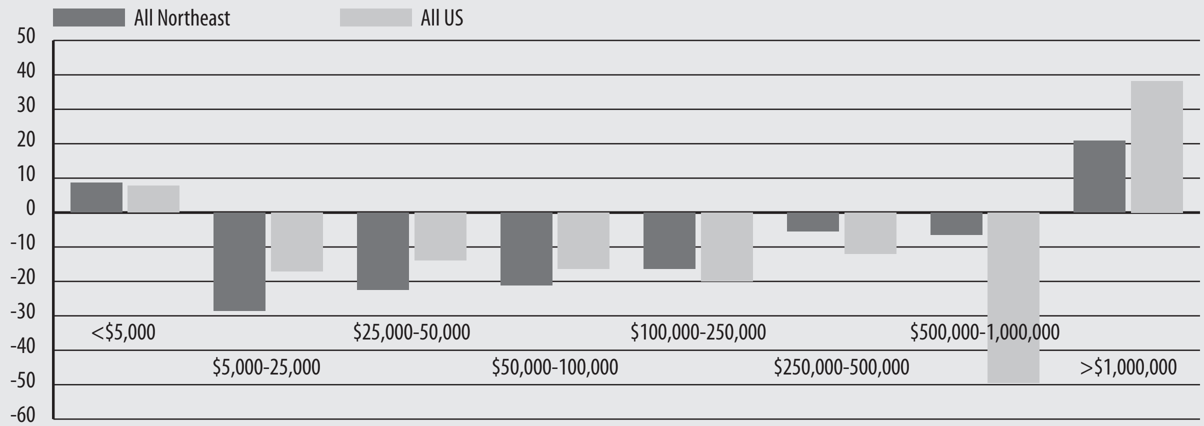
This chart shows all government payments to farms—commodity, conservation and disaster. These payments are distributed unevenly across the country. Nationally, about 68% of farms receive government payments; in the Northeast, 29% receive payments. Twenty-three percent of Northeast farmers receive commodity payments (compared to 58% nationally), 8% of Northeast farmers receive conservation payments (compared to nerarly 22% nationally and 2% of Northeast farmers receive disaster payments (compared to 4% nationally).

4 Womach, Jasper Previewing a 2007 Farm Bill. Congressional Research Service, August 2005 p. 15.

## Structure of Agriculture Trends

**Agriculture of the Middle.** With respect to trends in the structure of agriculture—farm scale, ownership and management characteristics—the Northeast largely parallels the nation, although our farms are generally smaller in acreage than the national average. By far the most alarming statistics relate to an increasingly bi-polar structure of agriculture—more very small and very large farms and a “disappearing agriculture of the middle”. As the following graphs reveal, this pattern holds for nearly every Northeast state.

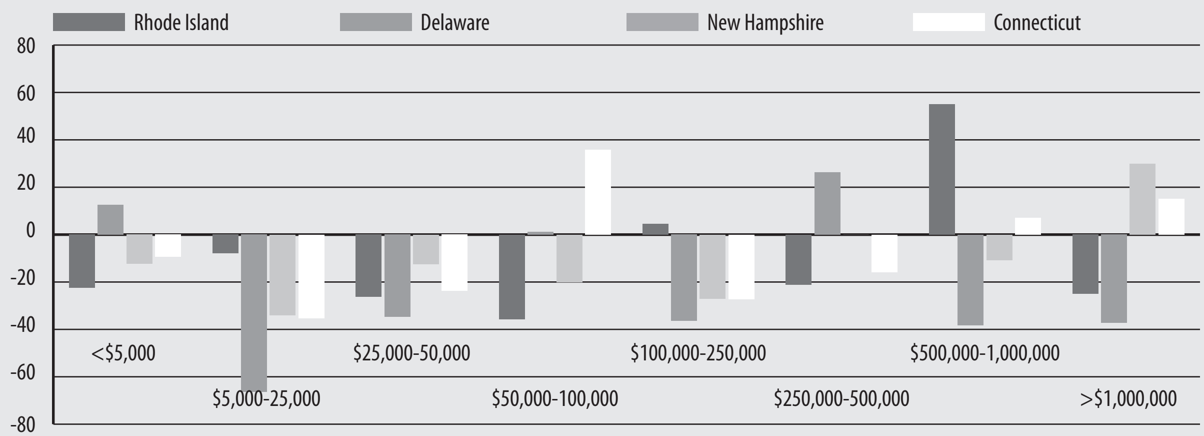
*Figure 5.* Percent of Change in Number of U.S. Farms by Sales Category, 1997-2002




Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture

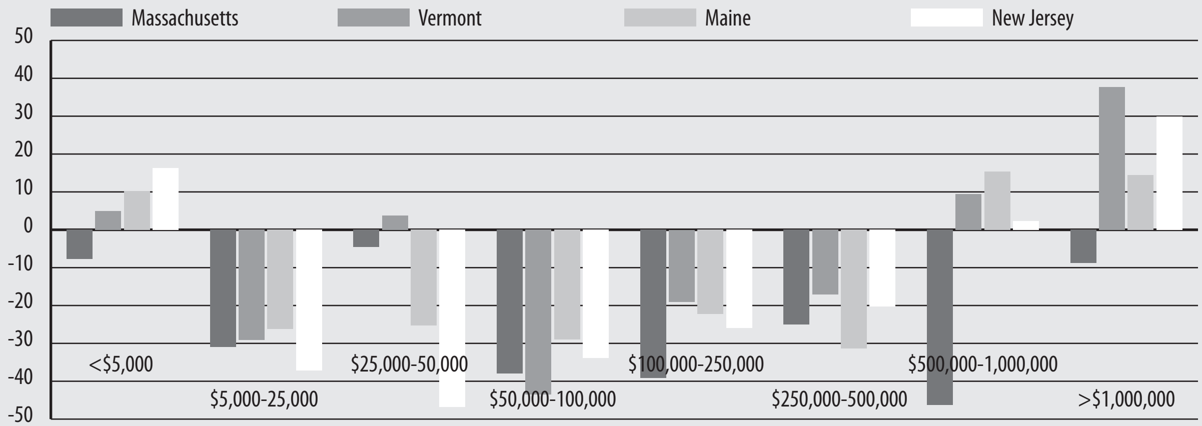
*93% of U.S. farms earn most of their household incomefrom off-farm sources.*

*Figure 6.* Percent Change in Number of U.S. Farms by Sales Category, 1997-2002




Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture

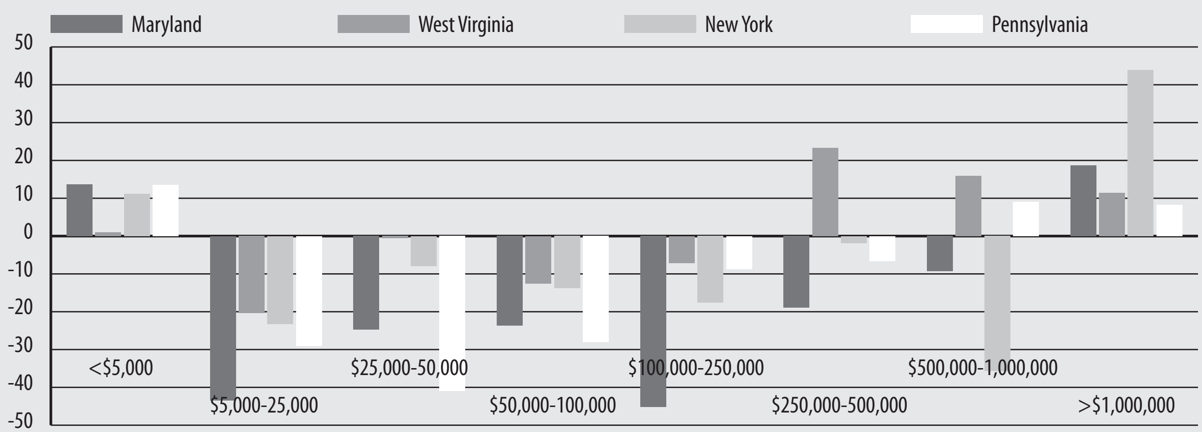
*Figure 7.* Percent of Change in Number of U.S. Farms by Sales Category, 1997-2002




Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture

*85 to 95% of farm household income comes from off the farm.*

*Figure 8.* Percent of Change in Number of U.S. Farms by Sales Category, 1997-2002




Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture

These farms are disappearing due to a number of interlocking factors. Many of them do not or cannot market directly to consumers, and they also cannot compete in highly globalized, consolidated commodity markets. Yet, they comprise about 80% of [commercial] family farms[5] and represent nearly 50% of U.S. agricultural acres. They are the backbone of rural communities in every region of the country.

Farm viability is a fundamental public policy concern. "The Farm Bill principally is intended to do one thing: improve farm profitability. …The inability of most farmers to earn a living (or even approach it) on the farm points to a structural imbalance… which could lead to a catastrophic loss of farms and farm production… [I]t is easy to conclude that our farm policy is doing a poor job of achieving its principle objective: to support farm income."[6]

5 Northeast SARE Program, Innovations in Sustainable Agriculture, Fall 2006 p. 4.

6 Hull, Jonathan W., The 2007 Farm Bill in Context. Southern Legislative Conference Council of State Governments, June 2006. p. 7.

**Farmer Diversity.** In terms of racial and ethnic diversity, Northeast farmers are increasingly diverse, but on the whole less diverse than other regions. Our region has a higher percent of women farmers than the national average. Across the country, immigrant farmers are the fastest growing sector of farmers today.[7] Together, these groups are uniquely able to produce special crops for growing ethnic and niche sectors of the Northeast population, from specialty cheeses to lemon grass and tomatillos.

7 New Immigrant Farming Initiative, "Talking Points for Immigrant Farming" January 2006 p. 1.

Several current Farm Bill programs target so-called socially disadvantaged and underserved audiences: females, African Americans, American Indians, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and operators of Spanish origin[8] as well as limited resource and beginning farmers. As these populations increase, they must continue to be funded and to make sure that the particular assistance needs of these farmers are addressed—language appropriate materials, and targeted access to training, credit and land.

