

New England Produce Storage Survey

UMass Vegetable Extension and UMass Building Sciences

University of Massachusetts Vegetable Extension and Building Sciences are collaborating on produce storage research. As farms look to increase winter sales, storage is becoming more important. There is need for information on cost effective and energy efficient storage technologies that our research will address. One aspect of this research is a survey that will identify what storage facilities are currently in use. We are looking to find challenges, needs, and successes farmers have had with their building facilities designed for the long term storage of produce.

1. With the information gained from the survey we will develop a baseline for what types of storages are currently in use. This information will help us design technologies to improve storage techniques, practices and infrastructure as farms look to expand into winter storage.
2. We will offer an energy audit to any farm that requests it. All of the information needed for the audit will be found in the survey. With this audit the respondent will be given guidance to improve their storage for produce quality and energy efficiency.

The survey will take about twenty minutes to complete. Any information you are able to provide is greatly appreciated. We are working hard to spread the word about our research and any help you can offer in this is greatly appreciated. The more information we can gather the better our analysis of produce storage will be. We will make these resources and guidance available to the farming community of New England. We look forward to working with you on your produce storage needs and challenges as this developing market continues to grow.

For a link to the survey, email Luke Doody at ldoody@eco.umass.edu. Any questions or comments concerning the survey can be directed here as well. Thanks for your time in participating in this survey.

The survey can also be found at the UMass Extension Vegetable Program website, <http://extension.umass.edu/vegetable/>