**Third Symposium of the**

**Northeast Healthy Soil Network**

**“Towards inclusive and fair compensation for farmers and**

**other soil health stewards in the Northeast”**

**Thursday, March 16th virtual**

9:00 AM Welcome

9:15 AM - 4:00 PM

**Friday, March 17th in-person**

**and online** from 9:00am to 1:00pm

Location:

The Browne Center for Innovative Learning at the University of New Hampshire

340 Dame Road

Durham, NH 03824

9:00 AM Welcome

9:15 AM - 7:30 PM

# **Register here:**

[**https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-symposium-of-the-northeast-healthy-soil-network-tickets-518002819377**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-symposium-of-the-northeast-healthy-soil-network-tickets-518002819377)

**Sponsored by:**

**French ​​​​​​Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty**

**French Embassy in Washington D.C.**

**French Consulate General in Boston**

**Partnering organizations:**

**The international 4per1000 initiative**

**Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University**

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire**

**Food Solution New England at the University of New Hampshire in Durham**

# **Thursday, March 16th: Funding the Transition Towards More Regenerative Practices**

## Opening remarks: 9am-9:15 AM EST

## **Mireille GUYADER, Ph.D,** Counselor for Science and Technology, Embassy of France in the US

Introduction to the Northeast Healthy Soil Network, by members of the NESHN’s executive core group

## **Panel 1: Comparative Lessons Learned at the International Level**

Time: 9:15 - 10:45 AM EST

### Topics

* The International 4per1000 initiative: A global platform to promote healthy soil practices worldwide, for food security and climate.
* Comparing Europe & US: healthy soil priorities and policies in the European Agricultural Policy, and in the US Farm Bill
* Private sector initiatives in European countries and in the US to promote soil health and carbon sequestration in agriculture.
* Public-Private partnerships: challenges and opportunities, in Europe, in the US, and in Canada.

### Partners

* The International 4per1000 initiative
* French Ministry of Agriculture

### Moderator

* Anne-Marie Codur, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University

### Panelists

* Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the 4per1000 initiative
* Sylvain Maestracci, French Ministry of Agriculture - Former Agriculture Delegate in the permanent representation of France in the EU (Brussels), Former Agriculture Attaché at the French Embassy in Washington D.C.
* Chelsea Gazillo, American Farmland Trust
* Max DuBuisson, VP, Head of Sustainability Policy & Engagement, Indigo Ag, US
* Debbie Reed, Executive Director, Ecosystem Services Markets Consortium, US

**Panel 2: Investment in Regenerative Agriculture in the Northeast**

Time: 11:00 - 12:30 AM EST

Transitioning farms to healthy soil practices will require investment in a variety of areas beyond technical assistance. This panel will highlight a range of approaches to financing the transition to regenerative agriculture including public, private, community and corporate initiatives and their potential applications or adaptations in the northeast.

### Moderators

### Julie Davenson, President of the Board of NOFA New Hampshire; Steven Keleti, advocate for healthy soil legislation

### Panelists

* Gina Asoudegan, Vice President of Mission and Regenerative Agriculture at Applegate
* Calla Rose Ostrander, Terra Regenerative Capital
* Tad Cooke, Larklea
* Brandon Welch, Mad Agriculture
* Jenna DeRario, Cornell Extension, New York Finger Lakes Region

# Break: 12:30-1:00 PM EST

## **Workshop: A world café on financing the transition towards regenerative practices**

## Time: 1:00-4:00 PM

Format: 30-minutes each for five Zoom rooms, with participants staying in the same room the entire time and facilitators (NESHN Core Group) moving to each room. Participants will be distributed *randomly* to each of the five Zoom rooms and the topics/facilitators will rotate to a different Zoom room after 30 minutes (three rotations). Each participant will attempt to answer the same question from different viewpoints, as farmers, as consumers, as policymakers, as funders (public and private), and as supply-chain actors - the participants will engage in role playing of these different categories. The question we are discussing is: “How do we collaborate to build a regional food system that would transition the northeast to healthy soil practices?”