8 Dismukes, Robert et al., Characteristics and Risk Management Needs of Limited-Resource and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Agriculture Information Bulletin No. (AIB733), April 1997 http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib733/

*Figure 9.* Characteristics of Farm Operators

| | Number (percent) Female operators | Number (percent) Spanish, Hispanic or Latino operators | Number (percent) African American operators | Number (percent) Asia operators | Total Number (percent) Spanish, Hispanic or Latino; African American; and Asian operators |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | 4,143 (37%) | 198 (2%) | 1 (<0.1%) | 19 (0.2%) | 218 (2%) |
| New Hampshire | 2,115 (39%) | 77 (1%) | 5 (0.1%) | 15 (0.3%) | 97 (2%) |
| Vermont | 3,473 (33%) | 187 (2%) | 3 (<0.1%) | 17 (0.2%) | 207 (2%) |
| Massachusetts | 3,361 (35%) | 189 (2%) | 36 (0.4%) | 33 (0.3%) | 258 (3%) |
| Rhode Island | 395 (31%) | 29 (2%) | 1 (<0.1%) | 0 (<0.1%) | 30 (2%) |
| Connecticut | 2,198 (34%) | 92 (1%) | 6 (0.1%) | 6 (0.1%) | 104 (2%) |
| New York | 17,149 (30%) | 604 (1%) | 111 (0.2%) | 89 (0.2%) | 804 (1%) |
| New Jersey | 4,978 (33%) | 239 (2%) | 107 (0.7%) | 100 (0.7%) | 446 (3%) |
| Pennsylvania | 22,710 (27%) | 550 (1%) | 104 (0.1%) | 55 (<0.1%) | 709 (1%) |
| Delaware | 1,058 (29%) | 46 (1%) | 34 (0.9%) | 29 (0.8%) | 109 (3%) |
| Maryland | 5,351 (29%) | 164 (1%) | 296 (1.6%) | 49 (<0.1%) | 509 (3%) |
| West Virginia | 7,671 (26%) | 255 (1%) | 46 (0.1%) | 5 (<0.1%) | 306 (1%) |
| Northeast Total | 74,602 (32%) | 2,630 (1%) | 750 (0.3%) | 417 (0.2%) | 3,797 (2%) |
| U.S. Total | 822,383 (27%) | 72,349 (2%) | 36,704 (1.2%) | 8,375 (0.3%) | 117,428 (4%) |

Note: The Census of Agriculture allows for the reporting of up to three operators per farm.

## Conservation Programs

Federal conservation programs have their roots in the Dust Bowl. They were greatly expanded beginning in 1985, and total funding for conservation nearly doubled between 1990 and 2005. Current Farm Bill conservation programs include:

- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP)
- Others including Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Conservation programs offer a combination of technical assistance, cost-share, rental and easement payments, "public works" and research. Conservation funding has been unevenly distributed across regions. Eligibility rules make some programs (e.g., CRP, WRP) less attractive to most Northeast producers. The 2002 Farm Bill contained a "regional equity" provision that targeted Northeast (and several other) "underserved" states with additional dollars for certain conservation programs.

The Conservation Security Program was introduced in the 2002 Farm Bill. It is a "green payment" entitlement program that theoretically rewards all farmers for their conservation activities. Funding constraints along with certain eligibility rules and formulas have thus far limited CSP's broad value to Northeast producers.

*Figure 10.* Farm Bill Conservation Program Allocations to States, 2005

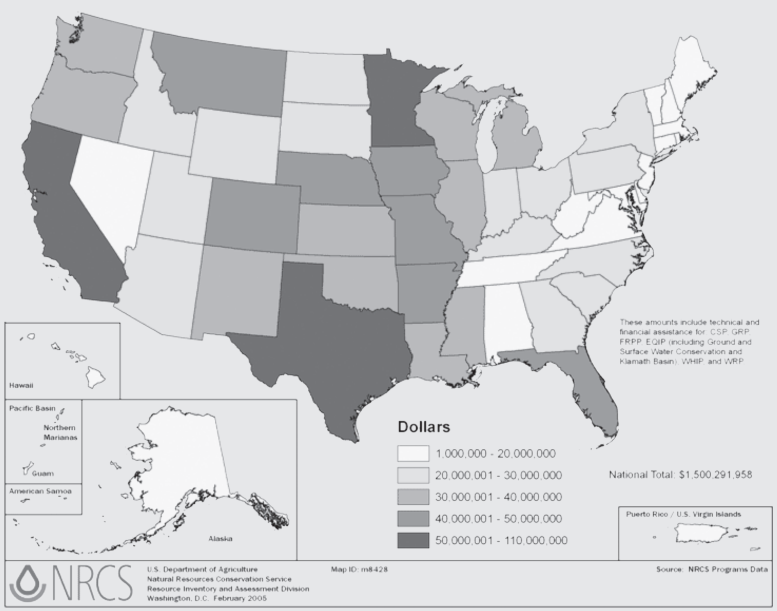



*Figure 11.* CSP Allocations to States, 2004

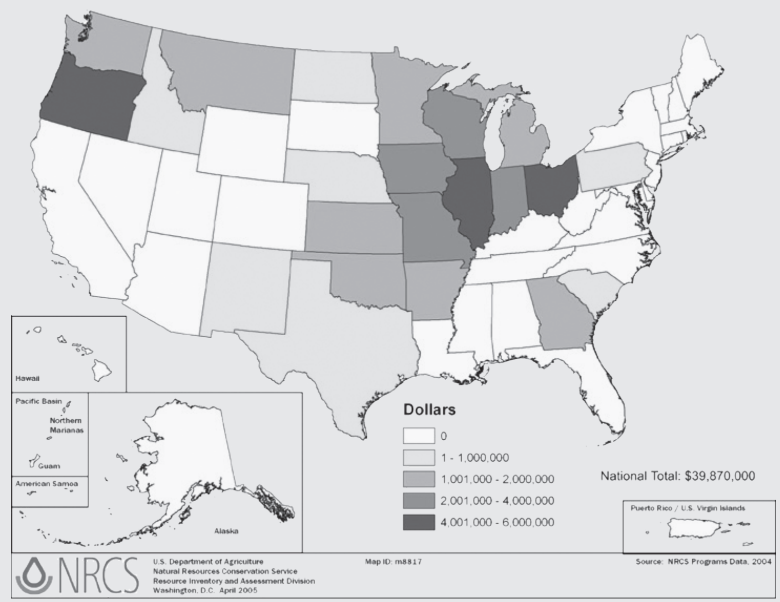


*Figure 12*. EQIP Allocations to States, 2005

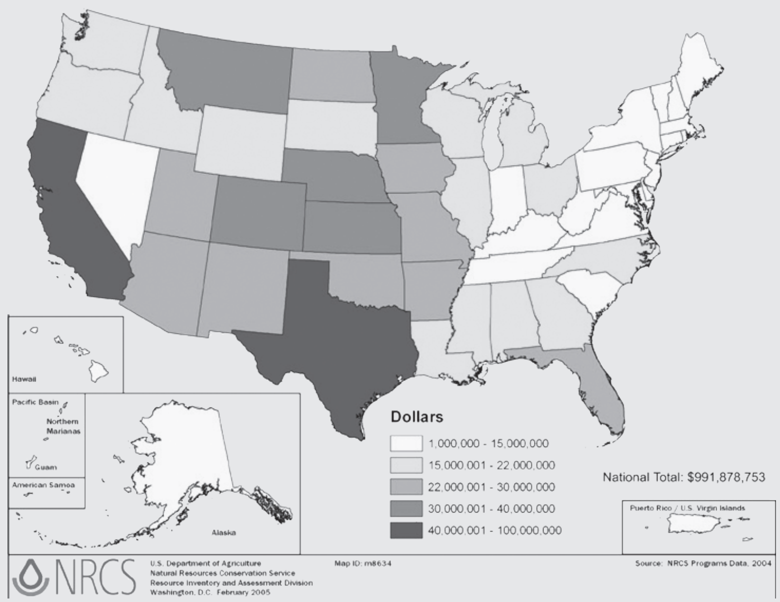
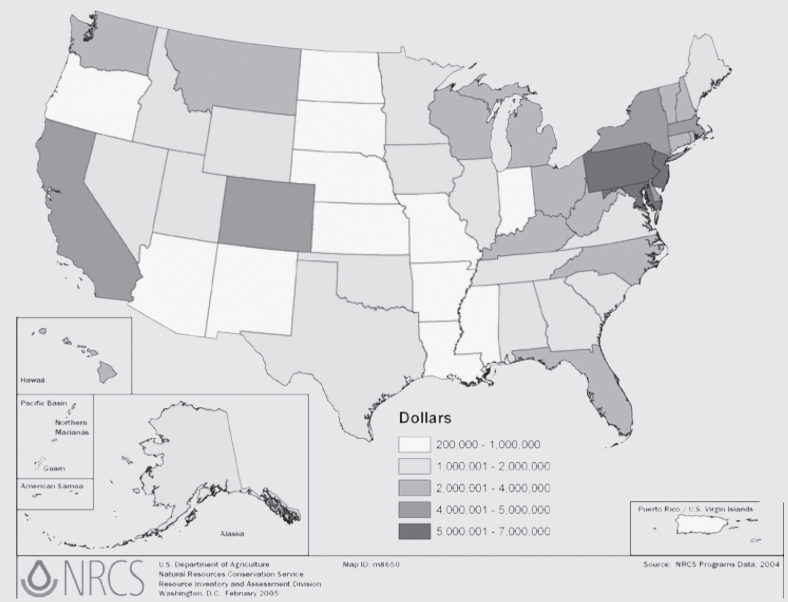



*Figure 13*. FRPP Allocations to States, 2005



## Land Values, Farmland Loss

Farmland values in the Northeast are the highest in the nation. The high cost of farmland impacts farm viability and presents substantial barriers to farm entry and transfer. Programs that address farmland preservation and affordability (such as purchase of development rights) are a high priority for the Northeast.

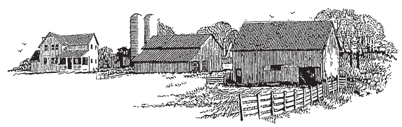


*Figure 14.* Farm Real Estate Values, Dollars/Acre, by State, 2005

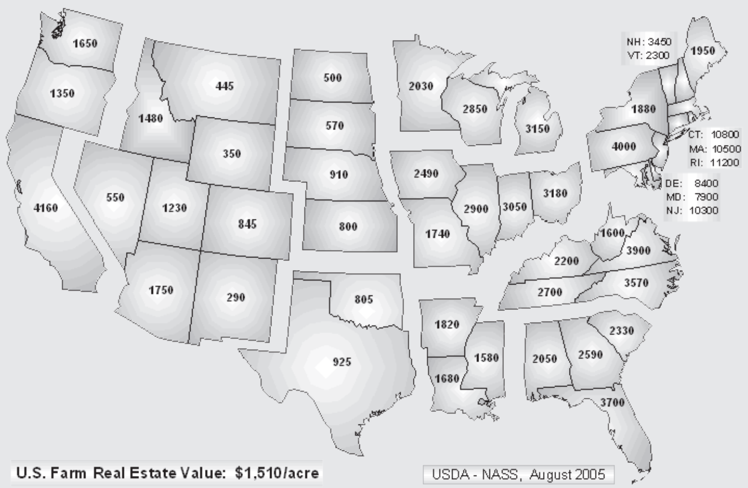



*Figure 15.* Change in Farmland Acres, 1997-2002, Northeast and U.S.

| | Farmland Acres in 1997 | Farmland Acres in 2002 | Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | 1,313,066 | 1,369,768 | 4.3% |
| New Hampshire | 463,383 | 444,879 | -3.9% |
| Vermont | 1,315,315 | 1,244,909 | -5.3% |
| Massachusetts | 577,637 | 518,570 | -10.2% |
| Rhode Island | 65,083 | 61,223 | -5.9% |
| Connecticut | 406,222 | 357,154 | -12.1% |
| New York | 7,788,241 | 7,660,969 | -1.6% |
| New Jersey | 856,909 | 805,682 | -5.9% |
| Pennsylvania | 7,819,648 | 7,745,336 | -1.0% |
| Delaware | 589,107 | 540,080 | -8.3% |
| Maryland | 2,193,063 | 2,077,630 | -5.3% |
| West Virginia | 3,698,204 | 3,584,668 | -3.1% |
| Northeast Total | 27,085,878 | 26,410,868 | -2.5% |
| U.S. Total | 954,752,502 | 938,279,056 | -1.7% |

According to the Ag Census, the Northeast is losing farmland at a faster rate on average than the U.S. In some states, notably Connecticut, Massachusetts and Delaware, the rate of loss is many times the national rate.

