

Land & Sea Together is building a network of services and opportunities to reduce stress for Fisheries, Forestry, and Farming (FFF) enterprises, workers, and their families in Rhode Island
www.landandseatogether.org

Agricultural Resource Guide

A Collection of Resources for Rhode Island Farmers & Ranchers

Prepared by the Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI

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in partnership with the RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Agriculture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[OVERVIEW & PURPOSE](#)

[MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING](#)

[FUNDING THE FARM: GRANTS, LOANS, AND SUPPORT](#)

[LAND ACCESS](#)

[SUCCESSION PLANNING](#)

[FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS PLANNING](#)

[LABOR](#)

[LEGAL & TAX HELP](#)

[LIVESTOCK RESOURCES](#)

[ACCESSING CRITICAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE](#)

[NON-PROFIT AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS](#)

[A VERY BIG THANK YOU](#)

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Forestry, Fisheries, and Farming (FFF) communities keep Rhode Islanders fed and tend our landscapes. But workers in these fields often face challenging and unpredictable conditions with limited support. Together we aim to offer services in the languages you speak, and seek out providers who understand natural resource sector challenges and reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of the FFF communities.

Our goal is to provide a collection of practical, up-to-date financial and mental health resilience materials for farmers and ranchers in the state of Rhode Island, and for the people and organizations who support the agricultural sector.

This is a collaborative, living document, so please be in touch if you would like to add an organization, tool, resource, opportunity, or modify language in our guide about your programming. We welcome feedback, and we recognize that this guide is not exhaustive, but is hopefully a great place to start when looking for help. Our intention is that this document is shared widely within the networks we are working to establish.

For more information, to apply for relief grants as funds become available, to join our mailing list for events, new opportunities, or to contact us, please visit our website at: www.landandseatogether.org.

First and foremost, please reach out- We want to hear from you, and we are here for you!

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Farmers. YOU are the most important piece of equipment on your farm. Regular maintenance - and critical repairs - help keep both you and your implements running smoothly. Please know that help is available for you in Rhode Island, to support your physical and mental health.

- 1. Are you in crisis? Call or text the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline now, at 988.** Services are free, confidential, and available 24/7.
- 2. [Land & Sea Together](http://www.landandseatogether.org) is offering free access to [Coastline EAP](#) for all farm, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries professionals (and their families) in the state.** An EAP, or “Employee Assistance Program,” is a voluntary and confidential resource connecting individuals and families with financial and personal services in the community. Services include referrals for child and elder care, health and

wellness consultations, financial consultations, and up to 3 *FREE counseling sessions* with a licensed provider, and more. **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more, and tell them you're calling with "Land and Sea Together."**

3. The [AMOR Support Line \(401-675-1414\)](#) is a “multilingual (currently English & Spanish) line of volunteer operators that connects community members to AMOR’s network of services, including comprehensive mental health care, legal support, court accompaniment, community support, transportation, and interpretation.” AMOR is an alliance of grassroots organizations, providing community support in Rhode Island and Southern New England for victims of hate crimes and state-sponsored violence.
4. **Struggling with substance use? This crisis affects individuals and families across the state, and you are not alone.**
 - a. Referrals and support are available through Land & Sea Together’s helpline, in conjunction with [Coastline EAP](#). **Call 1-800-445-1195, 24/7, to learn more.**
 - b. [SAMHSA](#) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration) offers a National Helpline, at **1-800-662-4357**. The helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7 information service, available in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations.
 - c. At [Prevent Overdose RI](#), you can learn more about treatment options across Rhode Island. Visit their website to learn more about [Safe Stations](#) (fire and police stations across the state where you can drop in 24/7 to get free and welcoming access to treatment and recovery support services), recovery centers, and more. Rhode Island also offers buprenorphine, a medicine used for opioid addiction, over the phone. You can find out more information by calling the Buprenorphine 24/7 Hotline at **401-606-5456**.
5. [National AgrAbility Project](#) - Provides resources and training as well as adaptability solutions for farmers with disabilities. This includes a wide array of disabling conditions; from sight and hearing loss, to amputation and chronic pain.
6. [Love Your Brain](#) offers many programs to start your journey with to discover what’s possible for building resilience and community after brain injury. Since

2014, we've been pioneering the use of yoga and mindfulness for healing after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI - including concussion), advancing the science behind its benefits, and re-imagining how people can actively participate in improving their quality of life.