1:00-1:20: introducing each other

1:20-1:50: first table

2:55-2:25: second table

2:30-3:00: third table

3:05-3:35: fourth table

3:35-4:00: Back together in the main zoom room

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# **Friday, March 17th Promising Regenerative Practices in the Northeast**

In-person at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, Browne Center

Virtually, on zoom ( 9:00am-1:00pm)

## Introduction

Time: 9:00 - 9:15 AM EST

Welcoming remarks

Introduction: presentation of NEHSN

## **Panel 3: Towards a More Resilient Northeast Agroecosystem**

Time: 9:15 - 10:45 AM EST

### Topics

This panel presents the work of a diverse group of researchers and soil health advocates whose work spans the Northeast Region. Topics we will cover include dairy diversification, agroforestry, soil and environmental monitoring, grazing management, and climate change policies relevant to the Northeast. By bringing together these diverse voices, our aim is to answer the questions: 1) What are the key strengths of the Northeast agroecosystem? 2) What are the main challenges that need to be addressed? And 3) What are the biggest opportunities going forward?

### Moderators

* Anton Bekkerman, NH Agricultural Experiment Station, University of New Hampshire

### Panelists

* Julie Snorek, Dartmouth College
* Richard Smith, UNH Silvopasture research
* Abe Collins, Land Care Cooperative

## **Panel 4: Soil Health and Equity**

Time: 11:00 - 12:30 AM EST

### Topics

This panel represents work taking place at the intersections of soil health and equity. These include research and policy perspectives alongside those of organizational leaders. Topics we will cover include discourse–to understand the ways in which we frame soil health influences policy, farmer decision-making, and collective actions toward certain goals. We will consider how to build an inclusive soil health community through networks, systems of exchange, and access to natural resources. Key questions will address trends and approaches (policies, financing, governance models, etc.) for advancing the transition towards regenerative practices. We will further consider visionary possibilities for advancing soil health and equity within the region and nest these trends within regional visionary goals.

### Moderators

* Karen Nordstorm & Sandra Aronson, Food Solution New England

### Panelists

* Katie Horner, UVM Institute for Agroecology
* Joy Gary, Boston Farms Community Land Trust
* Orion Kriegman, Boston Food Forest Coalition
* Marty Dagoberto, Policy Director NOFA MA

**Presentation of Food Solution New England, followed by a presentation of NOFA NH:** 12:45-1:05 PM

## **Catered Lunch**

1:05-2:00 PM

## **Workshop: A world café on building a regional food system in the Northeast**

## Time: 2:00-4:30 PM

Building on the insights from Thursday March 16th world café workshop, we will address, also in a world café format, the following question: How do we collaborate to build a regional food system that would transition the northeast to healthy soil practices? With a special focus on issues of equity.

Facilitated by NESHN core group members

**Wrap-up session: The role of NESHN in contributing to the emergence of a regional food system in the Northeast**

Time: 4:30-5:00 PM

Concluding brainstorming about what we collectively want NESHN to become…We also will synthesize the full content of the Symposium, in closing the World Café.

## **Reception: 5:00 - 7:30 PM**

## **With Film Viewing and Q & A**

5:10 pm - 5:50 PM

With filmmaker, Karrah Kwasnik, Clips from *Delmarva and the Ground for Change*

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### ***Speaker Bios:***

**Thursday March 16th**

**PANEL 1:**

***Paul LUU, Executive Secretary of the 4per1000 initiative***

Paul LUU has been the Executive Secretary of the “4per1000 Initiative: soils for food security and climate” since its inception, at COP21 in Paris in 2015. An agronomist specialized in tropical agronomy, Paul graduated from AgroParisTech, the Institute of tropical areas and the University of Montpellier (PhD). He began in the field (6 years) in agronomic research projects (St. Lucia, Sri Lanka and Tonga) before joining the international Relationship Department of the French Ministry of Agriculture. He was in charge (7 years) of relationship with FAO, the WB and the CGIAR, of bilateral relationship with Africa and the Mediterranean area, and in charge of managing the French food aid (200 000 tons of grain per year). Since 2002, Paul has contributed to the development of agriculture in the French overseas departments and territories as Technical Advisor "Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry" and as Director of ODEADOM.

In 2011, Paul LUU was appointed Director of Agropolis International (Montpellier) before joining the CGIAR in September 2013 as Liaison Officer with the French Authorities, then as Protocol Officer.

