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!

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

Our Local Food System

Processing & Distribution

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

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

Use of Land in Farms:

- 8% pasture
- 34% buildings, roads, etc.
- 28% woodland
- 30% cropland

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

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

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

Waste Reduction, Recovery, & Recycling

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

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Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap

Source – USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture