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# NOFA-NH E-Newsletter: December 2022

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Dear Friend of NOFA-NH,

Happy Holidays! The end of the year invites us to reflect on all we have accomplished this past year with the help of this vibrant community of farmers, gardeners, and eaters, including,

- A successful virtual 20th Annual Winter Conference
- A Bulk Order program that served 199 farmers and gardeners with over 3,400 items (102,834 pounds of product!)
- 6 virtual Organic Gardening Series workshops with diverse topics and presenters
- Our farthest-reaching Farm Share Program season, serving over 160 limited income NH residents
- Two Fantastic 50th Anniversary events at Colby Hill Inn & Brookford Farm
- 6 On-Farm CRAFT tours and 4 online CRAFT webinars
- 6 2023 Farm Bill Priorities co-developed with NOFA's Interstate Council
- 12 information packed E-Newsletters
- Many policy and advocacy efforts in support of healthy, just, and sustainable food systems
- And so much more!

This work would not be possible without the vision and support of our generous donors, members, and sponsors. To ensure that we can continue this vital work in 2023, you can donate to NOFA-NH at <a href="nofanh.org/donate">nofanh.org/donate</a>, become a member at <a href="nofanh.org/membership">nofanh.org/sponsorsexhibitors</a>. We are over halfway to our yearend fundraising goal of \$30,000 and need your help to get there! We are grateful to have you as a part of our growing community this giving season.

Looking to get some last-minute holiday shopping done? You can be a local hero this year and shop with many of our members and partners. We recommend,

- Brookford Farm's Store for holiday dinner ingredients
- Bona Fide Eco & Refill Goods for eco home goods and gifts
- Sweet Beet Market & Café for holiday dinner needs and local gifts
- Warner Public Market for delicious local food and handcrafted art and goods

You can find a full list of NH's organic farm and food producers with <u>NOFA-NH's Organic</u> Farm & Food Map here for all your holiday needs.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year, including our 21st Annual Winter Conference, 2023 Bulk Order Program, Food & Climate Panel, and Winter Book Study - we hope to see you there!

Thank you again for another wonderful year of celebrating and supporting NH's organic farmers, gardeners, eaters and advocates. All of us at NOFA-NH wish you and your families a very local, healthy & happy New Year to come!

Yours in Good Health & Healthy Food,

Team NOFA-NH

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# Save Now on Tickets to Our 21st Annual Winter Conference with Early Bird Pricing through Jan. 8th

Just a few weeks left to get your early bird tickets to our 21st Annual Winter Conference and save! Ticket prices will increase January 9th. This year's conference theme is The Art of Food & Farming: Skill Sharing for a Brighter Future and we hope you will join us to hone our skills with over 25 in-person workshops and panels focused on sharing expertise, filling our toolkits, and building community resilience! An online track will be available for those unable to attend in person. NOFA/MOFGA Members save 20% on registration!

You can learn more and register at <a href="https://www.nofanh.org/winterconference">www.nofanh.org/winterconference</a>. Can't wait to see you there!



# Winter Conference Keynote & Workshop Announcement

We are excited to announce our keynote speakers and address for the 21st Winter Conference. Welcome Kristin and Mark Kimball of Essex Farm, NY! Hear their keynote address:

# **Essex Farm to Consumers: Community Focused Practices That Helped Us Grow**

Providing hundreds of products for our year-round full food membership has changed how we think about food. Working with our farm team, other farmers, and the community has changed how we think about the world. Now, in our 19th season, we are excited to share stories with all of you. Join us as we share what has worked, what hasn't worked, and what we are looking forward to in the next 20 years. We hope producers and consumers alike will join us in creating the next era of organic regenerative agricultural design.





You can learn more about the keynote address and all the workshops slated for The Art of Food & Farming: Skill Sharing for a Brighter Future <u>here</u>.



# Submit Your Winter Conference Award Nominations by December 31st

Each year, NOFA-NH is pleased to provide an opportunity to recognize leaders in the organic farming community at our Winter Conference. Please help us identify and honor those deeply committed to organic agriculture and advocacy!

