



WOLFE'S NECK CENTER

FOR AGRICULTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Ellen Griswold, *Managing Director of Programs*

Madeline Delaney, *Senior Manager for Marketplace Development*

Natural & Working Lands Work Group Presentation, December 11th, 2025

*Building an ecologically and
economically resilient food
system in the Northeast
through regenerative
agriculture*

Our Program Areas

Wolfe's Neck Center is a farm-based education, research, and visitor center with programs operating on and beyond our farm in four main areas:

Farmer Education & Market Development

Advancing the use of regenerative agriculture practices by providing farmers with:

- Direct technical and financial assistance
- Educational workshops, conferences, and longer-term training



Visitor Education & Experience

Educating the public about the connections between food, agriculture, and the environment by providing:

- Experiential learning for people of all ages
- Youth programs (farm camp and school trips)
- Workshops, events, and interpretative signage



Research & Demonstration

Investigating regenerative agriculture practices by:

- Trialing new practices through our dairy, small livestock, and crop production operations
- Hosting innovative multi-partner research projects
- Sharing real-world data with farmers and the public



Technology & Innovation

Supporting the development of a community-driven suite of agricultural data systems and technologies that:

- Make data collection, sharing, and analysis accessible for farmers
- Allow farmers to take advantage of data-driven incentives and premiums





**WOLFE'S
NECK** NORTHEAST
CENTER FARMERS FUND





Northeast Farmers Fund Overview

- Northeast Farmers Fund at Wolfe's Neck Center supports farmer implementation of regenerative practices (NRCS conservation practices) with financial incentives, technical assistance, and soil analysis services.
- Fund made up of contributions from food retailers/companies ("buyers"), philanthropic gifts and other grants
- Wolfe's Neck Center provides technical assistance and direct payments to farmers to implement regenerative practices; practices can be tailored according to farmer and buyer interest and readiness
- Wolfe's Neck Center works with partners to measure practice change impact on range of environmental indicators, including soil health, carbon sequestration, water quality, and biodiversity through soil analysis. Data is valuable for:
 - Supporting farmer land management decisions
 - Enabling farmers to meet requirements of specific buyers and/or qualify for certifications and price premiums, supporting farmer profitability
 - Aggregated data across farm projects supports research efforts to increase our shared understanding of regenerative land stewardship impacts on environmental outcomes
 - Data is also available to buyers to monitor their climate impacts



The Evolution of Federal Funds in the Northeast Farmers Fund

2023

Northeast Farmers Fund model started under \$35m Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities (PCSC) grant

Under PCSC, farmer support funded through combination of Federal funding and funding from buyers

The PCSC grant program halted in January 2025; terminated in April 2025

Today

Rebuilt new version of PCSC farmer support work with launch of Northeast Farmers Fund

Brings together corporate investment (food retailers/companies (“buyers”)), philanthropic support, and public funds

Some farmers and buyers part of PCSC committed to continuing the work along with additional farms and buyers

Goal to raise \$2m between 2025 and 2026 to reach 35 – 50 farm projects

2026-2028

In June 2025, applied for USDA’s successor program to PCSC, Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP)

Still awaiting final approval; if awarded, PCSC termination revoked and issued AMP modified contract with remaining PCSC funds

Continue to layer in buyer and philanthropic funding as match



- Timeline: ~2026 - April 2028
- 385 producers in the Northeast will be enrolled
- ~\$21.9 million dollars delivered to producers

Opportunities for collaboration on outreach, technical assistance, market development and MMRV strategy

Advancing Markets for Producers Proposal Overview

~ Pending USDA Approval ~

Funding for Regenerative Practice Implementation

Funding for Market Development & Expansion

- Improving marketing materials and strategy
- Equipment & Infrastructure that improves distribution capacity
- Equipment & Infrastructure that diversify and/or increase production
- Additional expenses that enable producers to reach new markets, price premiums, and certifications

Technical Assistance

For both practice implementation and market development support

Soil Sampling & Analysis

In partnership with The Soil Inventory Project



About Wolfe's Neck Center

Wolfe's Neck Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is dedicated to creating a world where agriculture and food systems support farmer viability, thriving ecosystems, and vibrant communities.

As a coastal farm that has been stewarded with regenerative practices for generations, our mission, and more than 600-acre campus and diversified farm operations - dairy, livestock, fruit and vegetable - offer a multitude of research and learning opportunities to better understand how agricultural practice change can support the environment.

Now more than ever, we are uniquely positioned to engage and convene people around food and farming – farmers, buyers, communities, chefs – and the importance of a strong, resilient regional food system.