

# Researching Your Markets

So You Want to Farm in Maine?
Penobscot County Extension Office
Bangor, Maine
October 23, 2018

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### **Overview**

- Basic Marketing Concepts
- Key Elements of Market Research
- Surveying Your Customers
- Market Research Applications
  - Developing a Customer Profile
  - Evaluating the Competition
  - Estimating Market Potential
- Developing a Marketing Plan (Homework)
- Questions???



## What is Marketing?

"Everything you do to promote your business from the moment you think of the product idea until customers buy your products on a regular basis."

- Jay Levinson, author of Guerrilla Marketing



## What is Marketing?

The process of finding out what customers want/need and satisfying those wants/needs in a profitable way...

- Produce what you can sell
- ✓ Focus on new opportunities
- Customer determines production
- ✓ Target marketing techniques



## Marketing Strategy

## Target market

- Demographics
- Lifestyle Patterns
- Customer Expectations

## Marketing mix

- > Product
- > Place
- Promotion
- > Price
- Position



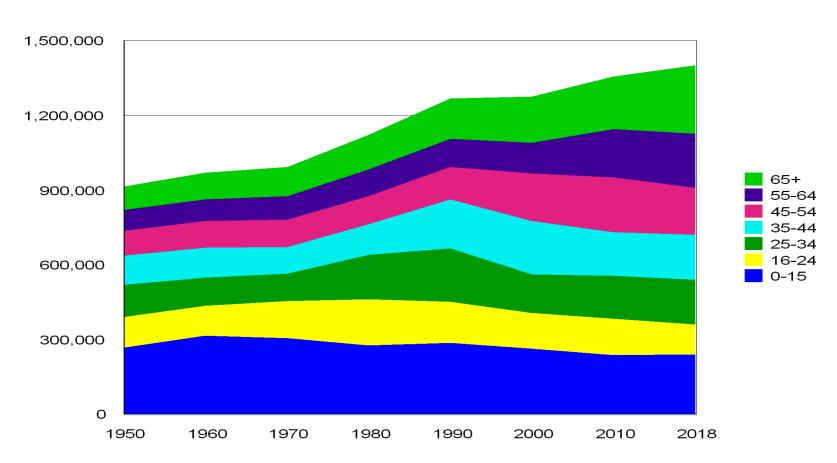
## What is Market Research?

Systematic gathering, recording, and analyzing of information related to the marketing of your products...

- What are the long-term trends?
- Who are my customers?
- Where can they be reached?
- What do they want to buy?
- Who are my competitors?
- What is the market potential?



