

# How to Help Maine Farmers and Farm Businesses: The Needs of Maine Agriculture

*Let's find ways  
to address...*

## Labor Issues

- Shortage of Farm Workers
- Affordable Employment Costs and Regulations
- Ag Sector Specific Workforce Training

## Stewardship of Farm Resources

- Human Resources (*Farm Families & Employees*)
- Energy (Reducing costs & Improving efficiency)
- Water (Continued access & Responsible use)
- Soil (Promoting healthy soil through Best Management Practices)

## Access to Business Support Services

- Support Transition & Innovation
- Support Farm Transfer & Succession (*Generational transfer of farm businesses & keeping land in agricultural production*)
  - Provide Relief to Tax Burdens
- Increase Affordable Access to Broadband
- Improve Access to Financial, Legal, Insurance, & Management Expertise & Services in the Private Sector

# Financial Sustainability

## Farm Economics

- Solutions to Rising Production/ Processing Costs
  - Reasonable & Affordable Regulations
- Improve Accessibility of Capital to Agricultural Businesses / Educating the Finance Community about Agriculture & Ag Risks
  - Support a Maine Brand & Give Farmers Tools to Market their Products

## Investments in Agriculture/Aquaculture Research & Development

- Investments in Agriculture & Business Technical Assistance Services Infrastructure—Public Sector
- Support for UMaine Cooperative Extension / UMaine Colleges & Experiment Stations



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## *Central Themes to Support All Types of Maine Agriculture*

Farm financial profitability is the key to achieving effective sustainability of all of Maine's resources.

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All Maine agricultural businesses (farms, processors, distributors, etc.) **operate** in the local/state/regional economy, and **compete** in the global economy.

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Agriculture—especially food production—is one of the most heavily regulated economic sectors.

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Agriculture has so many different products and systems that a *one-size-for-all* approach seldom works—especially in Maine's very diverse ag economy.

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Maine farms and food producers are small businesses. They are employers, taxpayers, land owners, residents, community leaders, & natural resource managers.

The financial success of Maine farms fuels the local economy across Maine.

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**For more information about AgCOM, go to: [www.maineagcom.org](http://www.maineagcom.org) or e-mail: [info@maineagcom.org](mailto:info@maineagcom.org)**

*The statements made are the result of a multi-year project to gather broad-based input from farmers and participants in Maine Agriculture. These included many public meetings at AgCOM and elsewhere, and a Statewide Engagement Process to identify Maine Farmers' Needs & Priorities, which is summarized in a report which can be found at*

<http://maineagcom.org/2019/08/farmer-needs-assessment-information/>