

Massachusetts Urban FarMing ConFERENCE

"Cultivating Lands, Nourishing Communities, Building Businesses"

Saturday, March 8, 2014

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Northeastern University Curry Student Center

Boston, MA

Photo by Maureen White Photography



Developed by:



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2014 WIRE

Dear Urban Farming Friends,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to the 2nd Annual Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference (UFC).

Thank you for your participation in the UFC which is making great strides in mapping out a sustainable vision for urban farming in Massachusetts that promotes economic and environmental sustainability, as well as addresses social justice. Massachusetts has the potential to offer an abundance of fresh, local healthy food to its residents. Urban farming is a smart growth strategy that improves our urban food systems and contributes to sustainable urban environmental management and climate change adaptation. The UFC advances the opportunities and addresses the challenges involved in cultivating a resilient and thriving urban farming sector. The UFC is a forum to share information regarding what is currently happening in Massachusetts.

We now know that there is a powerful and direct link between our health and wellness and the consumption of fresh, nutritious, wholesome foods. The Patrick Administration is committed to increasing access food grown by Massachusetts farmers to citizens throughout the Commonwealth. In many instances those who stand to benefit the most from the inclusion of fresh produce into their diets – those individuals and families on fixed and/or low-incomes - have the most difficulty gaining access to it. Urban agriculture is a linchpin of the state's strategy for addressing this problem. Since every citizen does not have a backyard garden or community garden plot, commercial farms in the city offer another practical option for obtaining fresh farm products. This conference is the venue for urban farmers and supporters to come together to share their ideas and experiences and learn from one another.

City Growers invites you to join in today's UFC conversations. We look forward to sharing our past four years of experience in converting vacant lots into urban farms and successfully growing for market. We also value your wealth of knowledge and are very interested in learning about your urban farming experiences and expertise. Let's discuss how we can continue to develop urban farmers to succeed in the marketplace.

The Urban Farming Institute (UFI) welcomes you to the 2nd UFC. We are a nonprofit dedicated to converting urban vacant land to farms, training urban residents to grow for market, supporting policy changes to foster urban farming and educating the public on this new endeavor. UFI was formed to build successful farm enterprises in Massachusetts' urban communities. Today, we are glad to hear from farmers, composters, planners, landowners, community leaders, investors, consumers, youth, entrepreneurs and others about how we can work together to foster this new industry. We thank you for taking the day to participate in this important conversation. We look forward to working with you in achieving upcoming successful growing seasons.

We hope that you enjoy the UFC. Thank you for your support!



D/M/WBE

8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration and Networking Session

9:00 am - 9:50 am Welcome Ceremony

Commissioner Greg Watson, *MA Department of Agricultural Resources*

Keynote Speaker: Malik Yakini *"Urban Farming Lessons From Detroit"*

10:00 am -11:00 am Session 1

Dialogue 1 Successes and Challenges to Urban Farming in Massachusetts

BALLROOM

This panel will explore the state of urban farming in gateway cities in the Commonwealth and the structural/policy barriers to building a viable urban farming sector in those cities. It will also share some of the success stories that are leading the Urban Farming movement. The goal of the discussion is to build a network of people and organizations in Massachusetts gateway cities to develop a gateway cities advocacy agenda to promote the viability of the urban farming movement.

Dialogue 2 Organics and Pest Management

ROOM C

This panel of seasoned experts will help you find the best techniques for your farm and budget, covering issues such as weed management, organic herbicides, cultivation and irrigation as tools for your organic practice. You will learn about crop rotation, cover crops and soil biology, putting together a plan that can work to reduce or eliminate weeds and pests from your production system. This session will be helpful for new and beginning farmers creating an efficient plan for their business.

Dialogue 3 Composting and Soil Fertility

ROOM B

Across the United States extreme weather and other climate impacts are affecting communities and businesses. The actions of Massachusetts in building resilience to the consequences of climate change will shape our ability to adapt and prosper now and in the long term. Urban farming has the potential to contribute significantly to addressing the already observable and inevitable climate change impacts to urban areas in Massachusetts - it enhances community building and diversifies our food supply. Join this dynamic dialogue with Massachusetts Thought Leaders who will share and reflect on current issues pertaining to how Massachusetts can advance urban farming to prepare for building resilience in a changing climate.

Dialogue 4 Viable Farms in the City

ROOM A

An urban food economy is enhanced as farming enterprises expand their business models to market local foods into retail, restaurants and other venues. Maximizing the evolving range of marketing opportunities for Urban Farmers is the goal of this session. Today's panelists will share their success stories, experiences, and strategies to guide you in building a viable business. Discuss direct sales, diversification; value added products, and customer relationship management. This panel will help you to craft a plan to meet the growing demand for local products.