FUNDING THE FARM: GRANTS, LOANS, AND SUPPORT

Farmers need access to capital. Most farmers use a combination of grants and loans to acquire farmland, make new purchases and improvements on the farm, and improve the viability of their businesses.

1. Farmers can access state and federal **grant funding** from a number of entities. Many grants are cyclical, so please check the links to see if the grant is currently accepting applications. And don't hesitate to call our local NRCS and FSA offices. They will let you know what programs you may be eligible for!
 - a. [DEM Rhode Island Agricultural Grant Opportunities](#)
 - b. [Northeast SARE Grants](#)
 - c. [NRCS \(Natural Resources Conservation Services\) Grants](#)
 - d. [FSA \(Farm Service Agency\) Grants](#)
2. Farmers can access public and private **loan programs** from a number of entities across the Northeast. Keep in mind that interest rates and conditions may vary.
 - a. [FSA \(Farm Service Agency\) Loan Programs](#)
 - b. [USDA Guide to Federal Loan Programs](#)
 - c. [USDA Farm Loan Discovery Tool | Farmers.gov](#)
 - d. [Farm Credit East](#)
 - e. [The Carrot Project](#)
 - f. [Dirt Capital](#)
 - g. [Foodshed Capital](#)
 - h. [Equity Trust](#)
 - i. [RI Commerce](#)
3. **BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and Historically Underserved Farmers.** We acknowledge the historical, inherent discriminatory lending practices at the USDA and beyond, and support the work to dismantle those systems and offer alternative models. Here is a list of resources for BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and historically marginalized farmers in the Northeast and beyond.

- a. [The Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust](#) is “a BIPOC-led organization dedicated to positively impacting the health and wellness outcomes of BIPOC communities and the lands and non-human beings in the Northeast region of what is now known as the United States, an area that comprises the traditional territories of many, many sovereign nations, by advancing equitable land access that simultaneously prioritizes honoring Indigenous sovereignty.”
- b. [African Alliance of Rhode Island](#) “connects all Rhode Islanders of African descent with community programming focused on health, food, education, and culture.”
- c. [Black Farmer Fund’s](#) mission is “to nurture black community wealth & health by investing in black agricultural systems in the Northeast.”
- d. The [Braiding Seeds Fellowship](#), a “project of Soul Fire Farm Institute in collaboration with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, carries on the legacy of the braided seeds by providing beginning farmers with resources, professional development, and mentorship to support their livelihood on land.”
- e. [The POLLINATE! Beginner Farmer Program](#), a program of Rock Steady Farm in Millerton, NY, “is a paid training program for queer, trans, Black, Indigenous and people of color (QTBIPOC), beginner farmers interested in cooperative farm business models that center equitable food access. The purpose is to equip QTBIPOC farmers with farming skills, supplemental resources and supportive relationships to inspire more QTBIPOC led farming initiatives.”
- f. [BIPOC in Ag & Food: A Resource Guide](#): This extensive open source document features a list of funding sources, in addition to organizations and resources at the state and federal levels. You can also view and comment on material in [spreadsheet](#) form.
- g. The [Queer Farmer Network](#) “was conceived to build community among queer farmers and to reflect on and interrupt racist, capitalist, and heteropatriarchal legacies in Agriculture. We strive to create a stronger web of support for and address the isolation of queer farmers in both rural and urban spaces across the so-called USA.”

- h. Farm Commons offers one year free [scholarships](#) to BIPOC farmers and support organizations working with BIPOC farmers.
- 4. Veteran Farmers**
- a. [Farmer Veteran Coalition](#) aims to “cultivate a new generation of farmers and food leaders, and develop viable employment and meaningful careers through the collaboration of the farming and military communities.”
 - b. [NCAT Armed to Farm](#) program is “a sustainable agriculture training program for military veterans.”
- 5. Urban Farmers and Community Gardeners**
- a. [Southside Community Land Trust](#) “owns or directly manages 21 community gardens in Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls, and partners with schools, housing and community organizations to manage another 37. We also own or manage land used by 25 farmers to supply fresh fruits and vegetables to farmers markets, food businesses, restaurants and CSAs. Lastly, we operate three production farms in Providence and Pawtucket that practice and demonstrate bio-intensive, small-scale agricultural production.”
 - b. USDA has funded urban farming projects in recent years. Learn more about funding opportunities that may arise [here](#), and learn more about available programs [here](#).

