

Dr. Dave Mortensen holds the position of Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Mortensen joined the department as chair and professor in 2018 guiding the newly restructured department for five years before retiring in the summer of 2023.

For the past 41 years Dr. Mortensen has been engaged in research to enhance the ecological integrity of agricultural production systems with a particular focus on integrated pest management. His systems research has aimed to define then implement ecologically-based weedy pest management. One dimension of these studies is quantifying the unintended effects of herbicide drift. His work has centered on weedy plants in agricultural fields as well as invasive plants in natural systems. Agencies like the US Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service have used the results of his team's meta-analyses and field research to guide their deregulation decisions on pesticides and genetically modified crops. At the same time, he's made a concerted effort to work with farmers and farm advisors in conveying the results of his team's work. In addition to his research, Mortensen has taught courses in Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Weed Management, Agroecology (graduate level), and Urban Food Systems. His papers, book chapters and monographs (169) have appeared in the likes of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, BioScience, Trends in Ecology and Evolution, Ecological Applications, and Agronomy Journal and reflect the results of what has almost always been team-oriented research where those teams have worked collaboratively together to achieve a shared goal. Dr. Mortensen has a long-standing interest in leveraging the results of his research work to inform more sustainable crop production practices. To that end, he has testified in front of Congress about his work and served as the ecotoxicology expert on the National Organic Standards Board. Prior to assuming his role at UNH, Dr. Mortensen was the Distinguished Professor of Weed and Applied Plant Ecology at the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, where he received the Outstanding Graduate Teacher and Mentor award presented by Penn State's president (2018). Mortensen continues his scholarship actively publishing papers and book chapters and engaging in policy work advocating for more sustainable agriculture practices.