



2025
IMPACT REPORT



HOW WE WORK:
Inspiration • Innovation • Connection



Dear Friends,

Food connects us all. Every meal reflects choices about land, livelihoods, access, and the health of our ecosystems. Today's food system too often falls short for both people and the planet.

At Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment, we believe a better future is possible. Regenerative agriculture offers a pathway to a healthier, more resilient future. It can restore ecosystems, strengthen communities, improve farm viability, and build climate resilience.

Realizing this potential requires support: farmers need technical assistance, financing, and strong markets; consumers need deeper connections to food systems; and researchers and practitioners need pathways to develop and share practical solutions.

That's where Wolfe's Neck Center plays a unique role.

On our 626-acre campus and across the Northeast, we help farmers adopt regenerative practices, connect people to food and farming, advance applied research, and bring partners together to accelerate food system change.

In 2025, we continued building the foundations of a more resilient regional food system - one that stands up to the impacts of climate change, supports farms that last for generations, nurtures biodiversity and natural habitats, and delivers healthy food to our communities.

This work is only possible together. To our donors, partners, farmers, educators, and visitors—*thank you* for helping shape a future where agriculture works for everyone.

With gratitude,

Dave Herring
Executive Director



Program Areas

To advance our vision, we work across the segments of our regional food system through three interconnected program areas:



FARMER TRAINING & PARTNERSHIPS

Building the regenerative agriculture workforce through apprenticeships, technical assistance, continuing education, and peer learning networks.



RESEARCH & MARKET TRANSFORMATION

Advancing science, data, financing, and market development to accelerate regenerative agriculture throughout the Northeast.



VISITOR EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Connecting people to food, farming, and stewardship through immersive experiences that inspire lifelong engagement.

The Casco History Lab bridges our program areas, working with staff and partners to draw on oral traditions, historical records, archaeological sites, and historic buildings to share stories of land stewardship in Freeport across generations.

Creating Impact Through Partnership





“Not only do farmer training programs like DGA create pathways for transfer of critical knowledge, but they offer the formation of a community with the shared intention of practicing what is best for their land, animals, and workers.”

— ANNABELLE WILLIAMS,
ORGANIC DAIRY FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATE

Building the Workforce for a Resilient Food System

A resilient food system begins with resilient farms. In 2025, Wolfe’s Neck Center equipped farmers with the training, mentorship, technical assistance, and peer networks needed to strengthen farm viability, advance regenerative agriculture, and cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders.

- To date, 12 farmers have graduated from our Organic Dairy Farmer Training Program, including 2025 graduate Annabelle Williams, who completed 2 years of living, working, and learning at Wolfe’s Neck Center in June of 2025.
- Launched Growing Graziers, a 9-month cohort program developed with the Dairy Grazing Alliance, PASA Sustainable Agriculture, the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and Cornell Cooperative Extension to help aspiring and first-generation farmers build resilient, viable farm businesses.
- Organized the biannual **Northeast Grazing and Livestock Conference**, bringing together more than 300 researchers, service providers, and farmers to explore regenerative grazing, farm profitability, ecosystem restoration, and community resilience.



WHY IT MATTERS

When farmers succeed, communities thrive. Supporting regenerative agriculture means supporting local economies, healthy ecosystems, and long-term food security.

Inspiring Change Through Experience: Connecting People to Food, Farming, and Stewardship

Many people are disconnected from the systems that produce their food.

At Wolfe's Neck Center, visitors experience agriculture firsthand. They walk working farmland, meet farmers, learn about ecosystems, and discover how their food choices affect the world around them. **We help people build meaningful connections to food and place.**

2025 RESULTS

- Expanded our culinary programming, including hands-on workshops that connect visitors to the full food journey from farm to table.
- Welcomed back our CHEF (Cook. Harvest. Eat. Farm!) summer camp program for youth ages 12–15, providing immersive experiences in gardening, harvesting, food preparation, kitchen safety, and cooking techniques.
- Hosted the inaugural Summer Farm Camp Operators Gathering in partnership with the Farm-Based Education Network (FBEN), bringing together 36 farm camp leaders from seven Northeastern states, positioning Wolfe's Neck Center as a resource for professionals across the region.

WHY IT MATTERS

Food system transformation requires informed and engaged communities. Every visitor represents an opportunity to inspire action.



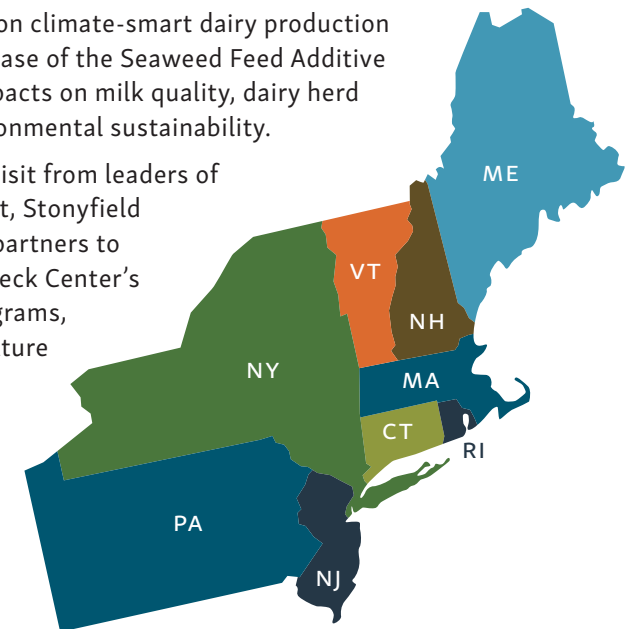
Transforming Markets Through Collaboration: Building a Regenerative Food Economy

No single farmer, nonprofit, researcher, or company can transform the food system alone.

