



## 3rd Symposium of the Northeast Healthy Soil Network

Transitioning to More Regenerative Practices in the Northeast:

Towards Inclusive and Fair Compensation for Farmers and Other Soil Health Stewards

March 16-17, 2023

In-Person on the Campus of the University of New Hampshire, Durham and Virtual  
Hosted by Food Solutions New England, UNH, NOFA-NH, Tufts (GDAE), and Dartmouth  
College with the support of NEHSN's international partners: the 4per1000 initiative, and the  
French Ministry of Agriculture

### **Register on Eventbrite.**

Slots are Limited for Friday, March 17th convening at UNH.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-symposium-of-the-northeast-healthy-soil-network-tickets-518002819377>

Key objectives of the 2023 Symposium are to:

- 1) Rejuvenate and reignite the Northeast Healthy Soils Network in the post-pandemic period;
- 2) Realign regional policy goals in light of the 2023 Farm Bill, Inflation Reduction Act funding, and Climate Smart Commodities Grants;
- 3) Launch a plan to solidify the network with biannual meetings in conjunction with our growing partnerships with universities, NGOs, and government stakeholders.

### **2023 Conference Plan:**

Carbon sequestration is moving into the forefront of farm-based mitigation potential. Investors are seeking ways to support the decarbonization of our food systems from seed to plate. It has been demonstrated that regenerative agricultural and agroforestry processes have the potential to build healthy soils. Yet, carbon markets typically require large tracts of land, an asset that the Northeast does not possess. Thus, the 2023 conference examines alternative ways in which Northeast farmers and local food system advocates are developing a 'beyond carbon' approach to mitigate climate change and build more resilient agro-ecosystems. Participants will engage with the current and ongoing changes to our region's food production and consumption and discuss policy ideas that could support the development of healthier ecosystems and more resilient agriculture in 2023 and beyond. Together, we will explore questions about the future of farm viability, sustainable agricultural management, and the transition toward a carbon-neutral agri-food system.

This is a hybrid conference with one full-day online (Zoom - EST time zone) on Thursday March 16th, and one full-day on-site (recorded but no synchronous online participation) on Friday March 17th. The on-site part of the conference will be held at the University of New Hampshire

in Durham, hosted in partnership with Food Solutions New England <https://foodsolutionsne.org/>. The 2023 Symposium builds upon the lessons learned, policies achieved, and works published through NEHSN over the past three years.

## **Schedule:**

### **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> (online):**

#### *Funding the Transition Towards more Regenerative Practices*

- Welcome Address - 9:00 - 9:15 EST
- Panel 1: Lessons Learned at the International Level: The 4per1000 Initiative - 9:15-10:45 EST
- Break - 10:45 - 11:00 EST
- Panel 2: Investment in Regenerative Agriculture in the Northeast - 11:00 - 12:30 EST Workshops - TBA

### **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> (in-person at The Browne Center for Innovative Learning, UNH):**

#### *Promising Regenerative Practices in the Northeast*

- Welcome Address - 9:00 - 9:15 EST
- Panel 3: Towards a Unified Northeast Agroecosystem - 9:15-10:45 EST Break - 10:45 - 11:00 EST
- Panel 4: Soil Health and Equity - 11:00 - 12:30 EST Lunch - TBA
- Workshops - TBA

## **In-person Location:**

The Browne Center for Innovative Learning at the University of New Hampshire  
340 Dame Road  
Durham, NH 03824

## **Background Information on the Northeast Healthy Soil Network:**

A consortium of research and farmer advocacy institutions have come together under the banner of the Northeast Healthy Soil Network (NEHSN), to host NEHSN's third Symposium on Healthy Soils in the Northeast United States. This network consists of individuals across the region who are concerned about how farmers who are providing numerous ecosystem services (increasing soil health, sequestering carbon, enhancing healthy waterways) to their communities are benefitting from this service provision.

The Spring 2023 conference is focused on the current debates about climate smart commodities, regenerative agriculture, and carbon sequestration that are shaping our farming system in the Northeast.

The Northeast Healthy Soil Network (NEHSN) originated as a 2018 initiative in Tufts University's Global Development and Environment Institute, which conducts interdisciplinary research that emphasizes ecological, cultural, social, and institutional factors. We are a working group of farm and food system stakeholders who agree on a regional need for soil-oriented agricultural policy reforms and are passionate about building local food systems and advancing a northeast vision of regenerative agriculture.

Past in-person NEHSN Symposia were held at Tufts in April 2019 "Soil Health, Agriculture and Climate in New England" and February 2020 "Agriculture and Climate in the Northeast: Soil and Ecosystem Health," which were supported and sponsored by the Consulat General de France in New England, and the French Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with the international initiative 4pour1000 <https://4p1000.org/>. During the pandemic, NEHSN activities moved online, and several panel discussions were hosted by Tufts, Dartmouth College, and the University of Vermont, gathering hundreds of participants on Zoom.

This network is poised to become a platform to share best practices, new research, and other relevant resources for regeneration of the agro-ecosystems and providing healthy food to the local communities of the Northeast.