LAND ACCESS

Rhode Island has *the* most expensive farmland in the United States. Growers have been finding creative solutions to land access across New England by entering into lease agreements, partnering with state or non-profit landowners, making land purchases with the help of federal or private loans, and more. The following organizations and tools can help you with your search.

1. [Land for Good](#) offers a wealth of resources, technical assistance, and community connections for farmers seeking to acquire land across New England. If you are new to the process of farmland ownership (or not so new!), start here!
2. In Rhode Island, consider exploring the following resources:

- a. [DEM's Farmland Access Clearinghouse](#)
 - b. [DEM's Farmland Preservation Program](#)
 - c. [Rhode Island Land Trust Council](#)
 - d. [New England Farmland Finder](#)
3. The National Young Farmers Coalition offers workshops throughout the year, and has a number of valuable resources on their website. The [Finding Farmland Calculator](#) is especially helpful.
 4. The Center for Agriculture & Food Systems offers an excellent [Farmland Access Legal Toolkit](#), with [Recursos en Español](#). Build a lease, learn about working with a lawyer, and more.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

As Rhode Island farmers consider retirement, and the future of their farms and businesses, it is critical that farm families come together and establish a transfer plan. This can be an intense and sometimes emotional process, especially without an established farming successor. Take a deep breath. There are a number of organizations and resources that can help.

1. Land & Sea Together offers one-on-one farm succession coordination in Rhode Island. Email info@landandseattogether.org for more information.
2. [Land for Good's](#) farm transfer planning resources are invaluable, and their team will work with you to figure out next steps. Land for Good's Rhode Island field agent is Dee Levanti. She can be reached at deanna@landforgood.org.
3. The Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI offers [free mediation services](#) to agricultural producers in the state, in partnership with the USDA. Mediators help bring all stakeholders together to work through the issues that matter to them (e.g. questions about possession, debt, equity, and fairness between family members). Reach out to CMCRI at 401-273-9999, or at info@cmcri.org, to learn more.
4. [Legal Food Hub](#) offers a free service that connects eligible Rhode Island farmers with volunteer attorneys who can provide pro bono services related to farm succession planning. Eligibility requirements available on their website. Our Rhode Island contact is Francesca Gallo. You can reach her at

legalfoodhub@clf.org.

5. The [American Farmland Trust](#) has an easily navigable website offering many resources for farm transitions and succession.
6. [UConn Extension](#) has additional links to resources for estate planning and farm transfer.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS PLANNING

Read on for resources to successfully start- and maintain- a viable and vibrant farm business.

1. The [Carrot Project](#) provides one-on-one coaching and business assistance, loan programs, workshops, and training. Our Rhode Island contact is Amanda Chang. You can reach her at achang@thecarrotproject.org.
2. New Entry offers a [Farm Business Planning Course](#) each winter that has been well-received across the farming community.
3. The New CT Farmer Alliance has a number of resources, including this helpful [New Farmer Bucket List](#).
4. The [Intervale Center](#) in VT offers farm financial management tools and webinars.

LABOR

Attracting and retaining skilled labor is a major challenge for many farm managers and owners. How and where are folks finding reliable employees? How and where are farm employees finding supportive farms where they can learn and grow?

1. Post and search on the following farm employment job boards and email listservs:
 - a. [N.E. Ag Exchange](#)
 - b. [EMass CRAFT Listserv](#)
 - c. [SEMAP Job Board](#)
 - d. [Comfood Jobs Email List](#)
 - e. [Idealist](#)
 - f. [Good Food Jobs](#)
2. Farmer training and funded apprenticeships are available with Southside

Community Land Trust for beginning vegetable and livestock farmers. See their [website](#) for more details, or email Chandelle at chandelle@southsideclt.org for more information.

3. RINLA, the Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association, has developed and implemented the [Growing Futures](#) program, which aims “to cultivate, train, and educate the next generation of natural resource professionals who will be charged with stewarding, protecting, and responding to a changing environment and feeding our community.”

Check out their job board, certifications, and career pathways! For more information, please contact RINLA at info@growingfuturesri.org or call **401-874-5220**

4. Are you a student at URI or CCRI, who is passionate about learning about our food system? The [Rhode Island Agriculture and Food Systems Fellows Program \(AFSFP\)](#) pays fellows hourly “for their contribution to mentor-supervised projects in sustainable agricultural intensification, food and nutrition translation, science communication and agricultural science policy leadership... The AFSFP engages historically underrepresented students from CCRI and URI to target preparation of a diverse workforce that is inclusive, employable, and globally-competent with the complex skill set necessary for equitable and meaningful change.”

