Southeastern Massachusetts Food System Assessment

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)
- **22,435 ACRES** (49% organic)
- **34,279 ACRES**
- **34,091 ACRES**

**USE OF LAND IN FARMS:**
- **6%** pasture
- **23%** cropland
- **25%** woodland
- **37%** buildings, roads, etc.

**REGION’S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY CATEGORY:**
- **TOP CROPS:** Berries (specifically cranberries), Forage, Corn, and Vegetables
- **TOP LIVESTOCK:** Layers, broilers/other meat-type chickens, and cattle/calves

**FARM LABOR:**
- From 2012 to 2017, the number of farms hiring labor decreased from 695 to 595 (-14%)
- The number of workers decreased from 3,371 to 2,763 (-18%)
- Wages paid were down to $39,350,000 from $40,729,000 (-3%)

FISHERIES:
- **32,637 BOAT TRIps**
- **571,953,330 LBS**
- **$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:**
- Average meal cost (three county average): $3.84

**FOOD INSECURITY**
- **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 Loss & Waste Reduction, Recovery, and Recycling

- **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:** 366 sites, $760 million in wages, 13,686 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

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**For the Counties of:**
- Bristol
- Norfolk
- Plymouth

For the Counties of: Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth