A group of people walking down a dirt road

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| |  | | --- | | **New Entry is Taking Action and Supporting Our Farming Community**  First, we at New Entry are writing to check in and send well wishes during this stressful and unprecedented time with Covid-19.  Our tremendous heartfelt gratitude is with all of the people on the front-line - from food producers and distributors, to healthcare professionals, educators, transportation personnel, and law and emergency officials.  We are also writing to share a few measures we will be implementing at New Entry, share some uplifting news, recipes, activities, films, and books to brighten your day, and highlight the importance of supporting a resilient, local, sustainable food system.  Now more than ever, we are asking our community to help support our farmers during this time.  They are certainly **"essential"** to us all.  While this moment in history is uniquely challenging, it reminds us how interconnected and [interdependent](https://www.letitripple.org/films/declaration-interdependence/)  we all are, and how we must take care of ourselves so we can care for others. While our physical New Entry office is closed and several staff are working remotely, our farm staff are preparing for the growing season: seeding in the greenhouse, organizing tools, ordering supplies, preparing equipment, and creating virtual orientation videos to welcome our new farmers to the incubator.  We have moved many of our farm training courses online such as our [Explore Farming Workshop](https://nesfp.org/farmer-training/explore-farming) next Sunday, April 5th from 10-12 EST, and our Farm Labor Focus Groups will be held online on Sunday 4/5 from 4-5:30 pm ([register](https://www.tfaforms.com/4778303)) and Monday 4/6 4-5:30 pm ([register](https://www.tfaforms.com/4810717)).  We are actively growing our CSA and Food Hub customers as our farmers are preparing for the growing season.  We are also assessing ways to support other producers in the region affected by market closures by leveraging our Food Hub infrastructure earlier this spring.   We are exploring home delivery options, and encourage you to check out our new [CSA Your Way Program](https://nesfp.org/NewEntryCSA) this year.  [Reports](https://localfoodeconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020_03_18-EconomicImpactLocalFood.pdf) estimate that local and regional food supply systems could lose up to $3.1 billion just between March and May this year.  Farming and supporting local farms is more essential now than ever, and we hope you will find some hope, inspiration, and helpful resources throughout this newsletter. | |