Submit your nominations for <u>Annual Awards</u> at the 2023 Winter Conference by December 31, 2022.



# Year-End Fundraiser Update: Nearly \$17,000 Raised

We are delighted to share that we have already raised \$16,844 toward our \$30,000 year-end fundraising goal! Your generosity ensures that we can continue to support organic, regenerative, and ecologically sound farming, gardening, land care practices and eating in New Hampshire and beyond.

When you donate, become a member, renew your membership, give the gift of membership, or sponsor NOFA-NH today, your contribution ensures we can continue to serve and advocate for this vibrant community of farmers, gardeners, eaters, educators, and activists in the year to come! Your support of any amount truly makes a difference.



### **Our Bulk Order Store is Live!**

NOFA-NH's annual Spring Bulk Order is a collective buying program for organic farming & gardening supplies. Small-scale gardeners & large-scale farmers alike are invited to participate! Shop online at <a href="https://www.bulkorderstore.nofanh.org">www.bulkorderstore.nofanh.org</a> or fill out our <a href="paper form">paper form</a> and mail it to NOFA-NH, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301. The Bulk Order Deadline is February 21, 2023.

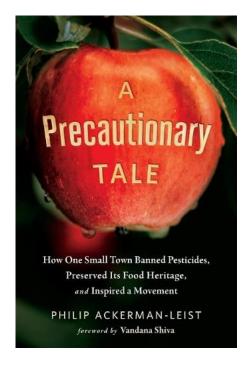
Bulk Order products include, soil amendments, potting soil and compost, pest & weed control products, organic cover crop seed, farming & gardening supplies, seed starting supplies, animal nutrition & more... Special orders are accepted!

\*Although NOFA-NH membership is not required to participate in the Bulk Order program, non-NOFA members will add 10% to their order.



# Winter Book Study: <u>A</u> <u>Precautionary Tale</u>

We hope you will join NOFA-NH and Seacoast NH Permaculture this winter for a 5-part Zoom book discussion of A Precautionary Tale: How One Small Town Banned Pesticides, Preserved Its Food Heritage and Inspired a Movement by Philip Ackerman-Leist. Meetings will take place every other Thursday from January 5 to March 2. Register for the whole 5-week series for \$10 (NOFA members) or \$15 (non-members). Only six spots are available and will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Participants must purchase their own copy of the book. Learn more and sign up at <a href="https://www.nofanh.org/book-club">www.nofanh.org/book-club</a>.



### NOFA Winter Conference Kickoff January 10th

### A Future of Food Security for All with Special Guest Ira Wallace

The seven chapters of the Northeast Organic Farming Association have been working to develop food security programs and learning opportunities throughout our region. This winter each chapter will be implementing various workshops at our Winter Conferences that discuss topics to build self-resiliency, grow agricultural communities, develop systems for improved access, increase land access, and reduce climate decline. To kick off our Winter Conference season we have invited the NOFA/Mass Keynote Speaker Ira Wallace, of the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, to share with us the importance of food security and how seed saving continues to play such an important role in feeding our communities. You will also meet representatives of the NOFA chapters to learn more about the food security work being done in our states. We hope you will join us for this free, virtual event on January 10 from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM.



Learn more & register.

# Food & Climate Panel: Carbon Market Pitfalls & Better Strategies for Regenerative Organic Farming Practices January 18th

Please save the date for an exciting online panel NOFA-NH is presenting in collaboration with Seacoast NH Permaculture. Join us on January 18, 2023 at 7 PM for an online panel discussion of Food and Climate: Carbon Market Pitfalls & Better Strategies for Regenerative Organic Farming Practices. Panel speakers include Cat Buxton of Grow More, Waste Less, Caroline Gordon of Rural Vermont, Stephen Leslie of Cedar Mountain Farm & Cobb Hill Cheese, and Julie Davenson of the Regenerative Food Network, Southshire Meats, & NOFA-NH.



This webinar will offer participants an opportunity to discuss methods to more fairly acknowledge farmers' contributions to land care through Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). It will also highlight the drawbacks and vulnerabilities to cooptation that are contained in some of the proposed measures. Plan for a lively Q&A session!

