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e-newsletter



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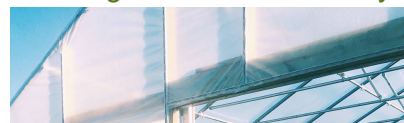
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October 2016

Dear Friends,

The changing of the seasons reminds us that the only thing constant is change! With fall upon us and the holiday season approaching, our frost-free days enjoyed during a hot, dry growing season are quickly coming to an end. Select varieties of vegetables will continue to grow slowly or become dormant as the weather cools, so enjoy the abundance and bounty of the fall harvest season with apple picking, pumpkin carving, and hay rides - favorite New England traditions. We all are doing rain dances so our fellow cranberry producers can enjoy a traditional fall harvest as well - it looks to be a very tough year for wet-harvested Massachusetts cranberries. As we enter the fall season, although fields begin to be cover cropped and turn dormant outside, we will soon be busy inside "growing" new farmers. This month, we launch our annual [Farm Business Planning Course](#) and welcome a new cohort of future sustainable food producers to the program. We look forward to working with these new producers and supporting their development of future farm businesses.

These days, sometimes the changing of the seasons is harder to see at the market - many growers are investing in hoophouses, high tunnels, and greenhouses, so they are able to extend local harvests of certain crops *almost* year round. We are proud to have supported



one of our long-time producers, Phalla Nol to install her first high-tunnel, funded by USDA's NRCS cost-share organic program. We are also grateful to the Walking Stick Foundation for making a bridge loan to allow Phalla to pay for the tunnel up front, install it, plant it, and then be reimbursed by NRCS. Phalla has already planted cool-weather crops for fall harvest!



Yet, as promising as our season extension and new growing techniques are and the growing number of winter farmers' markets that bring together producers and consumers almost year-round, the majority of Massachusetts consumers will turn to eating food from outside of the Commonwealth over the coming few months. While there is local and imported food available, many of our fellow eaters will be hungry. This is especially concerning in a nation where 30-40% of our food [goes to waste](#). Food access and poverty alleviation are two areas that New Entry's Americorps VISTA members are working to address during their year of service.

We are reminded of our role in poverty alleviation, particularly as our Americorps VISTA members will be celebrating the [One in One Million](#) milestone of the program on October 7th! They remind us all that during the colder months, those experiencing poverty and those living just above the poverty line are often faced with a choice of heating their homes or putting food on the table. Hunger is a systems problem and a political problem and famine is a social phenomenon. We can end hunger. Many groups are working endlessly to bridge the gap and meet the needs of hungry families, yet they still haven't worked themselves out of jobs yet and the need continues to grow. Hunger is connected to so many other social issues - environmental, economic, *social*, and political, making this election year all the more critical.



New Entry's World PEAS Food Hub is partnering with dozens of organizations in Eastern Massachusetts to connect low-income consumers and individuals facing hunger with fresh, locally grown food grown by our beginning producers. As the growing season and our marketing connections

will soon wind down, we reflect on the challenges these individuals and families will face accessing fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables after local farmers plant cover crops on the fields and take time to rest. We will be piloting an extended season delivery to a local senior center weekly through Thanksgiving this year to keep those

fresh, locally-sourced meals on the table a bit longer! We hope to expand this program next year with more community partners - which will be made easier to coordinate with new Food Hub software made possible by a recent [MDAR Urban Agriculture Grant](#).

We hope you can join us in extending the season for all and especially for those who need it most. You can make a difference by [donating to New Entry](#) or by [volunteering](#) with us. Support New Entry's work with new farmers and help bring awareness to local food by purchasing a [Choose Fresh & Local License Plate](#) for your vehicle. Together we can achieve food justice!