11:10 am - 12:10 pm Session 2

Dialogue 1 Resilient Cities: Climate Adaptation and Urban Farming

Room B

The actions of Massachusetts in building resilience to the consequences of climate change will shape our ability to adapt and prosper now and in the long term. Urban farming has the potential to contribute significantly to addressing the already observable and inevitable climate change impacts to urban areas in Massachusetts - it enhances community building, diversifies our food supply, increases green space and more. Join this dynamic dialogue with Massachusetts Thought Leaders who will share and reflect on current issues pertaining to how Massachusetts can advance urban farming to prepare for building resilience in a changing climate. This panel is designed to formally introduce and discuss urban farming as a key component of MA climate adaptation. This perspective has the potential to expand the argument of the environmental, social and economic positive measurable impacts of urban farming. This perspective has the potential to expand the value of urban farming with policy makers, urban planning, funding organizations and more.

Dialogue 2 Roof Top Urban Farming Strategies

BALLROOM

The possibilities abound for roof top farming and with today's experts, you will hear about the lessons learned after a "first year" run for one local roof top farmer as well as the success stories from our seasoned panelists. Our speakers will share best practices on year-round growing, hydroponics, best crop choices, and water management practices. How can your model be fiscally and operationally sound? What do you need to consider for future expansion? Find these answers and more in this interactive dialogue.

Dialogue 3 Marketing, Branding & Optimal Media Methods for Your City Farm

ROOM C

This discussion will help urban farmers take their enterprise to the next level with the packaging of their business for optimal visibility. Advertising and social media are key components to a winning plan and our presenters will help you with standing out in a crowd, creating a distinctive look and micro-target customers. Our experts will share success stories, customer relationship management tools as well as examples to utilize social media and brand identity. What about your farm, products, services or personal history are you especially proud of or is unique? How will you balance farming and marketing opportunities? These and more guiding questions will help your business planning process.

Dialogue 4 Urban Farming Crop Planning and Production

ROOM B

Our panel will share from their experience on what it takes to have a viable operation in a city setting sharing their production methods and how they address environmental concerns such as soil prep, water use and structural constraints. These experienced farmers will discuss maximizing production on your small scale farm. Techniques to be discussed: seed selection, bed-forming, crop planning and efficient planting methods.

12:15 pm - 1:10 pm Networking Lunch
1:10 pm - 2:10 pm Session 3

Dialogue 1 Season Extension

ROOM C

With the challenges of the Massachusetts growing season, many farmers have a variety of solutions to extend their growing capacity and meet production needs. Hear our panel of experts discuss their techniques for season extension and optimizing your urban farm's viability. This session will cover tunnel production, materials, crop selection, irrigation, harvesting, maintenance, soil protection, and transplants.

Dialogue 2 Youth and Urban Farming

BALLROOM

More youth are leading the way to transforming empty urban land into farms and community growing spaces. There are many models that work with youth and bringing them into the conversation about farms and food. Hear the dynamic voices of several young urban growers and leaders on the work they've done to reshape urban spaces. What are the visions and priorities of youth leaders in the urban farming movement? How do they manage the various resistance they encounter? Where do they see their futures within the urban food movement? How can more youth be engaged in this work? Get ready for an engaging session.

Dialogue 3 Financing Urban Farming Enterprises

ROOM A

The growing urban farming movement in our state has caught the eye of funding institutions and municipalities alike. Meeting the needs of this budding sector will take a strategic and comprehensive approach by our financial institutions and will also take partnerships across many sectors to identify resources and alternative funding mechanisms. Commitment and creativity to support urban farming is what communities need to strengthen the regional and diverse food system. Today you can participate in a conversation with leaders from several institutions, committed to engaging in the MA food systems planning process. What are the conventional and creative vehicles needed to move capital into this new urban farming sector? This question and more will set the stage for this dialogue.

Dialogue 4 Land: Policy, Availability and Strategy

ROOM B

The urban farming movement in municipalities across MA brings with it the promise of transformed vacant spaces and improving neighborhood conditions, it also presents challenges for producers. Land insecurity issues, high infrastructure costs and zoning policies are key components that need to be addressed. Boston's new zoning code, Article 89, serves as a model and has opened the conversation for city planners and entrepreneurs alike in Massachusetts. Join community advocates and local officials in this discussion on the need for agriculture-friendly zoning policies, processes, and partnerships with community leaders and urban farmers.

2:20 pm - 3:00 pm Session 4 Mini Urban Farm Talks: 10 Minute Presentations

BALLROOM

Urban Farm Talk 1 Building the Community Food Economy

Urban farming is contributing to the re-localization of the entire food economy (from production, processing, and distribution to retail, consumption, and waste reprocessing). It will highlight how a more just, sustainable, and community-led food economy is emerging in Boston.

