



create, cultivate, conserve

e-newsletter



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April 2016

Dear Friends,

April has been a busy month at New Entry in anticipation of the new growing season! Our fall and winter [Farm Business Planning Course students graduated](#) with viable plans for their farm ventures and a new group of "agri-preneurs" are eager to get started - with two of them already in the process of buying farmland to get started! A course alumni and soon-to-be second year farmer at New Entry, [Renee Toll-Dubois](#), came back to share her first-year incubator farm experiences and initiate the graduates into our community of beginning farmers. Renee shared some helpful tips about time management, self-care, and staying on top of the weeds! She is back for more adventures and starting her second season on the incubator farm training site.



These new farmers, and returning farmers, have recently been assigned their quarter-acre plots at our three incubator training sites for the season (Smith Farm and Ogonowski Memorial Fields in Dracut and Arrowhead Farm in Newburyport). Now that farmers have been assigned our affordable and reasonably sized plots of land, complete with all the start-up infrastructure, tools, and equipment they need, they can begin cultivating the land and their farm dreams. The ongoing technical assistance and mentoring will make sure their business plans translate into reality in the fields.



Consumers are also eager to welcome the bountiful crops that will be distributed to hundreds of families in our 2016 [World PEAS CSA](#). We offer numerous CSA share options for families, individuals, and SNAP (food stamp) beneficiaries at all of our greater Boston-area distribution locations. All produce is grown locally by our beginning farmers and other supply partners and we focus on sustainably raised fruits and veggies - free of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and GMO's. In addition to purchasing a CSA share with

World PEAS, we make this delicious, fresh produce available to families, seniors, nutrition education programs, community partners, homeless shelters, and others who otherwise would struggle to put fresh healthy food on the table. Support our food access work by attending [New Entry's Fundraising Dinner](#) on May 2nd at Bondir Concord Restaurant. All proceeds will leverage funds for our low-income food access initiatives in the Greater Boston area - connecting more families with fresh healthy, locally grown food! We hope to see you there - only 8 seats left, sign up today!

In This Issue

- [Upcoming Events](#)
 - [New Entry hosts a USDA Showcase for Farmers on Thursday, April 28th Learn about cost-share programs to support your farm business!](#)
 - [2016 New Entry Fundraising Dinner - Monday May 2 at 6 pm! Hurry - limited seating left, register today!](#)
 - [New Entry hosted a successful 2016 Spring into Farming! Celebration](#)
 - [Join the 2016 World PEAS CSA today!](#)
 - [Assessing the Needs of Beginning Farmers in Massachusetts - complete our short survey by end of April!](#)
 - [New CSA Drop-Off Location at Night Shift Brewing](#)
 - [Farmer Profile: Jason Carter](#)
 - [New Entry Spotlight in The Urban Farm Podcast](#)
 - [Choose Fresh and Local License Plate](#)
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Upcoming Events

April 28 - [USDA Showcase](#), Fusion Theater, 125 Mt Hope St, Lowell, MA 01854, 6 - 8 pm, Free

April 28 - [Webinar: The Farm Financial Calendar](#), Hosted by New Entry and The Carrot Project, Free, 12 - 1 pm

April 27 & May 12 - [EPA Worker Protection Standard Train-the-Trainer Course for Organic and Non-Certified Pesticide Users](#), Various locations across MA found here, 8 - 11 am, \$28

May 2 - [2016 New Entry's Fundraising Dinner](#), Bondir Concord, 24 Walden Street Concord, MA 01742, 6 - 10 pm

May 18 - [Explore Farming](#), Lowell Office, 5 - 7 pm, Free

New Entry hosts a USDA Showcase for Farmers on Thursday, April 28th Learn about cost-share programs to support your farm business!

On April 28, 2016, farmers are invited to meet representatives from USDA agencies to learn about the opportunities available to participate in federal farm programs. New Entry will host Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), UMASS Extension Risk Management, and Rural Development for an evening of introductions and information sharing. Find out how YOU can benefit and get valuable resource support for your farm. Cost-share programs, loans, and technical support await. Held at the Fusion Theater in Lowell, MA. Visit [here](#) to RSVP and for more information.



2016 New Entry Fundraising Dinner - Monday May 2 at 6 pm! Hurry - limited seating left, register today!



Food accessibility affects millions of people across the nation including thousands in our local community. New Entry has partnered with Chef Jason Bond, a Boston Magazine Chef of the Year, to host a private dinner benefiting New Entry's low-income food access program. [Reserve your](#)

[seat](#) to support this cause and enjoy Chef Bond's culinary creations with wine pairings. \$500 per ticket or \$1,000 per ticket for upgraded wines selected by the host committee and Chef Bond. If you have any questions about the event, contact [Holly Cariddi](#) or [Jennifer Hashley](#). If you are unable to attend the dinner, but would like to help us reach our fundraising goal for this event and leverage more local food access for underserved families this season, please [generously contribute here!](#) We thank you in advance!

New Entry hosted a successful 2016 *Spring into Farming!* Celebration



On Monday, April 11th, the World PEAS Food Hub transformed into a vibrant celebration venue for New Entry's 2016 farmer graduation. We traded in CSA wax boxes, pallets, and coolers for cake, chairs, and decorations! Our staff, donors, farmers, and students gathered for merry-making, food, and drink to celebrate the students completion of our fall and winter [Farm Business Planning Course](#). We learned some words of wisdom from former graduates currently farming and learned about the future farm plans of several recent graduates. We can't wait to support our new entrepreneurs in their farm ventures! We urge graduates to stay connected to our [Facebook page](#) and take advantage of our ongoing farmer learning programs that can be found on our [website](#).

Join the 2016 World PEAS CSA today!