To learn more and register, please visit <a href="https://www.nofanh.org/pes">www.nofanh.org/pes</a>.

### 2023 Farm Bill – NOFA Priorities & Public Review

NOFA's Farm Bill Principles advocate for a Farm Bill that:

- Actively invests in and protects the integrity of organic and agroecological practices as a core solution to our climate and biological crises.
- Ensures fair treatment and just livelihoods for farmers and workers throughout the food and farming system.
- Invests in rural communities, increases fairness and resilience of local and regional supply chains and breaks up consolidation in agriculture.
- Centers racial justice across all programs and repairs past and ongoing racialized harm.
- Promotes food sovereignty for disadvantaged communities and ensures nutrition security for all.
- Eliminates the use of toxic substances on farmland and in our food system while supporting a just transition for farmers.

Learn more about NOFA's Farm Bill Principle here.

The House Agriculture Committee is seeking direct input from producers, stakeholders, and consumers on how various farm bill programs are working for them as an integral part of the review process of the 2018 Farm Bill and for preparation for the 2023 Farm Bill. You can submit your review here.



### Weekly Market Bulletin Organic Produce Prices

Each year, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food collects and summarizes retail produce prices from farm stands throughout New Hampshire. NOFA-NH & the NHDAMF are seeking price lists from organic farmers around the state. These prices will appear in the Weekly Market Bulletin newsletter, which is published by the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food.

The summary includes price ranges for different crops from the various organic farm retail outlets. The weekly information is reviewed and used by producers throughout the state and region. This is completely anonymous. No names are tied to the price information in any way.

Find a sample price sheet <a href="here">here</a>. You can submit your price sheet to <a href="marketbulletin@agr.nh.gov">marketbulletin@agr.nh.gov</a> each Monday at noon to be included in the following Weekly Market Bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Sheridan at 603-271-3551, or email: <a href="marketbulletin@agr.nh.gov">marketbulletin@agr.nh.gov</a>.



# NH Commissioner of Agriculture Reappointment Hearing Recap

On Thursday, December 1, 2023, over 40 members of the NH farming community attended a rare public hearing concerning Shawn Jasper's reappointment to another 5-year term as Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Marketing, and Food. Board Member Joan O'Connor read aloud NOFA-NH's official position. While we thanked Commissioner Jasper for his positive accomplishments in the past, we did not recommend his reappointment. That said, we also made it clear that we were committed to working constructively with Commissioner Jasper or whomever else the Governor and Executive Council selected.

Shawn Jasper was ultimately reappointed by the NH Executive Council, and NOFA-NH looks forward to continued collaboration



with the Commissioner and DAMF on behalf of all the small, organic, and family farms that are very much the heart of the Granite State's agricultural community.

You can read more about the December 1 hearing <u>here</u> and read NOFA-NH's full official statement on the matter <u>here</u>.

# Comment by December 21st on Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act Funding

"The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requests public input for NRCS to use to inform how NRCS will implement funds received under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to fund the deployment of climate-smart practices on US farms, ranches, and forestlands through four Farm Bill conservation programs. NRCS is also requesting input on funding to quantify carbon sequestration and carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions at the field scale. NRCS is specifically interested in public input and recommendations that NRCS can use to improve, expand, and/or build on scientifically-designed quantification systems to monitor and quantify improvements in soil carbon, reductions in nitrogen losses, and the reduction, capture, avoidance, or sequestration of carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production.

In implementing the IRA, NRCS is interested in supporting program implementation and improving program delivery by effectively leveraging partners to increase outreach and expand access to underserved producers. This effort will help NRCS identify and prioritize process improvements for the delivery of funding made available under IRA and the overall administration of the NRCS conservation programs. NRCS will look to identify immediate changes that can be implemented for funding available for fiscal year (FY) 2023 and will continue to identify and adopt additional changes in future years."

Read more & comment by December 21st here.



# Farm to School Participation in NH

Our organization is committed to bringing more local, organic foods, as well as food education, into New Hampshire's school systems. We're looking forward to supporting the Local Foods for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill in the next legislative session. You can review current statistics on Farm to School participation in NH, including details for specific areas, here.