According to recent survey results from 15,000 farmers nationwide,[9] Northeast farmers showed the highest expectation (29%) of all regions that their farm would be converted to non-farm uses when they ceased operating it. With high land values, development pressures and complex legal, financial and interpersonal considerations, passing the farm to the next generation or owner is a significant challenge for most Northeast farm families.

9 Farm Foundation, "The 2007 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food and Public Policy, September 2006.

## Farm Products

Northeast agriculture is very diverse. While our 165,576 farms are only 7.8% of total U.S. farms, they represent a disproportionately high percent of specialty crop, direct-to-consumer and organic sales.

The total value of Northeast agricultural products is about $12 billion, which is 6% of the total value of U.S. agricultural products. Specialty crops are an important sector for the Northeast. They are defined as: vegetables, melon, potatoes, sweet potatoes, fruits, tree nuts, berries, nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod, cut Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops and aquaculture. In the Northeast, specialty crops account for 32% of farm sales, compared to 21% nationally. The Northeast produces 9% of U.S. specialty crops.

Historically, specialty crop producers have not been supported by government programs. In 2004, Congress authorized the "Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act" that provided block grants to states to "enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops". Due to heightened concerns about diet and obesity, specialty crops are receiving greater attention.

*Figure 16.* Selected Northeast Product Sales (in thousands)

| Product | 2002 | Percent of U.S. Sales 2002 | Percent of Northeast Sales 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Milk and other dairy products from cows | 3,664,516 | 18% | 31% |
| Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod | 2,195,530 | 15% | 19% |
| Poultry and eggs | 2,069,660 | 9% | 18% |
| Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes | 935,307 | 7% | 8% |
| Cattle and calves | 837,322 | 2% | 7% |
| Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas | 644,036 | 2% | 6% |
| Fruits, tree nuts, and berries | 517,682 | 4% | 4% |
| Other crops and hay | 317,826 | 4% | 3% |
| Hogs and pigs | 297,358 | 2% | 3% |
| Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys | 113,210 | 9% | 1% |
| Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops | 50,317 | 13% | 0.4% |
| Sheep, goats, and their products | 24,408 | 5% | 0.2% |

Source: Agricultural Census 2002, Table 2

*In 2004, cash receipts for Northeast agricultural products totaled $14.895 billion*

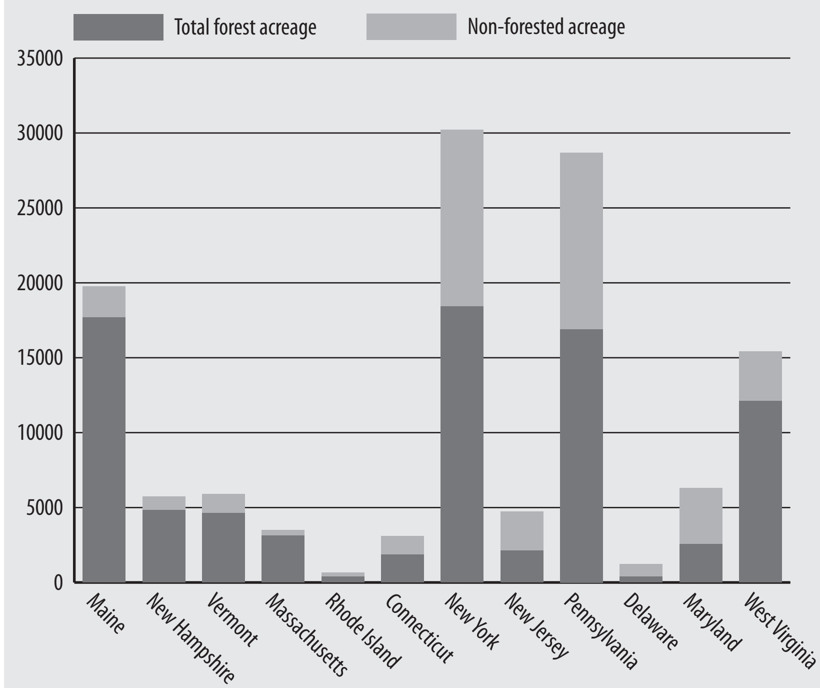
## Forestry

With a regional average of over 60% of its land base in forest (over twice the national average), Northeast forestland uses and the forestry industry are important natural resource and economic concerns. Compared to other regions, Northeast forestland primarily is held by non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners, many of whom are farmers. Private landowners in the Northeast harvest 13% of the nation's timber.

The Forestry title of the Farm Bill contains several programs. The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)—provides technical assistance through State forestry agencies to NIPF owners to encourage active forest management. The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) provides technical, educational, and cost-share assistance to promote sustainability of non-industrial private forests. FLEP funds are allocated to each Forest Service regional office, and are then distributed to the states.

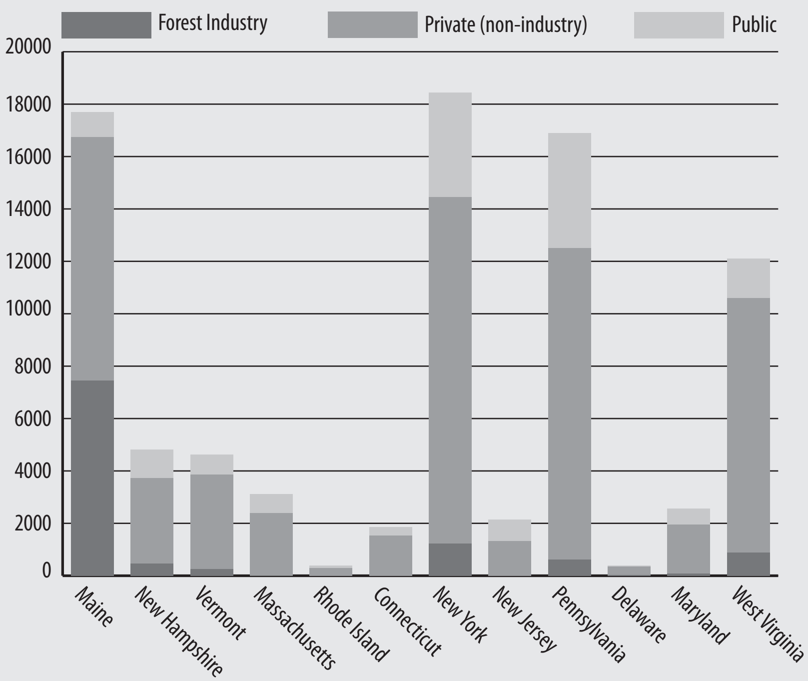
The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) helps protect important working forests threatened by development or other non-forest uses through conservation easements and fee-simple purchase. Of total acres protected through FLP, 64% are in the Northeast. The Urban and Community Forestry Program provides financial and technical assistance to urban and community forestry projects.

*Figure 17.* Acreage by State, 2004
(Forest and Total in thousands of acres)



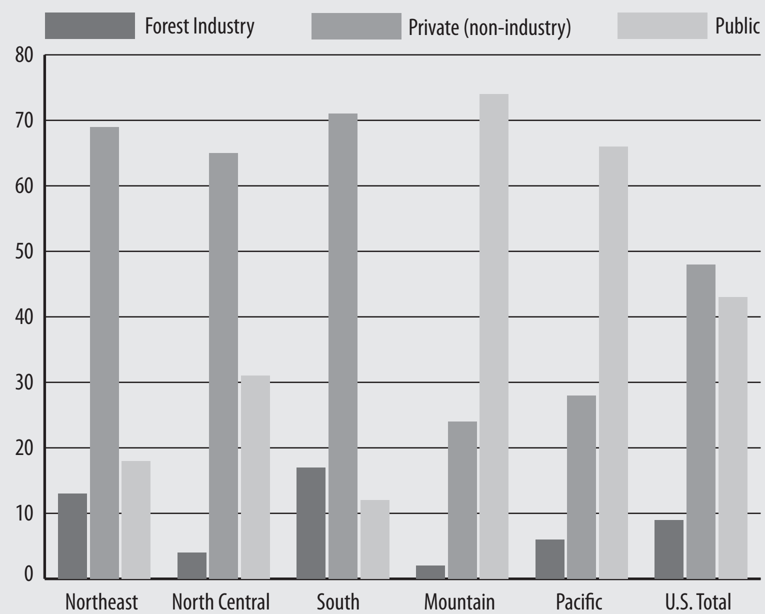

Source: USDA, Forest Service
Timberland is defined by the Forest Service as "forest land capable of producing in excess of 20 cubic feet per year and not legally withdrawn from timber production." Essentially, it is forest land that can be harvested at a defined rate without risking the destruction of the forest.

*Figure 18*. Ownership of Forest Land, 2004
(in thousands of acres)




Source: USDA, Forest Service

*Figure 19*. Forestland by Ownership Category, 2004
(percent of total forestland)




Source: USDA, Forest Service

## A Word About Fisheries

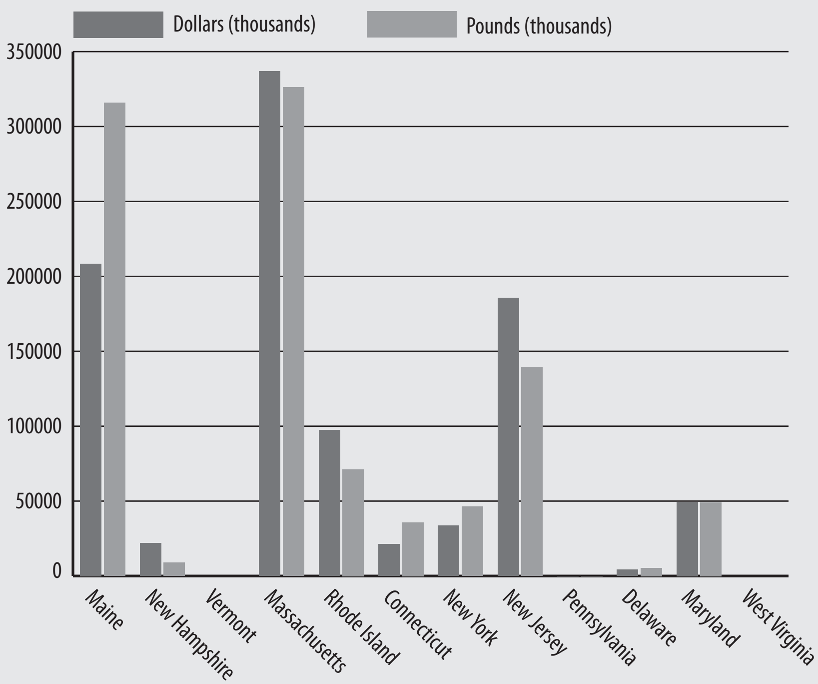
The federal Farm Bill does not contain programs for fisheries. However, with 27% of all US sales for marine fisheries (measured by US domestic landings) going to states in the Northeast,[10] this industry is a critically important component of our regional food system.