Urban Farm Talk 2 Urban Farming without Soil? It's Amazing (And, It's Not About Hydroponics)

Contaminated soil is a major barrier to inner-city food production. Remediation is time consuming and expensive. But several Chicago projects simply cap the soil or even grow on pavement, using compost and wood chips, but no soil. This photo-tour will showcase the process by three projects, with some amazing results.

Urban Farm Talk 3 Cultivating Food Justice

This talk offers different lenses to see how the intersectionality of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability and citizenship play out in the development of systemic structural and socio-spatial inequities and injustices in food systems. It develops an understanding and contextualization of the role of food justice activism within the broader narrative of the alternative food movement and offers emerging ideas about how policymakers and planners can take a role in increasing local efforts towards food justice.

3:10 pm - 3:30 pm Session 5 Quick Shops: 20 Minute Interactive Presentations

Quick Shop 1 Chickens in the City*ROOM A*

Hens can be a fantastic addition to urban farms and city yards. Learn the basics about raising chickens for high nutrient fresh eggs, garden pest control and the latest on zoning for chickens in your neighborhood!

Quick Shop 2 Women Urban Farmers*BALLROOM*

Voices of Women in the Urban Farming Movement

This panel seeks to shed light on some of the most salient issues facing women in movement of urban agriculture. Massachusetts has seen an increase in women entering the field of farming in recent years. As women begin to find a place for their agricultural skills, how do they access resources, benefit from farming networks, increase their skill-set? Can these resources benefit urban women as they move into farming city land? Are there other issues unique to urban women that needs to be explored?

Quick Shop 3 Legal Issues for Urban Farmers and When to Engage a Lawyer*ROOM B*

This presentation from the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic and Conservation Law Foundation will focus on common legal and regulatory issues faced by urban farmers; tips on when to engage an attorney; and key resources to help urban farmers navigate legal issues, including a new pro bono legal services program for farmers and food entrepreneurs.

Quick Shop 4 Urban Bee Keeping 101*ROOM C*

Bees in the city!? From hotel rooftops to community gardens to classroom observation hives, honey bees abound in the Boston area. At a time when bees face mounting challenges, come learn about urban beekeeping in its many forms from those who tend hives in Metro Boston for their agricultural, ecological, educational and research value. Q&A will be built into this experience, so bring your questions!

3:35 pm - 3:40 pm **Wrap Up**

BALLROOM

3:40 pm - 4:30 pm **Networking Reception**

MASSACHUSETTS URBAN FARMING CONFERENCE

Biographies

Speakers

Dialogue 1 Successes and Challenges to Urban Farming in Massachusetts Gateway Cities

Amanda Barker, a native of Pennsylvania, moved to Worcester, MA to attend graduate school in Environmental Science and Policy at Clark University in 2009. Upon her arrival, she decided to start an urban farm with a limited history of flower and vegetable gardening with friends and family. Starting small and continuing to expand, Nuestro Huerto Urban Farm has evolved into a thriving urban CSA with a post-industrial backdrop. In partnership with other artisans, Amanda built a hoop house at a nearby re-purposed factory to serve both Nuestro Huerto and urban gardeners. Amanda has gained experience recently in drip irrigation, crop planning, CSA planning, volunteer coordination, and landowner relationships over the past four growing seasons.

Margaret Connors is Co-founder and Principal of City Growers and Co-Founder of the Urban Farming Institute, Boston. She also is a partner in Boston Young Naturalist Explorations - currently launching a young naturalist place-based curriculum for the Boston Public Garden. In her career as a researcher, activist and educator in public and environmental health she has maintained a commitment to fostering health and human rights in urban communities.

Glynn Lloyd is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of City Fresh Foods, a food service operation that daily provides over 8,000 Latin, Southern, Italian, Russian and Caribbean meals to Elders, School Students, Child Care and other institutional clients. A graduate of Boston University in Economics, Glynn has been actively involved in the Boston's urban community for the last two decades. Glynn is the Vice Chair of Project Bread's Board of Directors and he was recently appointed by Governor Patrick to become a Trustee of Roxbury Community College.

Anne Richmond has been Program Director with Gardening the Community since 2010. She is passionate about local food, urban agriculture, community gardens, and organizing for racial equity. Born and raised in Cincinnati Ohio, Anne has lived in Springfield for the past 18 years with her partner Todd and their two children.

Lydia Sisson is Co-Founder of Mill City Grows, an urban food production initiative in Lowell. She has ten years of farming experience and ran a CSA for four years. She began farming at Vassar College, became passionate about food justice, and holds a Masters in Economic and Social Development.