***Sylvain Maestracci, Ministère de l’Agriculture et de la Souveraineté Alimentaire, Paris, France***

Sylvain Maestracci is a civil servant in the French Ministry of Agriculture. He was formerly the Agricultural Delegate in the permanent representation of France in the EU in Brussels (2022-2023) and prior to this, was Agricultural Counselor at the French Embassy in Washington D.C. (2017-2020). Sylvain is an agronomist and an engineer by training, a graduate of the Ecole Nationale du Génie Rural, des Eaux et des Forêts, and of the Ecole Polytechnique, in France.

***Chelsea Gazillo, American Farmland Trust***

Chelsea Gazillo is American Farmland Trust’s New England Policy Manager and Director of AFT’s Working Lands Alliance. In these roles, she is responsible for conducting research, providing education to stakeholders, policy development and analysis, and outreach. She also works in collaboration with other policy leaders and farmers in the region to advance policies that are aligned with the AFT mission. Prior to joining AFT, Chelsea served as a Food Policy AmeriCorps VISTA member with the Bridgeport Food Policy Council and the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative. Before that, she worked as lead researcher for SIT Graduate Institute’s Real Food Challenge Campaign and as an Intern for the Food Chain Workers Alliance. Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA, and a Master’s in Sustainable Development with an emphasis on policy advocacy and analysis from SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, VT.

***Max DuBuisson, VP, Head of Sustainability Policy & Engagement, Indigo Ag, US***

As Head of Sustainability Policy & Engagement at Indigo Ag, Max co-leads a team whose responsibilities include the development of carbon accounting methodologies, MRV (monitoring, reporting, and verification) for carbon projects, strategic engagement with external partners, building reputation and positioning within the carbon market, and engaging with corporate customers for sustainability solutions. With a background in biology, corporate environmental management, and eco-entrepreneurship, he has strived to build rigor and credibility in the carbon market since 2008. Prior to joining Indigo, Max was Policy Director at the Climate Action Reserve.

Indigo Ag was founded in 2013 in Boston, to pursue innovative ways for science and technology to drive sustainability and profitability in agriculture. Its mission focuses on four key principles: 1) Helping farmers enhance their profitability and soil health; 2) Improving the quantity, quality, and traceability of the food available to consumers; 3) Protecting the environment by reducing and removing harmful greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere, while incentivizing sustainable land stewardship practices; 4) Creating long-term value for our shareholders

***Debbie Reed, Executive Director, Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC), Washington, DC***

Debbie is the Executive Director of the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) and the Ecosystem Services Market Research Consortium (ESMRC). ESMC/ESMRC is a member-based public private partnership that operates a national scale ecosystem services market for agriculture, and a market innovation and R&D program (ESMRC) to continuously improve the market program. ESMC members represent the spectrum of the agricultural sector supply chain and value chain collaborating in a collective environment to scale sustainable agricultural sector outcomes, including increased soil carbon, reduced net greenhouse gasses (GHG), improved water quality and water use conservation, and biodiversity. Debbie’s role in leading ESMC/ESMRC builds on decades of experience in agriculture climate change mitigation and sustainability efforts at the national and international level.

Debbie previously led the Coalition on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (C-AGG), a national multi-stakeholder coalition, supporting the development of tools, support systems, knowledge and programs to improve quantification of GHG from agriculture and GHG mitigation opportunities for the sector. She was also the founding Executive Director of the International Biochar Initiative.

Debbie served in the Clinton Administration at the White House Council on Environmental Quality as the Director of Legislative Affairs and Agricultural Policy; and in the U.S. Senate as a Senior Staff on natural resource and agricultural issues for U.S. Senator Robert Kerrey of Nebraska. She held numerous leadership positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including special assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE), and special assistant to the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). She has graduate and undergraduate degrees in human nutrition/dietetics, chemistry, and communications/journalism.

**PANEL 2:**

***Gina Asoudegan***

Gina Asoudegan is Vice President of Mission and Regenerative Agriculture at Applegate, the nation’s leading brand of natural and organic meat. In her role, Gina leads the strategy for the company’s evolution toward regenerative agriculture and facilitates the creation of consciously scaled supply chains rooted in regenerative principles. Gina was awarded **Fast Company’s Most Creative People in Business 2022** for her work in regenerative agriculture and the supply chain collaboration she facilitated between the food and fashion industries.

