

The Natick Community Organic Farm
117 Eliot Street, Natick, MA, 01760
02/15/23



The Natick Community Organic Farm announces \$50,000 donation from the Yawkey Foundation

The [Natick Community Organic Farm](#) (NCOF) is proud to have received a grant of \$50,000 from the [Yawkey Foundation](#) to support the rebuilding of their beloved barn, which was tragically lost in a fire in March 2021.

'We were truly humbled and grateful for all of the support we received after the devastating loss of our barn in 2021. This generous gift from the Yawkey Foundation, along with an amazing, far-reaching community effort, has enabled us to help the farm rebuild. Seeing the construction of the new barn start has given us all so much to look forward to. The new barn will give us back vital storage for feed and farm equipment as well as bringing back space for our community to gather,' said Casey Townsend, NCOF Executive Director.

The original timber framed barn was built in 1815 using local oak trees that had fallen in the 'Great Blow of 1815'. Since NCOF, formally known as the Red Wing Farm Project, moved to the site, the barn has served as the physical, spiritual, and emotional heart of the Farm. Thanks to wonderful gifts such as this from the Yawkey Foundation, the construction of the new barn is able to honor the original structure. The state of the art barn, with attached greenhouse and solar panels, will also have a timber frame and will provide shelter for the animals and give the farm much needed storage space enabling the team to be more efficient and less wasteful.

Tom and Jean Yawkey had a great appreciation for nature and were passionate about wildlife conservation and preservation. In what is considered one of the most exceptional gifts to wildlife conservation in North America, the couple donated more than 24,000 acres of protected wilderness and shorefront land to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, establishing the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center.

NCOF offers hands-on education, farm products, and productive open space for all ages, year-round. The Farm is located on 27 acres of productive open space preserved forever as conservation land by the townspeople of Natick in April, 2009. Its stone-free fields have been farmed continuously for over 350 years. The Farm actively enhances the health and well-being of the community, the land, and animals by farming sustainably and educating the next generations about stewardship, ecology, and personal responsibility.