Dialogue 2 Organics and Pest Management

Amanda Cather has been the farm manager at Waltham Fields Community Farm since 2004. WFCF, now in its 20th season, grows organic food for food access programs and CSA shares on 15 acres less than 10 miles from downtown Boston. WFCF also conducts on-farm educational programming for all ages and income levels, including farmer training.

Kimi Ceridon is the Boston Metro Organizer for the Massachusetts Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA/Mass) and a Master's student in Gastronomy at Boston University. She is engaged with local food through veggie, fish and meat CSAs from local farms as well as a growing backyard garden that includes bees, chickens and mushrooms.

Duncan Cox is currently a certification administrator for Baystate Organic Certifiers. He was a certified organic growers of apples and onions in Walla Walla, Washington in the early '90's. He received an MS in Soils from Washington State University in 1998, then worked with dryland grain growers in eastern Washington and the Idaho panhandle. In 2000-2002 he worked for Clemson University's Tree Fruit Research Program in South Carolina. In 2002, he moved to Massachusetts and began inspecting for Baystate Organic Certifiers.

Judy Lieberman has spent more than 3 decades in agriculture and farming. She is the co-founder and farmer at Brookwood Community Farm, located in the Blue Hills Reserve, which borders Boston. Before farming at Brookwood, Judy Lieberman spent 8 years developing and managing the Urban Farm at Re-Vision House, and was involved with community gardening in Boston prior to that. She started her farming career on dairy farms in Northern Vermont, and in-between, worked on sustainable agriculture research in California and with farm cooperatives in Nicaragua. Ms. Lieberman holds a BS degree in plant and Soil Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a SM degree from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dialogue 3 Composting and Soil Fertility

Derek Christianson: I am the owner and farmer at Brix Bounty Farm in Dartmouth, where my wife Katie and I raise two young daughters, Mariah and Eula. We operate Brix Bounty Farm with the intent to be a catalyst for the community, producing nourishing food, creating learning opportunities focusing on sustainable agriculture, and engaging Southeastern Massachusetts in discussion and development of a vibrant local food economy. Ultimately, we aim to help establish a deeper community-wide understanding of the relationship between soils, diet, & health.

Jim Corven is a professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Plant Sciences at Bristol Community College in Fall River, MA. He has developed an organic Master Gardener program and a natural bee-keeping course at BCC. Jim has lived and worked in Central America for over 20 years focusing on small-scale sustainable agriculture development and currently lives on a self-sufficient homestead in Vermont. He received his doctorate from Michigan State University.

Bruce Fulford is owner of City Soil & Greenhouse LLC., a Boston based firm that provides environmental management and intensive crop production goods and technical services. He has worked extensively with state and federal and agencies, local nonprofits and businesses, growers and academic colleagues to develop best practices for soil remediation, composting, bio-energy, sustainable agriculture, and storm water management during his 30-year career. He has manufactured and delivered composts, mulches and blended soils, growing systems and consulting services to a broad client base of farmers, urban growers, schools, and other private and public land stewards.

Dialogue 4 Strategies for Commercial Success for City Farms

Ibrahim Ali is the Youth and Project Director for Gardening the Community based in Springfield, MA. He has served as a founding member of the Springfield Food Policy Council, the steering committee for Pioneer Valley Grows, and has taken an avid interest in seeds after completion of Native Seed's Seed School at Hampshire College. A father of four sons his outside interests include music and travel, and introducing unique varieties of vegetables to the community of Mason Square.

Jen Faigel is a real estate and community economic development consultant. Her clients include Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corp., Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, the Fairmount CDC Collaborative, Lawrence CommunityWorks, North Shore CDC, and the Mel King Institute. Jen is currently working with Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corp. on a \$13.5 million redevelopment of the 2-acre former Pearl Meat Factory into a shared-use and multi-tenant food production facility as a means to create jobs, promote small business, build the infrastructure to support local food systems, and improve access to healthy food to low-income families of Boston.

Shani Fletcher got hooked on plants while taking horticulture at Wellesley College. She left grant writing in 2011 to become an urban farmer, combining her gardening passion with her social justice commitment. Farm Manager at Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm, she leads a dedicated team of women who help feed Boston's families.

Jamey Lionette is currently employed at City Fresh, in charge of procurement, and at City Growers, both in Roxbury. Prior to working at City Fresh, Jamey was the owner of Lionette's Market and the Garden of Eden Restaurant, in the South End. In addition, Jamey sits on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Association (NAMA). Jamey is published on topics of sustainable food, including as a contributing author in Manifestos on the Future of Food & Seed. He lives in Jamaica Plain and is an organizer and advocate for local foods, whole animal utilization and responsible butchering.

