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- **Local Food Buyers Invited Tomorrow**
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Local Food Buyers Invited Tomorrow

[The Sustainable Business Network](#) of Massachusetts' 5th Local Specialty Crop & Local Food Trade Shows will take place tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 8, 2016**, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm, at the Curry Student Center, Northeastern University. As a buyer, it's a one-stop shopping event for you to connect with over 80 New England's best growers, fishermen, and value added food producers. The 2016 Local Food Trade Shows are designed to facilitate connections and stimulate business relationships between producers and wholesale buyers of local food, with a focus on specialty crop food products in Massachusetts.

[Click HERE](#) for a list of 2016 Trade Show Exhibitors and Buyers!

Who should attend?

The event is ideal for restaurants and institutional buyers interested in trading with local food suppliers and who desire to buy more locally produced products from growers, fishermen, and value added producers from Massachusetts and New England. Any wholesale buyers, who are interested in purchasing Massachusetts or New England-produced food items. These buyers can be supermarkets, co-ops, restaurants, hotels, institutions, schools, food processors in search of ingredients, distributors, or anyone else interested in local purchasing options.*This event is intended for commercial buyers, not individual consumers.*

There will also be three great workshops with expert panelists from the region who will share their experiences, tips and lessons learned. The workshops will take place from 9:30 am-10:45 am.

Workshop Topics:

- Getting In and Staying In

- Financing for Growth- What do I need to know?
- Does “Local” Matter?

Buyers & Attendees --> [Register here.](#)

Walk-in registrations are welcome. For more information, visit www.bostonlocalfood.org or contact Maddie Phadke, SBN Local Food Program Director at 617-395-0250 or maddie@sbnmass.org.

4th Annual Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference

Saturday, March 12th - 8:00 am - 5:30 pm, [Northeastern University Curry Student Center](#), 346 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA. The annual [Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference \(UFC\)](#) is designed to advance the opportunities and address the barriers involved in cultivating a resilient and thriving Urban Farming sector. The 4th Annual Massachusetts UFC is comprised of interactive panels, demonstration workshops, expert discussions on diverse and relevant topics with leading practitioners.

KEYNOTE: *The Cuban Agroecology Movement: Are There Lessons for Massachusetts' Urban Farmers?*

Presenter: Greg Watson, Director for Policy and Systems Design. Cuba-U.S. Agroecology Network at Schumacher Center for a New Economics

Complete list of speakers and registration, [click here.](#) For panel/workshop information, sponsorship, and vendor opportunities, contact Rose Arruda at MDAR: Rose.Arruda@state.ma.us.



2016 Farm Share Fair – Vendors Invited

[Farm Share Fair](#) is now accepting vendor and sponsor applications. The Farm Share Fair is the Boston area's direct-to-consumer marketing event for food producers across Massachusetts. Consumers want to meet their farmers and have the opportunity to compare options. Vendors - get to know your target market one-on-one, and have the opportunity to sell your CSA, Farm Share or Home Delivery programs. On-site sampling, and food or product sales welcome!

This annual event draws 500 participants, and will be held at Cambridge College on **Thursday, April 14, 2016** – 1000 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA from 5:30 pm -8:30 pm.

Sign up now – vendor space is limited! Sponsorship visibility opportunities available.

Farm Share Fair 2016

Cambridge College

1000 Mass Ave

Cambridge, MA 02138

www.farmsharefair.com

[Vendor Sign-up Here!](#) - Questions? This event is produced by Mindy Harris Communications.
Email mindy@mindyharriscommunications.com.

Farm to Institution New England (FINE) Survey – All Agricultural Producers Encouraged to Participate

[Farm to Institution New England](#) (FINE) is conducting research about the regional Farm to Institution (FTI) market. The FTI market includes public and private schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, and other institutions. FINE is interested in your unique perspective on marketing and selling to institutions – please take time to fill out this survey even if you do not currently sell to institutions. Results from this survey will help us better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by the FTI market – we will know more about how and when institutional markets are valuable for your farm business and what challenges and opportunities you are likely to face in expanding or entering it. State agencies, farm associations, farmers, and nonprofit organizations will all have access to research findings to use for their business and strategic planning. As an incentive to participate, FINE is giving away five \$100 gift cards. Just provide your contact information at the end of the survey to have a chance to win.

The survey should take 5 to 20 minutes to complete, depending on whether you sell to any institutions and other factors.

Survey here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FINEProducerSurvey.

All responses will be kept confidential. Information will be published in summary format only and will not be traceable to any individual farm. To learn more about FINE, visit www.farmtoinstitution.org or contact Nessa Richman at nessa@farmtoinstitution.org.

[Complete Calendar of Events Here](#)

MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – [Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance](#), [Agricultural Markets](#), [Animal](#)

[Health](#), and [Crop and Pest Services](#) – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth’s agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture’s role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR’s website at mass.gov/agr, and follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish.