

CHEFS: Feeding our Future

Community · Heritage · Economy · Farming · Stewardship

OUR MISSION:

We envision a vital agricultural economy which nurtures our people, natural resources and community for generations to come.

OUR SHARED VALUES:

- Healthy land and water ensuring agricultural vitality and prosperity
- Engaged citizenry, effective collaboration and strong community investment
- Recognition and celebration of our agrarian heritage and lifestyle
- Humane animal treatment
- Vibrant local food system with connected food producers and consumers
- Sustained investment in agricultural education and stewardship

HOW IS CHEFS ORGANIZED AND GOVERNED?

CHEFS is legally operating as a project of Maine Rural Partners (MRP), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting rural vitality through strategic collaborations. MRP is responsible for financial accounting and legal oversight. CHEFS is 100% governed by a board of Unity area directors selected from member organizations who have signed a participation agreement and are committed to the future of agriculture in our region.

The founding member organizations are Unity Barn Raisers (UBR), Sebec Regional Land Trust (SRLT), Unity Historical Society (UHS) and Unity College (UC). UBR and SRLT each have 2 board members, while the Historical Society and Unity College each have 1. The Volunteer Regional Food Pantry (VFRFP) Maine Rural Partners (MRP) and Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) participate as non-voting advisors. The voting members of the Board make decisions about how CHEFS funds are spent. Additional organizations may request to become voting members by contacting any of the following Board members or advisors.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

You may contact CHEFS through www.mainerural.org or any of the partner organizations:

Tess Woods · Unity Barn Raisers · 948-9005 · ubr@uninets.net

Jennifer Irving · Sebec Regional Land Trust · 948-3766 · jennifer@sebecregional.org

Lori Roming · Unity Historical Society · 948-6499 · lroming@unityfdn.org

Doug Fox · Unity College · 948-3131 x 214 · dfox@unity.edu

Mike Gold · Maine Farmland Trust, · 948-6575 · mgold@mainefarmlandtrust.org

Mary Ann Hayes · Maine Rural Partners · 581-4520 · maryann@mainerural.org

Community · Heritage · Economy · Farming · Stewardship

WHY DONATE TO CHEFS?

If you, like many of us, appreciate the value of the agricultural heritage of our region and want to see it continue, we need to invest in a fund that will secure core capacity for the long term. CHEFS members believe in working collaboratively for our shared mission and values. By donating to CHEFS, you recognize that no single approach or organization can do the whole job and that pooling resources creates more opportunities.

HOW WILL FUNDS BE SPENT?

The CHEFS Board will set priorities based on what is needed to keep our agricultural economy growing and serving community needs. We will look for opportunities to combine resources and activities of the member organizations so that we make the most of what we have. We will establish an endowment fund that will grow over time and be available for future generations. We believe in prioritizing investments that will have a lasting impact.

This is what we intend to accomplish and how funds will be spent:

- Inventory, benchmark and monitor the local food system and agricultural economy
- Set goals and measurable benchmarks; measure progress annually
- Provide coordination among members
- Identify gaps, leverage points and resources
- Conduct public education including annual report to community
- Aggregate great work being done
- Establish endowment fund to guarantee permanence

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Visit www.mainerural.org to make an on-line gift or pledge or return the following form with your contribution to any participating organization. You may also designate your gift more specifically.

CHEFS: Feeding our Future Pledge Form

Immediate Gifts

YES, I believe in the CHEFS mission and am making an immediate gift of \$_____.

- I am paying by check and will mail to Maine Rural Partners, 4 York Village, Orono 04469.
- I am paying by check and will deliver to a member of the CHEFS Board or drop at UBR or SRLT office.
- I am paying by credit card on line at www.mainerural.org.

Planned Gifts

YES, I believe in the CHEFS mission and pledge to make a planned gift by bequest and/or naming CHEFS or one of its member organizations as an insurance policy beneficiary.

- I have what I need to execute my planned gift. Contact me for certification and more detail.
- I need help learning about how to do this.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Best way and time to reach: _____

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN OUR AGRICULTURAL FUTURE!