Edith Murnane is the Director of Food Initiatives for the City of Boston. This office engages the Boston Food Council, partners, City departments and city constituents to address issues related to hunger, health, and food-related economic opportunity. As the Director, Edith launched the Food Truck Initiative, Boston's Pilot Micro Urban Farming Initiative, the City's Urban Agriculture Re-zoning work, and was an advisor to the Boston Tree Party on the creation and launch of their citywide project. She launched a series of healthy food courses at BPS's Parent University, and brought about permitting changes at Boston's Inspectional Services Department that has allowed local, day-boat fish to be sold at Boston's Farmers' Markets.

11:10 am - 12:10 pm Session 2

Dialogue 1 Climate Adaptation and Food Security

Julie Conroy serves as a Senior Regional Planner in MAPC's Environmental Division. She assists MAPC managers in the implementation of Sustainable Communities programs that support MetroFuture. She develops policy documentation and regulations for environmental protection in numerous Massachusetts cities. She is the Senior Principal facilitating the statewide food strategic plan

Crystal Johnson leverages her more than twenty years of experience in planning, management, assessment and policy development in energy, water and natural resources to serve as an Energy Strategist and Senior Environmental Planner. She is the Founder and Principal at ISES. She also presents the MA Annual Sustainable Economy Conference.

MA State Representative Frank Smizik is the Chair of the MA House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. He is active in matters related to the Commonwealth's climate policy, including but not limited to greenhouse gas emissions, the climate impacts of renewable energy development and climate change adaptation and mitigation. He also understands the value that urban farming has in climate change adaptation planning.

TBA

Dialogue 2 Roof Top Urban Farming

Lauren Rathmell supervises greenhouse operations, plant science, and R&D at Lufa Farms in Montreal. A member of Lufa Farms' founding team, she played a large role in the development of the plant and growing science infrastructure that Lufa Farms implemented in its first greenhouse, including NFT and drip irrigation systems, the use of biological pest controls, crop rotation systems and microclimates, and the selection of crop varieties suited for polyculture. Rathmell is a graduate in biochemistry from McGill University in Montreal, where she started working with Lufa Farms as a researcher at McGill's MacDonald campus.

Brendan Shea is cofounder at Recover Green Roofs, a design-build firm specializing in green roofs and living walls. In 2010, he designed and built Boston's first commercial roof farm atop Ledge Kitchen and Drinks in Dorchester. In spring 2013, he oversaw construction of a 1/3 acre roof farm above a Whole Foods in Lynnfield.

John Stoddard, MS is a founder of Higher Ground Farm, a Boston-based urban agriculture company that is opening Boston's first rooftop farm in the spring of 2013. At 55,000 square feet, it will be the second largest open-air roof farm in the world. After earning a Bachelor's degree in environmental studies, John combined his passions for food and for environmental health, in his position as a Healthy Food in Health Care Coordinator for the global non-profit organization, Health Care without Harm. John earned his Master of Science from Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition specializing in the Agriculture, Food, and Environment program.

Greg Watson was sworn in as the Department's 19th Commissioner on April 2, 2012. He also served as Commissioner (1990 to 1993) under then Governors Dukakis and Weld. Commissioner Watson has a long connection to and appreciation of agriculture starting in his childhood where his grandmother tended a vegetable garden and fruit trees and visiting his uncle's working farm in Tennessee. His first hands on experience with agriculture started in 1978 as he worked with urban community groups and rural farmers to develop a network of six neighborhood-based farmers' markets in Greater Boston. Under his current leadership, Greg seeks to expand access to locally grown food across the Commonwealth with emphasis on building robust urban infrastructure solutions.

Dialogue 3 Marketing, Branding and Optimal Media Methods for Your City Farm

Myrna Greenfield is the "Top Egg" at Good Egg Marketing (goodeggmarketing.com), a Massachusetts-based business that specializes in promoting good food and good causes for farms, food producers, nonprofits, and small businesses. Good Egg services include market research, sales and marketing strategies, branding, websites, and social media plans.

Nicola A. Williams is the owner and President of The Williams Agency, a full service marketing and business strategy firm that works with mission-driven projects with a focus on sustainable food and culture. With 20 years of experience, she has earned international respect for her work in grassroots marketing, campaign development and marketing strategy.

Dialogue 4 Urban Farming Crop Planning and Production

Robyn Burns is the North Shore Urban Agriculture Manager for The Food Project. Robyn manages food production & distribution, facilitates a community garden program and leads public volunteer programs on TFP farm sites in Lynn. She has the pleasure of working closely with TFP's youth program in all aspects of her work.

