

Conference Agenda

9:00–9:15 a.m.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) Opening and Welcome

AFT welcomes guests and provides an overview of the day's topics and discussion format.

9:15–9:25 a.m.

Walter Willett, MD, PhD

Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School

Renowned author and professor Dr. Walter Willett talks about the scope of the food challenges facing global populations, needed dietary transformations, and the importance of regional efforts such as New England Food Vision.

9:25–9:50 a.m.

Naima Penniman

Program Director, Soul Fire Farm

In sharing the work underway at Soul Fire Farm, Naima Penniman notes the history of repression in existing food systems, how it relates to racial inequity and injustice, and steps we can take to provide equitable food access.

9:50–10:00 a.m.

Brian Donahue, PhD

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Brandeis University

Professor Brian Donahue introduces *New England Food Vision and Wildlands and Woodlands*, regional examples of the Planetary Health Diet. He identifies policies and investments that link food, farms, fisheries, and forests to bring about transformation.

10:00–10:15 a.m.

Dr. S. Atvia Martin, CEM

CEO and Founder, All Aces, Inc.

Dr. S. Atvia Martin describes ways we can build more resilient communities by providing people with the tools and resources they need for food security. She challenges our thinking on assumptions, such as what it means to be “resilient.”

10:15–10:30 a.m.

David Foster

Ecologist, Author, and Director of Harvard Forest

Dr. David Foster summarizes the findings of *Wildlands and Woodlands*, providing a sweeping vision for New England's forestlands and farmlands. Foster outlines major policy initiatives that could drive the conservation needed to meet these landscape-scale goals.

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Robin Alden

Former Maine Commissioner of Marine Resources and Co-founder of Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Robin Alden outlines how policies and communities can uplift and support owner-operator fishing in New England. She looks at owner-operator rules that are essential for creating resilient and sustainable inshore fisheries.

10:45–11:25 a.m.

Food Solutions New England (FSNE)

FSNE fosters Catalyst Conversations among all participants.

11:25–11:55 a.m.

Jamie Pottern and Laura Barley

Program Staff, American Farmland Trust

Jamie Pottern and Laura Barley present new, compelling findings and frameworks on New England’s agriculture, looking at its land, its people, and its viability. This marks the first-ever release of *Farms Under Threat, A New England Perspective*.

11:55–12:40 p.m.

Lunch

Welcome and remarks from Karen Voci, president of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation.

12:40–12:55 p.m.

Amanda Beal

Commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry

Commissioner Beal discusses the challenging conversations required for us to prioritize the way we use land in our region—for clean water, food production, forest products, and more.

12:55–1:10 p.m.

Ellen Kahler

Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

Ellen Kahler challenges people to begin to think about emergency preparedness from the perspective of supply chain distribution due to climate change and how it relates to New England.

1:10–1:50 p.m.

Food Solutions New England (FSNE)

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1:50–2:05 p.m.

Stacia Clinton, RD. LDN.

Health Care Program Coordinator at Health Care without Harm

Stacia Clinton shares stories of working directly with supply chain participants to identify effective processes for filling the gaps between institutions and producers in the region.

2:05–2:20 p.m.

Cassius Spears, Jr.

*Member of the Tribal Council Narragansett Indian Tribe,
and District Conservationist for USDA, NRCS*

For indigenous populations, agriculture is not one-dimensional—it is part of who, what, and why they are what they are. Cassius Spears shares how his conservation work applies indigenous knowledge through regenerative practices and principles.

2:20–2:35 p.m.

Spencer Meyer

Sr. Conservationist, Highstead Foundation

Spencer Meyer discusses how conserving forests and farms sustains our health and well-being and how the land around us is an over-looked, yet vital component of our economic and social systems.

2:35–3:15 p.m.

Food Solutions New England (FSNE)

FSNE fosters Catalyst Conversations among all participants.

3:15–3:35 p.m.

John Piotti

President and CEO, American Farmland Trust

Closing statements.