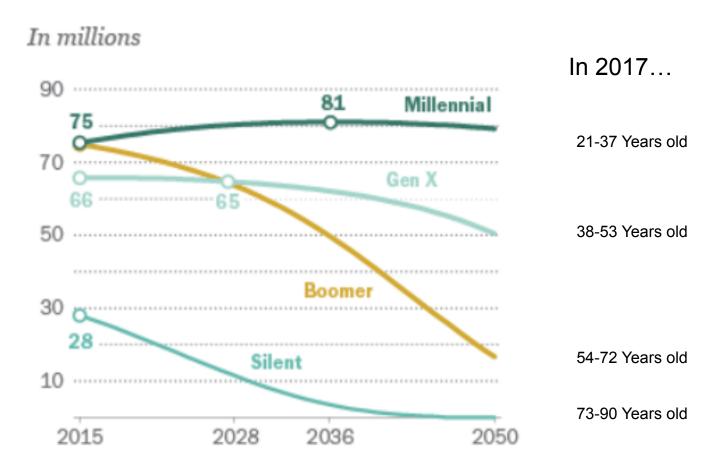
# Maine's Population is Getting Older



Source: Maine Department of Labor



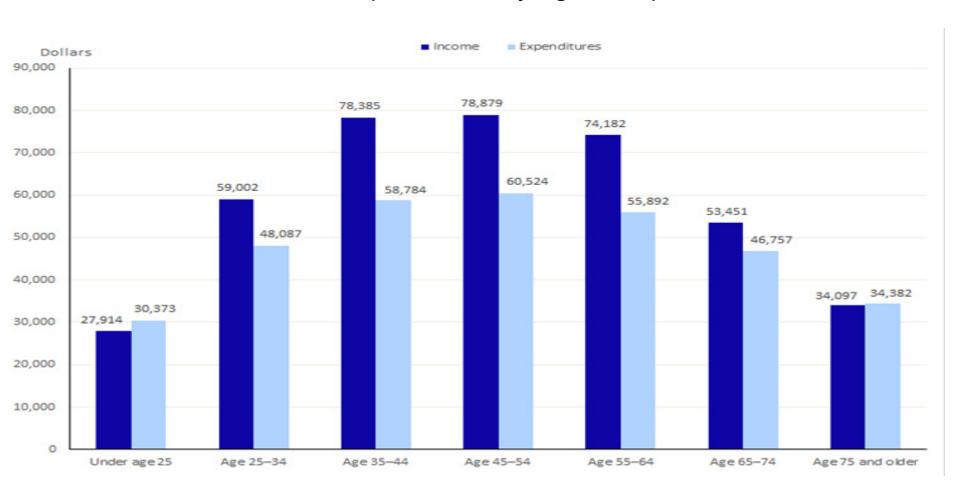
## Projected Population by Age Cohort



Source: Pew Research Center



### Household Income and Expenditures by Age Group, 2013





### The Rise of the Millennials

Meat, poultry, and seafood Meals, frozen Cereal MILLENNIALS ARE THE Beverages: or chilled alcoholic MOST FREQUENT and PURCHASERS OF: nonalcoholic: coffee; tea Pasta and pizza sauces Salty snacks Millennials Ice cream and frozen desserts; chocolate and non-chocolate candy; cookies, brownies, cakes, and pies; yogurt and kefir

Source: 2016 Specialty Food Association Report



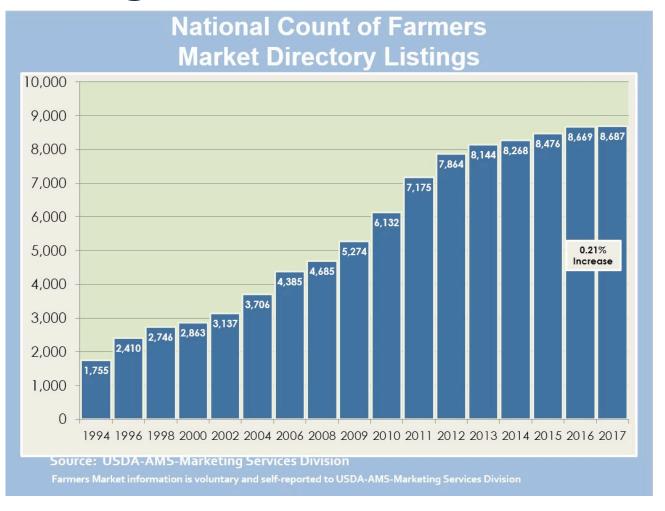
# SOCIAL MEDIA AND BRAND INTERACTION

Base: Internet users aged 18+ who have purchased any specialty foods in the	Total	Millennials (22–39)	Gen X (40–51)	Boomers (52-70)
past six months.	1,292	614	287	258
Agree:				
I have posted comments about a company or brand on social media	48%	60%	45%	33%
I comment on and/or write food or restaurant reviews online	43%	57%	37%	25%
I'm more likely to pay attention to an ad on my mobile phone or tablet than on my TV or in printed publications	38%	53%	33%	10%

Source: 2016 Specialty Food Association Report



# **Growing Interest in Local Foods**





## Food spending and share of income spent on food across U.S. households, 2016



Expenditure Survey, 2016.



## Why Conduct Market Research?

- ✓ Keep abreast of changing market conditions
- ✓ Reduce business risks
- ✓ Spot problems in the current market
- ✓ Identify and profit from sales opportunities
- ✓ Assist in developing a successful marketing strategy



### When Should Market Research Be Conducted?

- Starting a new business
- Expanding into a new market
- Developing a new product or service
- Developing or updating a business plan



## Types of Market Research

- Secondary Market Research = Use Existing Data
- Primary Market Research = Do It Yourself



# Secondary Market Research

- Public libraries
- Colleges or Universities
- Federal and state agencies
- Trade associations
- Competitors
- The Internet





Internet

**4** 100%

#### Portland (city), Maine

	Want more? Browse data sets	for Portland (city)
People QuickFacts	Portland	Maine
Population, 2014 estimate	66,666	1,330,089
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	66,194	1,328,361
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014	0.7%	0.1%
Population, 2010	66,194	1,328,361
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2010	5.4%	5.2%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2010	17.1%	20.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2010	12.6%	15.9%
A Fomale persons, persons, 2040	51.00	E