Bobby Walker III, is a Farm Manager at City Growers and trainer for the Urban Farming Institute. Nurturing his natural inclination to till the earth and harvest its bounty, Bobby became a Master Urban Gardener through BNAN, and trained at the New Entry Sustainable Farming Program at UMASS Lowell. As a result of his passion and persistence, Bobby now brings to the table over 6 years of farming experience. As a young entrepreneur, Bobby has lead several youth based programs including fishing and agriculture. For more than 5 years, Bobby, along with his wife, ran a small scale farmers market in Lower Roxbury, teaching local youth how to farm in the city and run a business.

Ashley Carter graduated from the University of VT with a degree in Sustainable Landscape Horticulture. After several years farming in VT, she traveled to Nicaragua to study permaculture design, agroforestry, and tropical food crops. She now manages New Lands Farm, a new American farmer collective and community farm in Worcester, MA.

Amanda Cather has been the farm manager at Waltham Fields Community Farm since 2004. WFCF, now in its 20th season, grows organic food for food access programs and CSA shares on 15 acres less than 10 miles from downtown Boston. WFCF also conducts on-farm educational programming for all ages and income levels, including farmer training.

12:15-1 LUNCH

1:10 pm - 2:30 pm Session 3

Dialogue 1 Season Extension Techniques

Danielle Andrews Hailing from Toronto, Canada where she worked on urban agriculture projects. For 6 years, starting in 2002, Danielle worked at The Food Project as the Boston urban grower, managing 2 acres of mixed vegetables sold mainly through a farmers market out of the Dudley Neighborhood. Currently, she manages the Dudley Greenhouse, a 10,000 square foot production and educational greenhouse that produces food year round. In her current position, she enjoys working with and supporting neighbors and neighborhood organizations that are working in partnership.

Laura Feddersen is the Director of Horticulture at Green City Growers, a Somerville-based urban agriculture company. She has farmed in a variety of challenging locations, including northern Wisconsin, a year-round urban farm operation in upstate New York, and Green City Growers' 100+ sites here in the Boston area.

Greg Maslowe is Farm Manager of Newton Community Farm (NCF), which he has run since its inception in 2006. The farm crops on 1 acre and supports an 80-member CSA, a weekly farmers' market, a 5-day per week on-site farm stand, and donations to multiple food pantries and shelters in the city. The farm's output has grown from \$30,000 in its first year to over \$90,000 presently. Greg has a Masters of Theological Studies from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and a Masters in Science, Philosophy, and Religion from Boston University where his work was on the ethics of genetically modified food crops.

Tom Trepanier Jr. grew up in Worcester Massachusetts and attended the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2008. Tom also earned an Associates of Science in Crop Production and a Bachelors of Science in Plant Soil and Insect Science focusing in Sustainable Food and Farming. For the past 6 years, he has worked on farms such as at Dave's

Natural Garden (4 years), served as production manager at Fresh Life Farm (1 year), and currently at Nuestras Raices , “La Finca” as the Farm Director. Tom has worked with several season extension equipment/infrastructures; including greenhouses, high-tunnels, low-tunnels, and quick hoops.

Dialogue 2 Youth and Urban Farming

Tamika Francis is from a lineage of Jamaican farmers and indigenous Maroons, the Executive Director of theMOVE, and pretends she is a fusion chef. With a BA in Geography, a MA in Sustainable International Development; her experiences include island conservation, agro/eco-tourism, capacity building & youth development in USA, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean.

Jess Liborio (moderator) is the Programs & Community Outreach Manager for The Food Project's Greater Boston Region. Jess has been involved in food production since she was 15 and stumbled upon The Food Project's Summer Youth Program in 1994. She went on to work on various farms in Massachusetts, before and after receiving a BA in Economics from UMass Boston. Jess worked 8 seasons managing urban farms for TFP in Lynn and most recently in Roxbury and Dorchester. Jess works closely with youth, neighbors, community and backyard gardeners, and organizational partners to support young leaders and improve community access to fresh, local produce.

Chad McClain is a youth leader with Regional Environmental Council's Food Justice Program, *YouthGROW*, an urban agriculture-focused youth development and employment program for teens.

Tyler Martin is a junior staff with “Gardening the community in Springfield, MA. Tyler is currently a sophomore at the Renaissance High School, where he is an excellent excels and is a leader amongst his peers. Tyler has been an urban farmer for over three years.

Zeke Mercer-McDowall is an 18 years old senior at Another Course to College High School in Brighton. He began working for The Food Project in 2011 and has since built many raised beds, led hundreds of volunteers in farm work, and facilitated the Food for Thought workshop for many groups of youth and adults.

