

RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM  
2016 SNAPSHOT

**EXETER**

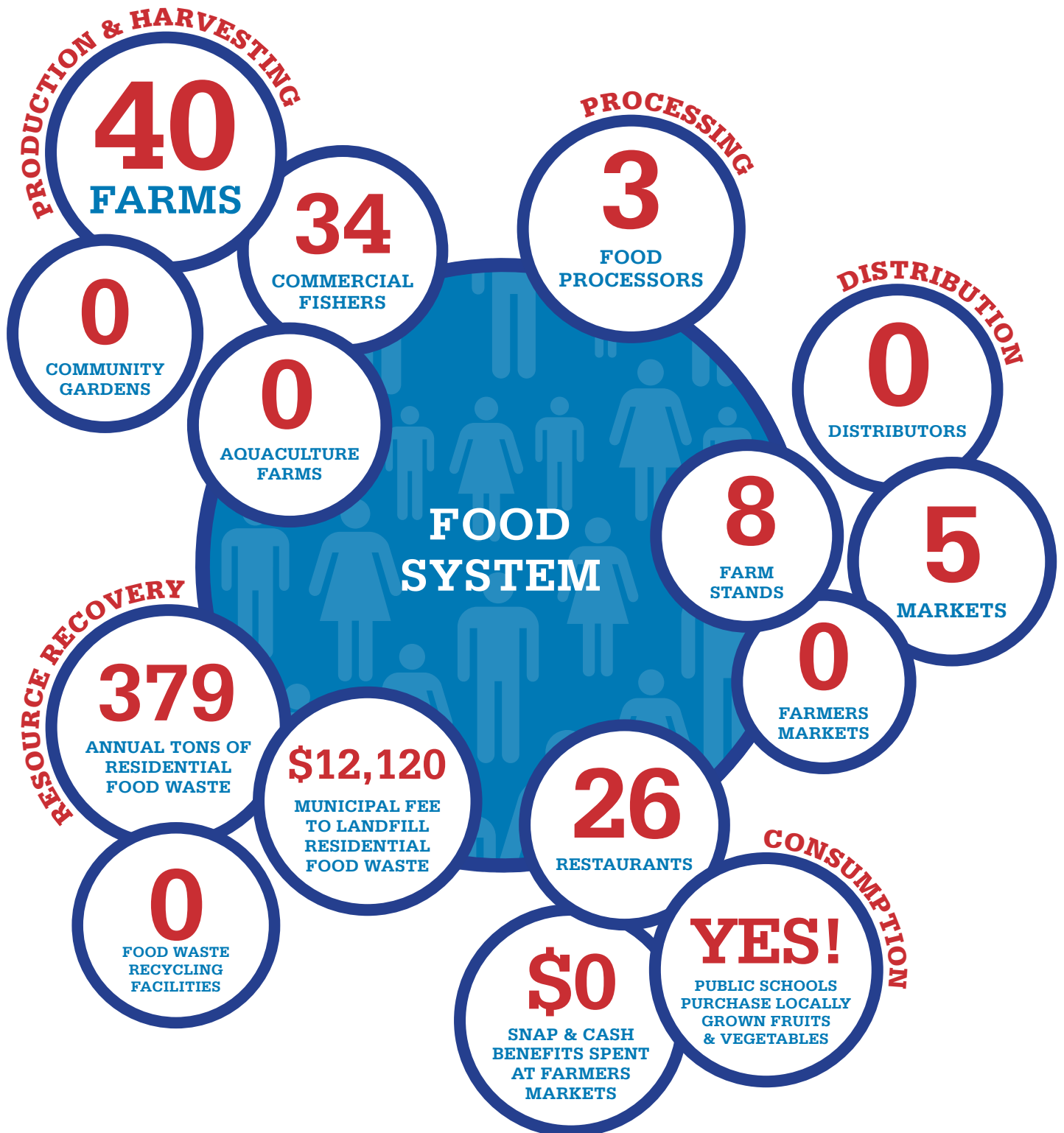
POPULATION 6,425



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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Rhode Island saw an 11.2% increase in food system jobs, and a 3.2% increase in food system businesses over the past 5 years.