# ARPA Funds Grants for NH Meat Processing Infrastructure & Training Investment Program Open

NOFA-NH was proud to lead efforts in collaboration with the NH Food Alliance, Hanover Food Co-op, Community Development Finance Authority and Cheshire County Conservation District to submit a proposal to the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food (DAMF) and the State of New Hampshire to dedicate American Rescue Plan Act funds to support agricultural projects in the state impacted by the pandemic. Our proposal requested support for farm viable projects (soil health and onfarm renewable energy infrastructure), food HUB infrastructure, and meat and dairy processing infrastructure. While our full proposal was not funded, we are pleased to announce that on November 22nd the Executive Council voted to, "Authorize to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$1,023,523 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) for the NH Meat Processing Infrastructure and Training Investment Program. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023."

The DAMF is now accepting applications due in late January 2023. <u>Please visit their</u> website for details.



## Free Technical Assistance with the Agricultural Justice Project

The Agricultural Justice Project (AJP) has funding to provide NE farmers with free technical assistance with employment practices! They can help you with employment policies, integrating social justice values into employment practices, communication and conflict resolution processes, health and safety plans, and pricing your products to cover fair wages and production costs. If you'd like to participate, simply take a 30-minute selfassessment survey, share existing employment policy documents, and they will provide individualized suggestions and resources tailored to your needs. They will also invite you to workshops and field days to continue learning and sharing knowledge with others. Participation is confidential. For more information, see their short video with current Food Justice Certified farmers, and sign up and see full details of the program on the AJP website.



## United Natural Foods and Square Roots to Co-locate Indoor Farms Across North America

Coming soon to a nearby city? The partnership between United Natural Foods, Inc. (the biggest publicly traded wholesale distributor of organic and natural foods in Canada and the U.S) and Kimbal Musk's Square Roots (a vertical farming corporation) is not good news for local people growing for local markets. Learn more here.



### NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant

The 10 NH Conservation Districts are excited to announce an opportunity to improve your farm's resilience through a climate adaptation or mitigation project! We encourage you to apply for the second round of the New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant! Applications are open and are due on February 1, 2023!

An optional zoom informational session will be held on January 9th, 2023, at 6PM on zoom. Register here.

Interested applicants can <u>contact their</u> conservation district for more information.

### New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant

Improve your farm's resilience through a climate adaptation or mitigation project!



Applications are due on February 1st!

### Customized Coaching for Food & Farm Businesses

Organizations from around the state are partnering to offer customized coaching to New Hampshire farms and food businesses! Thanks to a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission, administered by the Agricultural Viability Alliance, these organizations will be offering teams of specialists, catered to farm and food businesses' individual needs in Belknap, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan counties. Kate McNamee of Clover Meadow Farm credits the Agricultural Viability Alliance (AVA) with providing her tailored support in business planning and website marketing. With a full time job already, and a growing flower farm to take care of on top of that, Kate was able to receive support developing a colorful and informative website so that she didn't have to take on a third job of web developer. If you would like support in marketing or business planning, read more here about what it's like to work with the AVA or submit an intake form here!



### Edible Ecosystems Emerging: The Architecture of Forest Garden Culture-Dave Jacke

Seacoast NH Permaculture is excited to offer a series with <u>Dave Jacke</u>, primary author of <u>Edible Forest Gardens</u>, on Zoom over the winter. "Edible Ecosystems Emerging: Fundamentals of Forest Garden Culture" is a series of 5 classes. You can come to as many as you like, as they will be set up and priced as individual events, although they will build on each other.

The five-part Zoom series will explore forest ecology as applied to forest garden cultivation, and to forest garden culture. Each session will include a 90-minute presentation, 30 minutes of conversation, and written materials for each talk:

January 11: Class 1. <u>Foundations & Frames:</u>
<u>The Architecture of Forest Garden Culture</u>
January 25: Class 2. <u>Ecosystem Social</u>
Structures

February 15: Class 3. <u>The Anatomy of Self-Renewing Fertility</u>

March 8: Class 4. Succession &

**Implementation** 

March 29: Class 5. Embodiment: FG Design

<u>& Implementation Case Studies</u>

The classes are open for signups starting now. Payment can be made online or by sending a check with the list of classes you are paying for to Seacoast Permaculture, 219 France Rd, Barrington NH 03825.



