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August 2016

Dear Friends,

August is a great time to celebrate New England's bounty and to appreciate the hard work of our farmers, such as Tim Carroll, one of our graduates, featured [here](#)! To enjoy this time of year, New Entry invites you to visit our incubator training farms and meet the farmers who grow your produce in the World PEAS CSA shares. Our [9th Annual Farm Tour](#) will be an evening of food, drink, raffles, and learning what it takes to farm. Join us on August 18th at 4:30 for this free event! Please [register here](#) so we know how many people to expect.

August is also time when many people travel, take vacation and relax. Not so true for the farmers who are toiling in the hot, dry weather this season to bring you delicious, locally grown food! One person on New Entry's team is lucky enough to take a break from her farm and cast off on a learning journey to West Africa to for the month of August - read more about Jennifer's Eisenhower Agriculture Fellowship [here](#) or [follow her blog](#). Speaking of travel, we are also pleased to announce that after several years of planning, we can now celebrate the launch of our [Choose Fresh and Local license plates](#)! If you drive in Massachusetts, we hope you will [purchase a plate](#) to help support New Entry farmers and the diverse farmers' markets across the Commonwealth. Now we can both vote with our forks for food systems change and we can also drive the change we want to see in our landscapes by supporting this plate! **Thank you!**

## New Entry Sustainable Farming Project

9th Annual Open Farms Tour

Thursday August 18, 2016

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM



Ogonowski Memorial Field 126 Jones Ave. Dracut, MA

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### Upcoming Events

**August 9** - [Field Workshop: Cover Cropping](#), 4-6 pm, Ogonowski Memorial Field, 126 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

**August 18** - [9th Annual Farm Tour](#), 4:30-7 pm, Free, Ogonowski Memorial Fields, 126 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

**September 6** - [Field Workshop: Season Extension & Ideas on Late Season Crops](#), 4-6 pm, Smith-Healy Farm, 300 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

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### Choose Fresh and Local License Plate

*We did it! Thanks to your support, the [Choose Fresh & Local license plate](#) is now available at the RMV - Get yours [here!](#)*

Thank you to all of our early supporters for making this possible! We reached our initial goal of 750 registrations in December 2015 and we're excited to say those plates are now on the road!



The plates are now available on the [RMV's website](#) for everyone to order. If you registered before January 2016, paid for your plate, have been assigned a number, and are still waiting for information from the RMV, please contact us at [info@mafoodplate.org](mailto:info@mafoodplate.org) so we can help!

Our next goal is to get 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 (or \$40 per two-year renewal) in addition to your regular registration cost - it's an easy way to contribute (tax-deductible charitable donation) and show your support of local food, farmers, and markets! Visit our website to find out [how it works](#) - THANK YOU!

**Get a plate!**

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### **Jennifer Hashley, New Entry's Director Honored with Eisenhower Agriculture Fellowship**

We are excited to share that our Director, Jennifer Hashley, has been honored with an [Eisenhower Fellowship](#). Jennifer will be traveling in Nigeria and Ghana for 5 weeks in August as a fellow. This historic program was established in 1953 by a group of businessmen, and dearest friends of Dwight Eisenhower, on his first birthday as President. This international leader exchange program was created to honor Eisenhower's devotion

to world peace and collaboration.

Since its creation, the Eisenhower Fellowship has brought emerging country leaders to the US for professional development learning experiences. Eventually, a USA program was established and at least 20 fellows from the US are sent abroad each year. These fellows have all different areas of expertise. Some fellows specialize in art, music, finance, and Jennifer will be the only fellow representing the agriculture sector.



On fellowship to Ghana and Nigeria, Jennifer will learn firsthand about the region from which many of New Entry farmers emigrate and deepen her knowledge of their needs as they begin to farm in the U.S. In addition, she will explore West African agricultural training and education programs. Jennifer will be meeting with agricultural leaders in

Ghana and Nigeria's Ministry of Agriculture, as well as non-government organizations and non-profits in Agriculture Development, and the US Embassy. In addition, Jennifer will be meeting with University Extension Programs, small and commercial farms, and agriculture investors that are able to provide small-scale farms with capital, seeds, technology, and other forms of outreach to scale their operations.

In addition to "business", Jennifer will be meeting with former New Entry graduates. She will visit with Osman Okyere in Ghana and at the end of her trip, Jennifer will be visiting with former New Entry staffer, Suliman V. Kamara in Liberia! Suliman was the first staff member of New Entry's World PEAS Food Hub and he helped build farmer collaboration and provide cooperative development training for the effort. Suliman has continued to expand his agricultural knowledge and is eager to show Jennifer his cocoa farm and economic development projects in his home village in Liberia.

We are very excited to have Jennifer honored by the Eisenhower Fellowship program and to hear about the relationships she builds while she is away and the new learning she will incorporate into New Entry's programs when she returns. Jennifer will be writing a blog so you can follow her travels [here](#).

