

# Growing Together: Building The Capacity And Skills Of Low-Resource Beginning Farmers And Agricultural Service Providers In Maine

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# Project Audience



- **New American farmers in Maine**
- **Currently all growing diversified vegetables**
- **Four cohorts of beginning farmer “stages” (From exploring to 1<sup>st</sup> year to years 7-9)**





# Partners/Collaborators



- **VISIONS, Inc** – National experts providing a three-day professional development training to service providers in the state regarding building skills to better serve diversifying demographics





# Key Approaches



- **Work statewide to highlight the need for service providers to better serve diversifying demographics – organize a 3-day professional development training**
- **Include farmers' voices by supporting farmers in speaking at statewide events**
























# Outcomes












- Support 90 farmers at all points on the spectrum
- 90% of farmers demonstrate a change in actions
- 75% of farmers demonstrate an increase in revenue
- 80% of service providers attending training express planned change in actions

**NASAP Integrated Pest Management Recordkeeping**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pest	Action	Date(s)	Effects/Notes
 <p>Colorado Potato Beetle</p>	 Hand-picking  Row Cover  Organic Fertilizer Other: _____		
 <p>Flea Beetle</p>	 Hand-picking  Row Cover  Organic Fertilizer Other: _____		
 <p>Wireworm</p>	 Hand-picking  Cup collars  Organic Fertilizer Other: _____		
 <p>Cutworm</p>	 Hand-picking  Cup collars  Organic Fertilizer Other: _____		
	 Hand-picking  Row Cover		

Farmer Name: _____		Year: 2010
<b>Farm Income</b>		
	Farmers' Market: Lewiston	\$ 570.00
	Farmers' Market: Portland	\$ 400.00
	Farmers' Market: Kennebunk	\$ 3,383.95
	CSA	\$ 1,620.00
	Wholesale	\$ 721.65
	Senior Farm Share	\$ 750.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 7,445.60</b>
<b>Farm Expenses</b>		
Marketing 		\$ 80.53
Production 		\$ 624.85
Gas & Tolls 		\$ 273.40
Greenhouse		\$ 905.36
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 1,884.14</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>\$ 5,561.46</b>

**We have lots of specific curricula to share and thoughts on developing effective curricula for non-Native English speakers!**





- **Hoping to learn from other service providers: What kind of support do you need to better serve diverse audiences?**
- **Hoping to learn from other projects: How are you navigating/working with/working around the external constraints around land availability and markets that BFs face?**





# Keep in touch!

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