



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we look out at the bleakness of Winter from our windows, it's hard to believe that Spring is certainly coming. It is a time of renewal and growth, preparation, and hard work for what we hope will be the bountiful harvest to follow. Of course, thoughts of fresh fruits, vegetables, and berries help get us through these dark days, but there's a lot more work to be done.

That's the same philosophy I have now: there is still much to be done. Since starting at SEMAP, I've visited dozens of farms, but there are plenty more to visit. We have reached out to geographic areas and agricultural interests that have traditionally not been a part of our efforts, but we still have more territory to cover. We have renewed and strengthened our popular pro-

ming and hatched plans for some new opportunities to bolster our agricultural community, and both the Staff and Board probably don't go a week without bringing up some new, good ideas that will add value to what we offer.

The work ahead is only possible with cooperation and collaboration, and I've been fortunate to meet and build relationships with organizations and individuals dedicated to preserving and advancing agriculture in Southeastern Massachusetts. Groups like Bristol County Agricultural High School, the Mass. Farm Bureau Federation, the Carrot Project, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, and many more have all been working with SEMAP on building that base of knowledge as well as providing resources critical in sustaining and enhancing the viability of local agriculture. If you look at the statistics from the most recent federal agricultural census, you'd know that Massachusetts

is one of a handful of states that has actually experienced agricultural growth. The stakes are too high, and we can't backslide. Sustaining local agriculture is a key method of protecting our environment, and the livelihoods of our farmers, growers, and others within the supply chain depend on allies like SEMAP working in concert. We'll keep at it.

We also need you. Visit our website, share our links on Facebook, become a SEMAP member, donate, attend an event...whatever you choose, be active. Bring your passion for local food and your support for those that make it possible "to the table". As we look at the next quarter, which promises to be a busy one, we would love to see you. After all, Spring is right around the corner.

Jason Wentworth
Executive Director

2015

SEMAP
LOCAL FOOD - SUSTAINABLE FARMING
WWW.SEMAPONLINE.ORG

Southeastern Massachusetts

LOCAL FOOD GUIDE

free!

**Growers
Specialty Producers/Buyers
Local Farmers' Markets**

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP
www.SEMAPONline.org

2015 local food guide NEW EDITION COMING SOON!

**Farmers, submit your membership form by
March 15th to be listed in this year's guide!**



SEMAP is dedicated to preserving sustainable farming in southeastern Massachusetts

SEMAP STAFF

Jason Wentworth
Executive Director

Kendra Murray
Program Coordinator

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How on Earth

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Ben Wolbach
Skinny Dip Farm

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info@semaponline.org



Our easier-to-read redesigned Vine!

Subscribe here



SEMAP ONLINE

Over the past few months, we've made great strides in updating our website, redesigning our newsletter, and increasing our presence on social media...and boy has it paid off! It's great to see so many people following us, liking us, and reading our newsletters.

"The Vine" is our monthly e-newsletter, sent out to just under 5000 individuals. It's a great way to keep up-to-date with SEMAP, find local farms, and learn about all the great events going on in our area. Please subscribe to our e-newsletter and like us on Facebook to keep up to date with local food and farm news!

AG & FOOD CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars! Please make sure to join us at our 8th Annual Agriculture & Food Conference. Whether you're a professional farmer, a backyard gardener, or just curious about locally grown food, this is the event for you! Our conference includes workshops for the general public as well as info-packed sessions for farmers and gardeners of all experience levels and workshops specific to organic methods.

This year, we are excited to have M&C Cafe of New Bedford cater our lunch. The food will be locally sourced, made with the finest ingredients. Lunch and a mid-morning snack are both included in your registration.

We will also have a great resource fair where you learn about local organizations and businesses. Many of these organizations provide services and products to help you grow, whether you've got a hundred acres or a couple of window boxes. If you would like to be a part of our resource fair, please contact jwentworth@semaponline.org for more information on sponsoring or exhibiting.



early bird
Special!

Register by Feb 15th

\$25 FOR SEMAP MEMBERS
REGISTER AT SEMAPONLINE.ORG

Volunteer!

Help make our conference a success. Contact kmurray@semaponline.org if interested.



ing and expanding access to local food and
Massachusetts through research and education.

Ag Day at the State House

Mark your calendars - Tuesday, March 31st!

Join SEMAP, Mass Farm Bureau, & farmers from across the Commonwealth at the State House in Boston for 2015 Massachusetts Agricultural Day.

I've been attending "Ag Day" for the past 5 years, initially invited by neighboring farmers active in Mass Farm Bureau. This annual event provides our agricultural community an opportunity to connect with our elected officials and increase awareness of how vital agriculture is to the Commonwealth's health, landscape, and economy. Additionally, the day provides much needed awareness of agricultural issues to officials from urban districts. SEMAP will once again have a presence on Beacon Hill and we invite you to join us. Orientation to the day starts at 10AM, and is followed by legislative visits, and the always packed Taste of Massachusetts Reception in the Great Hall. We are especially keen to showcase the diversity of agri-

culture thriving in Southeastern Massachusetts, if you would like to join us or have a food item worth sampling in late March, please let Kendra Murray know in the SEMAP office. Whether you are or aren't able to join us in Boston, we encourage you to attend one of the upcoming Farm Bureau County Breakfasts in March (3/6 for Bristol County, 3/20 for Plymouth County, & 3/27 for Norfolk County). For more information about Ag Day or the Farm Bureau breakfasts please visit Mass Farm Bureau's website (<http://mfbf.net/>) or contact their office at 508-481-4766.

Derek Christianson
SEMAP Co-Chair

Fortifying our Foodshed

"Fortifying our Foodshed" is an evening focusing on the past, present, and future of agriculture in Southeastern Massachusetts. We will be highlighting the recently published *New England Food Vision* and *SE Massachusetts Food Shed Analysis*. Presentations will be made by SEMAP, Southeastern Massachusetts Food Security Network, and guest speaker, Dr. Tom Kelly, Founding Director of the Sustainability Institute, University of New

A community event celebrating agriculture & possibility

Thursday, April 2nd, 7:00 pm

Networking Reception at 6:00 pm

New Bedford Whaling Museum **FREE!**

Please RSVP at SEMAPonline.org

Hampshire. Visit www.foodsolutionsne/new-england-food-vision to download a copy of *A New England Food Vision*.

Coming soon to a farm near you!

Our Twilight Grower Education Series Resumes

A workshop series for farmers and home gardeners offering hands-on skill building led on-farm by local producers.

Check our website for workshop updates and topics

Spring 2015



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

8TH ANNUAL _____ 2015
**AGRICULTURE
& FOOD**
MAR. 1ST CONFERENCE
of Southeastern Massachusetts
BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
135 CENTER ST, DIGHTON, MA

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:
FARMERS + GROWERS, GARDENERS, AND FOODIES**



JOIN US FOR FUN-FILLED DAY

**WORKSHOPS, A RESOURCE FAIR,
& A LOCALLY SOURCED LUNCH**

Learn more + register online at
www.SEMAPonline.org



BECOME A MEMBER

**Please mail your
donation to:**

SEMARP
P.O. Box 80625
S. Dartmouth, MA 02748

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

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