



# Southeastern Massachusetts Food System Assessment

FOR THE COUNTIES OF:  
BRISTOL  
NORFOLK  
PLYMOUTH

## Production / Harvesting

**1,643**   
**FARMS** (49 organic)  
(-8.1% from 2012)

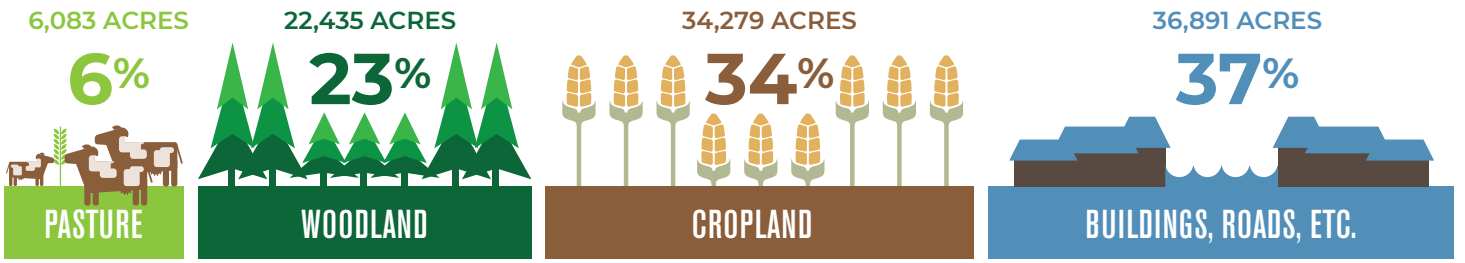
**2,277**   
**PRINCIPAL PRODUCERS**  
(40% women, 98% white, 59.8 years average age)

**90%**   
**FAMILY OWNED**

**TOTAL LAND IN FARMS 99,688 ACRES**  
(-8.0% from 2012)

**AVERAGE FARM SIZE 61 ACRES**

### USE OF LAND IN FARMS:



### DIRECT MARKET SALES:

(Sales from farmers' markets, farm stands, and Community Supported Agriculture)

Increased by 23% between 2012 and 2017 from \$8,705,000 to \$10,633,000, with Plymouth County's sales more than doubling.

Direct market sales now account for 9% of regional market value (5.5% in 2012) and \$6.27 in spending per capita for the region (\$5.02 in 2012) or \$15.90 per household (\$13.42 in 2012).


### REGION'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY CATEGORY:

**TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: \$118.5 MILLION**  
(\$9.7 MILLION ORGANIC SALES)




### FARM LABOR:

  
**DECREASED 14%**  
From 2012 to 2017, the number of farms hiring labor decreased from 695 to 595 (-14%)

  
**DECREASED 18%**  
The number of workers decreased from 3,371 to 2,763 (-18%)

  
**DOWN 3%**  
Wages paid were down to \$39,350,000 from \$40,729,000 (-3%)

  
**36% vs 39%**  
Only 36% of farms in the region reported hiring farm labor in 2017 versus 39% in 2012

  
**25%**  
The Southeastern Massachusetts Region represented roughly 21% of all hired farm labor in the state of Massachusetts during the 2017 Census of Agriculture, accounting for nearly 25% of all farm wages statewide.

  
**1 IN 4**  
Of the 2,367 farms hiring labor across the state, approximately one in four were located in the region.

### FISHERIES:

  
**32,637**  
**BOAT TRIPS**

  
**571,953,330** LBS  
**SEAFOOD LANDED**

  
**\$469,763,709**  
**VALUE**

## Processing and Distribution



Shared commercial kitchens, small scale processing, food aggregators, and animal slaughter facilities help make local food more accessible to the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts.



## Consumption

**SNAP Gap:** 163,307 (45%) eligible and not participating



**The National School Lunch Program is the second largest food assistance program in the country after SNAP.**

There are 85 public K-12 school districts in the region serving 255,253 students year-round through breakfast, lunch, snack, and summer meal programs.

### FOOD INSECURITY

County	Overall	Children
BRISTOL	Overall 9.8%, 54,720 people	Children 12.1%, 14,060 children
NORFOLK	Overall 5.9%, 41,100 people	Children 4.6%, 6,810 children
PLYMOUTH	Overall 6.1%, 31,400 people	Children 7.7%, 8,640 children

**Average meal cost (three county average): \$3.84**

## Food Loss & Waste Reduction, Recovery, and Recycling

**1/3** PRODUCE GROWN IN THE U.S. REMAINS IN THE FIELD

**12** SITES SUPPORT DIVERTING ORGANIC FOOD MATERIALS FROM THE LANDFILL

**30** COMMUNITIES WITH A COMPOST BIN PROGRAM



**As of 2017, the MA Organics Waste Ban had been credited with:**

500 jobs in the state (150% increase since 2010)

1.5 million tons of food waste diverted since inception of the ban

30% increase in food rescued and/or donated

2x food waste collection rate (currently 2,900 customers statewide, with at least 7% participation in the Southeastern Massachusetts region)

## Food Economy

**Food manufacturing:**  
388 sites, \$785 million in wages, 14,546 avg employment

**Food services and drinking places:**  
7,364 establishments, \$3 billion, 133,895 avg employment

**Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting enterprises:**  
940 enterprises, \$644 million, 8,335 avg employment

**Food and beverage stores:**  
2,406, \$1.4 billion in wages, 51,295 avg employment