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## 5th Annual NIFTI National Field School - Ann Arbor, Michigan October 25 - 27, 2016

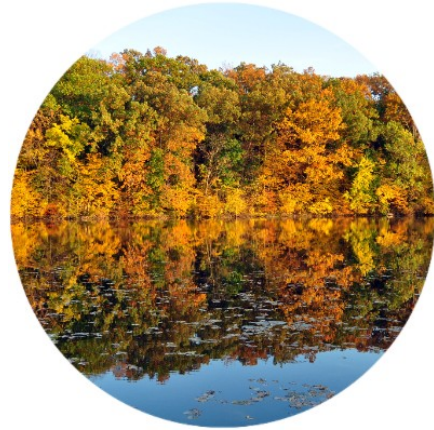
Each year, the [National Incubator Farm Training Initiative \(NIFTI\)](#) National Field School provides an opportunity for Incubator Farm Project staff from across the country to gather, share best practices, and troubleshoot common challenges.

The 5th NIFTI National Field School will include workshops, skills-based trainings, and discussions designed to critically examine the Incubator Farm as a model of beginning farmer training, and to grow the professional skills of Incubator Farm Project staff nationwide. The first two days of the conference are dedicated to workshops and discussion, and the third day will include farm tours of local Incubator Farm Projects.

Some of the topics that will be addressed are:

- Access to Land
- Fundraising
- Business Planning
- Farmer Leadership
- Metrics & Evaluation
- Conflict Resolution
- Marketing and Distribution

Register for the event [here!](#)



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### Welcome new AmeriCorps VISTAs!



Laurel Cohen is New Entry's Food Access Facilitator AmeriCorps VISTA. She hails from Maitland, Florida, a suburb of Orlando, and enjoys gardening, reading, tea, and athletics. Laurel graduated from Yale in May, where she studied Economics. She is passionate about repairing our broken food system and loves the dedication, liveliness, and efficacy of the New Entry staff.



Danielle West is the new Development Facilitator VISTA. Her role is to build capacity through leveraged resources in fundraising and development for New Entry to better serve farmers and customers alike. Danielle hails from Florida where she studied geography at Florida State University. As an environmentalist she has a passion for outdoor activities that reconnects us to our Earth.



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### World PEAS CSA

**Local produce grown using organic and sustainable farming practices:  
No GMO's nor any synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides**



The World PEAS CSA purchases from new and beginning farmers who are building their farm businesses, contributing to the local economy, and conserving acres of farmland for local food production. Our produce is harvested daily to ensure freshness and the highest-quality flavor. We have 18 drop-off locations from Lowell to Jamaica Plain and everywhere in between!

Visit our [online store](#) to view all the delectable options, and purchase your World PEAS CSA today! If you aren't able to sign up now, we offer pro-rated shares and a Fall Share that starts in September. We also offer [SNAP CSA Shares](#) for families with limited incomes. Contact us at (978) 654-6745 or [email](#) us for more information.

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### World PEAS CSA Drop-Off Site at Harvest Co-op in Jamiaca Plain

Although we are based in Lowell, MA, we travel as south as Jamaica Plain to deliver produce! The [Harvest Co-op Market](#) in Jamaica Plain is a repeat partner for the World PEAS CSA. This year, we drop off shares every Tuesday that are available for pickup from 4:00 - 9:45 pm. Purchase your share today [here](#).



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## Farmer Profile: Recchat Proum



You all may be familiar with our farmer, Recchat Proum. He was one of New Entry's first Farm Business Planning Course students, and he has been on the same piece of land ever since, growing specialty crops to sell to the local Cambodian community and to the World PEAS CSA.

In our line of work, we often talk about resiliency as a goal, whether referring to farm businesses, soil health, or the food system in general. And Recchat Proum is the very definition of "resilient." As a boy, Recchat worked on his family's 15 acre farm in Cambodia. After escaping the Khmer Rouge and living for three years in a refugee camp in Thailand, Recchat came to the U.S.

After a stop in Wisconsin, he came to Massachusetts and joined the growing Cambodian community in Lowell, learned English, and found a manufacturing job. Although he worked long hours, Recchat found time to keep growing the same vegetables he grew up with in Cambodia – like bitter melon, Asian cucumber, and lemongrass - and he dreamed of being able to farm again. Then he met John Ogonowski, who introduced Recchat to New Entry, offered him a place to farm, and served as a mentor on how to grow in New England.

Last year, with support from staff at New Entry, Recchat applied and received funding from a private grant to improve his farms infrastructure. Like many other small scale farmers, Recchat's fields are too small for a typical tractor to till and maneuver in. Instead a lot of small farmers use a walk-behind tractor that can do all of the same work but just on a smaller scale than a tractor. Recchat used the grant funding to purchase a brand new walk-behind tractor and associated implements and was able to retire his beaten up old machine. The improvement will increase efficiencies and help Recchat grow even more than he already does for World PEAS!

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## 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](http://www.nesfp.org).

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## 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.



Support local agriculture and get your specialty Choose Fresh and Local License Plate today!

### Donate

Your tax-deductible donation is accepted on-line through: Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. **Designate the Friedman School, and New Entry Sustainable Farming Project** to be sure your gift supports new farmers.

### Upcoming Classes

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## Contact Us

### Staff Directory



**We welcome your feedback!**

Please write to [nesfp@tufts.edu](mailto:nesfp@tufts.edu) with any feedback or topics you would like us to cover to improve the quality of our newsletter.

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