# Two More Education Opportunities: Online Agroecology Course & Midwinter Agriculture Intensive

### Online Agroecology Course with Sterling College

Agroecology – an approach that blends natural and traditional science with a set of farming practices and a social movement – stands out among the alternatives. It fundamentally trusts farmers to work with nature to develop their own approaches that



produce food while maintaining ecosystem integrity and avoiding depletion.

Developed by conservation leader and applied researcher Britt Basel, this course provides learners with a nuanced understanding of agroecology's many facets. The course materials, which include carefully selected readings, resources, and recorded lectures, are enriched with practitioner interviews and exercises that encourage immediate application. Learn more and register.

### Midwinter Agriculture Intensive with Threefold Community Farm

This year's Midwinter Agriculture Intensive will delve into the theme of cosmic and earthly nutrition in both the human being and the farm individuality, from January 13th through 16th.

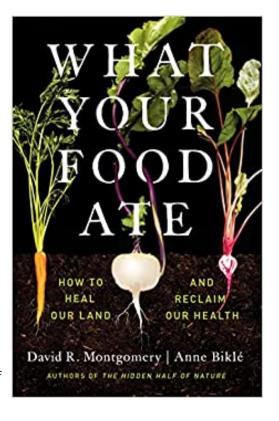
Explore foundations from Rudolf Steiner's Agriculture Course and the human encounter, the breakdown and up-building processes, with the nature of food. The art and practice of eurythmy will weave throughout the program to provide an artistic lens through which individuals can experience spiritual content and truths. Learn more and register.



# What Your Food Ate: How to Restore Our Land and Reclaim Our Health - Holiday Gift Recommendation

"In their new book, What Your Food Ate: How to Restore Our Land and Reclaim Our Health, geologist David R. Montgomery and biologist Anne Biklé make a compelling argument that regenerative farming practices result in healthier soil and higher nutrient density in food.

In the book, the husband-and-wife team share the results of their own extensive research and the existing literature on soil health. Conventional farming practices, including tillage and commercial fertilizers, disrupt the necessary, healthy symbiosis between plants and the soil, they write, noting, "We traded away quality in pursuit of quantity as modernized farming chased



higher yields, overlooking a farmer's natural allies in the soil."

Looking for a book to gift this holiday season? This could be an excellent selection! Learn more about the book here.

### 2022 Census of Agriculture

The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity. Learn more and download the census form. Responses are due February 6, 2023.



# **Funding Opportunities**

- Monadnock Food Co-Op Farm Fund: Applications Due February 1st!
- USDA Farm to School grants
- Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) Grant Programs
- Organic Dairy On-Farm Storage & Handling Grant
- ARPA Grants for NH Meat Processing Infrastructure &Training
- Young Farmer Grants
- CCCD's Conservation Opportunity Fund
- NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant



## December Recipe: Maple Pumpkin Pie

Pumpkin pie isn't just for Thanksgiving! This naturally sweetened recipe uses maple syrup and warm spices for a deep, delicious flavor. This recipe can easily be made using mostly local & organic ingredients! Pro tip — metal pie pans conduct heat more evenly and efficiently and result in a crispier bottom crust.

### **Ingredients**:

2 cups fresh or canned pumpkin puree

½ cup maple syrup

1 tbsp unsulphured molasses

2 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp ground ginger

1/4 tsp freshly ground nutmeg

1/4 tsp ground cloves

1/2 tsp salt

1 tsp vanilla extract

2 eggs, beaten

1 cup half & half

1 prepared pie shell in a pie tin, unbaked

### **Preparation:**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

In a large bowl, combine pumpkin puree, maple syrup, molasses, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, salt, vanilla, eggs, and half & half. Whisk until smooth.