## 2012 U.S. Agricultural Census

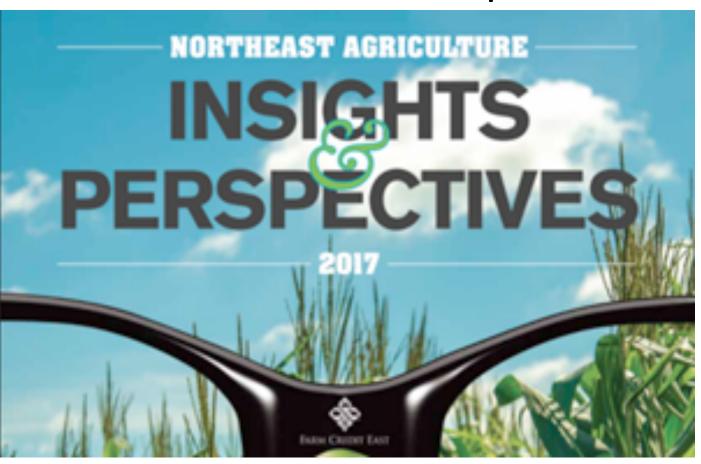
Table 2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold Including Direct Sales: 2012 and 2007

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	Maine	Androscoggin	Aroostook	Cumberland
Total sales (see text)	8,173	463	895	718
2007	8,136	378	1,246	630
\$1,000, 2012	763,062	53,831	210,517	26,304
2007	617,190	68,445	146,516	19,960
Average per farmdollars, 2012	93,364	116,266	235,215	36,634
2007	75,859	181,071	117,589	31,683
2012 value of sales:				
Less than \$1,000 (see text)farms	2,282	119	329	194
\$1,000	465	36	31	59
\$1,000 to \$2,499farms	997	78	55	79
\$1,000	1,676	115	97	131
\$2,500 to \$4,999farms	1,022	61	72	107
\$1,000	3,743	226	264	398
\$5,000 to \$9,999farms	1,045	53	55	96
\$1,000	7,324	363	394	662
\$10,000 to \$19,999farms	841	47	87	67
\$1,000	11,571	603	1,149	909
\$20,000 to \$24,999farms	240	11	18	21
\$1,000	5,242	252	385	452
\$25,000 to \$39,999farms	457	26	34	35
\$1,000	14,375	805	1,055	1,146
\$40,000 to \$49,999farms	132	5	16	17
\$1,000	5,854	222	724	762
\$50,000 to \$99,999farms	379	26	37	48
\$1.000	27,134	1,720	2.761	3,643
\$100,000 to \$249,999farms	338	18	49	26
\$1.000	53.046	2,866	8,022	4,355
\$250,000 to \$499,999 farms	198	6	36	19
\$1,000	69.097	2.032	13.106	6,662
\$500.000 or morefarms	242	13	107	9



