

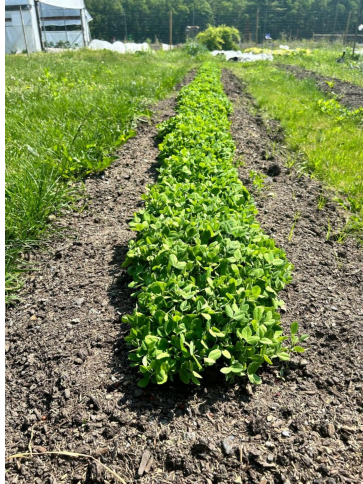


NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

LEARN · GROW · GIVE

June 2023 Newsletter

Notes From the Field



Greetings!

May has been a busy month on the Farm. This past month, we've had extreme fluctuations in temperature and precipitation. While this can be typical of New England, the impacts of climate change

are unavoidable. A late frost in mid-May had minor consequences for us, but was detrimental to other farms in the region. Fruit farms in particular were hit very hard, as many trees and bushes had flowers or very small fruit out that cannot withstand even a mild frost. In many places north of us, a hard frost hit, wiping out entire crops. You can read more about this [here](#). We were lucky to be spared from most of the frost, only seeing minor damage on some of our plants, all of which are expected to make a full recovery.

All that being said, the Farm is mostly thriving and we're having a very productive Spring. Much of our field is now planted, including our high tunnel (an unheated greenhouse) with tomatoes, peppers, and basil, and we've begun to plant our field tomatoes and peppers. In the last two weeks we've planted zucchini and summer squash, cucumbers, beets, carrots, green beans, lettuce, and more! May is the busiest month on the Farm, our biggest planting month of the season. Last week was our first big harvest, and we harvest for both our CSA and the Needham Community Council Food Pantry. This week our free Mobile Market begins which runs on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons.

We are also excited to share that our two



2023 Community Garden Beds - Only a Few Beds Remaining!

There's still time this season to join us at the Community Garden Beds! We now have two lovely picnic tables for all members to enjoy!

As a reminder, an NCF Community Garden Bed registration gets you a 4'x12' (brand new!) raised bed filled with compost from Black Earth Compost. In addition, you have access to a shed, communal tools, water, and (pictured) picnic tables.

Register today and make the most of this new community spot!

[Register Now](#)

summer interns joined us last week and are jumping right into work on the Farm. Look out for introductions to them in the July newsletter!

See you on the Farm!
- Allie, Farm Manager



A look at the Farm and production beds on a warm June morning.



June + July Volunteers Needed!

Harvest Volunteers

Join us as we harvest our fresh produce for our CSA and our Food Donation Program! You must be at least 15 years old to participate in a harvest session, and commit to at least 4 sessions over the course of the year. [Register here!](#)

June + July On-Farm Volunteers

Summer is now in full swing for NCF! We will be planting, weeding, and doing other farm tasks. Bring extra water for these hot months. [Register here!](#)



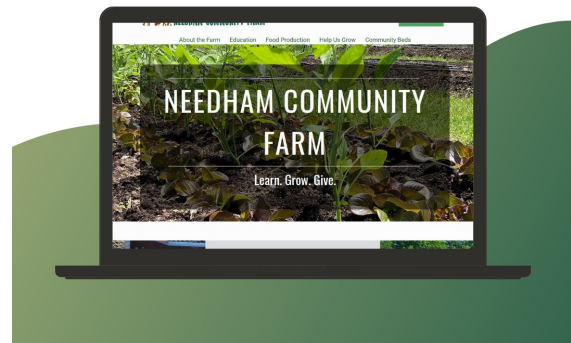
NCF Mobile Market Begins!

Exciting news! NCF's 2023 Food Donation Program launches this week with the first deliveries from our Mobile Market. This program distributes produce for free directly at the Capt. Robert Cook Drive, Seabeds, and Linden & Chambers Needham Housing Authority (NHA) sites weekly. These deliveries serve the needs of residents who lack easy access to the food pantry or other produce pick-up points.

We are incredibly grateful for the staff, volunteers, and community partners like [Needham Community Council](#) and the [Needham Public Library](#) who help to make this program possible.

New Website

Needham Community Farm has updated our look! Check it out at needhamfarm.org!



We are thrilled to announce that we have given [our website](#) a new look!

A big shout-out and THANK YOU to [New England GiveCamp](#) who made this project possible, alongside our dedicated staff and Board. We hope you love our refreshed look as much as we do!



Food Insecurity in the News

The latest annual report by Greater Boston Food Bank, released last week, shows that 1-in-3 Massachusetts residents report being food insecure. Food insecurity, per GBFB, is defined as running out of food or not having enough money to get more food every month.

More than half of those experiencing food insecurity, 51%, sought help from a food pantry in 2022, which is an increase of 46% from 2021. [Read the full report here.](#)

If you'd like to support NCF's hunger relief efforts, [please donate here.](#)



A big *thank you* to some tremendous volunteers from Whole Foods Wellesley who spent a day with us this past month tending crops, weeding, and more! .



Farm Manager Allie making a produce donation to the Needham Community Council Food Pantry last week



Community Events

Some bright and beautiful french breakfast radishes ready for their CSA box!



Hefty garlic on a June morning.



Thank You Hearth Pizzeria

We wanted to take a moment to say thank you to [Hearth Pizzeria](#) who continues to make our CSA possible! They have been an invaluable partner over the past few years, generously allowing us to use their space for CSA pickups. Plus they make the **most** delicious pizza!!
THANK YOU Hearth, for all of your support!

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
BLACK CULTURE**

Tickets will be sold during ticket sales in NHS
Main Lobby, & at cookout entrance
\$5 for Students
\$7 for Adults & Others

**BSU
COOKOUT**

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH
**WHERE: NEEDHAM HIGH
SCHOOL**
TIME: 12PM-3:30PM



Come and enjoy; food, live music, guest speakers, Bomb Squad perform, raffles & more!

Black Student Union Cookout!

The Black Student Union at Needham High School is hosting it's Annual Cookout on June 10th from noon-3:30PM.

The Cookout is an opportunity for Black Needham High School students to bring food and present some cultural activities. All are welcome! Come enjoy food, live music, guest speakers, and more! Tickets sold at the door.



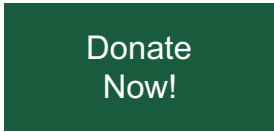
Race Amity Day Celebration!

Needham Diversity Initiative is hosting a Race Amity Day Celebration!

Race Amity celebrates and affirms the friendships between people of diverse backgrounds and is celebrated annually on the second Sunday of June. Be sure to [check their website](#) for more details!

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.



A look at gardener Briana's pea shoots! Briana visited our booth at the YMCA's Healthy Kids day and made the most of one of our growing kits! Great job!

Thank You to Our 2023 Food Donation Program Sponsors





Visit our website

Needham Community Farm | PO Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492

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