

New Hampshire

Granite State organic farms thrive on direct markets, maple, and premium local food culture



**NORTHEAST/
MID-ATLANTIC**
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

A FARMER'S TOOLKIT
State Module | August 2026

New Hampshire ranks 36th nationally with 124 certified organic operations and 11,091 certified acres. New Hampshire's compact geography and affluent consumer base create ideal conditions for a premium organic direct-market sector. Small diversified farms, organic maple operations, vegetable and dairy producers, and farm-to-table supply chains serve Concord, Manchester, and the greater Boston metro market just south of the border. NOFA-NH, the state's leading organic organization and Northeast TOPP Core Partner, provides organic certification support, technical assistance, mentorship, and market access to farmers statewide.

124 CERTIFIED OPERATIONS	11,091 CERTIFIED ACRES	\$38M ORGANIC SALES	High PER-FARM REVENUE
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STATE PROFILE

AT A GLANCE

Certified operations	124 (36th nationally)
Certified organic acres	11,091
Organic sales value	\$38 million
Worker employment vs. conventional	+30%
Split operations	55% of farms

OPPORTUNITIES & BARRIERS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Leverage proximity to the Boston metro market to supply premium organic produce, dairy, and value-added products to one of the Northeast's highest-spending organic consumer bases.
- Expand certified organic maple production to meet growing national and international demand for premium organic maple syrup and maple-derived ingredients.
- Develop farm-to-institution organic supply chains connecting NH producers with hospitals, universities, and schools seeking local and organic food sourcing.

TOP ORGANIC COMMODITIES

- ▶ **Vegetables:** organic farms supply Concord, Manchester, and Boston metro markets.
- ▶ **Maple Syrup:** NH forests supply premium organic maple for direct and retail buyers.
- ▶ **Dairy:** CT River Valley organic dairy farms supply regional processors.
- ▶ **Fruits & Berries:** organic orchards and berry farms for premium direct market buyers.

BARRIERS

- Short growing season and rocky soils limit productive acreage and create high per-unit production costs relative to larger-scale organic operations in other regions.
- High land values in southern NH near Boston drive up input costs and limit access to farmland for beginning organic producers.
- Small farm scale and geographic fragmentation make organic aggregation and wholesale distribution logistically challenging.

KEY TAKEAWAY

New Hampshire's compact geography, affluent consumer base, and premium direct-market culture enable its organic farmers to achieve high per-farm revenues despite small scale, making it a model for high-value organic farming in the Northeast.

Resources for Farmers

New Hampshire organic farmers are supported primarily by NOFA-NH, the state's Northeast TOPP Core Partner, working alongside UNH Cooperative Extension and the broader Northeast TOPP region. NOFA-NH provides organic certification support, technical assistance, mentorship, and market access across the state.

NH Dept of Agriculture & USDA Programs

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- Organic Certification Cost Share: administered by USDA FSA (federal pass-through), up to \$750/yr
- NH discontinued its state organic certification program in 2024; certification is via USDA-accredited certifiers
- USDA NRCS (New Hampshire): EQIP Organic Initiative and Organic Transition Assistance
- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds (state-administered) for eligible producers

agriculture.nh.gov

UNH Cooperative Extension

RESEARCH, EXTENSION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Works with NOFA-NH to bring organic topics into UNH programming and research
- UNH organic research dairy farm and on-farm research and demonstration
- Soil health, cover crops, and integrated pest management resources for farmers
- Statewide UNH Extension network offering general production and business support

extension.unh.edu

NH Community Loan Fund

FINANCING & BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Farmland access loans and lease-to-own programs for NH farmers (not organic-specific)
- Farm business planning and financial management support for farm operations
- Beginning farmer resources and financing for farm growth
- Financing connections for farm infrastructure and value-added processing

communityloanfund.org

Northeast TOPP - NOFA-NH (NH Core Partner)

MENTORSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Northeast region led by Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO); NOFA-NH runs TOPP in NH
- Paid organic mentor matching for vegetable, dairy, maple, and fruit operations
- Certification support, mentorship, and organic transition workshops through NOFA-NH
- Market access and farmer networking for NH organic producers through NOFA-NH

nofanh.org/ForFarmers

DID YOU KNOW? NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire's organic farms generate some of the highest per-farm revenues in the Northeast, driven by direct-market sales to affluent consumers and proximity to the greater Boston metro market. With over 8 million consumers within a 100-mile radius, New Hampshire's small organic farms have access to exceptional market depth without the infrastructure barriers facing more remote producers. NOFA-NH's technical assistance and TOPP mentor network help NH organic producers position their operations to fully capture this geographic premium advantage.

KEY SOURCES

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2022 Census of Agriculture. USDA NASS, 2024.

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH). Technical Assistance and TOPP Resources. NOFA-NH, 2026.

UNH Cooperative Extension. Agriculture Programs. UNH Extension, 2023.

NH Community Loan Fund. Farmland Access and Farmer Support Programs. NHCLF, 2023.