

Natick Community Organic Farm

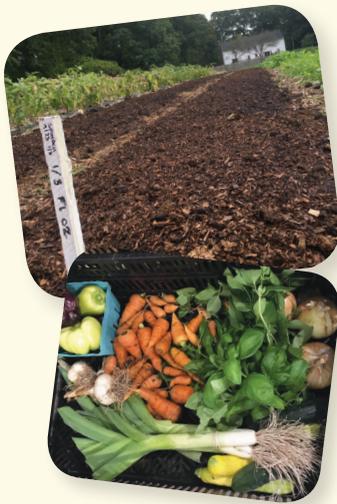
2020 ANNUAL REVIEW

This has been a year of constant pivots. In response to increased demand, we produced as much food and product as our land could sustain—tens of thousands of certified-organic vegetables, flowers, and seedlings; hundreds of pounds of humanely raised meat; and 175 gallons of maple syrup. We improved access to our products and programs by providing delivered CSA shares to local seniors and to our local food pantry, summer jobs and transportation funds for underprivileged teens, and by long last accepting SNAP benefits. We converted our flower fields to no-till management, and with the help of our teens, began construction on a new cut flower workshop using all-natural building methods. Through it all, we turned on a dime, often changing direction, to provide authentic, innovative learning experiences. As we reflect on the year's accomplishments, and look forward to the coming year, we'd like to say thank you again for your support and wish you a happy, restful and above all healthy winter — the Staff and Board of NCOF.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past year, with your help, we met the learning and emotional needs of children in home- hybrid-, remote-, and in-person school by providing safe, authentic, innovative farm-based learning experiences such as:

- >> A new Travelling Farm program for preschoolers
- >> A new maple sugaring / farm curriculum for Kindergarteners
- >> Online stories and do-at-home activities for home-bound Forest Gnomes
- >> A new online learning unit for Sheep to Wool: A History of Animals and Their Fiber
- >> Many new summer, fall, and winter public programs and academic pod programs



[At the Farm,] I've gotten to see myself turn into a confident leader who isn't afraid to step up to challenges and face them head on. My favorite moment was teaching an intern how to use the tiller. The feeling of accomplishment after he successfully used it for the first time is something I'll always remember."

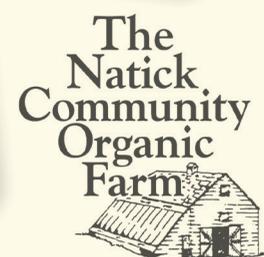
- Celia, Apprentice

"I enjoyed everything we did, because it was a great experience. I got some good ideas on what I wanted to do in the future and benefited from it."

- Deandre, Keefe Tech

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR...

- Trish's TedxNatick talk "Lessons Learned from Chasing Pigs"
- Nissi brothers interview on maple sugaring on WBZ radio
- Terracorps' collaboration on Memorial School pollinator garden
- First virtual 5K
- New ram; first flock of ducks
- First live Zoom program on chicks
- Record number of Mother's Day bouquets
- Collaboration with Lookout Farm and Natick High School runners to deliver bouquets to front-line workers
- Two litters of summer piglets
- Needham Bank TV commercial featuring our Teen Work Crew
- Fall gardening class over Zoom for Natick Seniors for Natick Services Department
- Return of Riverbend School for on-farm lessons
- Sophanny's virtual Boston Marathon for our Teens
- First Harvest Dinner to go—172 meals served!
- New microgreens enterprise in the greenhouse



2021 GOALS

In the coming year, with your help, we will...

...Support Our Community

- > Expand our senior and pantry share CSA programs
- > Provide seedlings for Natick Housing Authority gardens
- > Accept SNAP at the Natick Farmers Market

...Improve Our Facilities & Equipment

- > Complete construction of our cut-flower workshop
- > Add a new duct and fan to our composting operation

...Teach the Public

- > Utilize our new Terracorp service members to offer more educational programs on weekends
- > Launch a new audio tour

... Tend the Land

- > Obtain humane certification for our livestock
- > Install a solar-powered electric fence around our two front growing fields
- > Plant a new silvopasture



NCOF has just been certified by the Real Organic Project, a grassroots, farmer-led movement created to distinguish soil-grown and pasture-raised products under USDA organic. Read more about it on NCOF's website."



"The Farm is a jewel and was my saving grace when my girls were young. It's so nice to walk around the Farm and clear one's head of all the craziness going on in the world." - Joan

...Buy a New Tractor!

When Your Tractor Needs to Become a Field Ornament

For the past decade, NCOF has relied on its donated, secondhand Ford 1520 tractor, "Little Blue", for turning and spreading compost. But her days are now numbered. "Little Blue's got major problems—stretched housing bolts, leaking hydraulics, a cracked engine block, and a blown starter. Her fly wheel's starting to go too," says Henry Barth, NCOF's home-grown tractor mechanic. Having a strong, reliable tractor is critical to making the switch to compost-intensive, no-till field management. With a more powerful tractor, we could also save money by purchasing bulk grain in large slings. A new used tractor will cost approximately \$25,000.



2020-2021 CALENDAR

Join Us!

PLEASE NOTE: We'll be adapting all our programs and events to comply with current local and state safety guidelines. Please keep an eye on NCOF's website, e-newsletter, and social media for updates.

Thanksgiving Turkey Pick Up

Monday November 9, 2020 & Tuesday November 24, 2020
Place your deposit online.

MetroWest Subaru Share the Love Program

November 19, 2020 - January 4, 2021
Buy a vehicle, select us as your charity, and NCOF will get \$250!

Virtual Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Maple Sugaring Tours

Mid February 2021 - Late March, 2021

Maple Magic

Saturday, February 27, 2021

Spring Spectacular and Farm 5K (Virtual +/- on Farm)

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Harvest Dinner

-or- Harvest Dinner TO GO
Friday, September 24, 2021

"...[my husband] has brought the kids a few times while I've been working from home. They love it and bring me back flowers." - Kat

"Your maple syrup has so much more flavor and intensity than the commercial stuff I've purchased! You must try it over coffee ice cream with chopped walnuts." - Ken