Gina is on the board of directors of the National Young Farmers Coalition and was instrumental in securing Applegate as a founding partner for the Savory Institute’s Land to Market™ Program, the world’s first regenerative sourcing solution for livestock-derived meat, dairy, wool and leather. Gina is a member of the Soil & Climate Alliance and the Nutrient Density Alliance. She is also a senior advisory board member at the Center for Responsible Business at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

***Calla Rose Ostrander, Founder Terra Regenerative Capital***

Calla is a Waldorf graduate and political economist who has focused her career on systems change for environmental and social wellbeing. She is a founding partner of Terra Regenerative Capital, an impact investment fund that provides flexible financing and development services to aggregation, processing and manufacturing businesses that work to support the growth of regenerative agricultural practices. She is a volunteer team member of the People, Food & Land Foundation where she supports The Carbon Project- a multi state effort to provide education, funding and bridge support to communities investing in soil health. Calla Rose recently finished a 19 month appointment with the State of California Natural Resources Agency where she supported the development of programs and policies related to climate smart natural and working lands management. She volunteers for her town's water advisory board and is a science communicator. You can listen to her 5min weekly science and nature podcast "Rain & Shine" on Spotify.

***Tad Cooke, Larklea***

Tad is the founder of Larklea, an independent resource for projects and investors in land, food, and climate. Over a decade in agriculture, conservation and impact finance, he has placed $20M+ in values driven capital into regenerative agriculture, food systems and natural climate solutions — ranging from equity to revenue-based financing, competitive public grants, payment for ecosystem services, donor advised funds and private philanthropy. Before starting Larklea, Tad was the Operations and Development Manager for Bio-Logical Capital.

***Jenna DeRario, Cornell Extension, Finger Lakes Region***

Jenna DeRario is the Payment for Ecosystem Services Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County in Ithaca, NY. In this role, she facilitates the Finger Lakes Payment For Ecosystem Services Pilot Program in collaboration with a team of regional stakeholders who provide content expertise and ensure that community voices are engaged throughout the process.

Jenna has a Master of Regional Planning degree and a background in environmental science and natural resource management. Her previous experience includes serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama where she worked to develop a community tree nursery, organic home gardens, and water resource protection projects. She has also coordinated food security programs in both Washington, DC and Ithaca, NY. Jenna is an avid hiker and enjoys living in the beautiful Finger Lakes region.

***Brandon Welch, Co-Founder and CEO Mad Agriculture***

Brandon is the day-in and day-out driver of Mad Capital. Beginning in 2019, he formulated the idea for the Perennial Fund and has led all efforts from whitepaper creation to financial modeling, fundraising, and portfolio management to building the team. In 2021, he led the close of $10M into the Perennial Fund I from 42 investors in 7 countries. He previously managed the Colorado Carbon Fund, a revolving nonprofit fund focused on driving capital into carbon removal projects in CO. He’s no stranger to hard work having started a landscaping company in high school, working as a park ranger, installing irrigation, putting up fences, and working in an autobody shop. Other notable accomplishments include biking across the USA from Boston to Pacific City Oregon, hiking the Long Trail through Vermont, and touring the USA in a truck before landing in Boulder, CO where he lives with his wife Lily and dog Argo. Outside of the Madness, you can find him hiking in the backcountry, getting into macro-economic debates, riding his bike, cheffing it up over the grill, or reading a book.

**Friday March 17th**

**Panel 3**

***Richard Smith, Associate Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment at UNH***

Rich Smith earned his doctorate degree in Plant Biology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior at Michigan State University, and his B.S. in Biology at the University of New Mexico. He joined the UNH faculty in 2010.

In general, Rich’s research is focused on the interface between agriculture and plant community and ecosystem ecology. Rich’s interests include weed ecology and management, the role of diversity in agroecosystem function, plant invasions, community assembly theory, trophic interactions, and implications of land-use and climate change. The overall goal of Rich’s research is to better understand the ecological interactions that underpin agricultural production systems so as to improve the economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture.