## Farm Credit East Reports



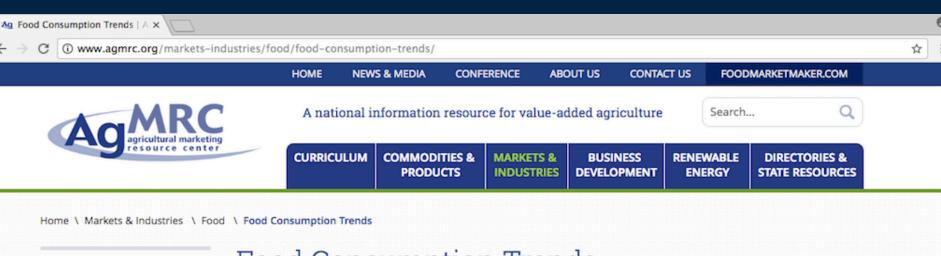


### Selected 2015 Benchmark Data from Sample Industries

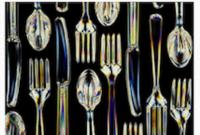
				•			
Industry	Retail Farm Market	Retail Garden Center	Cash Field	Equine	Greenhouse	Orchard Fruit	Vegetable
Current ratio	4.70	1.66	2.12	0.95	1.98	2.78	3.98
Quick ratio	1.47	0.57	0.34	0.74	0.57	1.59	1.41
% Net worth	80.8%	57.3%	73.3%	62.1%	73.3%	76.5%	81.3%
Owner's draw as % of sales	3.9%	2.6%	6.1%	6.2%	1.9%	6.6%	3.8%
Fixed expenses as % of sales	25.7%	19.0%	39.1%	45.2%	21.0%	26.9%	29.5%
Average worker equivalents	15	15	4	6	34	12	14
Gross income/Unit	\$185/SF <sup>1</sup>	\$89/SF <sup>2</sup>	\$620/ Acre	\$17,176/ Stall	\$17.07/SF <sup>3</sup>	\$7,679/ Acre	\$4,668/ Acre
Labor as % of sales	28.6%	22.5%	10.4%	18.6%	28.2%	30.8%	23.9%
Net margin as % of gross income <sup>4</sup>	5.7%	5.5%	1.6%	9.4%	8.4%	12.0%	12.4%
Return on assets	2.6%	5.0%	-0.2%	3.0%	6.5%	3.3%	5.2%
Return on equity	3.2%	8.6%	-0.2%	4.7%	9.3%	4.4%	6.5%

Source: Farm Credit East – Knowledge Exchange Partner June 2016





### Food Consumption Trends



ENERGY

FIBER

FOOD

#### Overview

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) estimates total food expenditures for all food consumed in the United States was \$1.24 trillion in 2010. Food purchased for home consumption accounted for \$646.8 billion or 52 percent of the total.

According to the ERS, spending on food away from home in 2010 was \$594 billion or 48 percent. Restaurants, both full-service and fast food, account for about three quarters of all food-away-from-home sales. According to the National Restaurant Association, U.S. adults purchase a restaurant snack or meal 5.8 times per week.

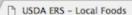
The United States has 970,000 restaurants and foodservice outlets. The National Restaurant Association projects 2012 sales at \$632 billion, up from \$379 billion in 2000.

U.S. consumers are spending a smaller percentage of their income on food. According to USDA, food expenditures by families and individuals as a share of disposable personal income was 9.4 percent in 2010, versus 11.4 percent in 1990. Food purchased for home consumption accounted for 5.5 percent of total U.S. disposable personal income in 2010. Food purchased away from home accounted for nearly 4 percent of disposable personal income in 2010.

The USDA compiles four food plans for individuals and families for food consumed at home in the United States.

Separate food plans are compiled for Alaska and Hawaii. Weekly and monthly costs are calculated for the thrift, low-cost,

















United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

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#### Overview

Background

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Food Access

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Food Service Industry

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Food Consumption & Demand

Diet Quality & Nutrition

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#### Overview

While there is no consensus about how to define "local food systems" in terms of the geographic distance between production and consumption, defining "local" based on marketing arrangements—such as farmers selling directly to consumers at regional farmers' markets or to schools—is well recognized.

ERS research on local food systems:

- · explores alternative definitions of local foods,
- estimates market size and reach.
- describes characteristics of local consumers and producers,
- · examines the economic and health impacts of local food systems, and
- studies how food environment factors—such as store/restaurant proximity, food prices, food and nutrition assistance programs, and community characteristics—interact to influence food choices and diet quality.

#### Local foods webinar highlights recent report

On January 29, 2015, ERS hosted a webinar that provided an overview of Trends in

#### Related Reports

Daily Access to Local Foods for School Meals: Key Drivers

Trends in U.S. Local and Regional Food Systems: A Report to Congress

Local Meat and Poultry Processing: The Importance of Business Commitments for Long-Term Viability

Farm Activities Associated With Rural Development Initiatives

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#### Related Amber Waves Articles

Recent Evidence on the Effects of Food Store Access





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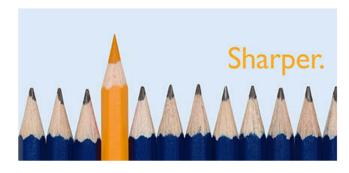
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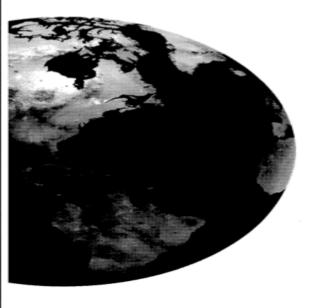
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### MAINE