Place pie shell (in the pie tin) on a baking sheet lined with parchment. Pour filling into shell. Bake at 375 degrees F for 10 minutes. Turn oven down to 350 degrees F for 40 minutes, or until the center of the pie just barely wiggles.

Cool at room temperature for at least 1 hour and refrigerate until completely chilled. Serve with freshly made whipped cream and freshly grated nutmeg for a festive holiday dessert!



### **Welcome New & Renewing Members**

Thank you to our NOFA-NH Members who became new members or renewed their memberships in November 2022.

#### **New Members:**

Partners' Gardens, Root 5 Farm

### **Renewing Members:**

<u>Hungry Bear Farm, Captain Woodbury Guesthouse</u>, Lisa & Jack Schmitt, <u>NH Farm Bureau Federation</u>, Andru Volinsky, Nadine San Antoni, <u>Hop N Hen Farm</u>, Susan & Peter Allison, <u>Nature's Green Grocer</u>, <u>Flatbread Company</u>

### Classifieds

### Branch Hill Farm is Hiring a Farmer-Educator (Milton Mills, NH)

Posted December 17: Looking for someone passionate about BOTH growing vegetables on a small-scale AND transforming the lives of teens through your leadership!

Contact <a href="mailto:branchillfarm@gmail.com">branchillfarm@gmail.com</a> to learn more and apply.

### Management & Leadership Opportunities at Root 5 Farm in Vermont (Fairlee, VT)

*Posted November 11:* Our hard-working team of passionate farmers is hiring for a variety of management positions in 2023. See <a href="www.root5farm.com/employment-opportunities">www.root5farm.com/employment-opportunities</a> for more information and to apply.

### Windswept Farm Is Hiring (Andover, NH)

Posted October 1, 2022: Would you like to work on a farm this season? Learn and bring your knowledge to growing a variety of vegetables and fruits to be delivered to farmers' market. Email <a href="mailto:tigallagher13@yahoo.com">tigallagher13@yahoo.com</a> for more information and to apply.

#### **Grow Your Profits**

*Posted October 1, 2022:* Keeping honey bees as pollinators will increase your yield! White Mountain Apiary has everything you need to become a successful beekeeper. We offer online beekeeping classes, honey bees, queen bees, beekeeping equipment and support. Visit <a href="https://www.whitemountainapiary.com/store">www.whitemountainapiary.com/store</a> or call 603-444-6661 for more information.

# **Upcoming Events**

January 5 - March 2, 2023 — Book Study: A Precautionary Tale, (NOFA-NH & Seacoast NH Permaculture)

January 6, 2023 — Network Cafe Series: Encourage climate-friendly eating, and make it accessible to all, (NHFA)

January 11 - March 29, 2023 — Edible Ecosystems Emerging: 5 Part Winter Series, (Seacoast NH Permaculture)

January 14 - 15, 2023 — NOFA/Mass' 36th Annual Winter Conference, (NOFA/Mass)

January 18, 2023 — Food & Climate Panel, (NOFA-NH & Seacoast NH Permaculture)

January 18, 2023 — A<u>cquiring Your Farm with Land For Good</u>, (Land For Good)

January 20, 2023 — NH Food & Nutrition Security Summit, (NH Hunger Solutions)

January 25-26, 2023 — <u>Sustainable Food Summit</u>, (Ecovia Intelligence)

February 4, 2023 — The Northeast Disability and Agriculture Conference, (Connecticut Grown)

February 11, 2023 — <u>21st Annual Winter Conference - The Art of Food & Farming: Skill Sharing for a Brighter</u> Future

February 18, 2023 — NOFA-VT's 41st Annual Winter Conference (NOFA-VT)

February 21, 2023 — Bulk Order Deadline

March 18-19, 2023 — Bulk Order Pickup Weekend

April 18 - 19, 2023 — Virtual Farm to Institution Summit, (FINE)

April 27 - 28, 2023 — <u>In-Person Farm to Institution Summit</u>, (FINE)

May 11, 2023 — NH Statewide Food Gathering, (NH Food Alliance)

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