Food Safety Training and Education with New Entry Sustainable Farming Project

NECAFS Annual Conference
February 10-12, 2020 in Philadelphia, PA

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Farmer Training Program Manager
New Entry
Food Safety
Program Objectives

- Experiential learning/training opportunities
- Historically underserved and beginning farmers
- Plain language guides and signage
- Online curriculum modules
- Partnerships and outreach
Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties combined have relatively high numbers of farmers and farm sales given the extent of urbanization in this part of the state. Urban development encroaching on arable farmland makes conservation planning in this region all the more urgent. The majority of New Entry alumni reside in Eastern MA.
## Principal Producer Demographic Data for MA and Northeast MA Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>Essex Co.</th>
<th>Middlesex Co.</th>
<th>Suffolk Co.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Principal Producers (PP)</td>
<td>10,154</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP with Military Service</td>
<td>947 (9.3%)</td>
<td>36 (5.6%)</td>
<td>74 (8.6%)</td>
<td>1 (3.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP Female</td>
<td>4138 (40%)</td>
<td>300 (47%)</td>
<td>387 (45%)</td>
<td>15 (55%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP Non-white Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td>459 (.45%)</td>
<td>36 (5.6%)</td>
<td>51 (5.9%)</td>
<td>15 (55%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New and Beginning PP</td>
<td>2356 (23%)</td>
<td>156 (24%)</td>
<td>258 (30%)</td>
<td>22 (81%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA NASS Census 2017
Program Areas
Ongoing services:
- Food Hub
- Technical Assistance
- Workshops

Program description:
- Explore Farming Workshops: Introduction to farming and food systems
- Crop Production Course: Field and garden scale production
- Business Planning Course: Financial planning
- Farm Incubator: 1-3 yrs 1/4 - 1 acre
- Land Access/Transition

Objectives:
- Explain farmers role in food system
- Educate public, introduce organization
- Experiential learning: organic farm/garden skills
- More people growing food
- Develop a farm business plan:
  - New businesses started, some as new incubator farmers
- Experiment with running small farm business:
  - Successful new farm businesses established
- Connect beginning farmers to land access service providers:
  - Beginning farmers continue operations into years 3-5 with secure land tenure
- More sustainable community food system

Significance of impact increases with decreasing number of participants.
Breaking ground at Moraine Farm, Beverly, MA 2019

[Image of a farm field with rows of crops and greenhouses in the background]
## Courses
- Explore Farming
- Farm Business Planning
- Crop Production

## Workshops
- Food safety
- Direct marketing
- Record keeping

## Incubator
- Technical assistance
- ¼ to 1 acre of land
- Equipment
- Food hub
CSA
Aggregation and distribution
Direct market access for New Entry farmers
12 farmers and 160 shares

Food Access
2008
Council on Aging Senior Centers
Food banks
2000 + individuals served 2018

Market Training
Post-harvest handling
Food safety
Pricing and display at FMs
Experiential Crop Production Course

20-week course on organic horticulture, post-harvest handling, food safety
Food safety in the field & in the classroom
Eastern Mass, Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT)
Portable handwash demo.
Food Safety Training
New Entry Food Hub

• Opportunities to teach food safety and post-harvest handling for farmers selling to the food hub and other wholesale markets.
Partners and collaborators

United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Additional Food Safety Outreach Program—Outputs
WASH HANDS BEFORE USING PRODUCE WASH STATION
NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS, FOOD OR DRINK
Thank you!

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