### 2013 BUSINESS DIRECTORY



#### 80,000 BUSINESSES

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Bulletto #1169

#### Introduction: The Maine Highlands Consumer Survey

In 2000 we raidected a consumer narroy to assent altern marketing opportunities and human for towers in the Million Highlands region. Processing in our Product Courseon. The openey addressed flow direct marketing methods: fairs count, pick reconcions (PYO), tallgate market, home deficies, and foresers market. Our quant measure was decipied to characteristic statistic discount modes, and to about products active consumer mode, and to about product amount faces marketing of term products that can fellow server the needs of consumers. The questionnaire content force many factor

- Decume behoviors in noting and according tare direct orders
- Consister (weatherstown when changing their produce and would neithful
- Consumer wellingness to have been form products directly from local factors.

We surpoyed both a need and an action market area. Previously, County and adjacent small treatment of the ratio market area, fluoring or all adjacent sweet the ration market area. Quentionnaises were resided to 2,000 markets) relocated woods of the law market areas in July and Angure of 2000.





# Primary Market Research

- Personal Interview
- > Telephone Interview
- Mail (e-mail) Survey
- Focus Group Interview



## Why Survey Your Customers?

- Learn about customer's expectations
- Determine customer's level of satisfaction
- Identify strategies for improving sales
- Develop a solid customer profile
- Identify areas for improvement



## What You Can Learn From Your Customers

- Demographic Information
- What they buy from you
- How often they buy
- What they want to buy in the future



## What You Can Learn – Con't

- How they learned about you
- **✗** Where else they shop
- **×** How they rate your products and services
- **➤ What they like and dislike**



## Important First Steps

- Define clear objectives
- Determine who you plan to survey and when
- Write-up a budget for the project
- Establish a plan to administer your survey
- Develop a method for analyzing the results
- Pre-test draft survey



## **Factors to Consider When Designing A Survey**

- Limit questions and keep them brief and clear
- Give clear directions for answering questions
- Ask a mix of questions
- Order questions from simple to more complex
- Format survey for easy completion



### Factors to Consider - Con't

- > Follow "yes" and "no" questions with a "why" question
- Provide a space for "final comments"
- Make sure your questions are not offensive
- Don't answer questions for them
- Provide an incentive for completing survey



### **How Many Do You Survey?**

- If you have fewer than 1000 customers, try and survey all of them
- If you have more than 1000 customers, selecting a "representative sample" may be your best option
  - √ 30% response rate (RR) is excellent for decision-making
  - √ 15% RR is good for planning purposes
  - √ 10% RR will have limited usefulness
- In general, the sample size needed increases as the customer base increases in size and diversity.



### **Sample Customer Survey - Garden Center**

Date:				
(Please circle day) Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday				
Please help us learn more about your wants and needs by taking a few moments to comp individual responses are confidential. Place completed forms in the collection box and ask coupon.	-			
CUSTOMER INFORMATION (Circle all that apply.)				
1. You are: Male Female Single Married				
2. Age: under 24 25-35 36-50 51-65 over 65				
3. What town do you live in? Zip code:				
4. Family income: less than \$50,000 \$50,000-\$100,000 more than \$100,000				
5. What form of advertising influenced you to shop at Sunny Hill Gardens?				
Newspaper ad Direct mail flyer/coupon Radio Television Word of mouth				
Newsletter Roadside sign Other (please specify)				
6. What newspapers do you read?				



### **Sample Customer Survey - Garden Center**

7. What radio stations do you listen to?					
3. How many times do you shop at Sunny Hill during the spring?					
summer?	fall? wir	iter?			
9. Do you shop at other garden centers? Which ones?					
Why?					
10. Circle the most important reasons you shop at Sunny Hill:					
Convenience		New and unusual products			
Customer service		Product quality			
Open year-round		Knowledgeable staff			
Price		Like to support family business			
Wide variety of products Special promotions, events					
Country atmosphere	<del>)</del>				
Other (please specify)					



#### **Sample Customer Survey - Garden Center**

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

11. Please rate our services and facilities. We want to improve to better meet your needs.

Service/Facility	Excellent	Good	<u>Fair</u>	<b>Comments</b>		
Easy to locate products Parking Courteous, knowledgeable sales staff Hours of operation Speedy, efficient checkout Educational materials Informational signs Shopping carts Rest areas						
Bathrooms		<del></del>				
12. Circle services you would like to see offered:  Water garden installation Floral design						
Resource library	Landscape de	esign plans				
Small engine repair	Children's pla	ay area				
Other (please specify)				<del></del>		
13. What seminars/workshops/demonstrations would you attend?						