**STATE FOOD SYSTEM DATA**

**BUSINESSES**

**7,820**

**JOBS**

**66,770**

# RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM: 2016 SNAPSHOTS

This fact sheet is one of a series developed for every Rhode Island municipality, in order to give Rhode Islanders a better sense of the current impact the food system has on individual communities, and a better understanding of the network of businesses, agencies, organizations and institutions that make up our local food system. A *food system* encompasses all of the processes involved in feeding people: it includes the production, harvesting, and processing of food; its distribution and marketing; its consumption (whether at home, in schools and institutions, or in restaurants); and ultimately, the recycling or disposal of food waste. The fact sheets present a dynamic “snapshot” of the local food system, and provide data to track and measure progress towards growing our food system. Data is aggregated from a range of sources, so we invite corrections or additional information that will help us more accurately represent Rhode Island’s local food system.

## DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

### RHODE ISLAND FOOD SYSTEM

#### PRODUCTION & HARVESTING

##### Farms

The 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture estimates there are 1,243 farms in RI but does not provide data by municipality. No single RI entity maintains a count of farms by municipality. The numbers provided are the best data available at this time.

Sources: RIDEM June 2015; Farm Fresh RI, Aquidneck Community Table website, survey of municipal planning staff, August 2016

##### Aquaculture Farms

Includes all aquaculture farms that lease submerged land in state waters. Individual businesses may have more than one farm, but each farm is counted as distinct. Source: RI CRMC, August 2016

##### Commercial Fishers

Includes municipal residents who hold any type of commercial fishing license for fish and/or shellfish and/or crustaceans. Source: RIDEM, August 2016

##### Community Gardens

Includes (1) public/private properties that provide plots of land on which people raise food mainly for household consumption, and (2) public/private properties on which volunteers raise food for the RI Community Food Bank and food pantries. Sources: Numbers compiled as of September, 2016 from sources including Farm Fresh RI, Aquidneck Community Table website, survey of religious institutions, and municipal planning staff

#### PROCESSING

##### Food Processors

Includes processing businesses that process raw fruits and vegetables, meat, seafood and milk into value-added products. Source: RIDOH licensee list, accessed September 2016

#### DISTRIBUTION

##### Distributors

Includes business involved in transporting and warehousing raw and processed foods. Source: RIDOH licensee list, accessed September 2016

##### Markets

Includes supermarkets, grocery and convenience stores, and food peddlers. Source: RIDOH licensee list, accessed November 2016

##### Farmers Markets

Includes WIC program Pop-Up Markets. Source: Farm Fresh RI, Aquidneck Community Table website, RIDOH WIC Program, September 2016

##### Farmstands

Source: Farm Fresh RI, survey of municipal planning staff, August 2016

#### CONSUMPTION

##### Restaurants

Includes full service, limited service, and fast food restaurants, cafeterias, dining facilities, and food trucks. Source: RIDOH licensee list, accessed November 2016

##### SNAP and Cash Benefits Spent at Farmer’s Markets

Spending from June–December, 2015  
Source: Farm Fresh RI, 2016

##### Public Schools Purchase Locally Grown Food

Source: RIDE, 2016

#### RESOURCE RECOVERY

##### Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste estimated

##### Municipal Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste estimated

Tipping fees are the fees (per ton) paid for waste disposal. Municipal tipping fees at RIRRC are currently \$32 per ton. Source: Estimates provided by RI Resource Recovery Corporation based on 2015 waste tonnage

##### Food Waste Recycling Facilities

Includes all composting and/or anaerobic digestion facilities that are currently processing food waste with a state license. Source: RIDEM, June 2016

### COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RESOURCES

##### Participants in SNAP and WIC

Source: URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America, April 2016; RIDOH WIC Program, June 2016

##### Participants Receiving Meals on Wheels Home Delivery

Includes all individuals receiving meals through Meals on Wheels Home Delivery Service. Source: Meals on Wheels of RI 2015 statistics

##### Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Meals

To be eligible for free/reduced meals, a child’s household income must fall below 185% of the federal poverty guideline. Source: 2016 RI KIDS COUNT Factbook

##### Food Pantries

Includes sites that provide free food to households in need. Source: RI Community Food Bank Emergency Food Provider List, survey of religious institutions and municipal planning staff, August 2016; RI Coalition for the Homeless Street Sheets, May 2016

##### Congregate Meal Sites

Includes sites that provide low or no-cost meals in a group setting for individuals in need. Source: RI Community Food Bank Emergency Food Provider List, August 2016; web pages for Senior Services Inc., Meals on Wheels, East Bay CAP, and West Bay CAP, Aquidneck Community Table website, September 2016; RI Coalition for the Homeless Street Sheets, May 2016

### FOOD JOBS AND FOOD BUSINESSES

Data from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Nonemployer Statistics, and USDA Census of Agriculture. Source: ProvPlan, October 2016