

June 29, 2023

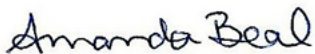
Greetings,

A new report released June 5, 2023, identifies a regional goal of producing and consuming 30% of New England's food needs in the region by 2030. Commissioned by the [New England State Food System Planners Partnership](#), a collaboration between Vermont Farm to Plate, five other state-level organizations and [Food Solutions New England](#), the report outlines the role New Englanders can play in making the region's food system stronger and more self-reliant. The report - [A Regional Approach to Food System Resilience](#) - is a product of 16 researchers exploring the opportunities and needs along the food supply chain in New England, and highlights the land, sea, and labor needs of the region, consumer purchase metrics, distribution trends, and population projections that will impact the region's ability to feed itself in the coming years.

New England states had a total food expenditure of over \$87.1 billion in 2019, or about \$5,868 per person in the region. In order to ensure that 30% of New England's food needs are met with New England products, the average New Englander would have to spend about \$1,760 of that total food expenditure on regionally-produced food. By 2030, total food expenditures are projected to reach \$98.4 billion, or about \$1,890 per person to reach the 30% goal. While this is an important metric, we also understand that it will be important to continue our work to ensure access to locally and regionally produced food for all.

As NEASDA states, we support sharing this report across our constituencies and continue to build collaborations to support our New England food supply chain and goal for meeting 30% of our region's food need within the region.

Sincerely,



Amanda Beal  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation  
and Forestry



Bryan Hurlburt  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Agriculture



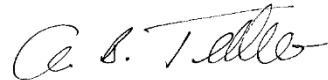
Shawn Jasper  
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