

Planting Seeds: A Prosperity of the Commons Wish List

Actions & Ideas for the Southcoast in 2011 Focusing on Food and Agriculture

February 15, 2011

“Imitation is the Greatest Form of Flattery”

Time, Energy, Capital ... often necessary ingredients in the development of new initiatives; perhaps equally important is the spark of passion driving an individual or group to action. The origin of this spark may lie in different fields for different folks; often for me it's the “Wow, That's So Cool!” moment when learning about a great initiative beyond our region. With this in mind and a vision for a Great Ideas Bank which would freely distribute Great Ideas to those with time, energy, and/or capital I pass along this short wish list of actions & ideas for our community.

As we are greeted with constant coverage of rising food costs this later winter; we are reminded that the economic drivers behind local food systems aren't always low hanging fruit. The return on investment may take years... or even a different system of economics. Nevertheless, we must take the time to consider the necessity of these investments in light of rising health care, energy and transportation costs.

New ideas are exciting; but we must continue to strengthen our existing organizations focusing on sustainable food systems

- Bristol Community College, Organic Agriculture Technician (OAT) Program - <http://www.bristolcc.edu/events/oat/index.cfm>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)Mass - <http://www.nofamass.org/>
- **Sharing the Harvest Community Farm (at the Dartmouth YMCA)** - <http://www.ymcasouthcoast.org>
- **Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)** - <http://semaponline.org/>
- Southeastern Massachusetts Council on Sustainability - <http://councilonsustainability.org/>

With that in mind I find great urgency to further solidify old & new efforts to **Empower Long-Term Systemic Change Based on Sound Knowledge of Soil Science and Investment in our Soils as a Critical Foundation for Wealth Creation.**

We are currently in exploratory conversations focusing on two initiatives, aimed at strengthening our region's agricultural capacity.

- **Soils Institute:** A new body empowering fellows to educate and broaden knowledge of sustainable soil management while deepening the understanding of our soils role in healthy
- **Pulse of Photosynthesis Fund:** A vision for a zero interest loan fund focusing on increasing the circulation of capital among the agricultural community in Southeastern Massachusetts to improve our region's agriculture production.

For more information on these initiatives please contact Derek Christianson at 508-992-1868, or derekchristianson@gmail.com

View the Agriculture Aperture Series online at www.brixbounty.com and please consider sharing the following wish list with others.