***Julie Snorek, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dartmouth College Freidburg Lab***

As a social ecologist, I seek to make evident hidden narratives and perspectives about climate change adaptation. I've carried out ethnographic research regarding social ecological transitions in seven countries (six in Sub-Saharan Africa) and engage with a diversity of concepts and disciplines, including political ecology and science and technology studies. Currently, I am a postdoctoral scholar in Geography at Dartmouth College working to understand the diversity of perceptions about regenerative agriculture as part of a 3-year grant from the National Science Foundation. I possess an intricate understanding of the Sahel and Sahara where I lived and worked amongst rural peoples for over twelve years. I cut my teeth as an Alaska marine biologist and later served as a US AmeriCorps (Cape Cod) and Peace Corps Volunteer (Niger). During my doctorate, I won a fellowship from the United Nations University in Germany and advised several international organizations, including the European Commission and US Agency for International Development. My work focuses on the role of marginality in environmental conflicts that are framed by extractive or colonial processes and the just transitions movements arising from such conflicts. I hold a PhD in Environmental Science and Technology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and speaks six languages including two West African languages. I am an avid gardener, swimmer, and have performed in acapella and opera groups in Europe and the US.

***Abe Collins, Land Care Cooperative***

Abe works in community to help people heal land and practice economic democracy. He is a grazier who has learned on-the-job while farming all-forage dairy, finishing beef animals, herding sheep and developing landscape-feedback systems. He is a cofounder of the Land Care Cooperative, LandStream, and the Soil Carbon Coalition.

**Panel 4**

***Catherine (Katie) Horner, Ph.D., UVM Institute for Agroecology***

Katie grew up in Queens, New York and currently lives in Winooski, Vermont. She holds a Master’s degree in Food Systems and recently completed a PhD in Agroecology at the University of Vermont, focusing on how education, soil health discourses, and land access outside of private property can support transitions towards more ecologically resilient and socially just agriculture and food systems. Katie is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Institute for Agroecology at UVM. She is committed to participatory, collaborative approaches to research and is motivated by the belief that ecological resilience and social justice are inextricably linked. Prior to her academic work, Katie worked on small and medium-sized diversified farms in Vermont and California.

***Joy Gary, Executive Director, Boston Farms Community Land Trust***

Joy is a regenerative systems designer that is passionate about food and community. She is a lifelong Boston resident who has dedicated her time to supporting regenerative systems development, food justice, and education through urban agriculture projects. She co-managed gardening and youth development programs at The Food Project and has led ReVision Urban Farm as Farm Manager.

***Orion Kriegman, Executive Director, Boston Food Forest Coalition***

Orion is the founding Executive Director of the Boston Food Forest Coalition and played a major role in the conception of Egleston Community Orchard in Jamaica Plain, which was the first food forest site to be adopted into the BFFC land trust. Since then, Orion has collaborated with the city of Boston, colleagues and local neighbors to expand the number of healthy food forests included in the land trust and the number of Bostonians included in the movement.

Orion has a background directing community-organizing work at Jamaica Plain New Economy Transition (JPNET), a group that works to catalyze community leadership toward the launch of new initiatives such as farmers markets, land trusts, and spaces for community dialogue and action across race and class divisions. BFFC emerged from this work, and became Orion’s full-time focus.

Prior to the creation of BFFC, Orion received his Masters in Public Policy and Urban Planning from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He spent nine years at the Tellus Institute coordinating the Great Transition Initiative, an international network of scholars and activists examining the requirements for a transition to a sustainable planetary civilization. He has also worked as a Project Officer for Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP), a learning network which gathers lessons about peace-building efforts in internal armed conflicts. He also worked for two years in Guatemala to help government and civil society implement the policies outlined in the peace accords. Having worked at the international level early in his career, Orion now focuses on regional and local work.

In 2015, Orion completed his Permaculture Design Certificate studying with Lisa Fernandes of the Resilience Hub in Portland, ME. He infuses his passion for permaculture philosophies into his leadership of BFFC and his presence in the BFFC network.

