



Donate

Sign up for the
World PEAS
CSA!

Volunteer

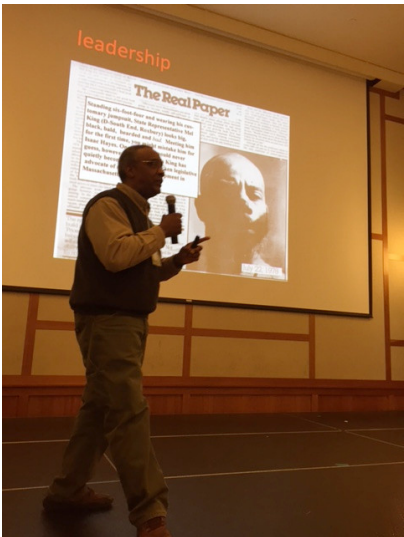
March 2017

It is hard to believe it's already early March! This unusually variable winter that is vacillating between unseasonably warm and sixty degrees to being buried under our classic nor'easters has us both hunkered down for winter and watching the trees bud and daydreaming of the sunnier time of year, so we enclosed a poem below that describes simple joys in the summertime.

With respect to our newsletter, a few updates for you this time around.

[Sign-ups](#) have begun for the 2017 World PEAS CSA season, so get your box as soon as you can so we can provide advanced microloans to farmers to support their seasonal start-up costs, and please remind your friends and family!

More news to spread to your network: New Entry is hiring for two positions--the [Incubator Farm Site Manager \(OR a Seasonal Farm Coordinator\)](#) and the [National Technical Assistance Coordinator](#)--and we can't wait to see what great applications we receive. We also welcome Tony Grasso to New Entry (and back to Massachusetts after a decade in Texas) as our new World PEAS Food Hub Manager!



We've already been quite busy this month conducting outreach and meeting farmers at the [Urban Farming Conference](#) (Saturday, March 4th - pictured at left- closing keynote by Greg Watson honoring urban ag leadership of Mel King) and at the [Harvest New England Conference](#) in Sturbridge (March 8-9)!

And, if you haven't signed up yet - there are a couple spots left for our [Quickbooks for Farmers](#) workshop - **tomorrow** - Saturday the 11th, so

featuring our Director, Jennifer Hashley) on March 18-19 at the [Stone Barns Poultry School](#) in Pocantico Hills, NY. And hurry - today is also the early bird registration deadline for the upcoming New England [Farm to Institution Summit](#) on April 5-7 in Leominster, MA.

Finally, there's the [Community Food Systems Conference](#) New Entry is hosting from Tuesday, December 5th to Thursday, December 7th: we are currently seeking proposals for workshop sessions, so please [send us your fabulous ideas](#) and we can work together on realizing them as robust, participatory experiences for conference attendees.

Here is the poem, for your enjoyment - to make every day a perfect day!

On a Perfect Day
by Jane Gentry

... I eat an artichoke in front
of the Charles Street Laundromat
and watch the clouds bloom
into white flowers out of
the building across the way.
The bright air moves on my face
like the touch of someone who loves me.
Far overhead a dart-shaped plane softens
through membranes of vacancy. A ship,
riding the bright glissade of the Hudson, slips
past the end of the street. Colette's vagabond
says the sun belongs to the lizard
that warms in its light. I own these moments
when my skin like a drumhead stretches on the frame
of my bones, then swells, a bellows filled
with sacred breath seared by this flame,
this happiness.

"On a Perfect Day" by Jane Gentry, from A Garden in Kentucky. © Louisiana State University Press, 1995.
[writersalmanac.publicradio.org](#)

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Upcoming Events

- March 11th, 2017** -10 am - 2 pm, [Quickbooks for Farmers](#), New Entry, Boston, MA
- March 18-19, 2017**, Two-day [Poultry School](#), Stone Barns, Pocantico Hill, NY.
- April 6th, 2017** -1 pm- 2 pm, [Record-Keeping Strategies for Organic Certification](#), New Entry Online Webinar with Laura Davis.
- April 5-7, 2017**, [New England Farm to Institution Summit](#), Leominster, MA.
- December 5th - 7th, 2017** - [Community Food Systems Conference 2017](#), Boston's Park Plaza Hotel, MA

Sign Up Today for New Entry's World PEAS CSA!



Join the World PEAS CSA for 20-weeks of farm-fresh fruit and vegetables grown by local beginning, immigrant, and refugee farmers! The World PEAS CSA offers multiple share sizes and options (including a Small Share, Large Share, Egg Share, Summer Share, and Fall Share) as well as convenient pickup locations all over the greater Boston area. World PEAS is proud to accept SNAP/EBT as payment. When you purchase a World PEAS CSA share you get super high-quality, freshly harvested, all-local produce while supporting the next generation of culturally diverse farmers!

Sign up now at: <http://www.worldpeascsa.org>

Your early commitment to our CSA helps New Entry provide no-interest microloans to our World PEAS CSA farmers to support their early-season start up costs. Sign up early and help your veggie dollars get a jump start on the growing season!

Winter Record Keeping Workshops



Series of Winter Record Keeping Workshops!

