



MAINEFOODSTRATEGY.ORG
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What

The Maine Food Strategy is an initiative to create a broader and more strongly connected network of organizations, agencies, businesses and individuals contributing to the food system in Maine. The initiative is convening a statewide participatory process that will identify and advance shared goals to support a robust food economy in our state.

Why

Interest in the economic and health benefits of locally produced foods is growing. Now is the time to link our work together, grow the Maine economy around food, agriculture and fisheries, and enhance access to healthy food and employment opportunities for Maine citizens. The initiative is open to everyone. Participants will be able to collaboratively identify goals and strategies that support these opportunities in myriad ways throughout the state and online.

Leveraging Opportunities

- Connect the good work of many groups across the state already underway
- Position Maine as the future “bread basket” of New England
- Increase production and economic activity in food/farm/fishing sectors
- Increase health, nutrition and food security for all Mainers while decreasing societal costs of diet-related diseases

Solving Problems & Managing Risk

- Address infrastructure needs, such as processing capacity and local distribution
- Encourage business development that adds value to raw, local products and increases job opportunities
- Examine policies that discourage the local food economy
- Buffer against disruptions in national/global food supply due to weather and other issues

Who

The Maine Food Strategy is advised by a Steering Committee comprising individuals selected in 2013 from an open nomination process. Their purpose is to guide the development and implementation of a widely supported strategy to strengthen Maine’s food system.

If you are interested in adding your voice or wish to learn more about the initiative, contact The Maine Food Strategy at mfs@mainefoodstrategy.org. The Muskie School of Public Service at USM serves as the administrative seat for the initiative.

How

Phase One: May – December 2012

- Designed an inclusive planning process
- Collected input from diverse stakeholders
- Conducted best practices research

Phase Two: 2013 – July 2014

- Facilitation of a participatory process engaging all stakeholders
- Steering Committee launched
- First Maine Food Summit

- Consumer Survey research conducted and shared
- Report of initial Consumer Survey findings completed
- Goals and indicators drafted
- Input solicited from interested parties, to “ground-truth” and improve the goals and indicators

Phase Three: August 2014 and beyond

- Implementation continues via a collaborative statewide network