LEGAL & TAX HELP

Rhode Island farmers can potentially access free legal help from the following organizations:

1. The [Legal Food Hub](#) connects **eligible** farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food-related organizations to volunteer, pro bono attorneys. Our Rhode Island contact is Francesca Gallo. You can reach her at legalfoodhub@clf.org. If you do not qualify for pro bono support, reach out to us at www.landandseatogether.org and we can explore other options.
2. Farm Commons offers subscription-based legal support, and is offering a [100% scholarship](#) for one year to BIPOC farmers and BIPOC service providers.

They also offer a detailed and accessible podcast on a number of legal issues you may encounter. Here are four great episodes to start, as recommended by our

friends at [Farm Strong NH](#).

- a. [Ep. 39: Farming with Family – Getting in and getting out](#) - key legal considerations for setting up a farm business with family members.
 - b. [Ep. 40: Farm Couples and Managing Stress through Paperwork](#) - the powerful role of paperwork in managing business and personal stress when farming with a spouse or romantic partner.
 - c. [Ep. 41: Choosing a Business Structure Together](#) - how to choose the right business structure when operating the farm with others.
3. [Farm Credit East](#) offers long-term tax planning, with expertise in agricultural tax law. They “generally charge by the number of hours needed for tax planning and/or filing your tax return. The cost of our service is dependent on the complexity of your operation.” If cost is prohibitive, reach out to us at www.landandseatogether.org and we can explore additional options.

LIVESTOCK RESOURCES

Livestock farmers in Rhode Island face unique processing and infrastructure challenges in the state. The RI Raised Livestock Association was formed in 2012 to address these issues, but no longer provides processing assistance.

1. [The Livestock Institute of Southern New England](#) (TLI) operates [Meatworks](#) in Westport, Massachusetts, a state-of-the art USDA-Inspected multi-species meat processing facility for cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats which opened in fall of 2018. They also offer [workshops and trainings](#) for livestock farmers.
2. You can reach the **Rhode Island state veterinarian**, Scott Marshall, DVM, via email at scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov or by calling 401-537-4281.

ACCESSING CRITICAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Health insurance, child care, and retirement. Let’s talk about building a secure financial and personal life in one of the most expensive states in the nation.

1. Health Insurance

- a. Compare plans on the state-based marketplace, [HealthSource RI](#). Farmers can access health and dental insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, and Delta Dental.
- b. The [Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging](#) offers help navigating Medicare coverage and programs. Call **1-888-884-8721** for more information.

2. Child Care & Elder Care

- a. The [Rhode Island Early Learning Council](#) offers a full list of early childhood state programs, including Head Start and BrightStars.
- b. Many farming families may be eligible for the [Child Care Assistance Program](#) (CCAP), which can subsidize child care for RI residents.
- c. [BrightStars RI](#) “assists families in finding quality early care, education and afterschool programs.” Visit their website or call 1-855-398-7605 to speak with a referral specialist.
- d. [Land & Sea Together](#) has limited funding available for vouchers for DHS licensed childcare facilities and for licensed Elder Care for members of the FFF community. Referrals and support are also available through Land & Sea Together’s helpline, in conjunction with [Coastline EAP](#). **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more.**

3. Retirement Planning

- a. This webinar from Penn State, “Retirement Planning for Farmers,” is an excellent place to start:
https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/1_wumxg2nh

4. Social Services

- a. [The Rhode Island Association of Community Action Agencies](#) is a statewide network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which provides a range of programs to help low to moderate income families across the state. Services include rent and mortgage assistance, income tax preparation assistance, senior services, and more. Call **401-921-4968** or fill out this [form](#) to find out what services you may be eligible for.

