A picture containing snow, outdoor, sitting, man

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | It's February on Moraine Farm; the shortest month of the year, and while we do not have livestock to care for like many of our fellow farmers, there is still much to be done - from seed orders and crop planning, tax planning and book keeping.  This is the month of anticipation and preparation for the growing season ahead. We have a new CSA program, plenty of upcoming training programs, and new initiatives planned throughout the year.  Spring is really right around the corner, so jump in, and enjoy this month's updates from New Entry. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **In This Issue - February 2020 -**   * [**Upcoming Events & Classes**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc1) * [**News from the Farm**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc2) * [**Conferences and Other News**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc3) * [**Featured Farmer: Terry O'Brien**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc4) * [**Upgrade Your Plate!**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc5) * [**What We're Eating and Reading**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc6) * [**Volunteer Opportunities**](https://us10.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=424061#mctoc7) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |
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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Upcoming Events & Classes** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **February 20th, 11am-1pm:** [Farm Storage Facility Loans Info Session](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/27758ba) hosted by FSA **February 23rd, 10am-12pm:** [Explore Farming Workshop](https://nesfp.org/farmer-training/explore-farming) at the Food Project Office in Lynn, MA  **February 28th:** [CSA Day](https://csaday.info/)**!** Early registration for New Entry CSA ends - [register here](https://nesfp.org/NewEntryCSA) to receive your discount for 2020!  #CSADay **March 9 - 11th:** New Entry Gathering of National Land-Based Farmer Training Programs**,** TomKat Ranch, Pescadero, CA **March 25th:** [Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Series](https://umasscafe.irisregistration.com/Form/PSABeverly20)  **April 5th, 10am-12pm:** [Explore Farming Workshop](https://nesfp.org/farmer-training/explore-farming), Beverly, MA at Moraine Farm **May 3rd, 10am-12pm:** [Explore Farming Workshop](https://nesfp.org/farmer-training/explore-farming), Beverly, MA at Moraine Farm **June 15th** - New Entry CSA distribution begins! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **News from the Farm** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people standing on a lush green field  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Farmer Training**  **Explore Farming Workshops:** Are you interested in exploring what it means to be a farmer?  Come learn about farming and food systems with New Entry in our two-hour long introductory workshop. Upcoming workshop dates:                     Thursday, February 20th info. session about Farm Storage Facility Loans hosted                    by FSA, 319 Littleton Road Suite 203, Westford MA from 11-1:00pm                    Sunday, February 23rd in Lynn, MA at the Food Project Office,                    120 Munroe Street, from  10:00 am-12:00 pm                    Sunday, April 5th in Beverly, MA at Moraine Farm from 10:00 am-12:00                    Sunday, May 3rd in Beverly, MA at Moraine Farm from 10:00 am-12:00 pm                    [Registration and more info here](https://nesfp.org/farmer-training/explore-farming)  **Crop Production Course:** Stay tuned for more announcements about our new modules that will be offered this summer - get your hands dirty and build practical skills in organic crop production. [Info here](https://nesfp.org/farmer-training/crop-production-course)  **Advanced Workshops:** Stay tuned for more announcements about additional workshops for farmers this spring - covering food safety, composting, and wholesale readiness. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Farmer Training Grants and Initiatives**  **New Entry Awarded Green Fund from Tufts Sustainability Office:** New Entry has been awarded funds to collaborate with Tufts Dining Hall for a fall harvest week in 2020.   Throughout the week, dining halls will feature meals with ingredients grown by a diverse group of farmers participating in New Entry's Incubator Farm Program.  Additionally, there will be cooking demonstrations and informational campaigns focused on local food systems and expose the Tufts community to current issues facing small-scale beginning farmers.  Students can also sign up for a 5-week long summer workshop at New Entry on Moraine Farm to learn about food systems and organic horticulture and help grow the very food that will be served in the fall.  This week-long fall harvest initiative will help connect the Tufts community to their local farmers and food system, expose new farmers to a new market outlet, and provide delicious locally grown food to students, staff, and faculty. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New Entry Awarded Grant to Promote USDA Services to Underrepresented Individuals:** For nearly three decades, the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the Section 2501 Program), has served as the only farm bill dedicated to addressing the needs of minority farmers.  