Maine Farming: Renaissance in Progress



8,173 Farms in 2012

Up from 7,196 in 2002 (+13.5%)



48% of farms list farming as primary occupation

Up from 43% in 2007

Exceeds national average of 47%



29% of farmers are women

Up from 25% in 2007



30% of farmers are age 55-64 29% of farmers are over 64



Farmers age 25-34 increased 40% since 2007



Two Tracks

Commodity Farming



Local Agriculture



Farming in Maine is Growing Poised for Further Growth Fundamentals Are Good



1 Plenty of Land



#2 Abundant Water



#3 Good Growing Conditions

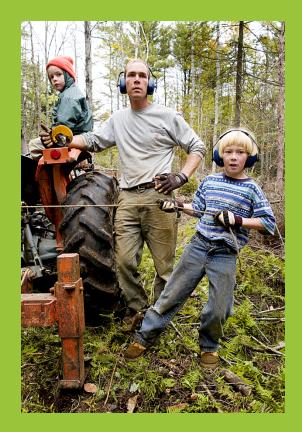


#4 Strong Markets



Still, Maine is no Iowa





Can farming here be more than a side-show?

New England Food Vision

Studied New England's ability to feed itself

 Considered population trends, eating habits, and land availability and suitability

• Results: NE could grow 1/2 to 2/3 of ALL its food

But Maine would need to increase production 3X

But just because this <u>could</u> happen, doesn't mean it will

- Farming in Maine is hindered by current realities (economic and demographic)
- There is not much market for additional local production at prices that work for farmers
 - Food prices are distorted
 - Land prices are based on development value, not farm-use value
- Maine needs new infrastructure to support farming (especially "Ag in the Middle")

New Infrastructure we're seeing

On Farm Off Farm

Greenhouses Retail

Cheese rooms Processing

Poultry processing Storage/Aggregation

Unity Food Hub

Multi-purpose Facility

Post-harvest handling
Cold storage
Aggregation
Multi-farm CSA
assembly/distribution
Occasional Retail
Commercial Kitchen
Event space
Future restaurant?