- b. [AMOR RI](#), Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance, is “an alliance of grassroots organizations, providing community support in Rhode Island and southern New England for victims of hate crimes and state-sponsored violence... The AMOR Support Line **(401-675-1414)** is a 24-hour multilingual (currently English & Spanish) line that connects community members to AMOR’s network of services, including comprehensive mental health care, legal support, court accompaniment, community support, transportation, and interpretation.”
- c. To find **local food assistance**, visit the Rhode Island Food Bank’s [website](#).
- d. If you are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, the [Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness](#) has a large list of statewide resources available.
- e. [Land & Sea Together](#) Referrals and support are also available through Land & Sea Together’s helpline, in conjunction with [Coastline EAP](#). **Call 1-800-445-1195 to learn more.**

NON-PROFIT AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

You don’t have to do this alone. Here is a compilation of some of the excellent existing professional organizations in Rhode Island and beyond, offering a wide range of resources and connections. Visit their websites to learn more!

Rhode Island:

[African Alliance of Rhode Island](#) is a “nonprofit organization that connects all Rhode Islanders of African descent with community programming focused on health, food, education, and culture... AARI is a leading provider and community collaborator in offering health and nutrition education, culturally- appropriate fresh crops, literacy and youth programs and facilitating access to resources that promote self-sufficiency.” Visit their website to learn more about Bami Farm, the organization’s six acre community farm in Johnston!

[DEM- Rhode Island](#) is the state’s Department of Environmental Management, and its mission is to “protect, restore, and promote our environment to ensure Rhode Island

remains a wonderful place to live, visit, and raise a family.” The Division of Agriculture offers information about regulations, produce safety, farmland preservation, agricultural business development, and more.

[Farm Fresh RI](#) is a non-profit organization with a new hub in Providence. Farm Fresh’s mission is “to grow a local food system that values the environment, health, and quality of life of the farmers and eaters in our region.” This mission is expressed through Community Access Programs, which include Farmers Markets, Farm to School and Community Education, Bonus Bucks, Hope’s Harvest and Harvest Kitchen’s culinary job training program; and Food System Enterprise Services, which include Market Mobile and Harvest Kitchen’s food production and processing.

[NOFA-RI](#) is an “organization of farmers, gardeners, consumers and environmentalists. All working together to promote organic farming and organic land care practices.” NOFA hosts a Winter Conference, Advanced Growers series and on-farm workshops, and provides no-cost, professional technical assistance from farm advisors. NOFA staff & farmer advisors are a great resource for farmers growing all things organic in the state.

[Rhode Island Farm Bureau](#) was established in 1953 and is a non-profit, non-governmental, grassroots advocacy organization promoting farmers’ well-being locally and nationwide. The Rhode Island Farm Bureau website is a wealth of information, with resources for current farmers of all sizes. You’ll find state and federal regulation information and emergency resources, farm opportunities and grants, and more.

[RI Commerce](#) “works with public, private and nonprofit partners to create the conditions for businesses in all sectors to thrive and to improve the quality of life for our citizens by promoting the state’s long-term economic health and prosperity. We offer business assistance, access to funding and red tape reduction for companies of all sizes.” Farmers can reach out to the Director of Food Strategy, Juli Stelmaszyk, at julianne.stelmaszyk@commerceri.com.

[Rhode Island Land Trust Council](#) is “the coalition of our state’s land trusts – community-based organizations formed to protect scenic open spaces, farms, forests, historic sites, and watersheds that define the character of our communities, keep us healthy, protect wildlife habitat and drinking water supplies, and provide local food & beautiful places for recreation.” The Rhode Island Land Trust Council works on

conserving the state’s working farms, and offers resources on leasing and succession planning.

[Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association \(RINLA\)](#) is a 501(C)(6) professional trade association “that serves the green industry and promotes environmental stewardship. RINLA advances the welfare of its members through education, research, legislative representation, certification, support in the marketing of green industry goods and services, and collaboration with allied interests/associations.”

[Southside Community Land Trust’s](#) mission is “to provide access to land, education and other resources so people in Rhode Island can grow food in environmentally sustainable ways and create community food systems where locally produced, affordable and healthy food is available to all... SCLT programs, community gardens and farms serve people in urban neighborhoods where fresh produce is nearly impossible to find – especially in quantities and at prices that support residents’ health.”

The [Tomaquag Museum](#) is Rhode Island’s only Indigenous cultural education center and museum. Tomaquag’s Indigenous Empowerment Network (IEN) “strives to eradicate poverty in the Indigenous Community of Rhode Island through education, cultural competency, job training, employment, small business incubation, addressing social justice, and building equity through Tomaquag Museum and our ever-expanding network of partners. IEC is ever-changing in its function and ability to fit the needs of the community it serves. It is based on mutual learning with a long-term goal of being a model for other culturally specific/tribal museums on how they can effect change in their community through empowerment utilizing education, job training, and jobs as a catalyst.”