For this Grant, New Entry's goal is outreach to 300 socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers across three MA counties to provide training and technical support to improve their direct market and high-value commercial farming enterprises in order to own and operate more economically viable farms, meet community demands for locally grown food, and to access USDA programs and services.  [Click here](https://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farming-opportunities/socially-disadvantaged-farmers-program/)for more information about this program, or to participate, please contact Kevin Cody, PhD at: [kevin.cody@tufts.edu](mailto:kevin.cody@tufts.edu) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A box filled with different types of fruit  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New Entry Food Hub**  **New Pickup Locations 2020:** In addition to The Flatbread Company in Bedford, Pemberton Farms in Cambridge, Tufts University in Chinatown and Medford, and The Landing Cafe in Brighton, we are thrilled to announce that we also have new pickup locations at [Cape Ann Farmers Market](https://www.capeannfarmersmarket.org/) at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester and at [Endicott College](https://www.endicott.edu/) in Beverly! [Learn more about our pickup locations and how to sign up.](https://nesfp.org/NewEntryCSA)  **Traditional Farm Share 5% Early Bird Discount Ends 2/28:** Register for our traditional CSA before February 28th, and save an extra 5% off the cost for the whole season.  [Register now.](https://nesfp.org/NewEntryCSA) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New For 2020 - "CSA, Your Way":** In addition to our traditional CSA program, we are thrilled to now offer a flexible program that allows customers to choose the types and quantities of vegetables and fruits each week.  Share credits are bought in advance and applied to weekly orders.  Order as much or as little each week, and we will assemble your order and deliver to the pick up location of your choosing. [Learn more and sign up today!](https://nesfp.org/NewEntryCSA) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing food, boat  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A screenshot of fruit and vegetables  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Conferences and Other News** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension) Research Grants Awarded and Upcoming Focus Groups**:  This winter, New Entry is collaborating with land-grant universities and farmers across New England and NY on two important Northeast SARE research projects:  novel approaches to farm labor ([SARE LNE19-386R](https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/lne19-386r/)) and the social sustainability / personal resilience of farmers (SARE [LNE19-377](https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/lne19-377/)).    Do you struggle with getting all the work done on your farm?  Do you have challenges attracting and retaining employees?  Are you interested in working with other farmers to design solutions to labor challenges?  New Entry and partners are seeking input from farmers and exploring novel approaches to farm labor through feedback and engagement on four potential farm labor models and the opportunities, challenges, and interests of each one. In our Social Sustainability research project, we are also looking to gain a greater understanding of the many factors are beyond a farmer’s control, contribute to stress, and can affect farmer quality of life and farm viability, sign up for the social sustainability [project information here](https://airtable.com/shreMaGF06fnpZ3QE).  For both projects, we are seeking small to mid-scale diversified fruit and vegetable farmers in New England and New York who practice sustainable growing methods and market products directly to consumers or engage in wholesale/institutional markets.  We are particularly interested in producers who hire full-time, part-time seasonal workers, and/or family members.   **If you are interested in being part of these research projects and participating in future focus groups**, please email Jennifer Hashley, at [jennifer.hashley@tufts.edu](mailto:jennifer.hashley@tufts.edu) or Kevin Cody at [kevin.cody@tufts.edu](mailto:kevin.cody@tufts.edu). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | "Innovations that are guided by smallholder farmers, adapted to local circumstances, and sustainable for the economy and environment will be necessary to ensure food security in the future."- Bill Gates | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Featured Farmer: Terry O'Brien** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A view of the side of a road  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Small-Scale Farming for Wholesale Markets at Hungry Heart Farm**  Terry O'Brien is about to kickoff his eighth season working in agriculture, primarily growing produce.   He has worked for a variety of operations - large and small, organic and conventional, non-profit and for-profit, selling in just about every type of outlet.  His varied experiences have formed the foundation of his farming education, and have shaped his own business, which is entering its second year and focused on selling wholesale. Terry decided to focus on the wholesale market because he saw potential for growth in the space.  