Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Fellowships

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USDA Northeast Climate Hub

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Program goals

1. Provide relevant, regionally specific climate change information to farmers and agricultural advisors
2. Empower farmers and agricultural advisors to become climate leaders in their communities through peer-to-peer learning
3. Create opportunities for farmers to generate farm- specific climate adaptation and mitigation plans with the support of an advisor and team of climate change educators
4. Enable agricultural advisors to strengthen their climate adaptation and mitigation planning knowledge and abilities through hands-on work with farmers

Three CAMF programs will be offered beginning in early 2024, running through early 2026

1. Diversified agriculture and agroforestry in the Northeast
2. Women and non-binary vegetable farmers and advisors in the Northeast and Midwest
3. Row crops in the Midwest

Background

Curriculum design (2017 - 2019)

USDA NIFA
United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NORTHEAST SARE
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

Vegetable and berry pilot program (2020 - 2021)

Dairy program (2024 - 2025)

USDA Northeast Climate Hub
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Fellowship Cohorts (2024 - 2026)

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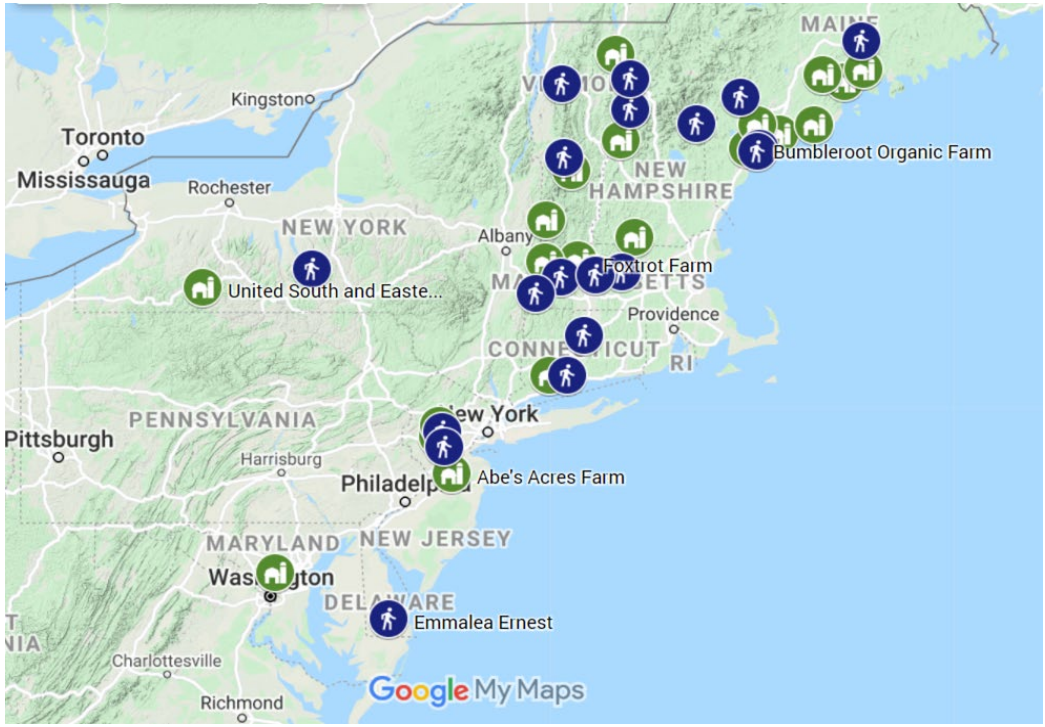


"We've always thought about soil and crop health, but now we'll really think about the longer-term future of our farm, the resilience in the face of extreme weather events, and ways in which we can actually help mitigate climate change, even in some small way, as opposed to just adapt to it."

- **Stephen Lowe**
Farmer Fellow ('20-21) on the impact of CAMF

Out of 34 total fellows…

17 farmer fellows
13 agricultural advisor fellows
4 farmer/agricultural advisor fellows

Pilot program outcomes

14 Agricultural advisors intend to use knowledge, attitudes, skills and/or awareness learned through this project in their educational activities and services for farmers.

13 Farmers reported that after the program, their confidence in addressing climate change on their farm increased.

15 Farmers reported making changes or adopting climate adaptation/mitigation practices after engaging in the CAMF program.

28 Fellows reported learning from other fellows about climate adaptation strategies they could use on their farms or incorporate into their programs.

23 Fellows reported that the CAF program helped them to identify resources to improve their ability to communicate about climate change.

