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May 2016

Dear Friends,

Spring is underway! Two of our incubator training farm sites in Dracut are ready for the season thanks to student volunteer groups from [Boston College](#) and [Phillips Academy Andover](#)! Students from Boston College built an access road with wood chips and cleared an overgrown rock wall creating more space and better work flow for the farm. Phillips Academy students also got their hands dirty and spread wood chips to create a level base for a cold frame that protects farmers' seedlings from the variable spring weather and hungry pests. We are always prepared to welcome new volunteers and community groups to support projects at our World PEAS Food Hub, incubator farms, and even fun office projects! For volunteer opportunities with New Entry, please contact [Christina Rohrbacher](#).



Our World PEAS Food Hub begins distributing CSA Shares on June 7th. As you already may know, the Food Hub also provides produce to organizations serving low-

income clients to ensure everyone has access to fresh, local produce. To make this work possible, New Entry hosted our annual Fundraising Dinner at [Bondir Concord](#) earlier this month. This year we were able to raise **\$19,655** for our food access initiatives! With this contribution, World PEAS will deliver produce throughout the season to over 1,800 low-income individuals in the Greater Boston area. A big **"Thank you"** to attendees, donors, and Bondir Concord for your support! We wouldn't be able to accomplish our work without all of our amazing supporters.

As we get ready to launch into the delicious season filled with locally grown produce, we also start to close out the end of the nonprofit "fiscal year." As you start to savor all those local strawberries ripening in the fields, or look forward to tasty, locally grown vine-ripened tomatoes, we appreciate your support to keep those future farmers on the land! Help us reach our year-end fundraising goal of \$100,000. We have raised over \$82,000 so far, so help us get the rest of the way there so we can all enjoy more local food: click [here](#) and specify New Entry Sustainable Farming Project to help us reach our goal - thank you!

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### Upcoming Events

**May 31** - [Field Workshop: Food Safety, Wash Station Set-up, Best Harvest Practices, and Good Recordkeeping](#), 4-6 pm, Smith-Healy Farm Site, 300 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

**June 2** - [Food Hub Volunteer Orientation](#), 10-12 am, 199 Crosby St, Lowell, MA 01852

**June 7** - New Entry's [World PEAS CSA](#) season starts!

**June 14** - [Field Workshop: Irrigation](#), 4-6 pm, Ogonowski Memorial Fields Site, 126 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

**June 23** - [Solutions for a Sustainable Community: Creating a Greener Greater Boston - New Entry is featured at the Social Innovation Forum's Boot Camp Pitch Event](#) - come learn about New Entry's new vision and our plan for growth! 8:30 - 10 am, District Hall, 75 Northern Avenue, Boston.

**June 28** - [Field Workshop: Pest and Disease Management & Safe Spraying Practices](#), 4-6 pm, Smith-Healy Farm Site, 300 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

**July 12** - [Field Workshop: Weed Management: Part 2](#), 4-6 pm, Smith-Healy Farm, 300 Jones Ave, Dracut, MA

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

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### **World PEAS CSA Season Starts June 7th!**

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



The World PEAS CSA season starts June 7th! World PEAS produce is harvested daily to ensure freshness and the highest-quality flavor. 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! 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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### **Farmland Matching Success - from Zimbabwe to Groton, MA!**

It's no news to farmers that finding quality, affordable farmland in Eastern Massachusetts is a battle; however New Entry's [Farmland Matching Coordinator](#), Noelle Fogg, reduces that struggle with one-on-one technical assistance and our robust farmland database. This month, Noelle facilitated a successful land match for a New Entry



graduate! With an unexpected land use termination just days before needing to plant her seedlings, [Bessie Tsimba](#) (a 2009 New Entry graduate) was unsure about the fate of her farm for 2016; so she turned to New Entry for help. Noelle and the New Entry team were able to find land and finalize an agreement in almost record time. Bessie, originally from Zimbabwe, is now farming on 3/4 of an acre in Groton, MA. She grows a variety of African crops, which she sells to the local African community and to our own World PEAS CSA!

We are continually adding new parcels to our farmland database- whether you have 2 acres or twenty (or 200!), we'd like to hear from you! You never know who might be a great fit to keep your land in active agricultural use. Whether you are a land owner or land seeker, contact [Noelle Fogg](#) for Farmland Matching opportunities.

### USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Local Food Marketing Practices Survey

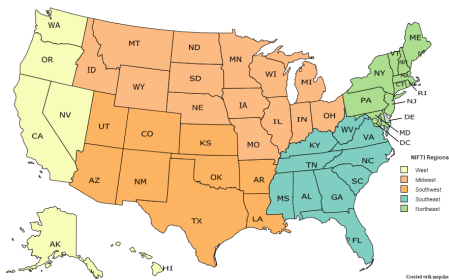


**We need your help!** The USDA recently launched the inaugural Local Food Marketing Practices Survey, the first-ever survey of farmers and ranchers conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to produce benchmark data about local food. The Survey confidentially examines the production and marketing of foods produced in 2015 by U.S. farmers and ranchers. Specific attention is given to production and marketing of local foods directly to consumers and to retailers that sell to consumers.

The initial deadline has passed but there is still time for producers to respond by filling out the survey online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov), or returning the form by mail. NASS will also send another mailing this month as a reminder to those who have not completed their survey. If respondents have additional questions, they may call 888.424.7828 or email [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).



