

Media contact:  
Elizabeth Horton  
simmerpublicrelations@gmail.com  
(207) 838-0084

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & The Environment Announces Construction of  
The Smith Center for Education and Research  
Receives \$2.5 Million in Federal Loan from USDA Rural Development**

**Freeport, Maine** – *March 9, 2022* – [Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment](#) (WNC) today announced that construction of a new facility, The Smith Center for Education and Research, is underway on its 600-acre campus in Freeport. The Smith Center demonstrates Wolfe's Neck Center's earnest commitment to advancing climate-smart agricultural education and honoring the Smith family legacy. The Smith Center facility will further Wolfe's Neck Center's role as national leader in advancing agriculture as a natural climate solution.

Construction for the \$4 million project began in early February, and is slated to continue through Winter 2023. The 7,500 square foot Smith Center will house Wolfe's Neck Center's growing suite of educational programs and research initiatives, as well as community events and conferences relevant to WNC's mission. With meeting spaces, classrooms and a commercial teaching kitchen, the Smith Center will dramatically increase Wolfe's Neck Center's ability to convene people who care about the future of food and the planet as well as prepare the next generation of food systems leaders. The Smith Center will be a completely fossil fuel-free facility and built to Passive House standards. Maine-based [Zachau Construction](#) is serving as the Construction Manager for the project.

"The Smith Center for Education and Research will enable us to convene people of all ages and backgrounds, year-round, to take part in our work of transforming our relationship with food and farming for a healthier planet," said Dave Herring, executive director, Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment.

Wolfe's Neck Center received a Community Facilities Direct Loan through USDA Rural Development in the amount of \$2.5 million to serve as long-term financing. [Bath Savings](#), a local Maine bank, is the primary financial partner of Wolfe's Neck Center and is providing the construction financing.

The Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation was founded in 1985 by LMC and Eleanor Houston Smith. Through conserving property on Wolfe's Neck, the Smith Family saw an opportunity to preserve Maine's agricultural heritage while providing public access to an oceanfront landscape, historic buildings, and education around farming the land sustainably. With a recent name change to Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment, WNC has been on a mission to transform our relationship with farming and food for a healthier planet.

In 2019, WNC completed a new facility to house a first-of-its-kind training program for new and transitioning organic dairy farmers. In 2020, Wolfe's Neck Center launched [OpenTEAM](#), the first open-source technology ecosystem in the world to address soil health and mitigate climate change. The Smith Center marks another major step towards achieving Wolfe's Neck Center's mission.

**About Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment (WNC)**

Wolfe's Neck Center is a pioneer in regenerative agriculture, a nonprofit research and education center, and a working organic farm. Situated on over 600 acres of conserved coastal landscape in Freeport, Maine, WNC's mission is to transform our relationship with farming and food for a healthier planet. For more information on Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment, visit [www.wolfesneck.org](http://www.wolfesneck.org) or follow on Facebook and Instagram at @wolfesneckcenter.