

Beyond food access: building food system resilience and supporting NYs producers



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How do we meet the challenges disrupting our food system?



North Country Agriculture

20% percentage of NYS agricultural output from the NY-21

\$1.6 billion Market value of agricultural output

\$75 million Vegetable (\$30 million) + Fruit, berry, nut (\$45 million)



Challenges across the north country

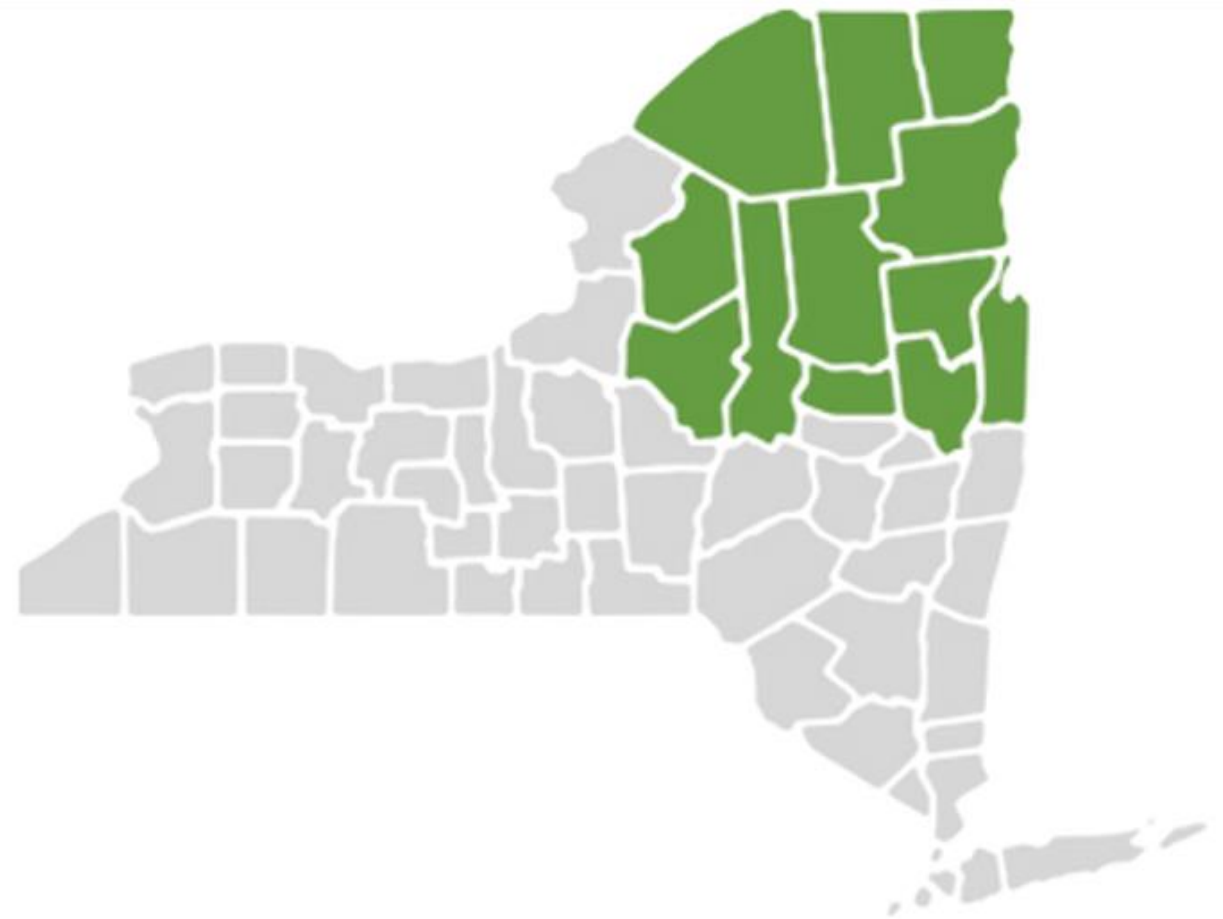
- Land, Labor, Markets!
 - Adirondack land!
- Generational Shifts
- Disappearance of markets
- New Emerging Markets
 - F2S
 - Food banks
- Affordability vs. true cost of food
- Distance, distance, distance



Who we Are

Coalition of regional organizations to build collaborative knowledge and infrastructure for improving the North Country food system

“Food Policy Council of the North Country”



How might we host the cross-sector collaboration, communication, education, and capacity-building efforts among Adirondack organizations and communities that are needed to foster a more equitable and resilient food system?



