

Urban Land Access



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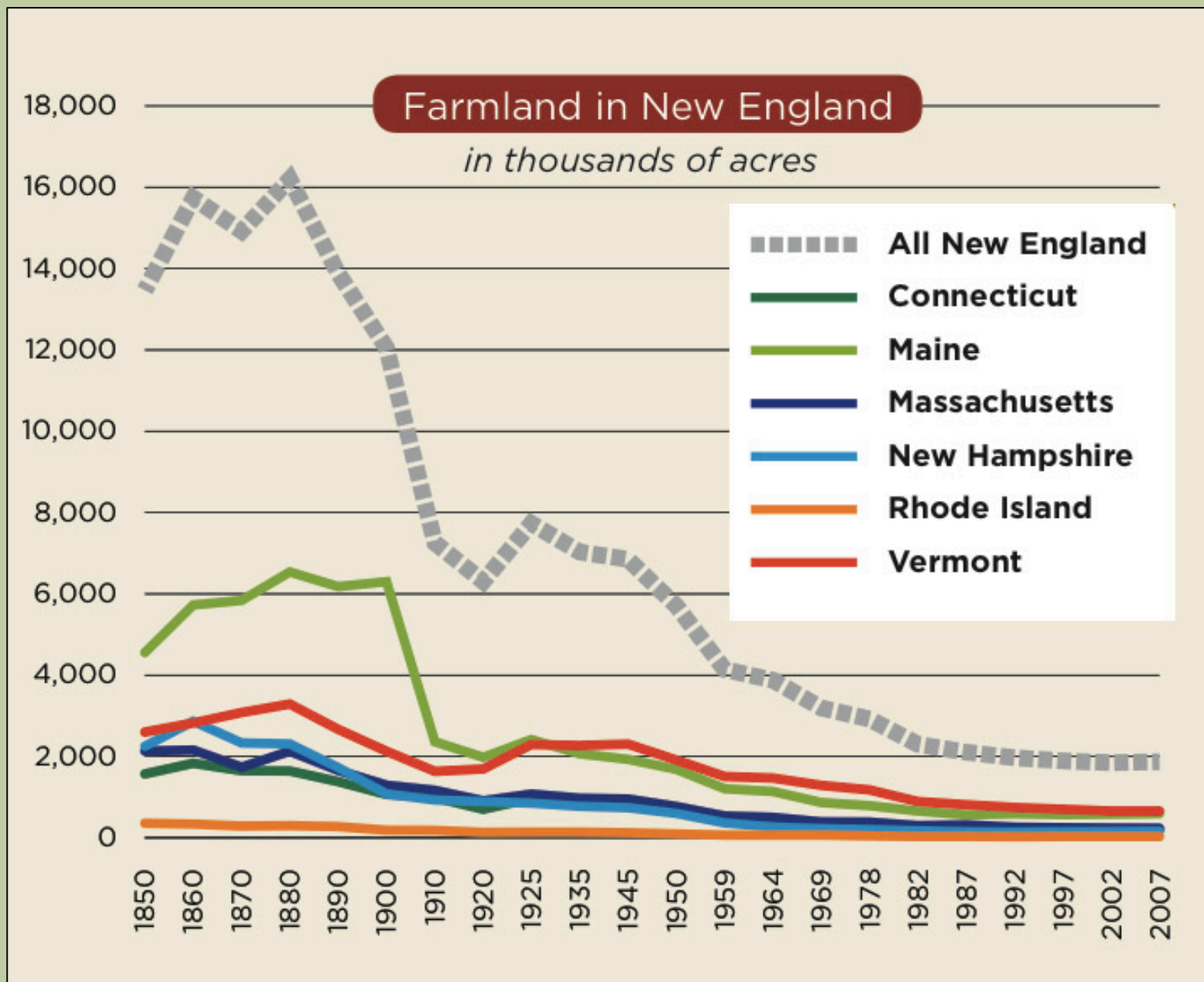


Mill Creek Farm, West Philadelphia

Defining Urban Agriculture

- Farms and community gardens
- Non-profit and for profit businesses
- Urban and peri-urban
- Ground, roof, indoor





Source: A New England Food Vision, nefoodvision.org



Benefits include: **access to fresh food** in areas that are otherwise lacking

Challenges include: **competing uses** and **high cost** of urban land

Is it legal?

- **CHECK LOCAL ZONING!:**
Farming (commercial or otherwise) is illegal in some cities & may have to be permitted. Regulations can be outdated, overly restrictive, or vague.
- What's allowed, where:
Boston – by size
Somerville, MA – soil testing for sales



- **Policy Change:**
Political support needed, often requires education and advocacy.



Abundant land \neq available land

Who owns it?



Beyond vacant lots



- Parks
- Historic sites
- Private landowners
- Utilities
- Other public agencies –
Redevelopment Authorities,
Housing Authorities
- Schools, churches, hospitals

What will work for you?





Love 'n Fresh Flowers, Philadelphia:
started out with several community garden plots

Is there **water** access?



- Does your city have a “Water Access Program”?
- Is it possible to use water from fire hydrants for irrigation?
- Can you use a neighbor’s?
- Can you rely on water catchment?

Do you need **security**?





Small plots and **scattered sites**

Fairview Gardens – housing





Urban Edge Farm - shared site

Support services, incubator, and training programs

- New Entry
- Urban Farming Institute
- Farm School NYC
- Growing Power



Resources

www.equitytrust.org/2014/4/urban-agriculture



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