

NEIGHBORING FOOD CO-OP ASSOCIATION



*13th
Annual
Meeting*

CO-OPERATION:
Our **FOUNDATION**

Policy Advocacy

Erbin Crowell, Executive Director, Neighboring Food Co-op Association

Roger Noonan, President, New England Farmers Union

With Zoe Fox, New England Farmers Union Member & Agricultural Project Manager with New England Consulting Services, and Allan Reetz, Director of Public & Government Affairs, Hanover Co-op Food Stores



Farmers & Consumers, Together: NFCA / NEFU Collaboration

- Co-op Law / Co-op Principles
- Co-op Development
- Food Security & Healthy Food Access
- Legislative Fly-Ins
- College Conference on Co-ops
- Engagement with Legislators
- WIC/SNAP Advocacy
- Local Food Safety Collaborative





National
Farmers
Union



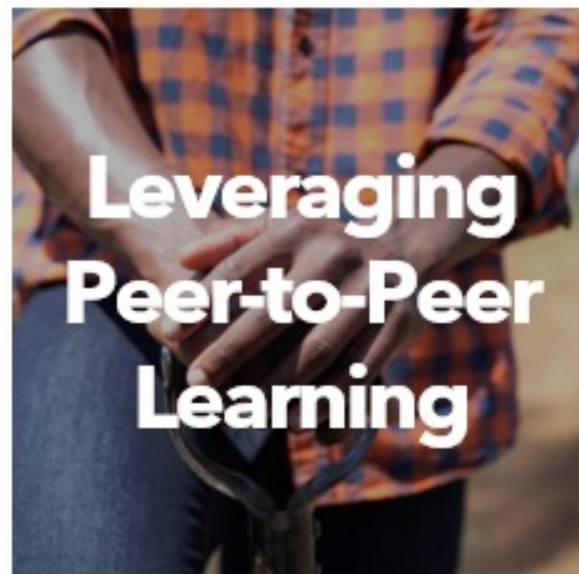
Training & Education

Providing **training, education, and outreach** to local producers and processors to enhance the fundamental knowledge of **food safety** and comply with applicable **FSMA regulations**.



Networking

Bringing **federal funding and a network of partners** to support local food growing communities.



Leveraging Peer-to-Peer Learning

Leveraging collective knowledge and expertise to strengthen **peer-to-peer learning**.

Visit [LocalFoodSafety.org](https://www.localfoodsafety.org) for more info and food safety resources.

What's on the Horizon?

The Farm Bill

- Why Does it Matter?
- What are Common Interests?
- How Can We Make a Difference?

2024 Elections

- Can our Co-ops Support Civic Engagement?
- How can we Engage Legislators?

Second International Year of Co-operatives in 2025



Policy Advocacy Initiative

- Grant Support from CoBank
- Build on Historic Collaboration
- Consumer / Producer Partnership for Advocacy
- Equip Members for Engagement
- Congressional Co-operative Caucus
- Strengthen Civic Engagement



Cathy Statz, far left, takes a group of the NFU College Conference on Cooperatives participants on a tour of a Minneapolis Food Co-op.

Peer Group Concept

- 2 Food Co-ops / NEFU Members from Each State
- Quarterly Peer Meetings
- Orientation to Farm Bill
- Align Platform Priorities
- Initiate Advocacy Opportunities for all Members



NEFU's 2019 Fall Legislative Fly-in Representatives — Farmers & Food Co-ops, together!

Recent Experiences

Roger Noonan

New England Farmers Union
President, Middle Branch Farm

Zoe Fox

Farmers Union Member,
Agricultural Project Manager with
New England Consulting Services

Allan Reetz

Director of Public & Government
Affairs, Hanover Co-op Food
Stores



New England Delegates to the National Farmers Union Convention, 2024 – Rebecca White (Hanover Co-op Food Stores), Mary Castonguay (Dairy Farmer & Organic Valley Member), Zoe Fox (Agricultural Project Manager with New England Consulting Services) & Roger Noonan, NEFU President.

Next Steps

Preparing for the Farm Bill

- Reviewing Platform Priorities
- Prepare for Advocacy
- NCBA Policy Roundtable
- NFU Advocacy Institute

Supporting Civic Engagement

- Voter Registration Day
- Recruiting for the Congressional Co-op Business Caucus



Upcoming Dates

Apr 15-16

- NFU Advocacy Institute, Washington, DC

Sept 9-11

- NFU Legislative Fly-In, Wash., DC

Tues, Sept 17

- National Voter Registration Day

Tues, Nov 5

- Election Day

Peer Dialogs TBA



Our Asks

Nominees for Peer Group

- Food Co-op Staff
- Farmer Supplier
- Quarterly Online Mtgs

Voter Registration Day

- Community Engagement
- Volunteer Opportunity
- Civic Participation

Congressional Co-op Business Caucus

- Is your Representative a Member?
- Encourage Them to Join! If they already have — Thank Them!



NFCA & NEFU tabling NOFA MA Winter Conference 2023. Suzette Snow-Cobb with conference attendee winning the Local Food Safety basket of local farm products.

Questions & Feedback



Neighboring Food Co-op Association Peer Networking Gathering for Board Leaders.



Resources

New England Farmers Union

- <https://newenglandfarmersunion.org>

National Farmers Union

- <https://nfu.org>

Voter Registration Day

- <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org>

National Cooperative Business Association

- <https://ncbaclusa.coop/advocacy/>

CoBank

- <https://cobank.coop>



*Save
the
Date*
March 15, 2025



**ANNUAL
MEETING**