What we do?

The Adirondack Food System Network promotes greater alignment among food system related organizations, agencies, and institutions by providing better platforms for collaboration and conversation, specifically through:

- development of a mutual understanding of the barriers and gaps which characterize the region's food system and create shared goals that address them,
- organizing efforts to create a strong, unified voice, that food equity advocates can rely on to guide policy, pilot development, and other food justice-related initiatives and;
- supporting capacity-building and sustainability efforts among member organizations and drive education efforts around food equity issues across the region.



Core Activities

- **Clarify shared principles** that define our work together: transparency, collaboration, empowerment, and resiliency remain foundational to the success of the Network, These principals shape the operation of AFSN as well as the vision of the food system.
- **Convene individuals, organizations, and stakeholders** so that all voices are at the table, elevating collaboration, and breaking down silos.
- **Cultivate trust** to build stronger and more open relationships that lead to action and shared commitment to improving the region.
- **Coordinate actions** to increase flows of information, knowledge, and resources so that capacity is brought and built.
- **Collaborate for systems change** together. By bringing local knowledge and sharing resources, our collaborative processes to bring about positive systems change will be more powerful and impactful



Strategic Blueprint

Education & Policy Awareness

Provide food system stakeholders throughout the Adirondacks with education opportunities regarding policy, funding, and emerging community needs. Enrich the Adirondack food system with a more complete awareness of local, state, and federal policy developments as well as signal partnership opportunities that can drive systemic change.

Relationship Brokering

Create partners and co-conspirators in food justice across Adirondack communities, forging surprising connections between distant organizations and curating a shared library of community knowledge concerning the maintenance of a sustainable food system along the way.

Data Repository

Interacting with a system as complex and important as a regional food system is a daunting task for any organization. AFSN can become a crucial resource to regional partners by helping leaders, organizations, and residents navigate the system itself with a sustainable program of data sharing, a map of the Adirondack food system, and other guidance.



Policy Priorities

Food and Nutrition Security

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Women-Infants-Children (WIC)

Advocating for farmer-centered markets

Farmer Market Nutrition Program, Nourish NY, Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit, Farm to Institution

Connecting to state and national efforts

Farm Bill; Climate resiliency and crop protections; climate smart programs

Supporting Emergency Feeding Programs

Nourish NY, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Programs (HPNAP); New York Food for New York Families



Opportunities

For Communities

- Creating space for access to local products
- Increase fresh and local options
- Commitment to incentivize and prioritize local procurement
- Support innovation

For Producers

- Funding consistent with seasonality and planning
- Increasing incentives while reducing redundancy
- Create and incentive market diversification
- Expand regional processing and distribution



Upcoming Events

- Regional Roundtables (7 across the region)
- Winter Webinar series
- Adirondack agriculture gathering
- Annual Food Justice Summit

JOIN OUR FOOD SYSTEM CONVERSATIONS

AFSN and its partners will be holding regional roundtable conversations throughout the Adirondacks to gather first hand experience and knowledge regarding challenges and opportunities in the food system.

All food system actors are invited: farmers, retailers, social care providers, emergency feeding programs, and more!

Thursday, October 17: 9-11am at the Adirondack YMCA, Brant Lake

Tuesday, October 22: 10am-12pm at Pitney Meadows Community Farm, Saratoga

Friday, October 25: 9-11am at the Grange, Whallonsburg

Monday, October 28: 2-4pm at Clinton County Mental Health, Plattsburgh

Wednesday, October 30: 2-4pm at View Arts Center, Old Forge

Thursday, November 14th: 3-5 pm at CCE St. Lawrence County, Canton

Thursday, December 12: 4-6pm at One Church Street, Johnstown

Please RSVP at www.adkfoodsystem.org for one or more events. Registration closes the day prior to each event. Light refreshments will be provided to attendees.



Questions? Reach out to info@adkfoodsystem.org



Many members of our food system struggle to do a lot with not enough. Frontline agencies and organizations need someone in their corner, fighting and advocating for solutions to intractable conflicts, and supporting the vulnerable pieces in our food system.

The Network can devote particular attention to trends in the food system across communities and sectors, and bring a guiding framework of asset-based development, and philosophy of respect and good faith. By developing and supporting the work of our regional food system network to cultivate enhanced regional capacity, we can empower more people and producers to live, eat, and grow well.

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