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| |  | | --- | | There are signs of spring all around the farm!  You can see Ben Zoba, Beginning Farmer Educator, from our team in the background here as we see our first garlic sprouts popping up this week in our Demonstration Plot at the farm.  When so much seems uncertain, we know that mother nature continues to persevere and provide. |  |  | | --- | | We are preparing for our incubator farm program to continue this year, with 6 new first-year farmers being allotted space at Moraine Farm, joining our returning 6 farmers.  These dozen farm businesses will grow produce that goes into both our [CSA program](https://nesfp.org/NewEntryCSA) and [Food Access Program](https://nesfp.org/foodaccess).  Love your Farmer, **especially now**. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Covid-19 Resources for Farmers**  Reports estimate that local and regional food supply systems could lose up to $3.1 billion just between March and May this year. Mass Department of Agricultural Resources has guidance for farmers, farm stands, and markets on their [COVID-19 resource page for agriculture](https://www.mass.gov/guides/covid-19-resources-for-agriculture), including grant and loan programs for farmers.  Below is a listing of other resources for farmers during this time of uncertainty an business instability.  1.  [AFT Farmer Relief Grant Program](https://farmland.org/farmer-relief-fund/) -  This program will award farmers with cash grants of up to $1,000 each to help them weather the current storm of market disruptions caused by the coronavirus crisis.  Initially, eligible applicants include any small and mid-size direct-market producers. These are defined as producers with annual gross revenue of between $10,000 and $1 million from sales at farmers markets and/or direct sales to restaurants, caterers, schools, stores, or makers who use farm products as inputs.  2.  [United Way Covid-19 Family Support Fund](https://www.buylocalfood.org/resources-for-farmers/cisa-emergency-farm-fund-2/)- The fund will support the work of 20 organizations throughout Eastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire in administering emergency assistance to families of hourly and low-wage workers, providing one-time grants of up to $2,000 to cover food, housing, and child care.  3.  [CISA Emergency Farm Fund](https://www.buylocalfood.org/resources-for-farmers/cisa-emergency-farm-fund-2/) - CISA’s Emergency Farm Fund offers zero-interest loans to assist farms struggling to meet their immediate needs as a result of crisis events.  In April 2020, for the first time, CISA is opening the Emergency Farm Fund to support farms who are facing financial losses due to a non-weather-related event, the spread of COVID-19. For more information on how COVID-19 is affecting local farms and CISA’s response to it, [click here](https://www.buylocalfood.org/covid-19-updates-from-cisa/).  Loan applications will be accepted from farms that:   * Have had losses due to COVID-19 * Operate in Franklin, Hampshire, or Hampden counties in Massachusetts * Demonstrate need and a capacity to repay the loan (perfect credit history not required) * Have gross annual sales for 2019 that were $20,000 or more. If your farm did not gross at least $20,000, please contact CISA at 413-665-7100 for more information   Other COVID-19 resources for farmers, business owners, and market managers can be accessed [here](https://www.buylocalfood.org/resources-for-farmers/tipsheets/covid-19-resources/).  4. [MarketLink Program, Free SNAP card reader](https://www.buylocalfood.org/resources-for-farmers/cisa-emergency-farm-fund-2/) - If you sell at a farmers' market or are a direct marketing farmer, you may qualify for a free card reader and a one-year subscription to TotilPay Go, which ensures accurate transactions by automatically matching SNAP-eligible items with the best payment method.  5.  [Building Farm Resilience in this crisis](https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2020/03/building-farm-resilience-in-this-crisis/) -  Cornell Small Farms Program recently launched a curated resource page to support the farming community.  6.  A [Readiness Assessment for Continuity of Farm Business](https://pasafarming.org/resources/covid19-assessment/) - This open-source checklist developed by PASA and Penn State Extension helps farmers develop a business continuity plan to adapt to and support contingency planning during the pandemic.  7.  Other Farm Resources - There are many other regional farm organizations with excellent resources for farmers and food producers throughout New England, here are a few:  - [Land for Good COVID-19 Resource Page](http://https:/landforgood.org/resources/resources-covid-19/)  - [Farm to Institution New England COVID-19 Resources](https://www.farmtoinstitution.org/covid-19)  - [UVM's Considerations for Fruit and Vegetable Growers Related to COVID-19](https://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/2020/03/18/considerations-for-fruit-and-vegetable-growers-related-to-coronavirus-covid-19/)  - [Mass Food Systems Collaborative COVID-19 Resource Page](https://mafoodsystem.org/resources/resourcehome/covid19/)  - New Entry's [COVID-19 resource document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wyqh900Uwi2sAE4cHCHYIvG-TvmgTA9fgUS4GeijHGQ/edit) is editable, so feel free to add resources to this list!  8.  [How the CARES Act will support relief to farmers](https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/closer-look-farmer-relief-senate-pandemic-package/) - keep up to date with federal relief efforts through regularly analysis from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's blog and action alerts.  Where are YOU finding the best COVID-19 resource information?  [Email us](mailto:nesfp@tufts.edu?subject=COVID-19%20Resource) to share and we will add to our updates. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Stay Healthy with These Inspired Recipes from our Food Hub** | |

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A bowl of fruit on a plate  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | With so many of us indoors these days, what better time to try a new recipe, especially healthy ones that are full of nourishment.  A few favorites with New England seasonal storage crops available now:   [Beet Dip](https://nesfp.org/world-peas-food-hub/world-peas-csa/produce-recipes/beet-dip) - Try this purple veggie dip great for snacks or as a spread.  [Teriyaki Beets](https://nesfp.org/world-peas-food-hub/world-peas-csa/produce-recipes/teriyaki-beets) -This is a quick and easy broiler technique.  Just find your baster and get ready for this tasty dish! | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close up of food  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [Roasted Carrots with Cumin](https://nesfp.org/world-peas-food-hub/world-peas-csa/produce-recipes/roasted-carrots-cumin) - or substitute any number of other delights (raisins, dates).  [Kale Dip with Snap or Snow Peas](https://nesfp.org/world-peas-food-hub/world-peas-csa/produce-recipes/kale-dip-snap-or-snow-peas) -Easy and quick dip packed with vitamins and flavor. | | |

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A dog standing on grass  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Swap Your License Plate to Support Fresh and Local Food and Farming In MA**  100% of proceeds from our Fresh and Local License Plate go to supporting MA farms and farmers.  Make the switch today to help us sustain our programming and show your support of local Massachusetts agriculture.  [More information here.](https://www.mafoodplate.org/) | | |

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| |  | | --- | | Please know that we are here to help, connect, and to serve.  Together, we are resilient and strong, and will continue to drive our mission to improve our local and regional food systems by training the next generation of farmers.  Please feel free to reach out if we can support you in any way throughout the coming weeks!  In solidarity,  Jennifer Hashley and the New Entry Team | |