



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In my message to you in our Winter Newsletter, I said "we would love to see you." Well, we saw you! Whether it was the Farmland Seeker Forum, Annual Meeting, 8th Annual Ag and Food Conference or our "Fortifying Our Foodshed" event, farmers, growers, foodies and devotees of local agriculture came out in droves to participate in some exciting and illuminating programming. More and more people have been accessing our website in search of local foods, are reading and sharing the Vine newsletter, and, in general, taking advantage of the educational opportunities SEMAP has to offer. With our Twilight series scheduled, we will continue to provide those opportunities to farmers and consumers alike, and additionally highlight the great agricultural diversity within Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk counties. We are working with partners like the New Bedford Farmers' Market to increase food access, and with stakeholders in the Southeastern Massachusetts Food Security Network to tackle the regional and systemic challenges of food access and food security. SEMAP is also developing a competitive mini-grants program to provide small funding opportunities for farmers and growers applying or planning new methods in "Technology, Innovation and Excellence", and look forward to having our "TIE" mini-grants application process ready by the end of the year.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on multiple sources of revenue to sustain our work. SEMAP is fortunate to have received \$25,000 from the Island Foundation, \$25,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) as part of their "Buy Local" initiative, and \$30,000 from the 11th Hour Fund (a donor-advised fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts). These grants have proven invaluable to sustaining SEMAP and support our mission of preserving, sustaining and expanding agriculture in Southeastern Massachusetts. SEMAP continues to work to attain additional support for our work, and have applied for grants from the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund and

the United States Department of Agriculture "Beginning Farmer and Rancher" program.

Also, we were able to offset a majority of our costs associated with the Ag and Food Conference by securing generous sponsorships from The Trustees of Reservations, Farm Credit East, First Citizens Federal Credit Union, Southcoast Health and Fertrell. Additionally, we received sponsorships from UMass Extension, Erin Sylvia Realtor, M&C Café, Legal Services Food Hub, and H&R Block to deliver what most attendees have said was the "best SEMAP Ag and Food Conference ever". Our Annual Appeal at the end of 2014/beginning of 2015 brought in over \$10,000 in support, and we are grateful to those who have valued our work and support our mission of supporting sustainable agriculture. Additionally, as a Membership organization, SEMAP is blessed to have the support of farmers and food enthusiasts alike who choose to become a part of SEMAP, and have increased our membership by 75%.

SEMAP values our traditional support and seeks future opportunities for funding, provided they are complementary with our Mission: to preserve and expand access to local food and sustainable farming in southeastern Massachusetts through research and education. As we continue to support that mission, we strive to better serve the great diversity of agriculture throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. SEMAP is more than Kendra and I. It's more than our Board of Directors. It is the embodiment of a movement that has taken hold in not just

our region but across our Commonwealth and our Nation. It is the expression of a need to reconnect with what many of us have lost: our food system. Collectively, we have come to the realization that trucking things like fruits, vegetables, beef, eggs or oysters from out of state or even out of the country when we have the same things here is neither sustainable nor practical. Our partners at the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation have a bumper sticker that speaks to the challenge we face: "No Farms. No Food." Having an existing regional desire for locally grown foods is an important part of the equation, but connecting farms to consumers, supporting farmers through education and technical assistance, and helping to educate ALL people on the importance of buying locally are equally important.

We may not be able to turn back the clock and reform our regional economy into a largely agricultural one, but we can stem the tide of farmland loss, keep farmers farming and feeding our communities, and incrementally increase our region's self-sustainability. It all begins with providing those educational, technical, and networking opportunities for our local farmers, and SEMAP will continue to work to that end. We need your help in these endeavors. Please consider becoming a SEMAP member. Make a donation. Experience our exciting and educational programming. Please help SEMAP and be a part of that rising tide.

Jason Wentworth
Executive Director



Photo Contest!



HAVE YOUR IMAGE
FEATURED **HERE** IN
OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Send your pictures of local
farms and food to SEMAP

on instagram @semapbfbf
#semapphotocontest

or email to
info@semaponline.org
with the subject "photo contest"



SEMAP is dedicated to preserving and farming in southeastern Massachusetts

SEMAP STAFF

Jason Wentworth
Executive Director

Kendra Murray
Program Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margie Baldwin
How on Earth

Ashley Brister
Round the Bend Farm

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Andy Tomolonis
The Standard Times

Ben Wolbach
Skinny Dip Farm

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info@semaponline.org



MEET THE SEMAP BOARD



Kimberly Ferreira - SEMAP Clerk

Kimberly Ferreira is currently the Director of Mass in Motion New Bedford, a statewide initiative that promotes policy, systems, and environmental changes at the local level to increase access to healthy eating and active living. During her tenure, Kim has played an integral role establishing the Healthy Dining and Healthy Market program in numerous restaurants and corner stores through New Bedford. While at Mass in Motion NB, and as an advisory member for Grow Education, Kim played a significant role with community garden development in the city. She is currently spearheading the revitalization of the New Bedford Farmers Market by centralizing management of the market and increasing outreach and education efforts. Under her leadership, the market will also now allow farmers to accept SNAP benefits as well as credit cards, which will increase access to fresh and local fruits and vegetables, particularly among low-income, high disparity populations.

As a Registered Dietitian, Kim is an appointed member of the Massachusetts State Nutrition Board, where she helps advise the state on sound nutrition policy. Kim is passionate about educating the community about the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle, as well as the importance of supporting local food systems. She strives to connect community members - under-served populations in particular - with local agricultural resources.