## National Incubator Farm Training Initiative's First Regional Report



### [National Incubator Farm Training Initiative \(NIFTI\)](#),

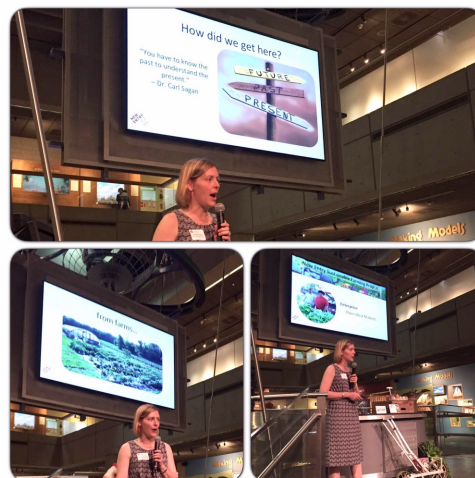
provides comprehensive consulting, educational resources, and professional development opportunities for scores of organizations throughout North America. Most recently, NIFTI began facilitating regional meetings between

incubator farm training programs across the country and has compiled the [First Regional Report](#) based on our first meetings! Regions are divided into the West, Southwest, Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast. Regional Reports will be distributed quarterly, and are based on information shared during these meetings.

Thank you to all of the organizations who participated in the first Regional Calls in March and April! We look forward to continuing our work to strengthen local networks of support for Incubator Farm Projects and their participants. The next series of regional calls will begin in July, so keep your eye out for updates and the next report. If you are part of an incubator farm program looking for support, contact [Brianna Bowman](#).

## New Entry on the move - May's public speaking road show!

New Entry's Project Director, Jennifer Hashley, has been making the rounds this month educating community groups on local food systems and the importance of sustaining a new generation of farmers and food producers. Jennifer presented at the FELS talk on May 5 at Sudbury Lincoln High School, a program to support educators to seek learning experiences in their field. She also collaborated with J Harrison, Executive Director of the Food Project to provide insight into how communities can engage in Urban Agriculture at a May 10th event for the for Lincoln Agriculture Commission. Jennifer also attracted crowds with seed trays, eggs of various sizes and colors, and some antique farming tools at the Boston Museum of Science talk



on May 14<sup>th</sup> as part of Food Science weekend. She then traveled to the University of Connecticut to present information about poultry processing and New Entry's Mobile Poultry Processing Unit program at a two-day poultry HACCP (food safety) course on May 25-26. Have you spotted Jennifer this month? If not, keep your eye out, she will be giving a "pitch" to showcase New Entry programs at the upcoming Social Innovation Forum's ["Solutions for a Sustainable Community" Event](#) on June 23rd!

### New Entry connecting Immigrant and Refugee Farmers to the Land

*"Now that I have land to grow, I come here and get the fresh air. The vegetables are growing, the seeds germinate, and the plants spread out. I feel so happy to see those things."*



Dirt, an online food and agriculture information hub, recently published ["Laying Roots in Foreign Soil: Refugees Thrive in Urban Agriculture Roles"](#) which highlights programs across the country that are providing farmer training to immigrants and refugees. New Entry was featured for our comprehensive farmer training program and our [Farmland Matching Service](#).

Check out this great read and learn about other organizations in the country who are doing great work similar to New Entry.

### World PEAS CSA - New Drop-Off At Mill No. 5 in Lowell

[Mill No. 5](#), located on the 4th floor of a renovated mill building in Lowell, MA, is a hub for artists, independent retailers, and now New Entry's World PEAS produce! This drop-off site is just around the corner from our main offices in downtown Lowell and new for the 2016 season. New Entry tables at the Mill No. 5 Farmer's Markets every Sunday. Stop by and visit or check out our website to learn more about the [World PEAS CSA](#) and our variety of share options. Sign up today!



## Farmer Profile: Karl Goethert and Elena Colman



Karl Goethert and Elena Colman got to know each other as farmhands on the historic Brigham Farm in Concord, MA. Neither came from farming backgrounds, but found that the work suited them well. In 2011, they decided to branch out. Brigham Farm agreed to rent them a portion of their land so Karl and Elena could dabble in growing lettuce, carrots and radishes, and Crooked Row Fields was born. Their business continued to grow and they sold their produce through the same markets that Brigham Farm attended, and at the Brigham Farm farmstand.

Karl had an idea how to grow vegetables, but wanted to gain some solid skills in business planning. He signed up for New Entry's Farm Business Planning course. He says that he understood most of the course's concepts, but until going through the class, hadn't understood how to wrap it all up into a workable business plan. The biggest benefit he took away after graduating from the course in January 2011 was that it allowed him to write a business proposal for which he was awarded a grant that provided enough funding to get their business started for the 2011 season.

Karl and Elena find that they learn best "on the fly," and their business strategy changes a little bit each year. Their operation has expanded to a mixed variety of specialty crops and cut flowers. This year, their produce will go exclusively to their CSA subscribers, and they plan to offer a summer share to their members for the first time.

Read Karl and Elena's full bio [here](#).

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## Pitch Perfect - New Entry Selected for Social Innovation Forum's Pilot "Boot Camp" Program



New Entry was selected to be part of the Social Innovation Forum's pilot Boot Camp program for organizations working on a range of sustainability issues. The Boot Camp is sponsored by the Schrafft Charitable Trust and is geared to help New Entry and seven other local nonprofits to improve our organizational capacity, increase visibility, and expand our networks. New Entry has been refining our communication and messaging, performance measurement, fundraising strategies, and governance. The culmination of the program is an

opportunity for New Entry to present our work at **District Hall on Thursday, June 23 from 8:30 - 10 am**. Please use this [link](#) to learn more about the event and to RSVP. We hope to see you there!

### 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 weeks (we hope!)! 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!

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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.

#### 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.

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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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