



Northeast Regional Center  
for Rural Development

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# Land Grant Community and Economic Development Capacity in the Northeast

## Overview

This study seeks to inventory the capacity for research and Extension programming in the Northeast U.S. region that corresponds with the priority areas of the NERCRD, which include:

- Economic Development, Resilience, and Innovation
- Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
- Food Systems, Nutrition Security, and Agriculture

This information was collected from each University’s Extension website by focusing on personnel in these program areas with either Faculty, Educator, or Extension Specialist appointments. These results are preliminary, and we will work with each University to verify the accuracy. Currently we have received updates and verification from seven universities in the region and we are working to verify the accuracy with the other one as well. One key purpose of this study is to identify potential partners for collaborative work within the Northeast Region.

## Key findings

- Most of the Northeast’s capacity related to NERCRD priorities lies in the program areas of Community Health and Well Being, Natural Resources and Climate Studies, and Agricultural Economics and Business Management.
- A total of 386 people in the roles of Faculty, specialists and educators were identified working in program areas that currently align with NERCRD’s priorities
- Tourism and Agritourism currently have the smallest capacity in the region (also see Arbogast et al. 2024: <https://nercrd.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Land-Grant-University-Capacity-to-Support-Recreation-Economies.10-18-2024.pdf>)
- The Northeast is working on many different program areas that have potential cross cutting impacts on Rural Development including Housing and Community Planning, Broadband Access, Digital Skills and Food System Resilience.

## Program Area Totals

Program Area	Faculty/ Specialist	Educators	Total
Community and Economic Development	12	57	69
Natural Resources/Forestry/Climate/Energy	30	68	98
Agritourism/Tourism	5	4	9
Ag Business Management/Ag Economics	47	32	79
Food Systems	16	17	33
Community Health and Well Being	12	86	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>386</b>

### Information by University (subject to verification)

University	Community and Economic Development		Natural Resources/Forestry/Climate/Energy		Agritourism/Tourism		Ag Business Management/Ag Economics		Food Systems		Community Health and Well Being		Total
	Faculty	Educators	Faculty	Educators	Faculty	Educators	Faculty	Educators	Faculty	Educators	Faculty	Educators	
University of New Hampshire	1	9	5	13	1				2	2	1		34
University of Maine	2	3	3				7		1	1		2	19
University of Vermont	3	1	2	2	1		4		3	4	1	1	33
University of Connecticut		5	5	6		2	3				1		28
University of Massachusetts		2	10	5			5			2			25
University of Rhode Island		1		2			1			2	3		9
Rutgers University			2				4				2	1	11
Cornell University		13	2	20	1	1	6		15	2	7	2	81
Penn State University	4	12		10	1		10		5	1	1	2	56
University of Maryland		5	1	8					5	2		1	40
West Virginia State University		4											6
West Virginia University	2	1			1		3						18
University of Delaware		1		2			1		1		1	3	21
University of Maryland Eastern Shore					1		2						3
Delaware State University							1						2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>386</b>
	69		98		9		79		33		98		386