



## Maine

**Regional objectives:** *High disturbance; Forestry-ag integration; Nutrient management; PFAS*

**Production systems:** *High disturbance vegetables, corn silage/dairy/grazing*

**Biochar producers:** [Standard Biocarbon](#), [Clean Maine Carbon](#)

**Collaborators:** *University of Maine; Northern Tilth; Purdue University*

With Maine's abundance of trees, biochar produced from local waste wood feedstocks could provide significant benefits by supporting a robust forest industry integrated with a more diversified regenerative agriculture.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) will collaborate with farmers in Maine to set up eleven on farm trials. These trials will demonstrate use of biochar in high disturbance production systems (such as vegetables), as well as tackle nutrient management and soil health challenges in corn and hay production.

Vegetable crops are often grown in high-disturbance systems, limiting reduced tillage options. Maine's short growing season limits the ability for cover crops to produce substantial biomass even when they are included in the system. Thus, the most common soil health strategies are difficult to implement in Maine vegetable systems. Integrating biochar into vegetables systems could provide valuable soil health benefits.

In Maine, some farms are affected by polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contaminating soils from past biosolid applications. One way to address this concern may be to apply biochar to contaminated soils, adsorbing the PFAS and potentially limiting uptake into the crops. We are partnering with researchers at the University of Maine, Northern Tilth, and Purdue University to investigate plant and soil characteristics affecting plant uptake of PFAS and biochar as a potential mitigation strategy.

### Questions? Contact State Lead:

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