A Data Snapshot of Food Processing and Safety in the Northeast

NECAFS Annual Meeting 2022
Essential part of NECAFS work is based in an accurate understanding of what food processing looks like in the NE—who, where, how many, how much, etc.

Diverse questions and needs with no one clear answer

This is specially a problem in writing grant proposals or developing new projects and identifying needs.
How do we approach this challenge?

01
Top tier goal: Help justify NECAFS and partner food safety projects by demonstrating needs

02
Mid tier goal: Identify themes, trends, deficiencies and needs in NE food processing

03
Bottom tier goal: Create spreadsheet of major food processing metrics for the NE region
Resources and Metrics

- By state
- By product type
- Profitability and business success
- Inspectional data
- Recalls
- Worker data

- State Level Food System Indicators Project
- USDA
  - Ag Census
  - Economic Research Service
- FDA Website
- CDC Wonder
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
Some Numbers:
There are 14,782 processing facilities in the Northeast

17% of all food processing facilities in the US

352,761 employees

531 processing facilities in the NE have registered as qualified exempt

Represents 3.6% of NE processors
Some data:

Northeast PCHF Violations, 2019

Sale of commercially prepared foods by subcategory, 2019-Present
Discussion and Questions

• Is this project worthwhile?
• What information matters to you?
• Do you have recommendations for places to look for data?
• Does this project benefit from visualizations?
• Any questions?