***Marty Dagoberto, NOFA Mass***

Marty Dagoberto serves as a community organizer working to promote regenerative organic agriculture, food sovereignty, pesticides reduction and climate justice. As Policy Director of NOFA/Mass, he is a registered lobbyist in the state legislature, communicates with the organic movement through monthly newsletter columns and speaking engagements and facilitates multiple statewide advocacy coalitions. Before becoming an advocate for transparency in labeling of genetically engineered foods, Marty studied genetics at WPI. He cares for a land within the ancestral lands of the Pocumtuck, where he spends time cultivating medicine, healthy soils and pollinator habitats while building with allies toward cultural regeneration and Nature reconnection.

**Film Screening**

***Karrah Kwasnik, Delmarva and the Ground for Change***

As Digital Content Manager for the USDA Northeast Climate Hub, Karrah strives to make the complexities of farming and climate science more approachable through visual storytelling mediums. Most recently, Karrah completed her first environmental documentary film, [Delmarva and the Ground for Change](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.climatehubs.usda.gov%2Findex.php%2Fhubs%2Fnortheast%2Ftopic%2Fground-for-change&data=05%7C01%7Ckn1092%40usnh.edu%7C760a5fcc00094737b10e08db0e020fbe%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C0%7C638119174232777613%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hi%2FKnkcL8q8PVBgKCNixNs0tF6V8iAo8nhy2fi%2BTlX0%3D&reserved=0). She holds a B.S. from the University of New Hampshire in business marketing and art.

### ***Partner Organization Bio:***

***Thomas Kelly, Executive Director, UNH Sustainability Institute***

Dr. Tom Kelly is executive director of the UNH Sustainability Institute, which he founded in 1997, and the Chief Sustainability Officer of the University of New Hampshire (UNH). Throughout his three decades of national and international work in higher education, Dr. Kelly has focused on sustainability as a transformative cultural force, and the creative process of engaging its disruptive and inspirational dynamics in education, research, and practice. He co-edited and authored "The Sustainable Learning Community: One University's Journey to the Future" (2009) a book written by more than sixty UNH faculty and staff engaged in collaborative sustainability efforts on and beyond the campus that have established UNH as one of the most innovative sustainability institutions in higher education.

Dr. Kelly’s current activities include a focus on the practice of facilitative and network leadership in developing transdisciplinary approaches to sustainability challenges. He is a founding convener of Food Solutions New England, a six-state, network working to realize a shared vision for a sustainable, regional food system. He is a co-author of A New England Food Vision, as well as the 2017 article “Equity as Common Cause: How a Sustainable Food System Network is Cultivating a Commitment to Racial Justice.” The article is published in the journal Othering and Belonging. He is also a collaborative designer and facilitator of the Food Solutions New England Network Leadership Institute and a founding convener of the New Hampshire Food Alliance.

Dr. Kelly is a regular contributor to sustainability in higher education professional meetings and was a founding member of the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium and the Inter-institutional Network for Food and Agricultural Sustainability (INFAS). He collaborated with Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and Second Nature on curricular and pedagogical innovation through the design and facilitation of regional symposia of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and two annual curriculum convocations of the AASHE national conference. Recent invited talks include the University Alliance for Sustainability convened by the Free University of Berlin, Germany in 2017, the World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities convened at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2016, the 2016 conference of the International Sustainable Campus Network in Sienna, Italy, and El Encuentro Campus Sostentible in Santiago, Chile in 2015.

Dr. Kelly was a visiting scholar at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California San Diego, and a visiting professor of trans-boundary environmental issues in the U.S.-Mexican borderlands at El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico DF. From 1993-1997 he directed the Tufts Environmental Literacy Institute shaping it into a place-based, short-course that he collaborated with colleagues in Colombia and Brazil to adapt and offer similar workshops. In addition to an undergraduate and master's degree in musical composition and conducting, he holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

### ***NEHSN Core Group Members Bios:***

***Anne-Marie Codur, Ph.D., Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University***

Anne-Marie Codur is a senior researcher at the Global Development and Environment Institute (GDAE) at Tufts University, where she spearheaded a research project with Dr. Jonathan Harris in 2018 on nature-based solutions to climate change, from which emerged the Northeast Healthy Soil Network, in 2019. Along with several graduate students at Tufts, she co-led the first two symposia of the Northeast Healthy Soil Network on climate and agriculture in the Northeast. She published several policy briefs on climate issues, as well as GDAE teaching modules, in particular on agriculture and climate. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, and was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard University. In parallel to her main research interest on climate and environmental issues, Anne-Marie has also worked in the field of peace and conflict resolution, co-founding and chairing an educational NGO, the University of the Middle East Project, and being an academic advisor to the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict. She is also a performing artist, singer, songwriter, and actor.