Cristal Martinez is a youth leader from the Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project, a youth-led initiative, a program of Alternatives for Community & Environment.

Dialogue 3 Financing Urban Farming Enterprises

Eric Bodzinski has been with the USDA Farm Service Agency since 2006 starting out as a Farm Loan Officer Trainee and working up to the current position of Farm Loan Manager for Worcester, Middlesex, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Bristol County. Mr. Bodzinski holds a BA in Business Management from Bryant University. Eric has comprehensive farm experience with orchard & berry production, vegetable production, and hay production as well as GAP Certification. He has also served as a Director on the Plymouth County Farm Bureau for the past two years.

Gustavo Perez Eugui is the Manager of Lending for New England and Internet at Accion East. In his current role, Gustavo is tasked with the growth and management of the New England and National Lending Programs. Since 2010, he has helped hundreds of small business owners by providing them with the Financial Education and Access to Capital they need to succeed. His expertise ranges from credit to business strategy. His experience includes work at multiple National and International NGO's. Before joining Accion, Gustavo was the Grants Coordinator for Community Compact in Florida. There his work focused on identifying funding opportunities for the organization and designing Service Learning programs that enhance nonprofit capacity.

Ruth Goldman has over 20 years of experience in environmental issues, youth development and experiential education, both in the philanthropic and non-profit worlds. She recently started a consulting practice to work with foundations and philanthropic networks to build capacity for change on critical urban environmental issues including food systems, green infrastructure, sustainable communities, and the role of urban youth in the emerging green economy. Ruth is currently the Consulting Program Officer at the Merck Family Fund and co-Chair of Community Food Funders at the North Star Fund in New York City. Ruth holds a BA in Comparative Religion and Education from Dartmouth College and a M.Ed. from the University of Toronto.

Daniel Ross-As Wholesome Wave COO developing scaling strategies for innovative food & health systems social enterprises, “rethinking the world we eat in.” Lifetime fellowship from Ashoka – Innovators for the Public Good, MBA from MIT Sloan. Long-time ED of Nuestras Raices leading urban “agri-cultural development”.

Dorothy Suput is the founder and executive director of The Carrot Project. The Carrot Project is helping to change our food and agriculture economy by helping farmers and food system businesses extend their commitment to sustainability to their business practices through alternative financing programs combined with business technical assistance and using those experiences to increase the availability of financing and capacity in the sector.

Dialogue 4 Land: Policy, Availability & Planning

Kevin Essington is the state director for The Trust for Public Land in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He is responsible for the effective delivery of all land conservation services in support of The Trust for Public Land's mission. Prior to this position Kevin worked for 10 years for The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island and Connecticut as director of government relations and as a local conservation program director. As government relations director he was responsible for promoting sound policies and adequate funding for federal programs in Rhode Island especially for coastal and marine ecosystems. As a program director, he oversaw the protection of nearly 7,000 acres in seven years in the largest block of forest between Boston and New York City.

Barbara Knecht, R.A. has worked in various scales and types of development in cities for more than thirty years. Working with UFI brings together her experience developing urban land with a love of all things edible. Ms. Knecht holds degrees in architecture from UC Berkeley and Columbia University.

Jolie Olivetti has been working at Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm in Dorchester, MA since 2008. ReVision is an innovative community-based urban agriculture project that grows produce in its own fields and provides access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to residents of our ReVision Family Home and our extended community. In association with ReVision Family Home, we also provide job training for youth and Boston's homeless. Jolie's interests and background are in vegetable production, environmental education, youth work, and anti-oppression work.

John (Tad) Read is Senior Planner at the Boston Redevelopment Authority where he focuses on transit-oriented development (TOD), transportation, land use and sustainability planning. Currently he is leading the BRA's Citywide Rezoning for Urban Agriculture initiative. Tad began his career leading on neighborhood and transportation planning projects in southern California. After coming to the east coast to earn a mid-career Masters in Design Studies degree at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard in 2004, Tad served first as TOD Planning Manager for the Massachusetts Office for Commonwealth Development before coming to the BRA.

Harry Smith is Director of Sustainable Economic Development at Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. He has 25 years of experience in organizing around affordable housing and community economic development. He is former Program Director for Farm Aid, Inc. Harry has a BA from Brown University and an MS in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University.

2:35-3:30 Session 4

Mini Farm Talk: (10 minute presentations)

Urban Farm Talk 1 "Building the Community Food Economy"

Penn Loh is Lecturer and Director of the Masters in Public Policy Program and Community Practice at Tufts University's Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. From 1996 to 2009, he served in various roles, including Executive Director since 1999, at Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE), a Roxbury-based environmental justice group. Before joining ACE, he was Research Associate at the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security in Oakland, California and a Research Analyst at the Tellus Institute for Resource and Environmental Strategies in Boston.

