

Southeastern Massachusetts Food System Assessment

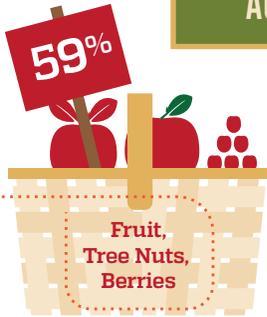
For the Counties of:

**BRISTOL
NORFOLK
PLYMOUTH**

The Food We Grow & The People Who Eat It

OVERALL, THE REGION'S AGRICULTURAL MARKET VALUE IS **\$157,222,000**

Source - USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture



APPROXIMATELY \$90 MILLION OF THAT IS *Cranberries!*



143 million pounds of fish and shellfish were landed in the Port of New Bedford in 2012



Direct market sales (sales from farmers' markets, farm stands, and CSAs) increased by 64% to \$8,705,000 between 2007 and 2012. However, this means that the region's residents still spend only \$5.02 per person per year on direct purchases of local foods.

Food Insecurity

Defined: Food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.

- USDA, Household Food Security in the US in 2012

OVERALL AVERAGE for three counties:

9.9%
169,460 PEOPLE

CHILDREN AVERAGE for three counties:

14.0%
54,120 CHILDREN

1 in 5 children in Bristol County experiences food insecurity.

BRISTOL	Overall 12.3%, 67,690 people	Children 18.2%, 22,150 children
NORFOLK	Overall 8.5%, 57,040 people	Children 11.2%, 16,890 children
PLYMOUTH	Overall 9.0%, 44,730 people	Children 12.7%, 15,080 children

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap

Our Local Food System

Food Production

Women make up 37% of farm operators in Bristol, Norfolk, and Plymouth Counties.

Harvesting

According to the 2012 Ag Census, 695 farms hired 3,871 laborers and paid \$40,729,000 in wages (a 33% increase).

Processing & Distribution

The 12 food distributors headquartered in Southeastern Massachusetts generate total annual sales of well over \$2 billion.



Waste Reduction, Recovery, & Recycling

If we reduced food waste by just 15% nationally, that would be enough food to feed more than 25 million Americans each year. Source: NRDC

In late 2014 MA will ban large institutions from sending food waste to landfills.



Access & Consumption

If each Southeastern Massachusetts household spent just \$10 a week on local food, this would result in almost \$6.5 million per week spent on local food in the region.

The SMFSN website includes a list of over 50 food pantries and community meal programs. www.smfsn.org/findfood

How Could We Grow More Food Locally?

Support:

the region's 35 community gardens

& young farmers: only 4% are under age 34!

& more wholesale production on idle land

2,129

acres of cropland are idle or used for soil improvement, not harvested or grazed. / 6.5% OF CROP LAND

WHAT COULD BE GROWING BY NEXT YEAR?

USE OF LAND IN FARMS:



To view the Executive Summary and the full Assessment, please visit www.smfsn.org

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