Sign up for your summer

[World PEAS CSA Share](#) *by May 15th!*

World PEAS aggregates and distributes fresh, sustainably-grown produce from over 30 beginning, immigrant, and refugee farmers in Massachusetts. Our farmers retain 79% of the retail price of the produce we sell, ensuring they earn competitive market prices for their produce. We also partner with organizations to make our healthy produce available to low-income communities in the Greater Boston area. Visit our [website](#) to view our wide variety of share options and order today! Get at least 25 people

to purchase CSA shares at your workplace and we'll deliver directly to your corporate office! Contact [Kristen Whitmore](#) with any questions, to discuss possible partnerships, or explore corporate wellness benefits.

Assessing the Needs of Beginning Farmers in Massachusetts - complete our short survey by end of April!



Are you a beginning farmer in Massachusetts or do you know someone who is? Please take a moment to take our [Beginning Farmer Resources survey!](#)

This survey is part of a larger assessment of the resources available to beginning farmers in Massachusetts and is a project of the [Beginning Farmer Network of Massachusetts \(BFN/Mass\)](#). We

are hoping to learn about quality, available resources while also identifying any existing resource gaps. Your feedback and time are very valuable to us – thank you for taking a moment for this quick survey!

New CSA Drop-Off Location at Night Shift Brewing

New Entry is excited to partner with [Night Shift Brewing](#), 87 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA, as one of our new CSA drop-off locations this year. You can pick up your [World PEAS CSA](#) and enjoy an ice-cold IPA in their energetic, world-class taproom at the same time. So don't delay! Check out our wide variety of local, sustainably-grown [CSA options here](#). Any questions may be directed to [Kristen Whitmore](#).



Farmer Profile: Jason Carter

When Jason Carter enrolled in New Entry's Farm Business Planning Course in 2014, he only had a vague idea what he was in for. Coming from a background of software

engineering, farming was a brand new world for him.

Jason and his wife, Val, purchased three plots of land in Phillipston, Massachusetts, and began researching the possibilities for farming them. They were forested and full of rocks



– difficult to farm in a conventional sense, but Jason was undeterred. Wanting to preserve the natural landscape, he chose to raise Tamworth pigs, an old breed capable of foraging and thriving in forested spaces, and known for having lean, fine-grained meat. Native to Old Europe, Tamworths are well suited to New England's climate and terrain – perfect for forested, rocky environments like Jason's land. [Natural Hues](#)

[Farm](#) was born... but it needed some help.

Jason credits New Entry with being his first real introduction to operating a farm. He says that the business planning course “gave me ‘guard rails’ to start getting my farm off the ground”. It helped him get organized, by forcing him to write down his business plan on paper.

Today, Jason and Val primarily raise pigs and heritage chickens, and have experimented with keeping bees. Their ultimate goal is to expand the pig business while continuing to raise them in a sustainable and ethical way; he would like for Natural Hues to become known as a major organic piglet producer. Since he still works as a full-time software engineer, marketing his products has been a continued challenge. But there have been successes to celebrate, too: Jason is proud of having birthed two litters of piglets, and the farm became certified organic in 2015. “Operationally, I know now that I can do this,” he says, as a result of the business skills he learned at New Entry.

Read Jason's full bio [here](#).

We love hearing from our farmers! Are you a New Entry graduate with a story to tell?

Email kathleen.nay@tufts.edu to be featured in a future newsletter.

New Entry Spotlight in The Urban Farm Podcast

*"I am very passionate about what I do at New Entry because we **need** a future generation of beginning farmers".*



New Entry's project Director, Jennifer Hashley, is featured on the latest Urban Farm podcast and is talking all about New Entry and her experience re-energizing our local food systems. Our feature was also voted as the top ten for all Urban Farm Podcast's! Listen to the full podcast [here](#).

Choose Fresh and Local License Plate

We did it! Thanks to your support, the [Choose Fresh & Local license plate](#) will be on the road mid-2016. The license plates are currently being manufactured and should be on the road by June 2016. Registration is currently on hold until the plates are available for purchase directly from local RMV branch locations, but it's not too late to fill out an



[interest form](#) or encourage others to do the same! By filling out the interest form, we will personally alert you when the plates are available for purchase directly from the RMV. We have a short-term goal of getting to 3,000 plates in the next couple of years.

The funds raised from these plates will support New Entry's work with new and beginning farmers on our incubator farms and beyond, including training and resources as well as continuing to develop a strong statewide Beginning Farmer Network. They will also help Mass Farmers Markets continue to support farmers markets in the state. Additionally, having these plates on the road will continue to raise awareness of local agriculture in Massachusetts and help build strong markets for farmers statewide.

The cost is \$20/year on top of regular registration fees (or \$40 per two-year renewal) - all fully tax deductible - it's an easy way to contribute and show your support of local food, farmers, and markets! Fill out an [interest form](#) today. Visit our website to find out [how it works](#) - THANK YOU!



Our Mission

Well-trained farmers are key to building sustainable local food systems, and New Entry prepares new and beginning farmers for success through comprehensive training and technical assistance in all aspects of farm production and management. Our mission is to assist multi-cultural individuals with agricultural backgrounds to successfully enter farming in Massachusetts.

The broader goals of New Entry are to support the vitality and sustainability of the region's agriculture, to build long term economic self-reliance and food security among participants and their communities, and to expand access to high-quality, culturally appropriate and locally-grown foods.

To learn more, visit www.nesfp.org.

Get Involved

Join us in helping cultivate and sustain the next generation of farmers who will care for our farmland, supply our markets, provide food to our schools, and contribute to a vibrant local economy in our communities.

Volunteer

Volunteer with New Entry
World PEAS Food Hub at
least two days per week for
the entire season and receive
a weekly CSA Share.



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