Urban Farm Talk 2 "Urban Farming Without Soil? It's Amazing! (And It's Not About Hydroponics)"

Hugh Joseph has started numerous community-based food, agriculture, nutrition initiatives at the local, regional and national levels, including New Entry Sustainable Farming Project. As an Assistant Professor (adjunct) in the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program (Friedman School, Tufts University), he teaches graduate courses on Food Systems and Community Food Planning.

Urban Farm Talk 3 "Food Justice"

Julian Agyeman is a Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts. His current research interests are in the complex and embedded relations between humans and the environment, whether mediated by governmental institutions or social movements, and the effects of this on public policy and planning processes and outcomes, particularly in relation to notions of justice and equity. With over 150 publications, his recent books include 'Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability' (MIT Press 2011) and 'Introducing Just Sustainabilities: Policy, Planning and Practice' (Zed Books 2013).

Quick shops: (20 minute interactive presentation)

Urban Farm Talk : Chickens in the City

Karen Doczi, *Legalize Chickens in Boston*
Leonid Lacett, *Mattapan Urban Farmer*

Urban Farm Talk : Women Urban Farmers

Nataka Crayton-Walker has worked as an urban farmer for more than six years with the Village Farm, City Growers, and helped to create the Urban Farming Institute which she works as a consultant. Her childhood dream to become a farmer, coupled with more than 8 years of her fingers in the ground gardening, led her to acquire her Master Urban Gardener Certificate from Boston Natural Areas Network, and her farming certificate from New Entry Sustainable Farming Program. Mrs. Crayton-Walker, is working to complete her Masters in Community Economic Development at Southern NH University and is currently working as a Private Chef.

Kafi Dixon A Social Entrepreneur, former owner of Milk & Honey Produce Market, Graduate of Master Urban Gardeners Program and New Entry Farming Project, mother of 3, resident of Dorchester, and 2nd year Farming apprentice of City Growers. Kafi's eventual path into Urban and Rural farming began with a question, "What does sustainable really mean for low income families and communities of color?" Through farming she hopes to contribute to this conversation.

Jolie Olivetti has been working at Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm in Dorchester, MA since 2008. ReVision is an innovative community-based urban agriculture project that grows produce in its own fields and provides access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to residents of our ReVision Family Home and our extended community. In association with ReVision Family Home, we also provide job training for youth and Boston's homeless. Jolie's interests and background are in vegetable production, environmental education, youth work, and anti-oppression work.

Shani Fletcher got hooked on plants while taking horticulture at Wellesley College. She left grant writing in 2011 to become an urban farmer, combining her gardening passion with her social justice commitment. Farm Manager at Victory Programs' ReVision Urban Farm, she leads a dedicated team of women who help feed Boston's families.

Quick shops: (20 minute interactive presentation)

Urban Farm Talk : Legal Issues for Urban Farmers and When to Engage a Lawyer

Alli Condra

As a Clinical Fellow at the FLPC, Alli works on various food and agricultural policy projects—including local procurement, food safety, and urban agriculture—supervises law students, and advocates for policy change to improve our food systems. Alli earned her J.D. and LL.M., with a focus on food and agricultural law.

Jenny Rushlow

Jenny is a Staff Attorney for CLF Massachusetts in Boston, and Director of CLF's Farm and Food Initiative. Jenny directs CLF's agriculture advocacy throughout New England, including local, state, and federal food systems policy advocacy. Jenny's background is in environmental law and public health, with a focus on environmental justice issues.

Urban Farm Talk: Bee Keeping

Sadie Richards, MPH, is an urban agriculture educator, soil enthusiast and beekeeper who co-founded the Boston Beekeepers Club and its signature event, Boston's annual Tour de Hives, in 2011. Sadie is the Gardens Coordinator at Groundwork Somerville, sits on the board of Classroom Hives and co-teaches Boston's Organic Bee School.

Noah Wilson-Rich earned his Ph.D. in biology from Tufts University in 2011, with a focus on honeybee health. He is the Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of The Best Bees Company and oversees the activities at the Urban Beekeeping Laboratory & Bee Sanctuary in Boston's South End.



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MASSACHUSETTS URBAN FARMING

CONFERENCE MENU

LATINO/CHINESE LUNCH

Mexican Chopped Caesar Kale Salad

Black Bean Salad

Szechuan Cabbage Slaw

Quinoa Salad with Pear, Fennel, Watermelon Radish

Kimchi

Tazo Chocolate Mousse

Rum Glazed Apples

Winter Iced Tea

Jazzy water



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