Real change happens when people work together. In 2025, Wolfe's Neck Center continued convening farmers, researchers, funders, food companies, service providers, and institutions to address barriers that limit adoption of regenerative agriculture.

2025 RESULTS

- Launched the **Northeast Farmers Fund** to address the growing need for regenerative agriculture support, providing financial assistance and technical expertise to help almost 400 farmers across the Northeast adopt a variety of conservation practices
- Advanced research on climate-smart dairy production through the next phase of the Seaweed Feed Additive Trial, evaluating impacts on milk quality, dairy herd nutrition, and environmental sustainability.
- Hosted a strategic visit from leaders of Whole Foods Market, Stonyfield Organic, and other partners to showcase Wolfe's Neck Center's farmer training programs, regenerative agriculture research, and regional impact.



WHY IT MATTERS

Collaboration turns promising ideas into practical solutions and helps ensure regenerative agriculture works for farms, communities, and ecosystems alike.



The Harbour of Casco Bay and Islands Adjacent, 1764 by Cyprian Southack. Courtesy of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, University of Southern Maine

Stories of Stewardship Across Millennia

Located in Wabanaki homelands, Wolfe's Neck Center sits within a landscape shaped by thousands of years of human stewardship. The Casco History Lab helps uncover, preserve, and share these stories through research, partnerships, education, and public engagement.

WHY IT MATTERS

Understanding how people have stewarded this land over millennia helps inform how we care for it today and into the future.

Working with tribal nations, historians, archaeologists, museums, universities, and community organizations, the Casco History Lab uses oral traditions, historic records, archaeological resources, and cultural landscapes to explore how people have cared for this place across generations and to show that resilience is a longstanding legacy.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched *ReDiscovered & ReConnected: Penobscot People in Casco Bay and the Formation of America*, a community-centered research project with the Penobscot Nation Cultural and Historic Preservation Department that advances Wabanaki access to ancestral homelands, recovers Indigenous histories, and amplifies Penobscot perspectives through archival research and storytelling.
- Co-developed *The Land Remembers* with Jennifer Neptune (Penobscot), a food sovereignty and Wabanaki ethnobotany project that uses a traditional Three Sisters garden to share Indigenous agricultural knowledge and spark conversations about food, culture, and community.

Looking Forward

The challenges facing agriculture are significant, but so are the opportunities.

In 2026, Wolfe's Neck Center will continue advancing its vision of a world where agriculture and food systems support farmer viability, thriving ecosystems, and vibrant communities.

PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Expanding farmer support and training

to equip producers across the Northeast with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to advance regenerative agriculture.

Growing a connected regenerative agriculture community by strengthening participation in regional networks and collaborations.

Advancing farmer-centered research and innovation that translates into practical solutions and measurable impact on the farm.

Building stronger markets for regenerative products by creating new opportunities and incentives that support farmers and sustainable food systems.

Inspiring the next generation

through expanded youth programs and visitor experiences that deepen connections to agriculture, climate, and conservation.

Celebrating place and history through learning by growing the Casco History Lab and expanding place-based education initiatives.

The future we seek
requires *collective action*.
Together, we are building it.



Building a Lasting Legacy for Food and Farming

The choices we make today will shape the future of our farms, communities, and environment for generations to come. Through education, research, farmer training, and collaboration, Wolfe's Neck Center helps advance regenerative agriculture across the Northeast and beyond.

This work is made possible by supporters who share our commitment to stewardship, learning, and lasting impact. Unrestricted planned gifts play an important role in ensuring that future generations can benefit from regenerative agriculture, farmer education, groundbreaking research, and the preservation of this special place.

We are deeply grateful to those who have included Wolfe's Neck Center in their estate plans through our **Heirloom Circle**. Their generosity helps secure a more resilient future for farmers, communities, and ecosystems for years to come.

"Wolfe's Neck Center was the venue for so many of our family memories. My late wife, Libby would be psyched to see its growing impact on regenerative farming.

Giving to Wolfe's Neck Center is like regenerative philanthropy; it will feed you to know you are feeding this special place and its important work. I'm glad Libby's legacy and memory are tied to Wolfe's Neck Center, and I'm proud that our family is part of the Heirloom Circle."

— BOB MOORE, HEIRLOOM CIRCLE MEMBER



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE HEIRLOOM CIRCLE?

Contact Jeannie Mattson at (207) 865-4469 ext 110 or jmattson@wolfesneck.org in our Advancement Office to learn how a gift through your will, trust, retirement account, or other estate plan can create a lasting legacy.



At Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment, we connect people, agriculture, and the environment through intentional, resilient systems that benefit our communities and our planet.

OUR BOARD

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OUR VISION

A world where agriculture and food systems support farmer viability, thriving ecosystems and vibrant communities.

OUR MISSION

Wolfe's Neck Center informs and connects people locally, regionally, and nationally, empowering them to be active and engaged in their food systems; develops, tests and shares regenerative agricultural practices; and builds collaborations that accelerate holistic change in agriculture and food systems.

OUR VALUES

Stewardship

We steward these 600 acres and invite the public to join us, to inform, inspire and learn.

Community

We value a diverse and growing community of people who care about and are dedicated to the future of food, communities, and the planet.

Learning

We apply knowledge gained over the course of history, from our partners, and fellow farmers to serve as a hub of demonstration and innovation, both today and into the future.

Collaboration

We believe solutions to the collective challenges we face are found through collaboration, where a diversity of ideas is brought together.



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THANK YOU to our
donors, partners, farmers,
educators, and visitors—
for helping shape a future
where agriculture works
for everyone.

