Who could have imagined that 2020 would bring such instability and heartache to our world? It is easy to lose hope, yet New Entry instead choose to be of service and leverage our resources to confront the weaknesses and inequities in the food system and double down on our mission to improve access to local and regional food. Our foundational work in farmer training and support continued in earnest. We doubled the number of incubator farmers at Moraine Farm, transitioned our programming online and reached more new farmers across the regional remotely. Our Food Hub expanded the CSA and launched new collaborations with our food access partners to bring weekly deliveries of fruits and vegetables to those most in need. Our national programs supported farmer training organizations to share COVID-19 adaptation strategies and our annual FIELD School virtually reached over 250 participants. And we accomplished so much more.

I am proud of our collective good work at New Entry, but we can and must do more. This year presented opportunities to advance our mission beyond what we could have imagined and now we must prioritize, continue to strengthen partnerships, and increase our capacity to create an economically, environmentally, socially sustainable, and racially equitable system of agriculture and food production that relies on local resources and serves local markets and consumers. To achieve true food systems transformation, we need everyone to participate - if you eat, you have a role to play. We invite you to join us in this endeavor - as we look to 2021- get involved with New Entry, we are counting on you!

JENNIFER HASLEY
Executive Director
This year, despite the physical distancing requirements we all faced, the Farmer Training Program had the most robust year yet, with over 137 individuals participating in our programming. Our farm team also grew and sold over $25,000 of Certified Organic produce!

Through our network, we supported dozens of producers with information and access to COVID-19 relief and grant programs. To help us support the farm community, the team welcomed a Tisch Friedman Graduate Summer Fellow in Farmer Training / Field Production, and we currently have four additional graduate students engaged in internships to support farmer training efforts.

It is clear that there is more need and thankfully, more interest than ever in building a more sustainable food system, and we are excited to continue our mission of providing training, education, and support for our extended farm community!

A few other highlights:

* New Entry also received an anonymous donation of $35,000 of hydroponic equipment
* TRIaled a grain cover crop and test-harvested (by hand!) 70 lbs. of winter wheat for use by Tufts Bread Lab
* Our farm is Certified Organic & CQP Food Safety Certified
New Entry led 4 focus groups related to Farmer Social Sustainability with over 30 participants for dairy, livestock, fruits and vegetables.

The team was the lead-organizer for 3 focus groups on Collaborative Farm Labor Models at NOFA Mass Winter conference and led 2 online focus groups with 20 participants.

Served as the co-lead for the GREW Project, an online evaluation resource library with tools, webinars and robust learning communities!

The team worked tirelessly this year to host and participate in national and regional trainings for the farming community. To better understand the needs and status of our national networks, we are updating our census of the 300+ beginning farmer training programs in the New Entry database so we can continue to provide hyper-relevant support and training for farm service providers. We also plan to host the first in a series of farm mentor trainings in partnership with University of Maryland’s Institute for Applied Agriculture and UMD Extension in January 2021.

As part of our quest to provide ongoing training, we kicked off a New Mentor Training Toolkit in collaboration with 5 authors, featuring 21 case studies of Apprenticeship Training programs. We also ran 5 National webinars covering topics from COVID-19 safety and resources for training programs; app-based recordkeeping for incubator farms; and communication styles for positive farm apprenticeships.

Kicked off a new 3-year Northeast SARE Regional Mentor Training project with 10 partners across the Northeast.

Participated in Anti-Racism meetings for Farmer Training Programs.

Hosted 22 participants from 16 organizations for a 3-day strategic planning session to map the future of our National Networks.

Our national programs are now the FIELD Network, consisting of a leadership team of 8 organizations and 3 working groups.

Held our 2020 National FIELD School in November, consisting of 12 virtual workshops and discussion sessions which were attended by 246 unique participants.
This year, we had several new initiatives that expanded our reach to provide fresh and local food throughout the community. We were thrilled to partner with Boston Area Gleaners as a USDA Farm-to-Families Food Box program! Through this program, we packed 7,067 individual family boxes and delivered 10,019 boxes over 24 weeks, totaling over 300,000 lbs of produce.

New Entry also launched new Farm-to-School partnerships with Salem Public Schools and Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School to improve local procurement and build farm connections in K-12’s. With our biggest CSA program to-date, we were able to purchase $97,400 from 20 beginning and immigrant farmers, $16,989 from other local/regional producers, and $10,000 of produce grown at New Entry. Additional crops were contributed by the Boston Area Gleaners food donation program!

We could not have accomplished all of this without YOUR support. We had over 1,000 volunteer hours and 40+ volunteers to support share packing and distribution logistics. A huge THANK YOU to all of you!
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021 AND BEYOND

We have so much to be grateful for, and many new initiatives and mission-focused partnerships to nurture as we look forward to 2021:

- We are hiring a new Incubator Farm Manager, and considering adding a seasonal farm assistant manager position, apply today!
- We are launching our strategic business planning efforts for the next 3+ years - evaluating programs, processes, funding, and timelines.
- We are developing additional faculty research collaborations, student engagement and course development with Tufts to integrate New Entry and Tufts' academic programs.
- New Entry plans to host a new 2-week Pre-College course in Summer 2021 called "The Future of Food."
- With a new partnership with Root, a youth culinary training program in Salem, MA dedicated to preparing value-added products with New Entry grown produce, we look forward to collaborating on Roots' senior meals program this Winter and beyond.
- New Entry continues to center racial equity and make steps toward becoming an anti-racist/multi-cultural institution.
- We are leasing our hydroponic equipment to two entities to develop a collaborative hydroponics education and food access programs.
- We intend to expand our farm-to-school collaborations and partnerships to other schools and institutions.
- By developing a business model to serve the need AND financial support of new/beginning farmers with crop purchases, we are able to support local food security and farm economic viability.
- There are plans for a series of educational programs to support farmers to better connect with technology, and hope to partner with tech companies for on-site experimentation and research initiatives.
- We will continue to expand and grow our national FIELD Network; seeking multi-year funding, expand partnerships/stakeholders, and collaborate on systems change initiatives.

We invite you to JOIN us in these efforts. Sign up to Volunteer or make a GIFT to support our work. Together, let's make 2021 a success!