#### **Sample Customer Survey - Garden Center**

# 14. Circle products you would like to see offered: Foliage plants Aquatic plants Handcrafts Water garden supplies Lawn Furniture Potting Shed Other (please specify)

Please rate our products and displays:

PRODUCT INFORMATION

15.

Product/display	<u>Excellent</u>	Good	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Plant quality				
Plant selection				
Selection of hard goods				
Prices compared with other				
garden centers				
Product labeling				
Attractive displays				

Source: The Garden Center Critique and Merchandising Guide, The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.



#### Sparty's Market



#### **Customer Survey**

Thank you for doing business with us. Your satisfaction is important to us. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey, and then leave it in the box provided.

1.	How did you hear about Sparty's Market? Check one.	5.	What do you especially like about this market?
	Radio -What station?		
	Television - What station?		
	Newspaper - Which paper?		
	Friend, neighbor or relative		
	Sign along highway	6.	What do you dislike (what bothers you) about the
	Drove by market		market?
	Don't recall, been coming for many years		
	bon recall, been coming for many years		
2.	Why do you shop at Sparty's Market? Check up to 5		
	reasons that are most important to you. (Read through the		
	list before you answer.)	7.	From your viewpoint, does Sparty's Market provide
	Convenient location		anything not available at the supermarket where you
	Quick & easy to get in and out of market		buy your groceries?
	Reasonable prices		YesNo
	Special product(s), please list		If yes, please explain
			,,
	Good quality produce	8.	Would you recommend Sparty's Market to a friend
	Features locally grown (fresher) produce	٥.	relative or neighbor? Check one.
	Knowledgeable and friendly personnel		-
	Nice experience		Yes Why?
	Can buy amount 1 want, (a little or a lot)		Maybe
	Can buy unwaxed and organically grown produce		No Why not?
	Other, explain		
		9.	Your age group: Check one.
3.	How often have you been to Sparty's Market this season?		Under 25 years old
	Check one.		25 - 34
	First trip this season		35 - 44
	Once a week or more often		45 - 64
	Once in two weeks		65 and older
	Once a month		_
	My first visit to the market	10.	How many members living in your household now?
	My mot visit to the market		
4.	Would you come more often if we had a greater variety		
	of products?		How many children do you have under 18 years of age living at home now?
	Voc. No.		
	YesNo		Number (Write in 0 if none)
	If yes, what additional foods and/or farm market related	If you	a'd like to have your name added to our mailing list, please
	products would you like to be able to buy here?	fill or	It the card on the counter near the market entrance.
			Thank you very much for completing this survey.

Source: Eric Gibson, Sell What your Sow



## Market Research Applications

- Developing a Customer Profile
- Evaluating the Competition
- Estimating Market Potential



## **Identifying Your Target Market**

Your target market includes the people that you are trying to attract

- **Suggestions for targeting your market:** 
  - ✓ Focus on a particular geographic area
  - ✓ Focus on your best selling product
  - ✓ Focus on those most likely to patronize your business
- Consider the 80/20 rule:
  - √ 80% of your profits come from 20% of your customers
  - √ 80% of your sales come from 20% of your normal product line



## Developing a Customer Profile

- Demographics
  - Typical age
  - Income level
  - Educational level
- Lifestyle Patterns
  - Common interests
  - Beliefs
  - Behavior patterns
- Expectations
  - Quality
  - Service
  - Product mix
  - Price



## Target Market Examples

Demographic Profile	U.S. Population	Hot Sauce Enthusiasts	Pork Consumers	Frozen Pizza Consumers
Gender				
Male	50%	80%	43%	8.9%
Female	50%	20%	57%	90.8%
Age	35.5	29	55	47
Income	\$34,076	\$60,000	\$31,000	\$43,641
Education – College Grad.	23.6%	78%	<10%	26%
Household Size	2.65	1.45	2.65	2.47

Source: Wolfe, 2002



## Customer Profile for "Best Customers" of the Non-White Bread" Market in the U.S., 2010

Demographic Category	Demographic Profile	Avg. Household Spending
Age of Householders	35-54	\$69
Household Type	Couple with School-aged Children	\$89
Household Income	\$50,000+	\$62-\$94
Education Level	Associate's Degree+	\$60-\$80