[URI Cooperative Extension](#) aims to bring “vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, communities, consumers, families, and young people.” The university offers IPM support, up-to-date information on fruit and vegetable production and research, plant disease diagnostics, and more.

The [Young Farmer Network](#) is the fiscally-sponsored Rhode Island chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition. The YFN “connects farmers, aspiring farmers, and farm allies from all social, racial, and economic backgrounds.” The group hosts Young Farmer Nights, social and educational events across the state; off-season workshops, such as small-engine repair and welding; and is home to the Justice & Ag Working Group,

which is made up of farmers and collaborators who organize towards food justice in our region.

[Rhode Island Food Policy Council](#) is “the backbone network for the people, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations that make up Rhode Island’s food system. We take a systems approach, coordinating and collaborating with people in all sectors who are committed and engaged in making our food system equitable; supporting farms, fisheries and food businesses; and working to improve and conserve our land, air, and water.”

New England:

[EMassCRAFT](#) is a community of farmers, farm workers, and others in the greater Boston area who are interested in agriculture. The group has a very active email listserv, where members can crowdsource farming questions, share wholesale and market information, post employment opportunities, and more. From April through October, members can visit farms around the region every other Wednesday, for a workshop, farm tour, and social visit.

[The Carrot Project](#) “supports agricultural businesses securing their futures by breaking down financial barriers, and building their path to sustainability.” They provide one-on-one coaching and business assistance, loan programs, workshops, and training.

[Cultivemos](#) “aims to improve behavioral health awareness, literacy, access, and outcomes for farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers in the Northeast... In particular, this project includes a focus on service providers working with migrant farmworkers, young farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers, in particular, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers because, in addition to the stressors described above, they face unique challenges with more limited access to services.”

[Land for Good](#) helps farmers access secure land tenure, works with retiring farmers to ensure a smooth farm transition, and provides a wealth of resources and guidance regarding land access in New England. Their mission is “to ensure the future of farming in New England by putting more farmers more securely on more land.”

The [Legal Food Hub](#) is a “free service that connects eligible farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food-related organizations to volunteer attorneys.”

[National Farmers Union Local Food Safety Collaborative](#) is an “FDA-funded initiative to provide training, education, and technical assistance to local food producers. Its core mission is to build fundamental knowledge of food safety and support compliance with Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations.”

[New England Ag Exchange](#) is an online forum for growers and food businesses in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts to connect about farming, land access, job postings, and more.

[New England Farmers Union](#) “works to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life of family farmers. New England Farmers Union is a home for producers who are committed to conserving our state’s natural bounty, whether they are long-established or beginning their agricultural journey.” Member benefits include insurance options, software and office benefits, equipment and supply benefits, hotel and car rentals, and emergency protection.

[New Entry Sustainable Farming Project](#) aims to “foster resilience in local, regional and national food systems by training a new generation of farmers to produce food that is nutritious, culturally connected and accessible to all individuals. In doing this work, we develop economic opportunities for new farmers, generate new knowledge, and facilitate connections to the land to build thriving communities.” They offer workshops, a business planning course, and a vibrant incubator farm training program.

[The Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust](#) is “a BIPOC-led organization dedicated to positively impacting the health and wellness outcomes of BIPOC communities and the lands and non-human beings in the Northeast region of what is now known as the United States, an area that comprises the traditional territories of many, many sovereign nations, by advancing equitable land access that simultaneously prioritizes honoring Indigenous sovereignty.”

[SEMAP \(Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership\)](#) is “dedicated to preserving and expanding access to local food and sustainable farming through research and education.” They provide a monthly newsletter highlighting jobs, opportunities, upcoming events, host workshops and conferences, and connect consumers with local farmers.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU:

African Alliance of Rhode Island
Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI
Coastline EAP
Commercial Fisheries Council RI
Datacorp
East Coast Shellfish Growers
Farm Fresh RI
Hope & Main
Legal Food Hub
NOFA-RI
Ocean State Aquaculture Association
RI Commerce
RI-DEM

RI Farm Bureau
RI Food Policy Council
RI Land Trust Council
Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape
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Southside Community Land Trust
The Carrot Project
Tomaquag Museum
University of Rhode Island
Young Farmers Network
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