10 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Fisheries Office of Science and Technology

Federal programs to support coastal and inland/freshwater aquaculture mainly are housed at the National Marine Fisheries Service, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which is part of the Department of Commerce.

However, the 2002 Farm Bill includes two provisions important for the Northeast fishing industry. One regards county of origin labeling for fish (Title III and X) and a time-limited program for emergency disaster relief to the commercial fishery industry in the Northeast, also found in Title X.

*Figure 20.* Marine Fisheries, 2004 (U.S. Domestic Landings)




Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Fisheries Office of Science and Technology

*Figure 21.* Aquaculture Farms and Sales (inclues coastal and freshwater)

| | Total farms | Total Sales ($1000) |
|---|---|---|
| Maine | 65 | 66,610 |
| New Hampshire | 8 | 844 |
| Vermont | 8 | 155 |
| Massachusetts | 111 | 5,983 |
| Rhode Island | 3 | W |
| Connecticut | 23 | 17,638 |
| New York | 54 | 1,833 |
| New Jersey | 28 | 5,787 |
| Pennsylvania | 51 | 7,632 |
| Delaware | 6 | W |
| Maryland | 52 | 14,822 |
| West Virginia | 27 | 691 |
| Northeast Total | 436 | 127,393 |
| U.S. Total | 4,028 | 978,012 |

*Note: W= Withheld for the privacy of farms.*

Source: USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service: 1998 Census of Aquaculture

# SECTION TWO:
# Processing, Distribution, Infrastructure and Rural Development

This section includes data related to the following Farm Bill titles: Trade, Rural Development, and the Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance programs of the Miscellaneous title.

## What's "Rural"?

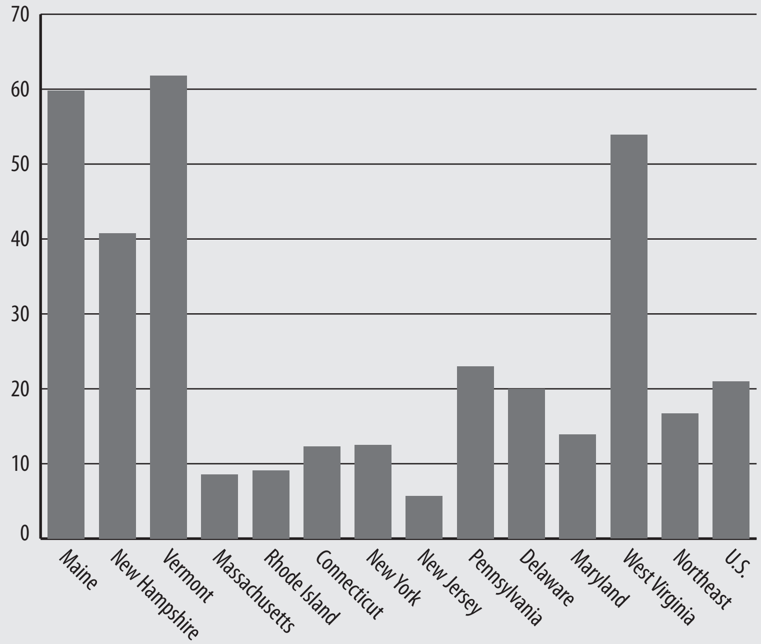
Contrary to the stereotype, the Northeast is not one continuous urbanized corridor. With its rich interplay of rural, "peri-urban" and urban areas, the Northeast is much more complex than that. Federal definitions and rules about demographics greatly impact eligibility for programs.

Two most common federal definitions of rural areas are from:
1) the Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census (Census); and
2) Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS).

The Census defines an urbanized area (UA) or urban cluster (UC) by population density. Such areas consist of: a) blocks that have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square miles; and b) surrounding blocks that have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile. Areas not included inside UAs and UCs are classified as "rural."

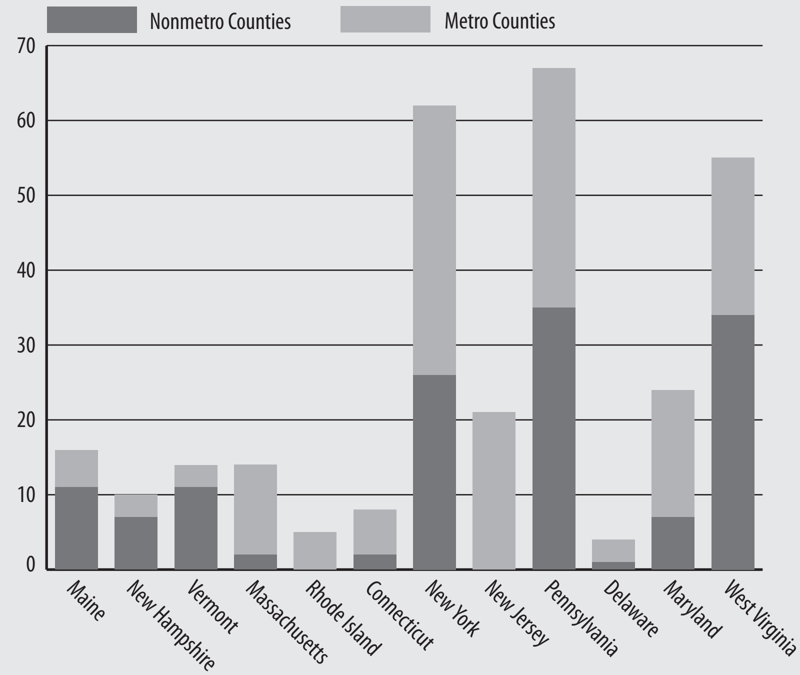
The ERS uses a continuum to distinguish metro counties by size and non-metro counties by their degree of urbanization or proximity to metro areas. A scale is used, with zero to three defined as metro, and four to nine as non-metro. This can be confusing. For example, the Census Bureau classifies 25% of the U.S. population as rural and 97.5% of the total land area as rural. ERS estimates that in 1990, 43% of the rural population lived in metropolitan counties!

*Figure 22.* Rural Population as Percent of Total




Note: Rural is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau; Figures from 2000 Census.

*Figure 23.* Counties by Metro/Nonmetro Staus




Note: Metro is defined by the Economic Research Service of USDA; Figures from 2004.

Five of 12 Northeast states have rural populations as percent of total that are higher than national average. In fact, three Northeast states rank as the top three nationally for highest rural population as percent of total:

1. Vermont (61.8%)
2. Maine (59.8%)
3. West Virginia (53.9%)

It's important to recognize that while no Northeast counties are recognized by ERS as *agriculture dependent* (with at least 15% of labor and proprietors' income derived from farming during 1987-89), Northeast farms and farmland are an integral part of the fabric our rural and urban, metro and non-metro areas. Our rural areas share many of the same problems as their counterparts in other regions. In other ways, Northeast rural and non-metro areas face unique concerns. For example, some Midwest rural counties suffer from out-migration whereas many Northeast rural counties are confronting pressures on agriculture from in-migration.

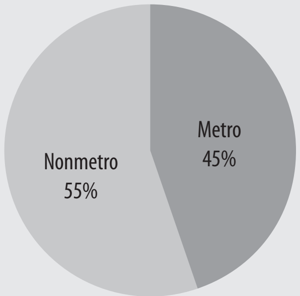
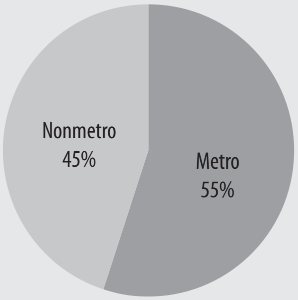



*Figure 25.* Acres of Farmland in the Northeast by County Classification

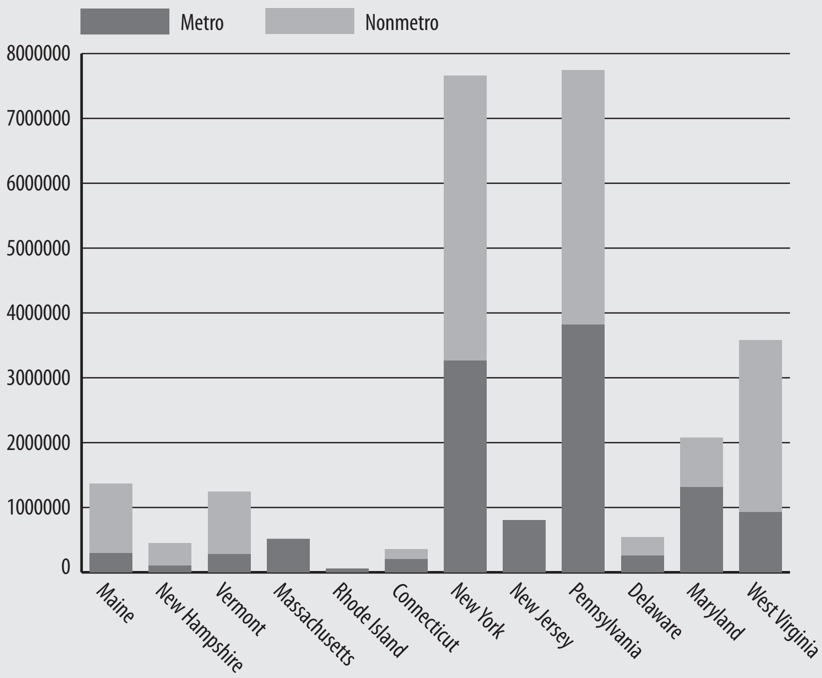
Note: Metro is defined by the Economic Research Service of USDA; Figures from 2004.

*Figure 27.* Number of Northeast Farms by County Classification



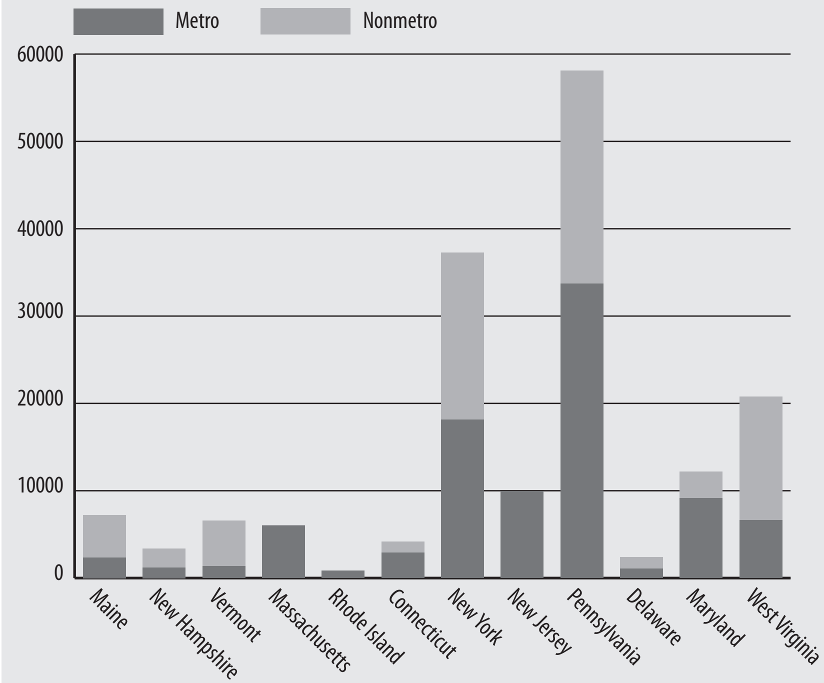

Note: Metro is defined by the Economic Research Service of USDA; Figures from 2004 and from 2002 Census of Agriculture.