***Julie Davenson, M.H.S.A, NOFA NH***

Julie Davenson is a farmer, agricultural policy advocate, and entrepreneur. She has been a member of NEHSN since its beginning and on the core team leadership team since 2020 planning events during COVID and this Symposium. She holds a Master Degree in organization and Management from Antioch New England. She collaborated with Steve Keleti and others to get the first NH’s first bill on Soil health passed in 2021l. In her most recent role as CEO of Southshire Farms, she led 3 business divisions including Higley Hill Meat Processing, Vermont Natural Tannery and Southshire Meats. Previously she was the Executive Director of Stonewall Farm, New England's first Savory HUB. Along with leading the education center where she transitioned the farm to a demonstration site for regenerative organic farming, she also managed the grazing program for the organic dairy and taught Holistic Management classes. She is an accredited Professional Educator and EOV verifier with the Savory Institute and trained at the Africa Center for Holistic Management in Zimbabwe with Allan Savory. Julie is the Board President of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NH, Policy Chair and on the National Steering Committee of Kiss the Ground's Regenerate America Campaign. She lives on Osgood Ridge Farm, in Nelson, NH, her small homestead farm where she grows vegetables, and raises goats and livestock with her son and husband.

***Steven Keleti, Ph.D., healthy soil policies advocate***

Steven Kelet**i** has been a persistent advocate for state Healthy Soils legislation across the country, writing initial draft legislation, helping bring together groups, and working with groups to draft and move legislation forward in numerous states. He has been supporting the soil health policy work of all Northeast Organic Farming Association chapters, many state associations of conservation districts, and other groups on soil health legislation. Of the 31 states with healthy soils legislation on the docket in 2021, he was directly involved with farming groups, conservation districts, and folks working on the bills in 17 states and involved in drafting or provided input on legislation in 13 states, while supporting groups working on bills not yet filed. He provides state healthy soils status updates to healthy-soils-legislation@googlegroups.com, which led to a collaboration to create and support <http://healthysoilspolicy.org/>. He helps state groups with strategy and coordination, and with pursuing funding for the creation of healthy soils action plans and healthy soils programs that include gathering cost-benefit data to support increased funding for soil health. Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, he has a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Missouri — Rolla, spending most of his professional career in imaging and remote sensing, while engaging in land conservation projects. He lives in the Boston, Massachusetts, area.

***Karen Nordstrom, Ph.D., Food Solutions New England***

Karen Nordstrom serves as the Policy Program Co-Director focused on food and farming systems for Food Solutions New England. In this role, she serves as a key liaison to a cross-cutting regional policy initiative that integrates and coordinates activities, insights, strategies, and tactics across the issue areas of food, farms, forests, fisheries, and communities. This work builds on Karen’s recent work at the University of Vermont (UVM), where she serves as the evaluation director for a [USDA Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates program](https://www.uvm.edu/agroecology/ax-summer-research-fellowship/) and as an educational research affiliate with the [Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative](https://www.uvm.edu/agroecology/). This work explores participatory and engaged approaches for systematic data collection that informs program development, with a strong commitment to transformative justice. She is also a founding member of the [UVM Contemplative Practices Learning Community](https://www.uvm.edu/ctl/contemplative-faculty-learning-community/). She was awarded a social justice scholarship from the [Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education](https://acmhe.org) to strengthen her work focused on assessing and applying contemplative practices in higher education. Karen’s graduate studies include an MAE from California State University Monterey Bay, where her work centered on curriculum and instruction with a multicultural education focus. She earned a PhD through the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at UVM, where her academic background was situated within the field of sustainability education. Prior to her work at UVM, Karen served in the following roles: as the first coordinator of the [Program in Community and Agroecology](https://pica.ucsc.edu) at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC); as a staff developer in K-12 multicultural education with [Life Lab Science Program](https://lifelab.org); as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, with a focus on agroforestry; and as an apprentice, through the [UCSC Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture](https://agroecology.ucsc.edu/education/apprenticeship/index.html).