Source: Calculations by New Strategist based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2010 Consumer Expenditure Survey



## Evaluating the Competition

- Identify key competitors
- Determine what customers they serve
- Analyze their strengths and weaknesses
- Identify key factors to evaluate
- Summarize the key competitive advantages



## Estimating Market Potential

- Define the market size for the target audience
- Estimate market share

- Determine average yearly consumption
- > Estimate an average selling price



## Estimating Market Potential – Con't

 $MP = N \times MS \times P \times Q$ 

#### Where:

**MP** = market potential

N = number of potential customers

MS = market share - % of customers buying from you

P = average selling price

**Q** = average yearly consumption



## Artisan Bread Business - Example

N = town of 10,000 - 10% are potential customers

MS = currently 3 competitors (estimate = 15%)

P = average retail price per loaf of bread (\$4)

Q = average person buys 2 loaves per month

 $MP = 1,000 \times .15 \times $4.00 \times 24 = $14,400$ 



# Questions???



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## Developing a Marketing Plan for Your Farm

So You Want to Farm in Maine?
Penobscot County Extension Office
Bangor, Maine
October 23, 2018

Jim McConnon
Extension Specialist and
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## Marketing Plan for Your Farm

- Create a marketing plan that reflects the ways you market your products
- Include the following key components:
  - ✓ Current situation
  - √ Objectives
  - ✓ Strategies
  - ✓ Budget
  - ✓ Action Plan
  - ✓ Evaluation



## Marketing Situation: Where Are You Now?

- What products do you plan to sell?
- Who is your target market?
- What is the market potential?
- What are the marketing outlets?
- Who is your competition?
- What are the industry trends?
- What are the advertising/promotional channels?



## Marketing Objectives: Where Are You Going?

- What are your short-term and long-term objectives?
- The objectives you set must be:
  - Measurable
  - Specific
  - Realistic & Attainable
  - Completed during a specified time period
- Review your objectives regularly



## Marketing Strategies: How Will You Get There?

What products will you produce to meet customer needs?

How will you package and position these products?

What price will you charge?

How will you distribute these products?

How will you advertise/promote these products?



## **Budget: What Will it Cost?**

- What will these marketing strategies cost?
- What will be the financial return?

- How do I keep track of the costs/returns?
- > How do I control these costs?



## Action Plan: How Will the Plan be Implemented?

- Who will implement the strategies?
- When should the strategies start and end?
- Which strategies should be done?



## **Evaluation: How Are You Doing?**

- Are we making progress?
- Have we met any of the objectives?

- Are we within budget?
- What changes need to be made?



#### Marketing Plan For Wildwood Farm

Marketing Plan	Marketing Situation	Marketing Objectives	Marketing Strategies	Budget	Action Plan	Evaluation
Products	Fruits & Vegetables	<ul> <li>Add value-added products</li> <li>Diversify vegetables &amp; fruit Summer &amp; Fall</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Maple syrup products</li><li>Grow apples and pumpkins</li></ul>	\$500	Years 2 - 5	New products selling well
Customers	Families	◆ Attract University families ◆ Provide recreational activities	•Landscape the eating and resting area	\$250	Years 2 - 3	Customers are spending more at the farm
Channels	• U-Pick • Produce Stand	• Mail Order • CSA	Collect customers     names and addresses     Try special events	\$200	Years 3 - 4	•Mail order business is taking off •CSA not working out
Competition	• Grocery stores • Farmers Markets • Other farmers	• Match competition on quality and exceed on service	• Improve quality, service and atmosphere	\$150	Years 1 - 5	Survey shows high customer satisfaction
Advertise	<ul><li>Classified ads</li><li>Signage</li><li>Radio ads</li></ul>	<ul><li>Brochures</li><li>TV display art</li><li>Feature story</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Contact graphic artist</li> <li>Call newspaper representative</li> <li>Contact local TV station</li> </ul>	\$300	Years 1 - 5	TV ads drew many customers



#### **Marketing Plan For My Farm**

Marketing Plan	Marketing Situation	Marketing Objectives	Marketing Strategies	Budget	Action Plan	Evaluation
Products						
Customers						
Channels						
Competition						
Advertise						