



New Lands Farmers Transitions

We are glad to report that farmers previously working to grow and sell food at the Sutton community farm have been given the opportunity to join Flats Mentor Farm, a program of World Farmers. Based in Lancaster, MA, [Flats Mentor Farm](#) has been in existence in many forms for over 30 years. The program began in the 1980s to support newly arrived Hmong refugees from the Vietnam War, who were seeking an opportunity to farm. World Farmers now supports over 250 farmers to grow an extensive list of ethnic crops and sell to their communities as well as to a variety of markets throughout Massachusetts, including Worcester. Much like New Lands Farm they serve new Americans and grow a wide range of culturally familiar crops. Ascentria will be assisting those farmers who are willing and able to transfer their skills to join the World Farmers program with the hope they will continue growing food for their families and for their communities.

Our urban farms run by a small group of proud and skilled Nepalese women called the [EAT Centers in Worcester](#), will continue to operate with generous support from the Regional Environmental Council (REC) and the Worcester Common Ground (WCG). In fact, this women-led group plans to operate a small farm stand at the REC's Saturday Farmers Market as a way to market their culturally specific crops and help fill a gap where the NLF market stand was present for the last 5 years. Ascentria is currently providing essential training and necessary supplies. REC will assist them during the growing and selling season. They are very excited to start this journey come June!

Our Jaques Ave Site (also an EAT Center) where our urban fruit tree orchard lies will also continue to receive support from WCG, REC and most importantly the Worcester Tree Initiative (WTI). WTI will continue to provide technical assistance to the brothers who currently operate the site, such as pruning workshops and troubleshooting. We hope for a hearty yield of mixed fruits in the future!

One last urban development project has also set sail. An urban farm inside of Worcester has begun working with three refugee families in the Canterbury neighborhood. The intention is to pass over their highly operable urban farm site for the foreseen future to these new American farmers. The land agreement is pending, but we are confident that these new farmers will be able to grow food for their families this coming spring. Excess produce will go into the REC's Mobile market. They also have intentions of opening a small on-site farm stand that will serve the immediate neighborhood that is both a low-income and largely immigrant community.