



The New England Food Summit

pre-planning event brief

Hosted by the FSNE Network

The New England Food Summit (NEFS) returns to our region in June of 2020, celebrating **ten successful years** building a unique and impactful network that is inspiring leadership across our region and across the country. The 2020 NEFS builds on a nine-year foundation of network-building, relationships, skills, and a shared vision and values. The Summit also brings our region back together for **the first time in four years** in preparation for the pivotal decade ahead.

Who is the Network?

People and groups have become part of the Food Solutions New England network in a variety of ways. For example, they have:

- served as delegates to six New England Food Summits
- benefitted from FSNE's network leadership institute training
- changed their worldviews and actions through our 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge
- participated in FSNE project teams, co-hosted events and have invited us all into their work
- aligned their organizations and businesses with the shared vision and values so that we are all pulling in one direction



Ultimately, this network has built the foundation of a **movement that is ready to shift power and boost its impact** by ramping up organizing skills, expanding networks, influencing policy and changing the behaviors of people and businesses across the region to create a strong, healthy & just food system that works for everyone.

FMI: foodsolutionsne.org @foodsolutionsne
tom.kelly@unh.edu



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June 2020!

Who Attends the Summit?

The NEFS is a unique convergence of more than 300 participants drawn from all six New England states, people operating at all scales (community, state, regional and national) and in all sectors (policy, education, health and nutrition, government, business and economic development, advocacy, faith communities and activism).

While it's one of the busiest times of year for our food producers (farmers, fishermen, foragers and harvesters), we will build a dedicated part of the Summit program to support their participation in a way that works for them.

What are the Summit Outcomes?

The Summit will expand the number of people, organizations, agencies & businesses rallying around the **New England Food Vision** and the shared network values as a unifying force for change over the next decade.

The Summit will leverage the FSNE network's substantial **equity commitment** to accelerate the shift in power in our regional food system.

FSNE's participatory convening practice, unique and valued across the region, will not only **model democratic empowerment** but also will amplify the connections between rural and urban communities in recognition that we are stronger together - connected, aligned and collaborating - than we are when we are disconnected and separate.

Food Solutions New England plays a unique and essential role of hosting all of these participants and players from across our region in a way that establishes and deepens trust, respects all voices, facilitates shared learning and alignment that support building collective power.

The Pivotal Decade Ahead

As the FSNE network embraces the next phase of its work, we recognize that the decade from 2020 to 2030 represents a critical moment for all life on earth. From the need to democratize our food system and distribute wealth and power much more equitably, to acting on climate chaos and preserving critical biodiversity while slowing and adapting to climate change, the challenges are many. We must collectively attend to food sovereignty as well as human and ecosystem health at every level, as **this next decade will define what is possible for future generations.**

Only by working collaboratively and democratically towards a shared vision, guided by shared values, can we steer toward a strong, healthy, just and sustainable food system that works for all the people of New England.

The New England Food Summit concentrates energy and people on the monumental tasks ahead and builds on the first decade's reservoir of network relationships, trust, and skills; **this reservoir is a unique asset of the FSNE network.**



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The Summit Will:

- Convene at least **300 individuals** representing a diverse range of food system sectors, with a goal of ensuring at least 30% of total attendees are people of color
- Launch the next phase of regional **network expansion, activation and skill-building** around strategic areas identified by our network as critical for success now (food policy imperatives, effective food narrative & communications, racial equity & undoing racism in the food system, and measuring progress toward the New England Food Vision)
- Recognize and **celebrate our first decade** of achievements as a springboard to the next “chapter” of our regional food network’s success
- **Strengthen relationships and establish new ones** through intentional, participatory conference design

Preliminary Timeline

- April / May 2019: Preliminary planning and seed funding
- June 2019: Formation of NEFS design team and call for event coordinator
- July 2019: Begin formal event design & planning process
- September 2019: Save the date & call for proposals
- February 2020: Registration opens
- June 2020: Host event

Values

The Summit will endeavor to embody shared network values beginning with **participatory and democratic design**, centering racial equity and dignity for all, adopting an ethos of trust and relationship-building even in the creation of the event, and fostering both ecological and economic sustainability throughout.

Co-Sponsorship

Food Solutions New England invites inquiries from organizations and businesses aligned to the network vision and values to provide financial and in-kind support to the 2020 New England Food Summit. We are especially interested in partnering with organizations that recognize the pivotal nature of the next decade in terms of New England's ability to build a robust regional food system that is also just and equitable. Contact Tom Kelly to discuss co-sponsorship.