*Figure 26.* Acres of Farmland by County Classification




Note: Metro is defined by the Economic Research Service of USDA; Figures from 2004 and from 2002 Census of Agriculture.

*Figure 28.* Number of Farms By County Classification




Note: Metro is defined by the Economic Research Service of USDA; Figures from 2004 and from 2002 Census of Agriculture.

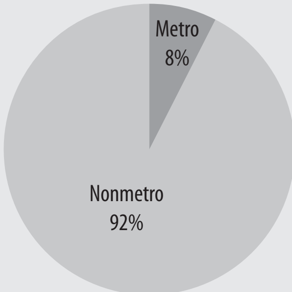



*Figure 29.* Federal Funds for Agriculture and Natural Resources, U.S.

Note: Metro is defined by the Economic Research Service of USDA; Figures from 2001

*55% of our farms and 45% of our farmland are in metro areas, but only 8% of federal funds for agriculture and natural resources go to metro areas nationally.*

## Trade/Export

Northeast export sales are steadily rising. In 2005, exports accounted for over 17% of total Northeast Sales. Yet, this figure is less than all other regions, and accounts for about 4% of total U.S. export sales. The Northeast is the region most reliant on domestic markets for its products.

*Figure 30.* Export Sales by Region

| | Value of Exports ($ millions) | Percent of Total US Exports | Percent of Total sales as Exports |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northeast | 2,584 | 4.1% | 17.3% |
| North Central | 17,218 | 27.6% | 30.0% |
| South | 14,728 | 23.6% | 25.0% |
| Mountain | 11,765 | 18.8% | 27.8% |
| Pacific | 13,099 | 21.0% | 37.6% |
| U.S. Total | 62,369 | 100.0% | 31.0% |

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin

South: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas

Mountain: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

Pacific: Alaska, Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii

Source: ERS, USDA http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/stateexports/

*Figure 31.* Top Northeast Export Products (sales in millions)

| Commodity | 2000 | 2002 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Other* | 492.0 | 491.6 | 556.4 |
| Wheat and products | 281.8 | 302.7 | 366.7 |
| Animals and meat | 201.6 | 190.8 | 212.0 |
| Poultry and products | 206.8 | 200.1 | 207.0 |
| Dairy and products | 175.0 | 176.9 | 193.0 |
| Vegetables and products | 187.8 | 223.1 | 177.0 |
| Fruits and products | 150.2 | 133.0 | 167.6 |
| Feed grains and products | 111.7 | 158.8 | 142.6 |
| Soybeans and products | 95.3 | 127.1 | 138.0 |
| Tobacco | 149.2 | 89.1 | 72.4 |
| Feeds and Fodder | 54.6 | 62.4 | 69.6 |
| Hides | 46.2 | 56.6 | 58.8 |
| Seeds** | 30.9 | 41.5 | 54.7 |
| Fats, oils, | 13.4 | 13.2 | 19.0 |
| Northeast Total | 2,196.5 | 2,267.0 | 2,434.9 |
| Percent of U.S. Export Market | 4.3% | 4.5% | 4.8% |

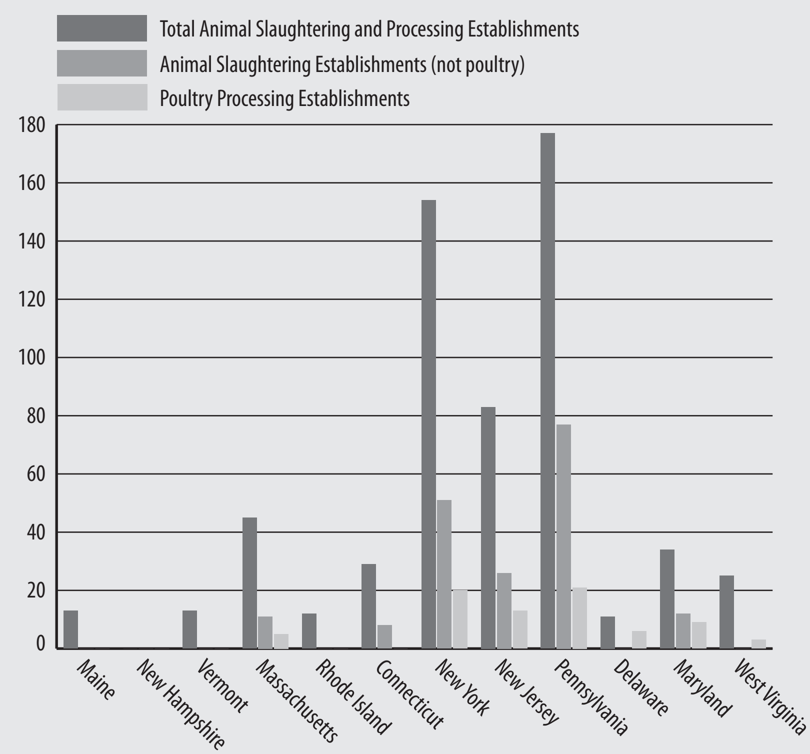
* Other includes sugar, minor oilseeds, essential oils, beverages other than juice, nursery and greenhouse, wine, and misc. vegetable products.
**Northeast market growth above national average

Source: www.ers.usda.gov/Data/StateExports/sx5yr.xl

## Food Processing and Inspection

In general, processing and distribution infrastructure in the Northeast has declined. For example, the number of Northeast meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities has shrunk in the last decade. Products that are inspected through state-level (as opposed to USDA) inspection programs cannot be sold across state lines. Access to processing and prohibitions against inter-state sales create barriers for Northeast livestock farmers.

*Figure 32.* Animal Processing and Slaughtering Establishments



## Markets and Marketing

One of the Northeast's great strengths is its markets. With a population base of nearly 63 million (21% of total U.S.), the Northeast leads in farm direct sales to consumers through farm stands, CSA farms, farmers' markets and similar outlets. While there are no accurate data, there are farm-to-institution (schools, colleges, food service, retailers, government) programs in every Northeast state.

Several Farm Bill programs address direct, institutional and value-added marketing. These include: the Value-Added Producer Grant program; the Farmers' Market Promotion Program; the Farmers Market Nutrition Program; and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

The Northeast is still relatively free from the consolidation and integration in the production and processing sectors of the U.S. agri-food system. Programs that support and strengthen farms of all sizes and types along with infrastructure for regional processing and distribution are critical to our region.

*Figure 33.* Average Value per Farm of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Individuals for Human Consumption, 2002

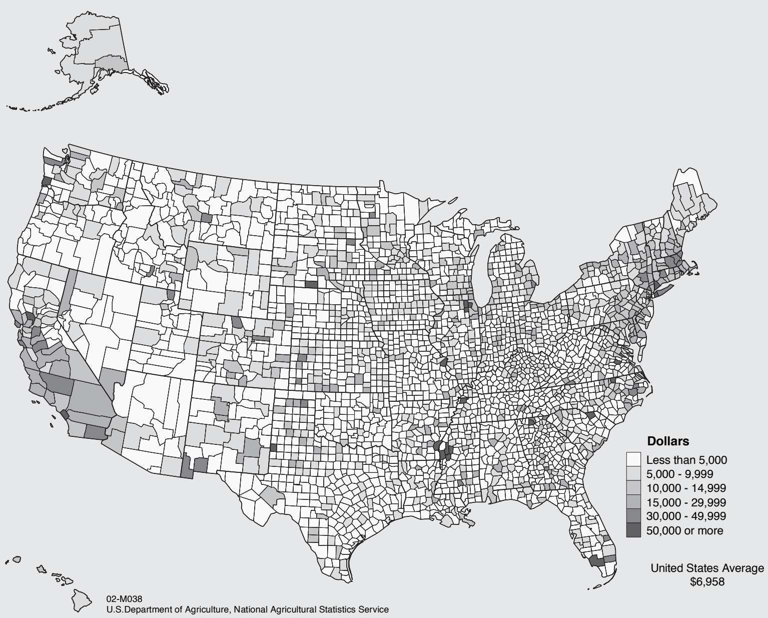



*Figure 34.* Direct to Consumer Sales

| State | 2002 | 1997 | Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Connecticut | $17,108,000 | $11,370,000 | 50% |
| Delaware | $2,856,000 | $1,885,000 | 52% |
| Maine | $11,237,000 | $8,641,000 | 30% |
| Maryland | $12,551,000 | $8,789,000 | 43% |
| Massachusetts | $31,315,000 | $20,446,000 | 53% |
| New Hampshire | $10,420,000 | $8,976,000 | 16% |
| New Jersey | $19,126,000 | $18,403,000 | 4% |
| New York | $59,724,000 | $42,727,000 | 40% |
| Pennsylvania | $53,760,000 | $52,901,000 | 2% |
| Rhode Island | $3,697,000 | $2,415,000 | 53% |
| Vermont | $9,567,000 | $6,790,000 | 41% |
| Northeast Total | $231,361,000 | $183,343,000 | |
| Percent of U.S. | 28% | 31% | |
| U.S. Total | $812,204,000 | $591,820,000 | 37% |

Source: 2002 Agricultural Census, Table 2

*12% of Northeast farms sell direct to consumers; this is over twice the national average.*

—

*Direct sales are 1.92% of all Northeast farm sales and about .4% of total U.S. sales.*

*Seven Northeast states experienced a growth in direct sales of 40% and above between 1997 and 2002.*

—

*Organic farms are about 1% of total northeast farms (compared to .56% nationally).*

