



create, cultivate, conserve

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March 2016

Dear Friends,

Spring "sprung" this year with a typical New England snow storm! Come snow, spring showers, or 70 degree weather, we have much to celebrate and plenty of seeds to sow! We have two exciting spring events to share with you. The first, is our [Spring into Farming! 2016 Graduation & Celebration](#), which will kick start the growing season and honor our Fall 2015 / Winter 2016 Farm Business Planning Course graduates. Completing a farm business plan and turning dreams into a "reality" (on paper at least) is the first step to securing and on New Entry's Incubator Training Farms. Come hear from participants and celebrate the start of the growing season. The second event, our [2016 New Entry Spring Fundraising Dinner](#), raises much needed funds for our low-income food access programming. In partnership with a Boston Magazine *Chef of the Year*, Jason Bond, New Entry will host our annual fundraising dinner at his acclaimed [Bondir restaurant in Concord, MA](#). Proceeds raised at the [New Entry "From Our Farms to Every Table" event](#) on May 2nd will increase food accessibility in our community. Last year, funds raised at the dinner helped us to leverage over \$80,000 in fresh fruits and vegetables grown by beginning and other farmers to distribute through senior centers, community health centers, homeless shelters, nutrition education programs and more. Help us exceed our goal this year!



So join us in our festivities to welcome the warm weather, new farmers, and the start of a productive season of fresh, locally-grown produce!

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Upcoming Events

April 5 - [Massachusetts Ag Day](#) at the Statehouse, Boston, MA, 9:30 am - 12 pm

April 5 - [Explore Farming](#), Lowell Office, 4-6 pm

April 9 - [Farming in Community](#), 72 Baker Rd, Shutesbury, Massachusetts 01072, 9:30 am - 8 pm

April 11 - [Spring into Farming! New Entry's 2016 Graduation & Celebration](#), Lowell Office, Free, 6 - 8:30 pm

April 11, 13, 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

April 14 - [Farm Fair Share](#), Cambridge College, 1000 Mass Ave Cambridge, MA, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

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

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

2016 New Entry Fundraising Dinner



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](#).

World PEAS 2016 CSA Shares Are Now Available!

Grown using organic and sustainable farming practices: FREE of GMO's and any synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides

Harvested fresh, within hours of pick-up, World PEAS new and beginning farmers are building their farm businesses, contributing to the local economy, and conserving acres of farmland for local food production thanks to your investment in our CSA program. 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! We also offer [SNAP CSA Shares](#) for families with limited incomes. Contact us at (978) 654-6745 or [email](#) us for more information.

Welcome New Staff!



New Entry welcomes [Janel Wright](#) as our Beginning Farmer Resources Coordinator. Janel has over a decade of experience working with immigrant and refugee communities towards equitable fresh food access and revitalized local food systems. She has farmed alongside growers from Italy to California, and most recently spent a growing season at Mill City Grows' urban farm in Lowell. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to become a more integral part of the beginning farmer community in Massachusetts, and looks forward to educating and organizing within New England's network of rock-star farmers. Read Janel's full bio [here](#).

New Entry's NIFTI Increasing Regional Collaboration

"Every line is the perfect length if you don't measure it." - Marty Rubin

[The National Incubator Farm Training Initiative \(NIFTI\)](#) continues its work to develop a "Shared Framework for Measurement" for Incubator Farm Projects (IFPs) across the country. Currently, nine IFPs across New England are work-shopping or piloting a shared evaluation tool, which measures farmer competencies in four major areas: Skills, Resources, Connections and Farm Documents. This tool is designed to assist IFPs in strengthening their incubator training programs to ensure that farmers are receiving the skills necessary to succeed as independent farm operators.

This month, NIFTI also announced its new regional strategy which focuses on building leadership in five regions across the country. The goal of regional networks is to increase cooperation and collaboration between IFPs, and to work together to shape and grow the ecosystem of success for beginning farmers. Incubator programs will participate in professional development activities and network with local food policy councils. The NIFTI annual survey, which will be distributed in April, will collect important information on local partnerships which NIFTI will compile into regional partnership guides. For more information on these efforts, please contact [Brianna Bowman](#).



Farmer Profile: George Kenty



George Kenty and his wife, Jenny, have a dream of someday living totally off the grid on their 40 acres of farmland, called Alecander Farm, in Winchendon, Massachusetts. His ideal farm is one in which he's able to have the least impact on the land as possible, renewing the mineral and nutrient deposits in the soil and leaving the earth better than he finds it.

"I blame my parents!" he laughs, when asked how he arrived at his philosophical worldview. "Their philosophy was to think very long-term and I don't believe you can think long-term and not be sustainable and pro-Earth."

It's a growing sentiment among young farmers: a desire to get back to our ancestral roots, to work in partnership with the land instead of taking intensively from it. Lots of young people know *why* growing food sustainably is important, but many struggle with *how* to do it while also making a living and supporting a family. George was not a farmer when he came to New Entry in 2010 to learn about planning a farm business, but he knew he wanted to be one. New Entry helped him focus his thinking, so that he is now able to think in terms not only of sustainable living, but also of a sustainable business plan.

He may have been working with an abstract concept of his farm then, but over time the ideas he learned at New Entry have begun to take more concrete form. George stresses the importance of planning. He's a details guy – he writes *everything* down and keeps meticulous records on his land. Six years later, he's seeing his incredible attention to detail pay off. He speaks with pride about being able to reliably grow vegetables and watching the fertility of the soil improve over time (his land was once heavily-farmed in a way that depleted the soil's quality).

These days, the Kenty's farm provides mixed vegetable crops for New Entry's World Peas Food Hub. "New Entry and World Peas are the only reason why I'm farming," says George. "It's always been a dream, but they make it easy." While both George and Jenny still maintain weekday jobs in Cambridge and live most of the time in Medford, they are

working hard and saving up to be able to transition to a life of full-time farming. They've recently finished fixing up their farmhouse, which is powered entirely by solar energy, part of the philosophical goal for the farm itself. One day, they would like to keep animals – goats and chickens – for fiber, meat and eggs. In the meantime, vegetables are more manageable to produce on a 3-day a week farm. But his future plans for Alexander Farm are pretty straightforward: "I'm gonna quit my jobs and just farm full time and live happily ever after!" That's the life.

April 9th - Farming in Community Networking Event

On April 9th, the Sirius Community in Shutesbury is hosting a networking event, the first of what will be a series of ongoing discussions and events regarding farm-based communities and community-based farming in the Northeast. The goal of this event is to bring together farmers, aspiring farmers, community-experienced folks and community-seekers to connect and discuss viable community-based farming models. More information can be found on the [Facebook event](#) and [registration form](#).



Choose Fresh and Local License Plate

We did it! Thanks to your support, the [Choose Fresh & Local license plate](#) will be on the road and available at the RMV in a few months! If you weren't able to sign up before



January, 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 this summer. 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) - it's an easy way to contribute (tax-deductible charitable donation) 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.



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**

Upcoming Classes

**Friedman School, and New
Entry Sustainable Farming
Project** to be sure your gift
supports new farmers.

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