



## Draft MA Food System Plan released on Food Day, October 23

The Massachusetts Food Policy Council and Chair Commissioner John Lebeaux, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR,) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) invite you to attend the public release of the draft Massachusetts Food Systems Plan on Friday, October 23 in conjunction with a celebration of Food Day.

This exciting program offers a first-hand opportunity to interact with topic experts and provide feedback on a variety of the MA Food Systems goals. October 23 is the beginning of a two week public open-comment period. Goals and strategies of the MA Food Plan will be discussed including to:

- Increase production, sales and consumption of Massachusetts-grown foods;
- Create jobs and economic opportunity in food and farming, and improve the wages and skills of food system workers;
- Protect the land and water needed to produce food, maximize the environmental benefits from agriculture and fishing, and ensure food safety; and
- Reduce hunger and food insecurity, increase the availability of fresh, healthy food to all residents, and reduce food waste.

**Who:** The Massachusetts Food Policy Council with support from MDAR and the MAPC has facilitated the development of the draft MA Food Plan in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Franklin Regional Council of Government, and the Massachusetts Workforce Alliance.

**What:** Learn about the MA Food Systems plan and interact with topic experts as part of the public release of draft MA Food Systems Plan at the State House. Then join a discussion at the Boston Public Market KITCHEN's "Let's Talk About Food" program. The MA Food Plan will be available at [www.mafoodplan.org](http://www.mafoodplan.org) for comments. More than 1,000 people have been involved so far, with input from growers, food processors, consumers, food and agricultural organizations and advocates.

**Where:** Boston State House, 2nd floor Grand stair case and Nurses Hall (9:30 – 11:30 AM) and "Let's Talk About Food" (12 – 1 PM) in the KITCHEN at The Boston Public Market.

**Why:** Food! Do you buy, grow, process, or distribute food? You're part of the food system with a stake in the new statewide Food System Plan.

**When:** Friday, October 23 @ 9:30 – 1 pm.