*Figure 35.* Direct Sales as Percent of Total Sales, 2002

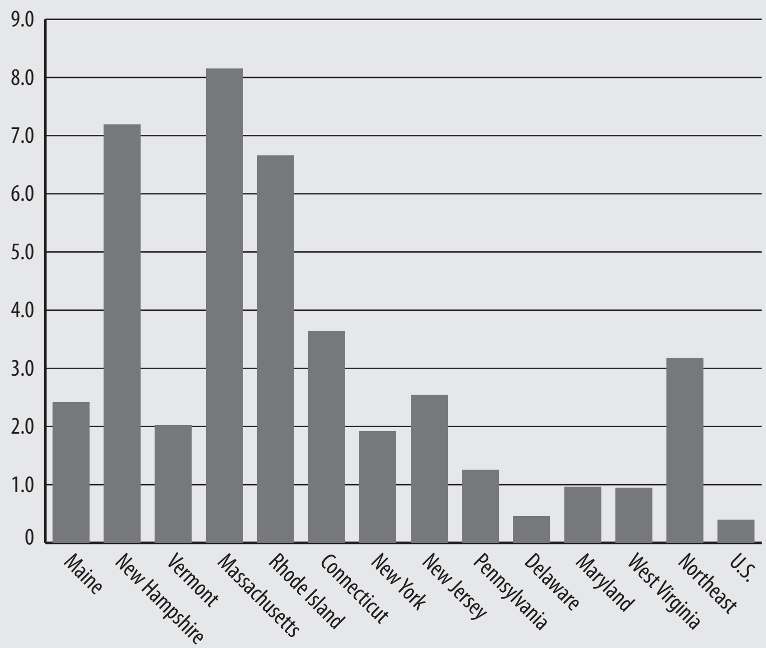



*Figure 36.* Farmers' Markets in the Northeast, 2004

| State | Markets |
|---|---|
| New York | 350 |
| Pennsylvania | 169 |
| Massachusetts | 102 |
| Maine | 83 |
| Maryland | 81 |
| New Jersey | 74 |
| Connecticut | 64 |
| New Hampshire | 58 |
| Vermont | 51 |
| Rhode Island | 21 |
| Delaware | 6 |
| Northeast Total | 1059 |
| Percent of US | 30% |

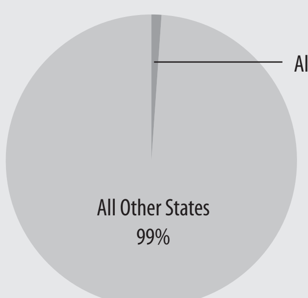
Source: http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/

## Risk Management, Crop Insurance, Disaster Payments

Agricultural risk management has to do with addressing the legal, production, financial, human resource and market risks associated with farm businesses. The federal government provides basic "catastrophic" (CAT) and "buy-up' premium subsidies for a variety of crop insurance products which cover only certain crops. Starting in 1999, an "Adjusted Gross Revenue" pilot program offered coverage based on "gross revenue from all farm commodities."[1] While theoretically attractive to Northeast farms, AGR (and AGR-Lite) accounted for only .6% of crop insurance policies sold in the region in 2006

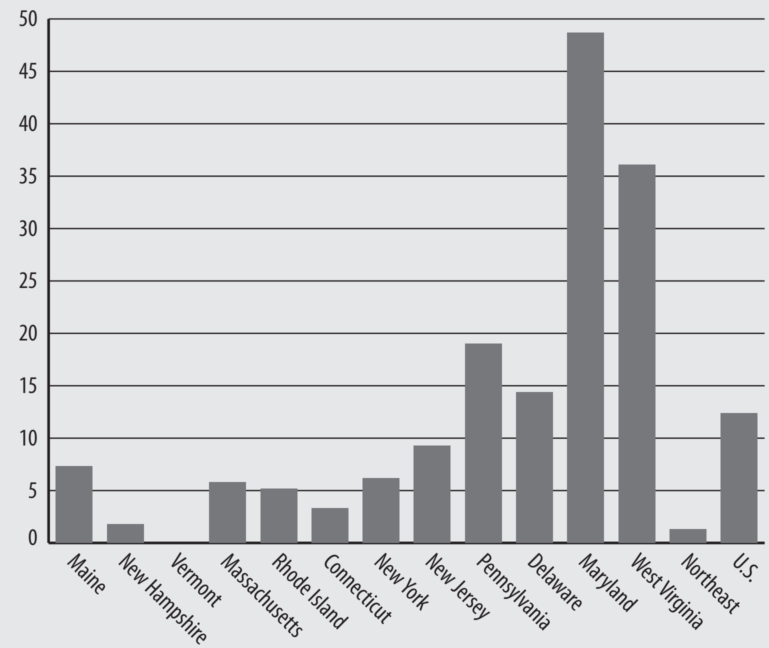
1 http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/farmbill/titles/titleXmiscellaneous.htm

*Figure 37.* Total Acres Insured, 2005




Source: USDA, Risk Management Agency

*Figure 38.* Percent of Acres Insured




Source: USDA, Risk Management Agency and USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service

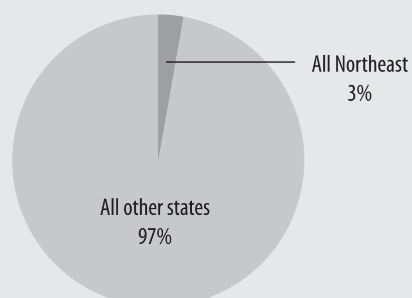
Note: Figures for acres insured are from 2005; total acres per state are from 2002.

*Figure 39.* Types and Numbers of Crop Insurance Policies Sold, 2006

| | AGR & AGR/Lite Policies Sold | CAT Policies Sold | BUY-UP Policies Sold | Total Policies Sold |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | 3 | 276 | 383 | 662 |
| New Hampshire | 7 | 46 | 65 | 118 |
| Vermont | 10 | 184 | 373 | 567 |
| Massachusetts | 13 | 289 | 457 | 759 |
| Rhode Island | 0 | 28 | 25 | 53 |
| Connecticut | 14 | 119 | 259 | 392 |
| New York | 113 | 2,206 | 3883 | 6,202 |
| New Jersey | 6 | 742 | 714 | 1,462 |
| Pennsylvania | 39 | 2,746 | 11,350 | 14,135 |
| Delaware | 0 | 169 | 1,492 | 1,661 |
| Maryland | 7 | 843 | 4,603 | 5,453 |
| West Virginia | 4 | 122 | 727 | 853 |
| Northeast Total | 216 | 7,770 | 24,331 | 32,317 |

Source: USDA, Risk Management Agency

*Figure 40.* Federal Crop Disaster Aid Payments, 1995-2003
(reflects number of recipients and amount of payments)




Source: Environmental Working Group:
http://www.ewg.org/issues/agriculture/20041005/index.php#recipients

## SECTION THREE: Consumption, Nutrition and Health

This section includes information relevant to the Nutrition Title of the Farm Bill. This Title includes: The Food Stamp Program; Community Food Projects Grant Program; Farmers Market Nutrition Programs; National School Lunch Program and two fruit and vegetable promotion pilot programs.

### General demographic data

With nearly 63 million people, the Northeast has over 1/5 of the nation's population, with population density four times the national average.

*Figure 40.* Northeast States Population, Estimate

| | 2005 Population |
|---|---|
| Maine | 1,321,505 |
| New Hampshire | 1,309,940 |
| Vermont | 623,050 |
| Massachusetts | 6,398,743 |
| Rhode Island | 1,076,189 |
| Connecticut | 3,510,297 |
| New York | 19,254,630 |
| New Jersey | 8,717,925 |
| Pennsylvania | 12,429,616 |
| Delaware | 843,524 |
| Maryland | 5,600,388 |
| West Virginia | 1,816,856 |
| Northeast Total | 62,902,663 |
| U.S. Total | 296,410,404 |
| Northeast as Percent of U.S. Total | 21% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

*Figure 41.* Percent of Population by Race in the Northeast

| | |
|---|---|
| White, not Hispanic | 71.7% |
| Black | 13.8% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 0.4% |
| Asian | 4.6% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.0% |
| Hispanic | 10.6% |
| Two or more races | 1.3% |

Source: US Census Bureau

**The Northeast is the most expensive region to live in. The Consumer Price Index** (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

*Figure 42.* Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers, 2006

| | First half of 2006 |
|---|---|
| Northeast | 214 |
| South | 194 |
| Midwest | 192 |
| West | 205 |

Note: WV, MD, and DE are included in the South
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

*Figure 43.* Cost of Living Index, 2006

| | 2006 Cost of Living Index | Rank (1=lowest cost of living) |
|---|---|---|
| Maine | 109 | 39 |
| New Hampshire | N/A | N/A |
| Vermont | 122 | 40 |
| Massachusetts | 123 | 41 |
| Rhode Island | 124 | 43 |
| Connecticut | 127 | 45 |
| New York | 130 | 46 |
| New Jersey | 132 | 47 |
| Pennsylvania | 101 | 28 |
| Delaware | 100 | 27 |
| Maryland | 127 | 44 |
| West Virginia | 95 | 21 |
| Northeast Average | 117 | |
| U.S. Average | 100 | |

Source: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, Missouri Department of Economic Development; ACCRA—The Council for Community and Economic Research.

*Food costs in the Northeast are estimated at 4.8% higher than the national average.*[1]

*According to a 1996 survey by the American Community Garden Association, four of the top five cities in terms of total number of gardens were in the NE—a total of 4,507 gardens. The most recent data from ACGA shows 18,000 community gardens in U.S. and Canada.*[2]

1 Food Expenditures by U.S. Households: Looking Ahead to 2020, ERS Agricultural Economic Report 821, Feb.2003
2 Does not break down by region.

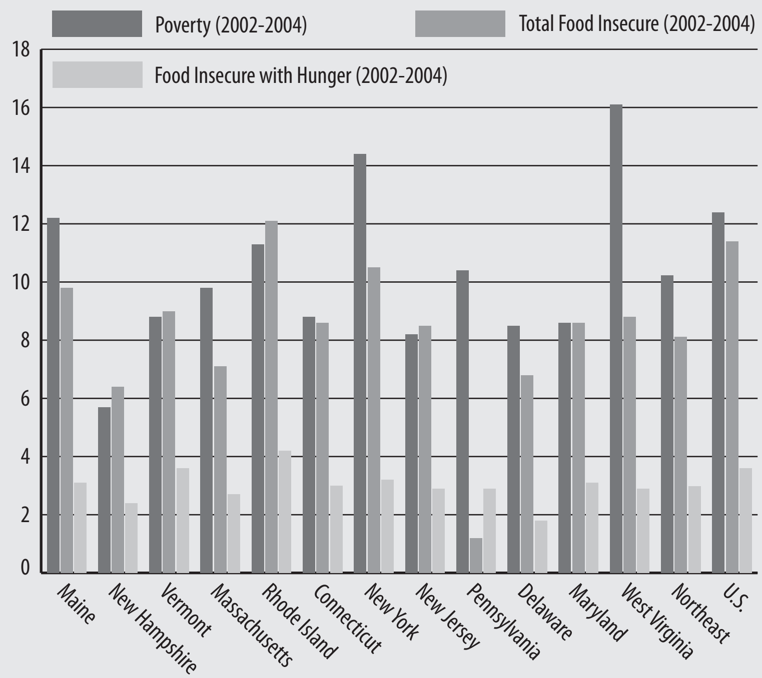
## Poverty, Hunger and Food Insecurity

The Economic Research Service of the USDA surveys households to obtain figures for food security in the US. Status is based upon the replies to the questionnaire. Households are classified as:

- **food secure:** report very few indications of food access problems.
- **food insecure:** report multiple indications of food access problems, but report few, if any, indications of reduced food intake.
- **food insecure with hunger:** report multiple indications of reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns due to inadequate resources for food, although not all directly report that household members were hungry.