QuickBooks for Farmers

Author of The Farmer’s Office, Julia Shanks, leads a practical, hands-on QuickBooks workshop. Learn how to set up a suitable chart of accounts, enter transactions, track enterprise-specific data, and generate and interpret farm financial statements.

Date: Saturday, March 11, 2017

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Sackler Building 145 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111

Cost: \$12 - \$17

Registration required, reserve your seat now!

<https://nesfp.org/events/quickbooks-farmers>

Record-Keeping Strategies for Organic Certification Webinar

This online webinar will cover all you need to know about farm record-keeping for organic certification. Specific topics include simplifying records on your farm for efficiency and organic certification requirements as well as compost production records needed to gain approval for use on certified organic farms.

Date: Thursday, April 6th

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

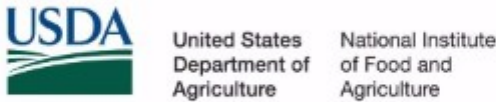
Location: Online

Cost: FREE

Registration required, reserve your seat now!

<https://nesfp.org/events/record-keeping-strategies-organic-certification-webinar>

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2015-49200-24225.



We Are Hiring!



New Entry is Hiring - spread the word!

Farm Business Training and Incubator Farm Site Manager

Job Summary

The Farm Business Training and Incubator Site Manager is responsible for providing year-round technical assistance (TA) and farm production and business training to small-scale beginning farmers, both on and off the field, on multiple aspects of farm enterprise development. Manage New Entry’s multiple incubator farm sites and equipment, determine the best approach for site improvements and facilitate crop production (emphasizing organic techniques) to achieve lease compliance and support producers to achieve commercial farm goals. This position is a vital part of the farmer training team, and as such will share in the responsibility of fulfilling farmer training grant deliverables and reporting requirements. For more details and to apply [visit this site](#).

We are also willing to consider this position as a temporary, seasonal farm position as our Incubator Farm Site Coordinator position (March through November) - check out that position [here](#).

New Entry is Hiring: National Technical Assistance Coordinator

Job Summary

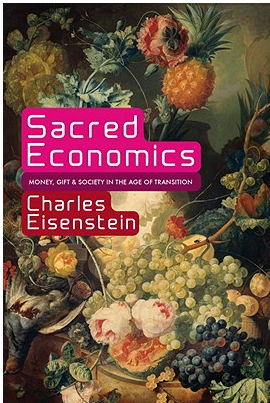
The National Technical Assistance Coordinator will provide support and facilitation for two USDA national technical assistance (TA) projects: (1) the USDA Community Food Projects (CFP) grants program which supports community-based food security interventions and projects aimed at low-income communities; and (2) the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) grants program which supports organizations to provide training support to entering farmers and ranchers in their first ten years of operations. This person will support outreach to national organizations, particularly in underserved communities; conduct intake and case management/technical assistance for applicants and grantees of both programs; help develop educational resources, toolkits, guidebooks and webinars to support successful programs and grant proposals; and support program evaluation, data collection, monitoring and project reporting.

What We're Eating and Reading



A look inside past World PEAS CSA member share boxes.

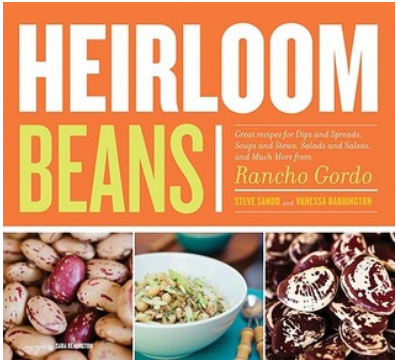
Reading :



Sustainable Food Systems: The Role of the City By Robert Biel - [Download it FREE from UCL Press](#)
<http://bit.ly/2h6xhHt>

Sacred Economics By Charles Eisenstein -[Read online FREE](#) <http://sacred-economics.com/read-online/>

Eating :



Eating and reading about LOTS OF BEANS...
Heirloom Beans: Recipes from Rancho Gordo
By Steve Sando, Vanessa Barrington

Baked Penne with Roasted Vegetables - [Recipe Here](#)

Volunteer With Us



Schedule a Group Volunteer Day!

Is your class, workplace, or other community organization looking for a one-time volunteer opportunity you can feel good about? Look no further! **We are currently accepting volunteer groups for the spring and summer of 2017** to take place at our incubator farm sites in Dracut, MA. Contact maria.smith@tufts.edu for more information.

Request For Proposal: Community Food System Conference



A volunteer helps in packing CSA shares at the World PEAS Food Hub.

We are seeking proposals for workshop sessions at our Community Food Systems Conference from leaders in food security, social justice, and sustainable agriculture. We will be accepting proposals until April 3, 2017 at 11:59pm.

What: Community Food Systems Conference

When: 12/5/17 - 12/7/17

Where: Boston Park Plaza Hotel

About: This conference will explore the intersection of food security, social justice, and sustainable agriculture. It will address a variety of community food

- Skill Building across cultures and sectors
- Diversity of presenters
- Racial, social and economic equity

Please note, we are looking to incorporate stories from Community Food Projects grantees into workshop sessions.

