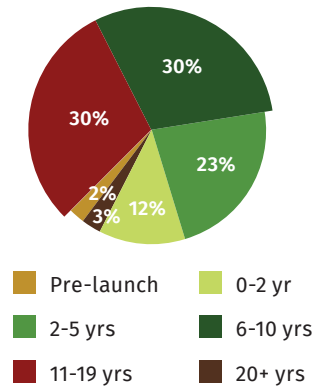


Incubator Farm

A land-based, multi-grower project that provides access to land, infrastructure, and training and technical assistance to aspiring and beginning farmers. New Entry Sustainable Farming Project coordinates the National Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI), which will be renamed the FIELD Network in 2020 (Farm Incubation and Education through Land-Based skills Development). We conduct a yearly survey of incubator farm projects (IFPs), for 2019 data, 27 IFPs completed the survey, the majority having been in operation for 6-10 years. The average plot size offered to a farmer ranges from 0.25 to 3 acres of land and most incubators host between 5-9 businesses on the land for a 3-5 year period.

More info: www.nesfp.org/nifti

Years in Operation



Top Production Items

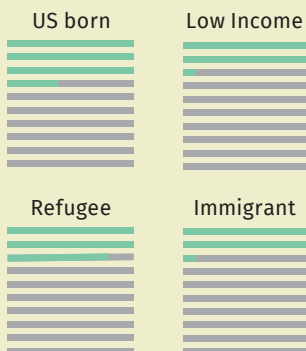


Approximately **73,000** pounds of produce was donated in the year by 7 IFPs.

75% of IFPs donated food to food banks and community.

Demographics

Participants range in age from **20-82**.



The Top Challenges for IFPs

1 FUNDING

Most IFPs funding comes from **federal grants** and then **foundation grants**. Only very small proportion comes from earned revenue and farmer fees.

2 ACCESS TO LAND

64% lease land
23% own land
14% lease and own land
most plot sizes are **<1 acre**

3 LANGUAGE BARRIERS

46% of IFPs offer multilingual programming and support.
49% of participants are refugees or immigrants.

4 RECRUITMENT

The most effective recruitment practice was **word of mouth**. Other successful practices included: **through relationships with partner organizations**, farm website/other websites, listservs/email lists, posting in the local community, and social media.

How IFPs address barriers to entry into farming as participants transition towards independent operation

