



## 2023 New England Agricultural Operations Labor and Compensation Practices Survey

### Informed Consent Statement

Dear agriculture or aquaculture operation manager:

You are invited to participate in a research project being conducted by a team of Extension and research professionals at the University of Maine. **The purpose of the research is to understand the labor and compensation practices of agricultural operations in New England, including to provide agricultural operators and workers with timely information about market conditions.** Data collected may also be used to recommend new programs and policies and to improve understanding of agricultural business management and labor use. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate and must be involved in the management or decision-making of an agricultural operation. Those with questions may contact the project's principal investigator, Dr. Jason Entsminger, at [jason.entsminger@maine.edu](mailto:jason.entsminger@maine.edu).

#### What Will You Be Asked to Do?

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to take an anonymous survey. It should take you about 30 minutes. The survey asks questions about your agricultural operation and its operators, including typical wages and benefits offered to its workers.

#### Risks

Except for your time and inconvenience, there are no anticipated risks to you from participating. There may be some questions you are uncomfortable answering. You may skip questions or, where provided, select "prefer not to respond".

#### Benefits

There are no direct benefits to you. However, this study collects data to report aggregated market information which you and other producers like you can utilize to make decisions. Participation also provides an opportunity to identify the types of Extension and outreach education programming you would find beneficial. By analyzing data provided by you and other respondents, the study team will be able to build understanding within Extension and other agricultural support organizations that may be used to improve programs and policies for agricultural

*To participate scan the QR code or  
visit the link below.*



<https://bit.ly/2023AgLaborSurvey>



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managers and workers. This research may help us learn more about the kinds of labor used by different kinds of agricultural operations, the types of benefits and compensation offered, and differences in management tools and strategies.

### **Compensation**

Participants who reach the end of the study's survey questionnaire will be provided the opportunity to enter their name into a drawing for one of several \$75 gift cards/certificates to a farm outfitting retailer (such as Tractor Supply). There is one drawing per state for each of the six states in the New England region, completed among study participants from that state. Additional drawings among participants from all states may be made in the event additional gift cards/certificates are available.

To enter the drawing, a participant must provide their name and email address. This is completed via a separate survey and is not linked to other responses. Drawing winners will be notified by email and will have 30 days to collect their prize via postal mail or digital transmission.

### **Confidentiality**

Your responses to this survey are anonymous, and we do not collect personally identifiable information – including Internet Protocol addresses or firm names – as part of the study questionnaire. There will be no records linking you to your responses. On a separate portion at the end, you may choose to provide contact information if you would like to receive study results directly or enter the drawing. Information provided in that section at the end is not connected to survey responses. Data for both the research survey and raffle entry form will be stored on password-protected computing systems indefinitely. Data from the research survey will be reported in aggregate by geographic region(s) to protect confidentiality. Information provided on the separate form to enter the raffle will be stored separately and only accessed by one team member.

### **Voluntary**

Participation is voluntary. If you choose to take part in this study, you may stop at any time by closing your internet browser, *but you must reach the end of the survey to enter the raffle*. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer. You must affirm you consent to participate on the first page of the survey by selecting “*YES, I would like to participate*” and the clicking the next button/arrow.

### **Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this study, please contact Dr. Jason Entsminger, study principal investigator, at [jason.entsminger@maine.edu](mailto:jason.entsminger@maine.edu). If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine, 207-581-2657 or e-mail [umric@maine.edu](mailto:umric@maine.edu).



## Study Team

*Jason Entsminger, PhD* | Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Extension State Specialist for Small Business

*Morgan Bui* | Graduate Student Researcher, Maine Business School

*Leslie Forstadt, PhD* | Extension Professor and State Specialist for Human Development

*Tori Jackson* | Extension Professor and Program Administrator for Agriculture and Natural Resources

*Jason Lilley* | Assistant Extension Professor and Sustainable Agriculture and Maple Industry Educator