***Julie Snorek, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dartmouth College Freidburg Lab***

As a social ecologist, I seek to make evident hidden narratives and perspectives about climate change adaptation. I've carried out ethnographic research regarding social ecological transitions in seven countries (six in Sub-Saharan Africa) and engage with a diversity of concepts and disciplines, including political ecology and science and technology studies. Currently, I am a postdoctoral scholar in Geography at Dartmouth College working to understand the diversity of perceptions about regenerative agriculture as part of a 3-year grant from the National Science Foundation. I possess an intricate understanding of the Sahel and Sahara where I lived and worked amongst rural peoples for over twelve years. I cut my teeth as an Alaska marine biologist and later served as a US AmeriCorps (Cape Cod) and Peace Corps Volunteer (Niger). During my doctorate, I won a fellowship from the United Nations University in Germany and advised several international organizations, including the European Commission and US Agency for International Development. My work focuses on the role of marginality in environmental conflicts that are framed by extractive or colonial processes and the just transitions movements arising from such conflicts. I hold a PhD in Environmental Science and Technology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and speaks six languages including two West African languages. I am an avid gardener, swimmer, and have performed in acapella and opera groups in Europe and the US.

***Sandra Aronson MS, MPH, Food Solutions New England***

Sandra Aronson is the Network and Program Coordinator for Food Solutions New England where she is responsible for program planning and delivery of the Network Leadership Institute, administrative support, event management, and network engagement. She specializes in public health, food systems research, and nutrition policy. She applies systems-thinking to address challenges across the food supply chain and wants to build resilience in these systems through strategic partnerships and collaborations. Sandra previously worked at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture in Cali, Colombia studying the feasibility of introducing sustainability-focused strategies into municipal development plans. She also consulted and facilitated resource support to local health departments in Massachusetts during the COVID pandemic as a liaison for Partners In Health.

Sandra holds a dual MS/MPH degree from Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts School of Medicine, and holds a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

***Josie Watson, J.D., Legal Coordinator at Regen Network. Master’s student in Environmental Management at Yale University***

Josie has been a consultant for various organizations, focusing on the development of public-private funding vehicles as mechanisms for regenerative food systems and local economy transition. She has conducted research for several academic institutions and institutes, on moving climate change policy objectives through bioregional implementation pathways. While a student at Tufts University, and a Research Assistant at the Global Development and Environment Institute, she co-founded the Northeast Healthy Soil Network and coordinated its two first Symposia in 2019 and 2020. She graduated as J.D. from Vermont Law School in 2022, with a concentration on Regional Climate Change Adaptation. She is currently a Master’s student in Environmental Management at Yale University, and the legal coordinator at Regen Network.

***Caroline MacDonald, Master’s student at the Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University***

Caroline MacDonald is a second-year student in the Combined Master’s Degree/Dietetic Internship program through Frances Stern Nutrition Center at Tufts Medical Center and the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. She obtained her B.A. in Psychology from UCLA ’17 and her B.S. in Nutrition from La Salle University ’21. At GDAE, she will be helping launch the fourth Symposium of the Northeast Healthy Soil Network “The value of a Northeast agro-ecosystem: towards inclusive and fair compensation for farmers stewarding soil health and ecosystem services.” Her research interests include environmental sustainability, sustainable and regenerative agriculture, and developmental and pediatric nutrition.

***Rahul Ramesh (they/them), Master’s student in Urban Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University***

Rahul is a Master of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning candidate at Tufts University. Before enrollment at Tufts, they completed a BA from Boston University in Mathematics and Computer Science. They are passionate about food justice, and equitable community development. They came to Tufts after working as a FoodCorps Service Member helping Chelsea, MA students learn about gardening and food education. Rahul currently works as an Ideation Fellow in the Food and Nutrition Innovation Institute at the Friedman School of Nutrition hoping to incubate big new ideas to change the food industry for the better as well as a research assistant for GDAE and NEHSN. Rahul hopes to learn from their experience at Tufts to empower local communities in a sustainable and just way.

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