

Regional Constraints & Opportunities for Regenerative Agriculture

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Farm Viability: Four Factors

- Infrastructure
- Minimum Viable Size
- Resource Base
- Markets

Infrastructure: Buildings, Access, Layout, Housing...

- Common challenges:
 - No housing
 - Lack of frontage or other poor access
 - Limited buildable sites
 - Easement restrictions on farm structures, housing, land use
- Limitations of MA APR

Minimum Viable Size

- Enterprise & market specific
- Economies of scale
- Importance of mid-supply chain packagers & purchasers

Resource Base

- Soils - physical, chemical, biological
- Slopes - major limiting factor on some sites
- Water - can have too little OR too much
- Biodiversity Resources - pollination, pest predation, inherent value of wild species & places

Markets

- CSA market approaching saturation in some high-coverage areas
- Wholesale meat and milk markets very challenging - extremely narrow margins for most producers
- Diversification helps to a point - but can increase labor & management complexity
- Some of the most promising markets aren't obvious!

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