[Submit A Proposal Here](#)

We expect 500-600 attendees. Be a part of this historical event. Visit [our website](#) for more information. Please contact Kristen (kristen.aldrich@tufts.edu) with questions. View a [PDF of the RFP here](#).

“Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.” - Wendell Berry

This event is supported by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Farmer Profile: Phalla Nol



If you visit the Lowell farmers market on any given Friday during market season, follow the crowd and you'll be led directly to Phalla Nol. A sweet woman with a contagious laugh, Phalla is a New Entry farmer who comes to us from Battambang, a western province of Cambodia. While still very young, Phalla recalls accompanying her father - the mayor of their city at the time - to his potato farm. She admits that her career in farming did not directly grow out of these early experiences, but what she knows about growing good food she learned from her father.

father. Her dad, NilPor, was one of New Entry's first growers, and we fondly called him "Mr. Nil." She says while she didn't feel farming was always in her blood, it was her father who inspired her to dig deeper. After he passed, Phalla honored his legacy by continuing to farm. Being a principle farmer is hard work, but Phalla says she's lucky to have the help of immediate and extended family. "My mother is my best helper!" she says with enthusiasm. Phalla is the grower and the saleswoman, while her mother is the organizational backbone of the whole operation.

Cultural food traditions are the heart of any community, and Phalla helps keep these alive by growing and selling popular Asian vegetables. Market goers crowd around her stand, drawn by the display of uncommon delights, from bitter melon to pumpkin vines to amaranth leaves. If you're looking for something adventurous, try some luffa - also called Chinese okra, but very different from the variety typical to the southern United States. It takes a long time to grow, Phalla explains, but it's worth the wait. Luffa is one of Phalla's favorites, whether sautéed, put in soup, or dipped in fish sauce.

Apart from the Lowell farmers market, Phalla can be found at four other markets in the greater Boston area, and she is one of the most prolific suppliers for the [World PEAS CSA](#). Her main product is garlic, but she grows a huge variety of other crops: cilantro, green onions, mixed lettuce, basil, chili and habanero peppers, several eggplant varieties, tomatoes, Asian cucumber, squash, and molokhai, a bitter leafy green.

When asked about the biggest challenge she faces in farming, she exclaims with a hearty laugh: "Weeding!" Although she has no concrete plans for expansion, she would consider expanding her business if she could find some extra help. She and her family manage well most of the year, but the biggest challenge comes during peak season when harvesting and weeding compete for her attention. In addition to keeping on top of weeds, Phalla also says that every day is groundhog day. Groundhogs seem to have an appetite for everything on Phalla's farm apart from green onions; they even get into the greenhouse.

While farming may slow down in the winter, Phalla doesn't indulge in an "offseason." As a side business, you can find her making custom Chinese playing cards. With such an entrepreneurial spirit, there is no doubt that Phalla will see great successes with her future endeavors. Check out Phalla's Produce at the Lowell Farmers' Market during the growing season.

Over 50 Farmers Attend "Farming Smarter" Workshop!



On Wednesday February 22nd, we were joined by over 50 beginning and small scale farmers from all over New England. In this full day farm business workshop led by Richard Wiswall (author of "Farming Smarter"), participants learned all about business techniques to make their farm operations smoother, and more profitable. Lessons included farm record-keeping strategies, crop planning strategies, calculating enterprise budgets and market segment costs, how to organize your farm office, strategic marketing, and more. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Richard Wiswall for imparting some of his farm wisdom to us!

Here are some comments from attendees...

"I feel empowered to take better records and find financial leaks, I'm excited to break down individual crops and expose what's going on!"

"This workshop gave me the tools and confidence to go forward with a higher level of efficiency, therefore time, therefore money, thanks!"

If you are interested in attending other New Entry farm workshops visit <http://nesfp.org/events>

Choose Fresh and Local License Plate

An advertisement for the 'Choose Fresh & Local' license plate. The top half has a red background with the text 'These plates are officially on the road!' in white. Below this is a sample license plate for Massachusetts, 'A1234', with 'OCT' and '2014' on the sides. The plate features a graphic of a corn cob and a pumpkin. Below the plate are three circular logos: 'SUPPORT MASS FARMERS MARKETS', 'BEGINNING FARMER NETWORK Mass', and 'NEW ENTRY SUSTAINABLE FARMING PROJECT'. The bottom half has a dark grey background with the text 'It's simple and easy to reserve your Choose Fresh & Local plate today!' and the website 'www.mafoodplate.org'.

We are proudly sporting our new Choose Fresh and Local license plates - ARE YOU? 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. Visit our website to find out [how it works](#), you can sign up online and the RMV will mail the plates TO YOUR HOME...no waiting in long lines at the RMV - it's easy as 1 -2 - 3. THANK YOU for supporting local food!

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: work with new farmers to build strong businesses, expertise in the field, and a resilient food system. 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.

Upcoming Classes



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.

Contact Us

Staff Directory

We welcome your feedback!
Please write to nesfp@tufts.edu with any

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