Food secure households have access to a readily available supply of healthy foods, while families with food insecurity face food shortages and/or a lack of consistently available food. It is not surprising that individuals in the Northeast, and throughout the country, continue to struggle to meet current dietary guidelines given food costs and limits on food assistance. It becomes increasing difficult to assess federal food assistance program impacts as the gap between benefits and needs continues to expand.

*Figure 44.* Percent of Population in Poverty and Food Insecure




Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and U.S. Census Bureau

*Figure 45.* Demographic Breakdown of Northeast Population in Poverty

| | Population | Percent of Total Population in Poverty |
|---|---|---|
| Total in Poverty | 6,927,347 | 100.0% |
| White, not Hispanic | 3,298,211 | 47.6% |
| Black | 1,611,376 | 23.3% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 41,338 | 0.6% |
| Asian | 317,275 | 4.6% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 3,961 | 0.1% |
| Hispanic | 1,371,023 | 19.8% |
| Two or more races | 284,163 | 4.1% |

Source: US Census Bureau 2000 Census

*The poverty rate is 11.2% in metro areas and 12% in Nonmetro areas of the Northeast.*[3]

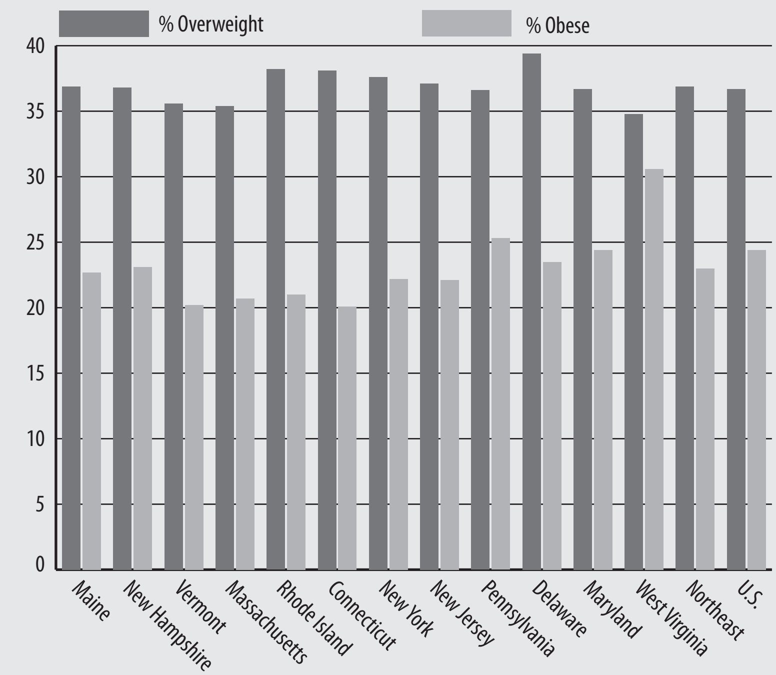
3 ERS, USDA http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/incomepovertywelfare/RuralPoverty/

## Obesity and Disease

The number of individuals classified as overweight or obese has increased dramatically for both adults and children throughout the United States during the past 25 years; one in six children are overweight—three times the number in 1980.[4] Two out of three adults are either overweight or obese.[5]

The average prevalence of overweight and obesity is similar in the Northeast to the national numbers. When compared to each other, Northeast states have similar overweight rates, but exhibit greater variability in their obesity rates. Rates for obesity are higher in low income and minority communities.[6]

*Figure 46.* Percent of Notheast Adult Population Overweight or Obese, 2005




Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

4 http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/overwght99.htm

5 http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/obese03_04/overwght_adult_03.htm

6 Townsend, M. Obesity in low income Communities: Prevalence, Effects, a Place to Begin, Journal of the American Dietetic Association, 2006 Vol.106 :( 1), pg 34-36, and Zhang, Q. et al. Trends in the association between obesity and socioeconomic status in US adults: 1971 to 2000 Obesity research, 2004, 12; 1622-1632

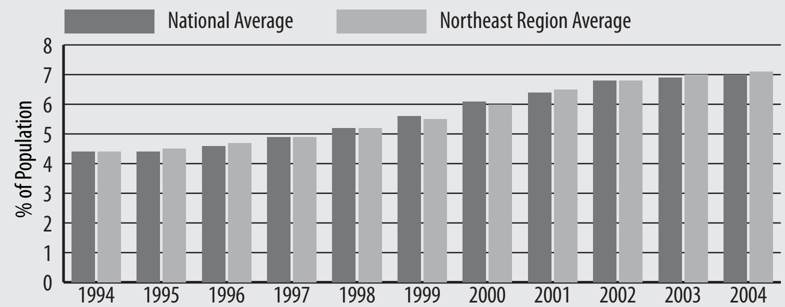
## Obesity, Health Risk and Economic Costs

There is much debate over the methods used to precisely determine the number of deaths that are obesity related. However, there is agreement that as overweight and obesity rise, there is an increased risk for the development of many diseases, including heart disease, selected types of cancer, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea and respiratory problems. Health risks are not confined to adults. Overweight and obese children are approximately 10 times more likely to develop hypertension in young adulthood and more than twice as likely to develop diabetes compared to normal weight children.[7] With heart disease, cancer, and stroke as the top three causes of death in the U.S., there is a compelling need to address the obesity epidemic.

Health problems associated with overweight and obesity have a significant impact on the U.S. health care system. Based on national medical expenditure estimates, expenses related to both overweight and obesity accounted for 9.1% of total U.S. medical expenditures in 1998 and may have reached as high as $78.5 billion ($92.6 billion in 2002 dollars).[8]

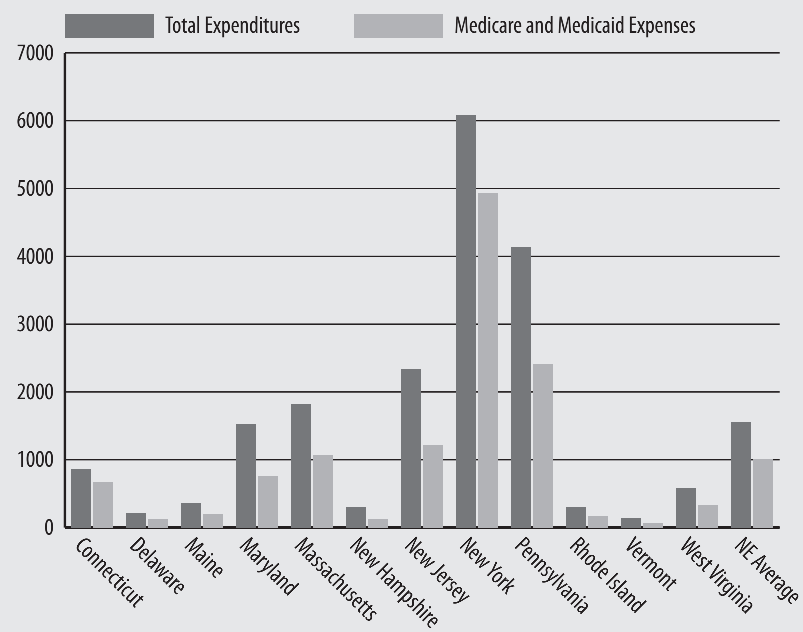
*Up to one fifth of health care costs could be related to treating the consequences of obesity by 2020.*[9]

*Figure 47.* Comparison of Diabetes Prevalence: National and Northeast Region, 1994-2004




Data Source http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/statistics/prev/national
Based on total prevalence, non-age adjusted values

*Figure 48.* Medical Expenditures Attributed to Adult Obesity (millions of dollars)



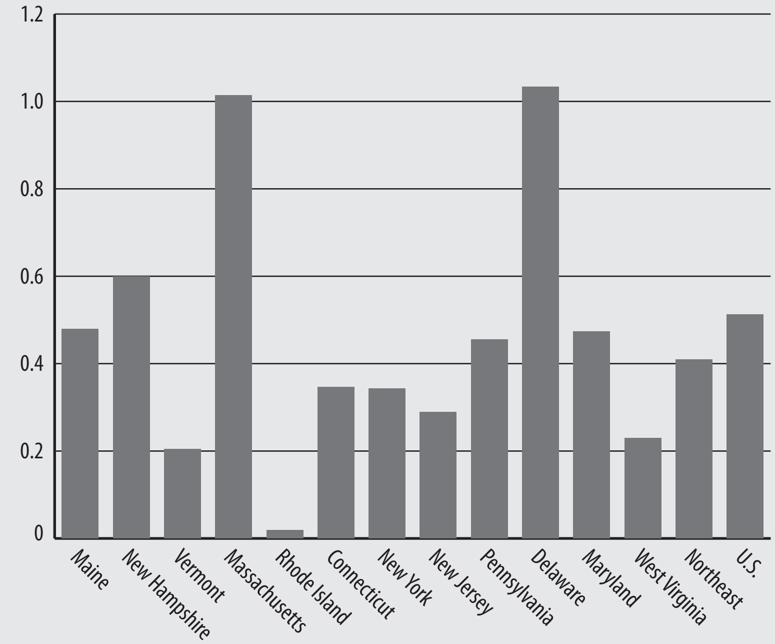

7 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5434a3.htm (Sept 2, 2005) 54(34):848-849
8 ww.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/economic_consequences.htm
9 Strum R.J. et al, "Increasing Obesity Rates and Disability Trends, Health Affairs, Vol.23 (2) March/April 2004

## USDA Nutrition Programs

The **Food Stamp Program (FSP)** is the largest of the domestic food and nutrition assistance programs administered by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, reaching over 25.7 million individuals (4.7 million in the Northeast), with expenditures of over $31b in 2005.

All states in the Northeast region saw an increase in FSP participation rates from 2001 through 2006, with a regional average increase of 46% which is close to the national increase of 49% during this same time period. These increases are due in part to greater outreach, but also to an increase in eligible participants. The basic FSP unit used to determine eligibility is the household, with a few exceptions. A household is defined as individuals who share a residential unit and purchase and prepare food together. The income and assets of each household member are aggregated to determine eligibility and benefits.

