

About New England Farmers Union



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New England Farmers Union (NEFU) works to protect and improve the economic well-being and quality of life of family farmers, fishermen, foresters, nursery growers and consumers in all six New England states. NEFU is a charter member of the National Farmers Union, an agricultural advocacy organization founded in 1902 and based in Washington, D.C.

Vision

NEFU works to preserve New England's capacity to feed and fuel itself.

Mission

New England Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, fishermen, nurserymen and their customers through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors and civic engagement.

Membership: Who We Represent

Currently, NEFU has 1,400 members representing all six New England states. These members are people just like you — concerned consumers, farmers, fishermen, nurserymen and forest landowners. Regional businesses, trade associations and other nonprofit organizations also support our work.



Policy Work: Actions in Washington, D.C.

NEFU reaches out to Congressional leaders and administration officials on many vital policy issues. In recent months, we have engaged federal lawmakers on the following issues:

- dairy reform
- climate change
- child nutrition
- fisheries
- genetically modified alfalfa
- food safety
- pesticide regulations
- conservation programs
- leafy greens marketing rules
- BSE (mad-cow) regulations

NEFU members determine the positions we take at the national level. We invite you to join the dialogue around policies that affect farmers in New England.

Programs

NEFU has developed robust energy-related programming and an education curriculum about the cooperative business model, among other programming.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Exchange: Working with Winrock International, NEFU is adapting National Farmers Union's carbon trading program with practices that work for our region and will achieve the greatest benefits for New England producers.



Regional Food for Regional Institutions: In collaboration with the New England Apple Growers Association and the Association of Family Farms, NEFU is working to bring fresh New England sliced apples to market for regional institutions and sports venues.

Renewable Energy and Climate Education: NEFU worked with National Farmers Union on an effort funded by the Energy Foundation to educate voters in New Hampshire and other targeted states about pending federal climate legislation and renewable energy issues.

Cooperative Education Opportunities: Working with a grant from the CHS Foundation, NEFU expanded curriculum covering the cooperative business model for students in agricultural and natural resources programs in New England community colleges.

Generous individuals and the following funders have made our programming efforts possible: CHS Foundation, Energy Foundation, Farm Aid High Meadows Fund, the New Hampshire Charitable Trust, National Farmers Union and others.

Join Us!

For as little as \$35, you can join us and add your voice to our collective, regional chorus so the policymakers in Washington, D.C., can't ignore the needs of New England agriculture.

New England Farmers Union is not just for farmers. We are for everyone who cares about:

- New England agriculture and fisheries
- Where food comes from
- The environment
- Cooperative businesses
- Rural and coastal communities

Goals: Where Will NEFU Be in 2025?

- Over 5,000 members strong with active offices in six states;
- Offering cooperative education, start-up and equipment assistance across New England;
- Providing technical assistance to farmers on renewable energy, cooperatives, expanded markets (including exports) and advocacy;
- Supporting education programs that help young people embark on careers related to food production and applications of renewable energy for farms and fisheries.

In the words of our members:

I feel it is important for farmers in the Northeast to have as much input into farm policy as possible. I sometimes find that I don't quite agree with the positions of other national agricultural organizations or the cooperatives that serve my farm. I have joined NEFU because I want to add another voice for my concerns.

—Alan Everett, farmer, Hemenway Hill Farm, Massachusetts

Even despite the current passion for local foods, I still think it's not well understood at all how the agricultural policy system makes life difficult for farmers. I see (NEFU) as an important avenue for creating a policy voice for New England farming.

—Molly Anderson, professor, College of the Atlantic, Maine

National Farmers Union provided our industry with an opportunity to make sure the needs of our region and our unique specialty crop were heard in D.C.

—Jeff LaFleur, executive director, Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, Massachusetts

Become part of the solution. Join today.

New England Farmers Union *A local voice at the national table*

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