In This Issue

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Welcome New Staff - Expanding our National Programs Team!](#)
- [One of One Million - Celebrating Americorps Service!](#)
- [Farmer Profile](#)
- [Farmland Matching Service - Survey Says!](#)
- [5th Annual NIFTI National Field School](#)
- [Choose Fresh and Local License Plate](#)
- [World PEAS Food Hub grateful for MDAR's Urban Agriculture Grant!](#)

Upcoming Events

October 5-7 - [NIFTI](#) Northeast Field School for Incubator Farm Projects on Land Access and Supporting Producers to Transition off the Incubator, Glynwood, Coldspring, NY

October 15 - Project Director, [Jennifer Hashley](#) presents a slide show of her Eisenhower Fellowship to Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia, [Codman Community Farm Barn](#), 6 - 8:30 pm

October 16 - 18 - [Women in Meat Northeast](#) Conference, Petersham, MA

October 18 - [Farm Business Planning Course Fall Session](#), Lowell Office, 6 PM - 9 PM

October 25, 9 AM - October 27, 4 PM - [5th NIFTI National Field School](#), Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, MI

New Entry is now on [Instagram](#)! Follow us for the latest updates from all our programs!



Welcome New Staff - Expanding our National Programs Team!

Kristen Aldrich, National Technical Assistance Coordinator, works with New Entry's National Program Team to support applicants of two USDA grant programs: Community Food Projects and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. She provides assistance and resources to organizations seeking funding from these sources.



Her prior experience includes work with organizations in the Southeast that support local food systems, sustainable agriculture, and promote healthy communities. She has on farm experience as a WWOOF volunteer in Oregon and California and as a seasonal farm intern in Vermont. She is excited to help organizations achieve their goals in local food systems work, connecting communities to and promoting the support of local farms.

Kristen holds an MA in Environmental Conservation Education from NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development where her coursework included environmental policy, philosophy, and education as well as nonprofit management. She

holds a BS in Communications with a minor in Spanish from Northeastern University. You can contact her at kristen.aldrich@tufts.edu.

One of One Million - Celebrating AmeriCorps Service!

On October 7th AmeriCorps is swearing in its one millionth AmeriCorps member. New Entry would like to thank our AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with us in Lowell and the AmeriCorps members across the country. [Thanks a million!](#)



"The first few months serving with New Entry have already been rewarding. New Entry has offered a meaningful opportunity to connect with the agriculture sector and farmers of the greater Boston area. We're excited to have a sustainable impact on the local food system to help promote and achieve food justice!"

- Maria, Danielle, & Laurel 2016-2017 AmeriCorps VISTAs

Look for the next November issue for more updates from the VISTAs.

Farmer Profile: Martyn Boxfield & Ted Fox

In March 2015, Martyn Botfield and Ted Fox graduated from New Entry's Farm Business Planning Course. When asked about their plans for the future, in short, they said they hope to be farming on five to twenty acres of land and to make farming their sole source of income. As they wrap up their second season on New Entry's incubator farm, they are well

on their way.

Martyn Botfield and Ted Fox, both scientists by training and long time friends, have the passion, attention to detail, and patience it takes to own a farm. Ted and Martyn were modestly hoping for a farmland placement by the Fall of 2016. New Entry's Farm Land Matching Coordinator Noelle Fogg Elibol was able to match them with a 12-acre parcel of land in Acton-Boxborough in the Spring of 2016! This land, now known as Dancing Plover Organic Farms, was strategically matched with Martyn and Ted to be close to their homes.



While farming the land at New Entry's Ogonowski Memorial Fields Incubator Farm in Dracut, Ted and Martyn experimented with numerous strains of tomatoes and lettuces. They observed germination and growing rates over the seasons. Variety selection was extremely important because Ted and Martyn plan to grow 9 months out of the year. Ted is working full-time and Martyn retired in March to dedicate more time to the farm. Their experience has been a rewarding, but hard endeavor. As one might expect, germinating lettuce in the heat in drought conditions is very challenging. Now that they have made strategic crop variety selections they have a plan to scale up with several types of lettuces and tomatoes.

Ted and Martyn are focusing on selling to the wholesale market. With 12 acres their plan is to use 1/3 of the land for cover crops and 2/3 for production. Given that Ted and Martyn were just matched with this land this spring, they have spent most of this season preparing for the transition by planning and acquiring infrastructure – a pond irrigation system, tractor, and greenhouse. They plan to get farming on their new land in 2017.