He also identified other benefits:   * Not having to spend significant time at farmers markets, CSA's, or other traditional retail outlets to sell. * Being able to focus on a smaller range of products, focusing on fewer items and larger quantities for wholesale buyers.   Some of his largest crops include: sweet and hot peppers, eggplants, tomatoes, carrots, beets, lettuce, and sweet potatoes.   As with traditional farming, with the upsides also come some downsides to small-scale wholesale farming.  Wholesale selling typically means smaller margins, so to combat that, Terry tends to grow and sell more quantity of food than he would if selling at retail. Further, finding wholesales customers for certain crops can be difficult, but networking has been key, and asking existing customers for what their needs are, and tailoring crops to those needs.  While wholesale farming isn't for everyone, Terry has some advice for those who might be interested.  First and foremost - work on a farm(s) first.  Perhaps find a farm with a similar model you are interested in pursuing to give you insight as to what in entailed to run a farm and business.  Second, but just as important, you have to love farming - love food, love being outside, love working with your hands, and love selling to make up for all of the really, really tough days.  Love what you do, spend some time in a hands-on learning environment, and enjoy growing! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Upgrade Your Plate!** | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A dog standing on grass  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Upgrade Your Plate with the MA Fresh and Local License Plate**:  The Fresh and Local License Plate is a New Entry initiative to promote awareness and drive sustainable funding to support local farms and farmers across the state, and 100% of proceeds go to do just that.  We are seeing more and more plates on the road, but **we need your help**!  We need to meet the state minimum's required number of these plates on the road in 2020, and still need several more to meet our goal.  [Find out how it works](https://www.mafoodplate.org/), and you can sign up online and the RMV will mail the plates right to your home.  No waiting in long lines, or over the phone.  Thank you for supporting local food! | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What We're Eating and Reading** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A plate of food and a cup of coffee  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Gingered Carrot Soup** [recipe link](https://nesfp.org/world-peas-food-hub/world-peas-csa/produce-recipes/gingered-carrot-soup) This is one of our favorite recipes for this time of year, and it's simple to make.  This soup is full of flavor, and just the right thickness and balance of flavors.  Even if you don't love carrots, you should try this recipe - it's always a crowd pleaser! | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A wooden door  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Freedom Farmers:  Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement**](https://www.amazon.com/Freedom-Farmers-Agricultural-Resistance-Movement/dp/1469643693/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=) **by Monica White**  Freedom Farmers expands the historical narrative of the black freedom struggle to embrace the work, roles, and contributions of southern black farmers and the organizations they formed.  This book reveals agriculture as a site of resistance and provides a historical foundation that adds meaning and context to current conversations around the resurgence of food justice/sovereignty movements in urban spaces like Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, New York City, and New Orleans. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Volunteer Opportunities** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person standing in front of a box  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Are you Interested in Helping Create a Stronger, More Vibrant  Local Food System?  Volunteer With New Entry!**  We welcome new volunteers who bring energy, creativity, knowledge, and fun to our work. We strive to build relationships with our volunteers so that we may learn from one another. Our dedicated volunteers are vital to the success of our programs and our work to transform the food system in New England and beyond.  Ways you can get involved:   * Become a [Share Packer](https://nesfp.org/foodhub/volunteer)at the Food Hub-generally Monday and Wednesday afternoons June-October * Become a **Farm Volunteer**- help with planting, weeding, harvesting, and other miscellaneous field tasks! Flexible timing- Monday through Thursday, May- October * Join us or bring your group for an **on-the-farm project**-we welcome school and professional groups March-November * **Other ideas**- what do you bring to the table? How would you like to get involved? Let us know!   **Benefits:** Work alongside caring, friendly individuals committed to solving problems in our food system. Volunteers who can commit to at least two mornings per week for 20 weeks receive first pick of surplus produce. There is the opportunity to learn about the handling and use of unique produce.  **Ready to Join Us?** Fill out a [Volunteer Inquiry Form](http://www.tfaforms.com/387577) today! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Our Mission**  A close up of a sign  Description automatically generatedWell-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](http://www.nesfp.org). | | |