*Figure 49.* Food Stamp Participation: 5-Year Change, 2001-2006




Source: Food Research and Action Center: http://www.frac.org/html/news/fsp/2006.4_5Yr.html

*The Northeast received approximately 18% of total U.S. expenditures for food assistance.*

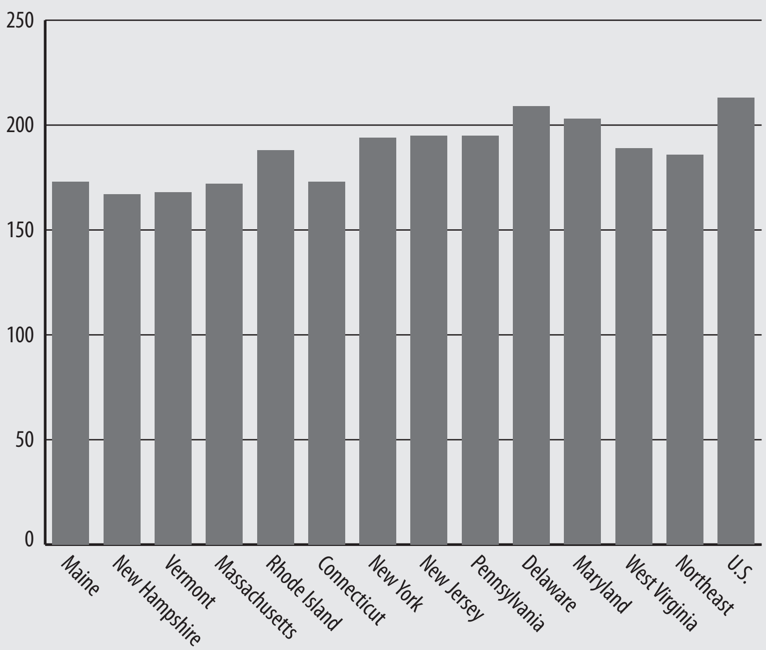
*Figure 50.* Food Stamp Program Participation

| | Number eligible (1,000) | Number receiving (1,000) | Rate of participation (percent) | Ranking by state for participation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maine | 174 | 125 | 72 | 5 |
| New Hampshire | 93 | 43 | 46 | 47 |
| Vermont | 67 | 40 | 60 | 21 |
| Massachusetts | 658 | 281 | 43 | 51 |
| Rhode Island | 135 | 71 | 53 | 34 |
| Connecticut | 327 | 174 | 53 | 33 |
| New York | 2,963 | 1,416 | 48 | 43 |
| New Jersey | 713 | 336 | 47 | 46 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,505 | 808 | 54 | 30 |
| Delaware | 81 | 44 | 53 | 31 |
| Maryland | 503 | 241 | 48 | 40 |
| West Virginia | 355 | 242 | 68 | 7 |

Note: Rankings by state include all 50 states and DC, therefore a total of 51 rankings exist.
Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

Five of the 12 Northeast states rank in the lowest 11 states in terms of the average rate of Food Stamp participation for all eligible participants.

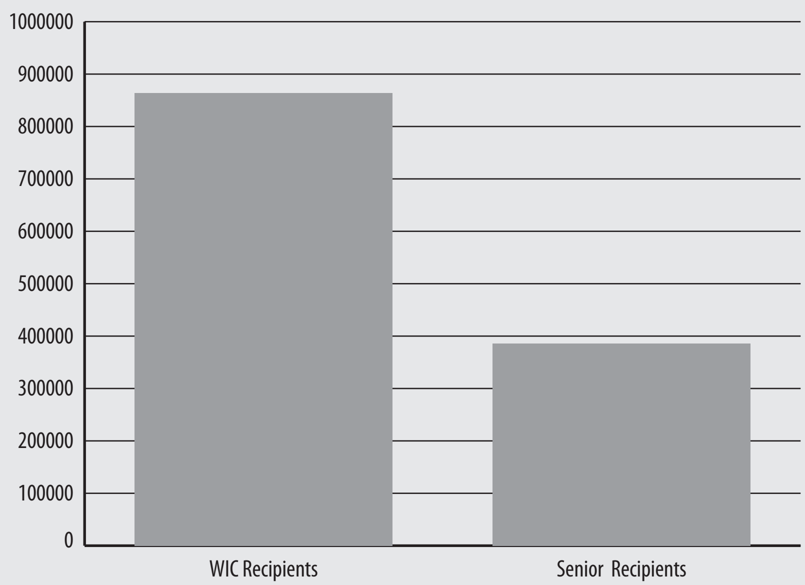
*Figure 51.* Average Monthly Food Stamp Benefit per Household, 2005 (in dollars)




Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

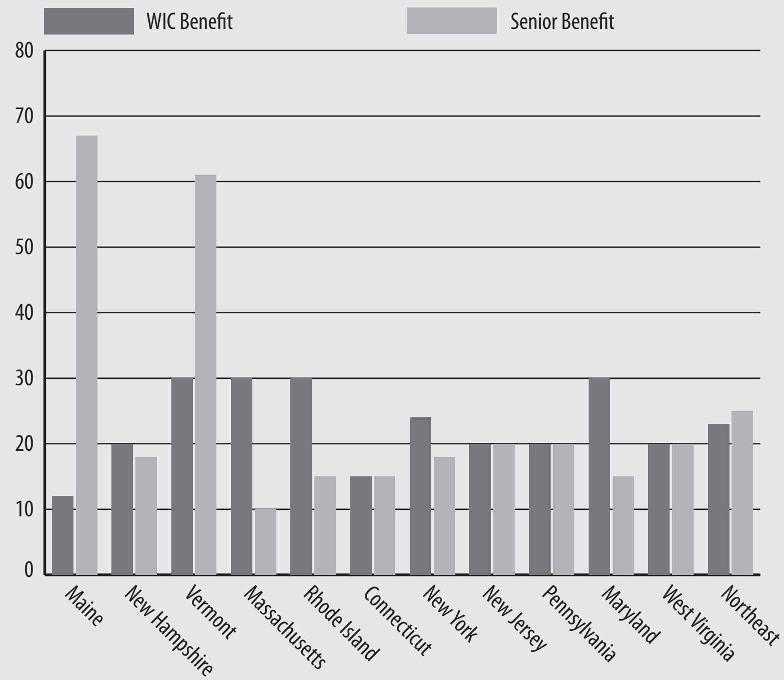
The Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs link farmers with low-income seniors and WIC families. In total, these two programs reach over 3,500 farmers and 1.25 million low-income families and seniors in the Northeast with ⅔ of the recipients in the WIC program and ⅓ of recipients in the Senior program. Combined the funding total for the Northeast region was $15.6million in 2005, with an average benefit ranging between nearly $3,000 to $2,500 to each participating farm.

*Figure 52.* Northeast FMNP Recipients, 2005



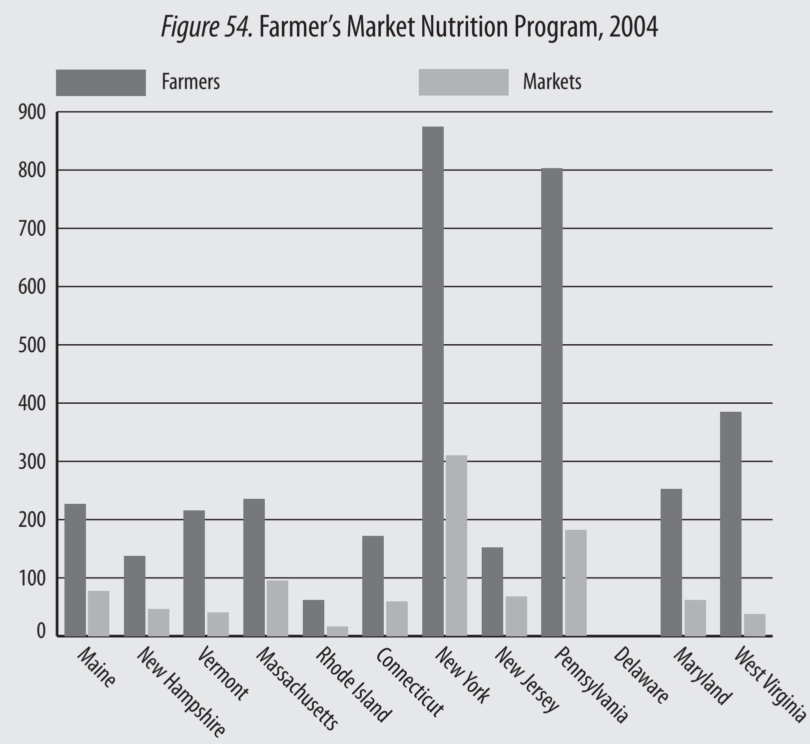

Source USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

*Figure 53.* Average FMNP Season Benefit Level, 2005

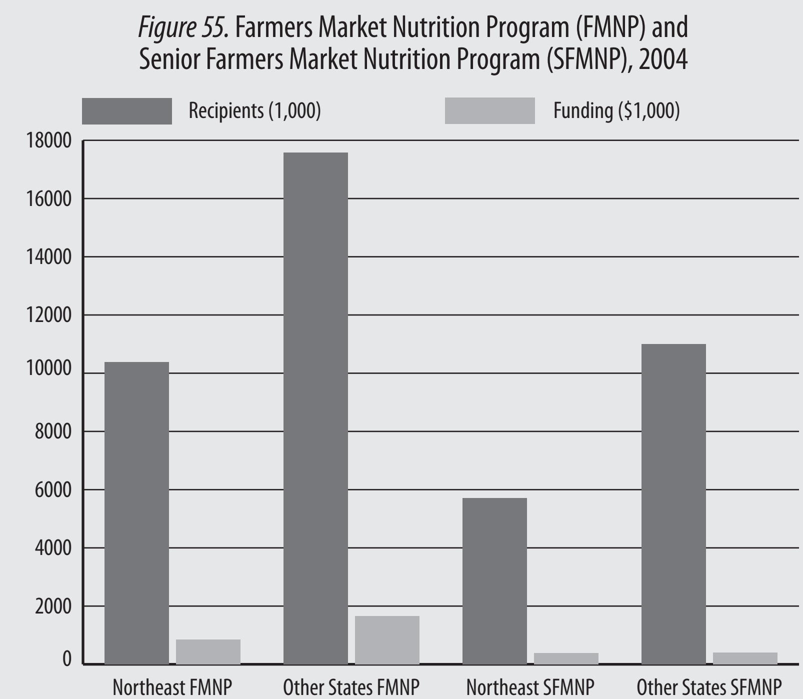



Source USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Though the infrastructure is established, individual reimbursements remain marginal. Ninety-eight percent of participants receive between $10-$30 benefit for the entire season. Based on a fifteen week growing season, this is *10-30 cents per day for combined fruit and vegetable purchases.* National consumption recommendations of include promotion of 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables per day for consumers.




Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service



## Food Costs, Food Stamps and the MyPyramid

Weekly per capita food expenditures in 1997-1998 (latest years available) were $41 per week, with food at home representing 62% of costs and food away from home 38%.[10] Those costs in the Northeast region were estimated to be 4.8% higher than the national average.

For the new USDA MyPyramid program (2005), consumers are given a one-week sample menu online as an example of how to translate the 2005 dietary guidelines into specific food selections. In a 2006 pilot project in New Hampshire, food costs from two area grocery chain stores were surveyed. Eating based on MyPyramid averaged $56/week per adult; combined costs of fruit and vegetables averaged $21. On a weekly basis, mean food stamp reimbursement for an individual in the Northeast is about $22.00 per week. Even if a shopper were to purchase the most reasonably priced foods items, benefits would be essentially exhausted after the first two weeks.

***1998 Food Consumption Patterns by Calories:***
*42% from animal products*
*52% refined and processed foods*
*6% whole vegetables, fruits, legumes, unprocessed nuts and seeds and whole grains*

—Amie Hamlin,
NYS Nutrition Council Summer 2006 newsletter

10 Food Expenditures by U.S. Households: Looking Ahead to 2020, ERS Agricultural Economic report 821,Feb.2003

# Index of Figures