As farming can be challenging, Martyn notes success is achieved by the “willingness to adapt to change you can’t forecast.” They already feel incredibly successful and are very appreciative of New Entry’s support and opportunity. Martyn and Ted have lots of enthusiasm and support for young folk in the farming business. Yet, during our interview Martyn begged the question of how do young folk (who are the future of sustainable

agriculture) get started in this physically demanding business where the capital cost is so high? As New Entry does, Dancing Plover Organic Farms aims to reduce the hurdles for youth with the aspiration to farm. They hope to build a sustainable business and a well-accepted brand. One that supports an additional one or two younger farmers to hand Dancing Plover Farms off to and continue their legacy in the future.

New Entry couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments Martyn Boxfield and Ted Fox have made so far and we are excited to see what Dancing Plover Organic Farms has in store next year - we wish them much success!

Farmland Matching Service - Survey Says!

As an active member of second phase of a New England-wide [Land Access Project](#), New Entry's [Farmland Matching Service](#) conducted our annual survey a bit differently this year. In partnership with multiple other farmland linking programs across New England, we worked to develop a set of shared success metrics that look beyond just "making matches" between landowners and farmers.

New Entry's Farmland Matching Service provides a suite of additional wrap-around services to help farmland seekers with many aspects of land access planning, as well as services to



help landowners with site assessments and independent technical assistance. The survey results are in and we couldn't be more proud. Here's a preview into some of the responses from Farmland Seekers:

"How have you benefited from using New Entry's Farmland Matching Service?"

- Improved my ability to find resources and services: 66%
- Accessed information that helped me negotiate a lease, purchase, or other arrangement: 40%
- Improved my understanding of land access options for my situation: 73%
- Improved my ability to make decisions about my land situation: 60%

- Improved my ability to implement a farm search or acquisition on my own: 53%

"[The Farmland Matching Service] is amazing. When I have more time (off-season) I feel confident that I will be able to tackle many of the ideas she gave us in an hour-long meeting. Noelle came right to our kitchen table and sat down with us--this is exactly what I think is great about New Entry. Really meeting farmers where we're at, with technical information." – Farmland Seeker, Concord, MA

5th Annual NIFTI National Field School

It's almost here, the [National Incubator Farm Training Initiative \(NIFTI\)](#) National Field School! The National Field School provides an opportunity for Incubator Farm Project staff from across the country to gather, share best practices, and troubleshoot common challenges.

This year's Field School is being held in Ann Arbor, Michigan October 25 - 27, 2016. The 5th NIFTI National Field School will include workshops, skills-based training, 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](#)! To become a National Field School Sponsor and help us bring more programs to the conference [click here](#)!



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!](#)

We are proudly sporting our new Choose Fresh and Local license plates - do you have yours? 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](#) - THANK YOU!

Get a plate!

[World PEAS Food Hub](#) grateful for MDAR's Urban Agriculture Grant!

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced over \$350,000 in grants through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' (MDAR) [Urban Agriculture Program](#). The Urban Agriculture Program was created to increase urban grown produce production, processing, and marketing in the Commonwealth. These grants will support urban agriculture and provide residents access to fresh local food.

New Entry's grant is to purchase the Lowell-based World PEAS Food Hub equipment and infrastructure. Including software for food hub aggregation and distribution management, marketing materials, re-usable crates, and ice packs for produce distribution and packing. These improvements are projected to increase community supported agriculture

(CSA) participation by 20% in food insecure communities of the North Shore.



World PEAS Food Hub Team

New Entry is thrilled to receive an award through the MDAR Urban Agriculture Program this year! The funds will give New Entry the opportunity to increase access to fresh, healthy food to urban and under-resourced communities in the City of Boston, all the while supporting diverse small-scale farmers across eastern MA.

World PEAS Food Hub Manager, Kristen Whitmore says, "This year we are making technology improvements. Last year we installed a new cooler and produce packing line system, which really helped streamline our warehouse space. This season we will install improved software systems to help manage the complex process of aggregating fresh food from over 35 small-scale and beginning farmers and distributing to over 30 different locations across the region. We are eagerly anticipating major efficiency improvements behind the scenes!"

In 2017, the World PEAS CSA program will expand its offerings within the City of Boston, increase participation in its SNAP CSA program, and serve more local senior citizens through food access programs. Thanks MDAR for helping us make it happen!

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.



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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