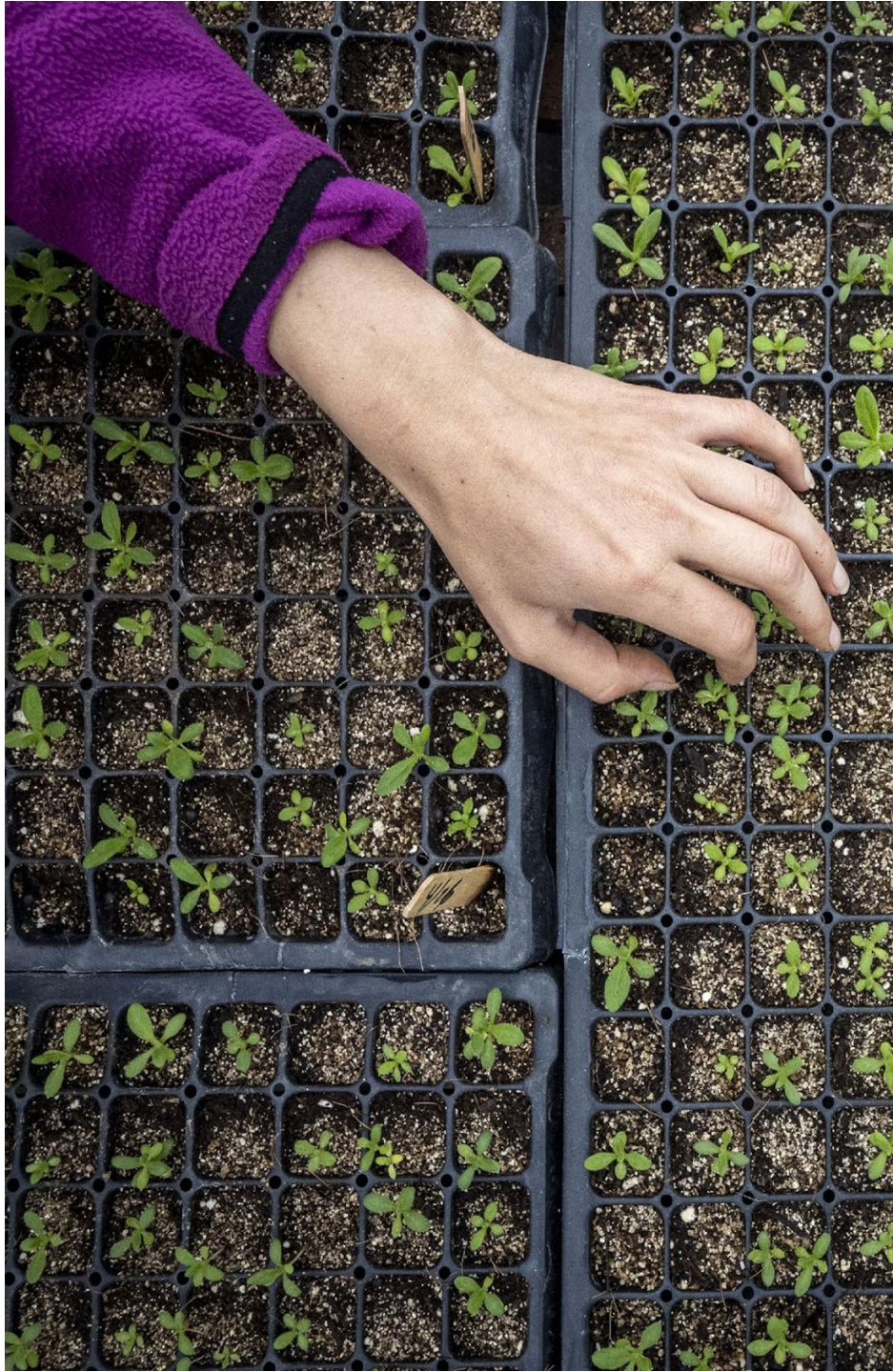
Participation in Maine

In the pilot project:
4 agricultural advisors
7 farmers
2 members of the educator team
2 members of the leadership team

In our upcoming programs:
12 farmer and advisor applicants
3 member of the educator team
4 members of the leadership team

Outreach & impacts in Maine

- Several farm newsletters sent out to customers
- Five sessions at MOFGA's 2021 Farmer to Farmer conference on topics including climate change and strawberry production, water management for climate change, high residue no-till systems, mulching, and climate equity in agriculture drawing ~100 people
- Field walks hosted by farmer fellows to discuss climate adaptation drawing over 60 people
- Publications in the Bangor Daily News, MOFGA's quarterly newsletter, and other outlets
- Integration of climate change topics into UMaine Extension Beginning Farmer Business Planning Course



What will participants (fellows) do?

- Work in farmer/service provider pairs throughout the fellowship program
- Participate in online climate training, get access to resources from subject matter experts
- Develop a farm-specific climate adaptation and/or mitigation plan, and use the planning process on their farm
- Share their climate change farm plan with other farmers through outreach materials
- Engage with other producers and agricultural advisors at farmer field days or farm tours, peer-to-peer network meetings, or other relevant workshops

Fellowship activities

- Online learning sessions
- Expert speakers based on fellow interests
- On-farm climate risk assessment
- Partial budget analysis of potential adaptation/mitigation practices
- On-farm demonstrations
- On-farm trials
- Outreach
- Field days

Timeline

Fall 2023
Applications due
November 10

Spring 2024 - January 2026
Developing farm climate adaptation
and/or mitigation plan

January 2026
Final workshop
Sharing Farm Plan

January - March 2024
Fellows participate in an online workshop

Spring 2024 – January 2026
Fellows create and share
outreach material

Who can participate?

Farmers

Must sell their products;

Farms can be any size and can be managed conventionally or organically

Agricultural Advisors

Including but not limited to extension professionals, federal and state agency employees, private sector consultants, non-profit employees, and others. If you work with farmers and provide advice, you may apply.

Program Funding

The Women and Non-Binary Vegetable and Small Fruit Producers, Row Crops, and Diversified Agriculture and Agroforestry Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Fellowship cohorts in 2024 - 2026 are supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture Award # 2023-67020-40526.

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Program Partners

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Want more information?

Email sara.kelemen@usda.gov
Visit adaptationfellows.net

Thanks for your attention!