BECOME A SEMAP MEMBER!

Here at SEMAP, we truly believe that local agriculture is essential to the health and vitality of our community and our economy. Sustaining farmers and farm businesses, and expanding access to local food are at the core of our mission. We provide technical assistance to farmers, educate the community on the importance of local agriculture, work to increase the functionality of our region's food system, and connect all people to local food.

The work we do is important, and it can't continue without you! Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership today. By becoming a member you are helping to support a vibrant local food system in Southeastern Massachusetts, and who wouldn't love to do that? Members also receive discounts to all of our events, including our annual Ag & Food Conference, as well as all of our Twilight workshops.

Farmers, please consider renewing your memberships as well! We are currently compiling a listing of member farms for our 2015 Local Food Guide. **If we receive your membership form by June 5th, you will be featured in our guide.** We will be printing several thousand copies of our food guide this year and will be distributing them across Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk counties. Please be sure to download the business member form online at semaponline.org/become-a-member and fill out with updated information about your establishment!

member dues:

Individual or family

\$15, \$40, \$75, \$250, or \$500

Farm or business member

\$75 - Small or beginning farm or business

\$150 - Mid-size to large farm or business

\$500 - Sponsor, quarter page ad in Local Food Guide

\$500 - Sponsor, half page ad in Local Food Guide

Please submit dues with the form on the back of this newsletter!

expanding access to local food and sustainable through research and education.



Twilight Workshops

SEMAP is very excited about the Twilight Workshop series for the 2015 growing season. We have expanded our offerings and are pleased to present two workshops nearly every month. Not only do we have some great workshops for farmers and gardeners, but we also have some really fun foodie workshops, including two vineyard tours and a fermentation workshop.

We kicked off the season on May 3rd at Copicut Farms in Dartmouth, MA. The topic was pastured poultry. Elizabeth Fray was kind enough to host and give an informative and fun tour of her farm to a group of over thirty farmers and SEMAP supporters. Attendees were able to walk the fields, check out the brooder, view broiler chickens and laying hens, visit the Mobile Slaughtering Facility, and get up close and personal with the Berkshire pigs.

"The tour of Copicut Farm was absolutely fascinating, well done and about the most worthwhile event we've attended in a long time," said Margot Hand, of South Dartmouth. We're glad that everyone enjoyed the tour and learned a lot. We hope you'll be joining us for some of our future workshops!

Off to Market

Finally! We can at last shake off the winter blues and soak in the sun. There's no better place to spend a warm summer day than at a local farmers' market. With local food sales on the rise, we are continually seeing more and more farmers' markets popping up around the South Coast and South Shore. Many of us are loyal to our local farmstands, but a market is a great place for one stop shopping! Below are just a few worth checking out.

Bristol County:

Acushnet - Stone Bridge Farm, Saturdays, 9AM-1PM
Easton - 519 Depot Street, Saturdays, 10AM - 2PM
New Bedford - Custom House Sq, Thursdays, 2PM - 6PM

Plymouth County:

Mattapoisett - Old Rochester, Tuesdays, 3PM - 7PM
Plymouth - Plimoth Plantation, Thurs, 2:30PM - 6:30PM
Wareham - Rosebrook Place, Wednesdays, 3PM - 6PM

Norfolk County:

Braintree - Braintree Town Mall, Saturdays, 9AM - 1PM
Quincy - 43 Dennis Ryan Pkwy, Fridays, 11:30AM - 5:30PM
Weymouth - Town Hall Parking Lot, Saturdays, 9AM - 1PM

Visit FarmFresh.org to find a farmers' market near you!

June 8th: Growing Melons
Colchester Farm, Plympton, MA

June 29th: Gardening Workshop
Friends Academy, Dartmouth, MA

July 20th: Organic Weed Control
Langwater Farm, Easton, MA

Aug. 3rd: Vineyard Tour
Coastal Vineyards, Dartmouth, MA

Aug. 17th: Vineyard Tour
Running Brook Vineyards,
Dartmouth, MA

Sept. 14th: Growing Cranberries &
Bug Tour
Stone Bridge Farm, Acushnet, MA

Sept. 28th: Fall Greens
Second Nature Farm, Norton, MA

Oct. 5th: Fermentation,
Dairymouth Grange, Dartmouth,
MA

Oct. Date TBD: Oyster Farming
and Aquaculture
Location TBD

Twilight Workshop Rates

Beginning Farmer.....	\$5
SEMAP Member.....	\$15
Non-SEMAP Member.....	\$20
Season Pass - Farmer.....	\$40
Season Pass- SEMAP Member....	\$60



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP
P.O. Box 80625
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

FARM → to Tapas



+

SOUTHEASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS
LIVESTOCK
ASSOCIATION



Save the date! Sunday, July 19th Westport, MA

A twist on the traditional farm to table

**An evening of local
food, drink, and fun!**

**check semaponline.org
for details coming soon**

BECOME A MEMBER

**Please mail your
donation to:**

**SEMAG
P.O. Box 80625
S. Dartmouth, MA 02748**

**SEMAG is a 501(c)(3) tax
exempt non-profit
organization**

☐ **Yes, I want to support the work of SEMAG with a gift of \$ _____.**

☐ **Please charge my credit card.** ☐ **I will pay by check.**
(Please make checks payable to SEMAG)

Card Type (Visa/MC/Discover/AMEX)

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Card Number

Address

Exp date

Credit Card Verification #

City, State, Zip

Name on Card

Phone

Authorized Signature

Email