



Wolfe's Neck Center Launches Northeast Farmers Fund to Expand Markets for Regenerative Agriculture

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[Freeport, Maine] For regenerative agriculture to continue to grow across the Northeast, farmers need more than support to adopt new practices. They also need support to access corresponding viable markets for their products. **Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment** launched the **Northeast Farmers Fund** in summer 2026 to help address that challenge by providing farmers with financial and technical support to produce and market regenerative agricultural products.

By connecting farmers with market opportunities and the resources needed to participate in them, the Northeast Farmers Fund aims to strengthen farm viability, keep working lands in production and build resilience to climate impacts across the region. The initiative is funded collaboratively through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) program, supply chain actors and philanthropic partners.

"Regenerative agriculture can help farms become more resilient, but farmers need profitable market conditions that support the decisions they're making on the farm," said Ellen Griswold, Managing Director of Programs. "The Northeast Farmers Fund helps farmers respond to new market opportunities by giving them the flexibility to make investments that strengthen their businesses and their land management practices, whether that's new equipment, value-added processing or certifications."

The Northeast Farmers Fund began its first pilot enrollment in July 2026, with more than 50 farms participating. As part of the pilot, Wolfe's Neck Center contracted Technical Assistance Providers (TAPS) to work directly with participating farmers throughout the initiative. These providers offer farmers technical expertise and support as they develop and implement their projects.

In addition to direct financial assistance, participating farmers have the opportunity to access soil sampling and analysis services throughout the life of their projects. This data can help farmers better understand how regenerative management changes affect soil health and provide a way to document outcomes over time.

One of the participating farms, Red Boot Farm in Scarborough, Maine, used its funding to purchase a tractor and animal feeders to expand its regenerative, pastured livestock operation. For farm owners Neil Kessler and Maisie Perkins, the investment has already made a significant difference in their ability to grow.



"Before this grant, I was hauling feed, supplies and water by hand. This has been life changing for our farm and given us the ability to scale," said Kessler.

The first open enrollment period for the Northeast Farmers Fund will begin in October 2026, expanding access to farmers across the Northeast. By the end of the AMP grant in early 2028, Wolfe's Neck Center intends to provide direct assistance to 385 farmers while helping expand market access for regenerative agriculture products throughout the region.

Through the Northeast Farmers Fund, Wolfe's Neck Center is working to connect the economic and ecological benefits of regenerative agriculture, giving farmers the resources, technical support and market connections needed to make regenerative practices work for their farms and the broader food system.

Farmers and the public can learn more and receive information by visiting wolfesneck.org/neff.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Natasha Stewart
(480) 296-9530
nstewart@wolfesneck.org

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement number NR233A750004G032.

[Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment](https://wolfesneck.org) is a farm-based research and education nonprofit empowering farmers and the public to create a more resilient regional food system in the Northeast. Based in Wabanaki homelands on over 600 conserved acres on the coast of Maine, Wolfe's Neck Center advances agriculture that works for farmers, communities and the environment through visitor education and experience, farmer training and market development, and agricultural history, research and innovation.