



Courtney Sodano <csodano@needhamfarm.org>

February 2025 Newsletter

Needham Community Farm <farmmanager-needhamfarm.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Mon, Feb 17, 2025 at 1:01 PM

Reply-To: office@needhamfarm.org

To: csodano@needhamfarm.org



February 2025 Newsletter

Notes From the Field

Hi Folks -

Registration for our 2025 Gardening Classes are officially open and I'm excited to share more details with you! I'll be instructing all three classes again. This year, we made some changes to respond to the evolving needs and desires of our gardening community. Through anecdotal feedback, formal class surveys and monitoring teaching trends we have made a few adjustments.

I'm especially excited about our Monday night class now called "Collective Growers", previously titled Beginner Class. This class is designed to bring people together each week to garden collectively, working collaboratively and together towards a shared goal. This class offers more flexibility than our previous beginner classes with the choice of a 10 week or 20 week program. The 10 week program is great for families and/or adults who want to learn all the fundamentals of gardening, but have busy summer schedules that might prevent them from committing to a full growing season (gardens are a lot of work to maintain successfully!). In the 20 week program, you'll learn how to grow a larger variety of crops and, of course, bring home even more harvests!

We have moved the Wednesday class to the Community Beds, where intermediate and experienced growers have access to taller beds and greater pest control (especially those voles and rabbits!). We also hope that by changing the location, gardening class students can be a part of our larger community of growers. This class will cover similar themes as the beginner class, with advanced instruction in areas that include garden planning (like succession planting), soil health, and pest and disease management.

See you on the Farm,

Sasha Fraser
Assistant Farm Manager

Enrolling Now: 2025 Gardening Classes



Enrollment for our 2025 Gardening Classes is live!

Whether you're a seasoned gardener looking for expert advice, a novice who needs more growing space, or want an outdoor activity with your family, we have a class for you!

Take a peek at our summary below, read the class overviews on [our Gardening Class page](#), or check out [a comparison chart!](#)

Monday Night Collective Growers - This beginner class is ideal for individuals and/or families, and provides a supportive, hands-on and community-based environment! Class will be located on the Farm.

Wednesday Night Independent Growers - At a new location (Community Garden Beds), this class for intermediate students can enjoy improved pest control and more accessible gardening beds. Ideal for independent/seasoned gardeners!

Virtual Gardening Class

This virtual class is designed for all gardeners-whether you are just starting your gardening journey or you are years in! Enjoy from the comfort of your own home!

Scholarships are available for those that qualify! Details included on the registration pages.

[Select a Class and Register Now!](#)

Community Garden Bed Registration is Open!

Needham Community Garden Beds

LEASE A BED TODAY!



The Needham Community Garden Beds are going fast! Come join a great community for the 2025 growing season!

What do you get when you register for a NCF Community Garden Bed?

Registration includes:

- Season lease of a raised garden bed at our primary site off Pine St. All beds are 4' x 12'. 135 beds have a height of 22" and 15 beds have a height of 30" to accommodate those with accessibility issues.
- Use of supplies, including hose, tools, and wheel barrow.
- All beds come complete with compost/soil from Black Earth Compost.
- Unlimited daytime access to Community Bed area, including picnic tables.
- A great place to meet new friends while growing fresh, local produce for your household!
- Scholarships available for those that qualify!

Register NOW!

April Break Programming for Your Teen/Tween



Needham Community Farm has new programming for your teen or tween this April break!

Middle and high school students will assist with farm projects like planting, bed preparation, and composting, all while learning about sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Middle schoolers will explore farm work in a fun, educational setting. And High schoolers will volunteer, supporting lead teachers and earning CSL hours—perfect for leadership-minded teens!

Enroll your teen or tween now!

Summer CSA: Registration Coming Soon!



Summer CSA Enrollment begins February 25th!

Why a CSA with NCF? All of our vegetables are grown to the highest of sustainable and organic standards on our Farm at Pine Street and in front of Newman School. In addition, the average value of a Summer CSA box is around \$40 per week over the 20-week season. This value offers considerable savings compared to the upfront cost, *and* allows you to maintain your regular grocery budget without adjustments each week. Finally, our CSAs provide NCF with a consistent revenue stream, allowing us to focus on good land stewardship and growing high quality food.

CSAs typically sell out shortly after registration opens, so be on the lookout on Feb 25!

Volunteer Opportunity

We also have a special volunteer opportunity - ideal for an enterprising High Schooler looking for CSL hours!

We need a hand with hanging some flyers in local Needham businesses. If your teen is interested, please send an email to info@needhamfarm.org and put "Volunteer for Flyering" in the subject line.



Thank You Dedham Savings!



NCF wants to send a special *thank you* to Dedham Savings for their continued capital support.

Dedham Savings has been a long-time funder of Needham Community Farm, supporting critical infrastructure projects such as our deer fence (a multi-year project), a new gate, high tunnels, and more!

We are so grateful for their partnership and support of our Farm.

Thank you Dedham Savings!

Community Events



WSYMCA Winter Carnival at the Wells Ave Y

The West Suburban YMCA is excited to announce its upcoming WSYMCA Winter Carnival, a fun-filled evening for families and community members of all ages. Join them for fun and games! Free + open to all!

Date + Time: Feb 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location: [135 Wells Ave, Newton, MA, 02459](#)

More info [here](#)



The Needham Community Council presents their Party for the Pantry!

This event raises critical funds and awareness for the Council food pantry. The Council serves over 375 Needham households, including 800 residents. Tickets are \$95 per person and include food catered by Forklift Catering, drinks, a live auction, and live music.

Time + Date: March 29 at 7pm

Location: Powers Hall in Needham Town Hall

More details [here!](#)

Farm View



A sleepy, snow covered farm on a brisk February afternoon



Our new high tunnel - a work in progress!

Donations always accepted!

Donations can be made by clicking on the button below, by visiting our website at needhamfarm.org or by sending a check made payable to the Needham Community Farm and mail to P.O. Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492.

Donate Now!

Thank You to Our 2024 - 2025 Food Donation Program Sponsors



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Needham Community Farm



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