



Courtney Sodano <csodano@needhamfarm.org>

July 2025 Newsletter

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

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Reply-To: office@needhamfarm.org

To: csodano@needhamfarm.org



July 2025 Newsletter

Notes From the Field

Hey folks,

Over the past couple of weeks, we've been hard at work expanding our food production. We plowed, shaped, composted and added woodchipped aisles to 20 new, 50 foot beds-and then planted summer squash and cucumbers in all of them! We also trellised our second generation of tomatoes, and all of our peppers. Over at Newman, we are hilling our potatoes (and trying to keep the woodchuck away!). We sprayed a natural concoction of garlic and hot pepper on our plants to deter the animals from tearing them from the ground.

Our Independent Growers gardening class on Wednesday night is wrapping up. We got to hear from a few very knowledgeable Community Bed members about what they're growing, varieties they recommend, and their tips and tricks for a successful garden! In our Monday night class, we welcomed Deb Spielman to tell us about beekeeping and honey-making, and one of our Wednesday night gardeners joined us to share what she knows about foraging wild foods! The Monday night class will continue into August as we learn about growing and harvesting summer produce and managing the pests and disease that arrive this time of year.

See you on the Farm!

Avery Westa
Farm Manager

Meet our Interns + Seasonal Staff: Max



Max is going to the University of Vermont in the fall and studying Sustainability, Ecology, and Policy. He has been involved with the Natick Community Organic Farm for many years before coming to Needham, first as an apprentice, later a summer educator, and most recently he concluded his term as a student board member. One of Max's favorite things about farming is being a part of the process that brings food to people's tables. He is particularly passionate about learning how to do so in a way that is sustainable, and conscious of both the people consuming the food and the environment. When not on the Farm, Max can likely be found in a canoe.

Fall CSA Registration: Opening in August!



While you're enjoying the summer sun and lush veggies this season provides, don't forget to sign up for our Fall CSA. **Registration will be opening next month, so be on the lookout. In 2024, our Fall CSA sold out in 48 hours** so make sure to sign up as soon as you can, or you may miss out!

The Fall CSA will be 10 weeks, starting in October. It will feature various types of squash, root vegetables, herbs, cabbage, onions, garlic, and more!

"This CSA is one of my favorite things about living in Needham. I get to support the Community Farm and its tremendous work, and my family gets share in the bounty all Summer and Fall!"

-- 2024 Fall CSA recipient

Volunteer Opportunities: Summer Help on the Farm!

We have transitioned to our weekday volunteer opportunities for individuals and families! Whether you want to stop by to help us weed, move some compost, lay mulch, or more, summer is a busy and fun time on the Farm!

[Register to Volunteer](#)

We still have some slots open for Harvest Volunteers! Harvest volunteers play a key role in harvesting, washing, and packing our farm-fresh produce. We ask for 5 Fridays (not consecutive) as a commitment. Please be sure to sign up below and read the other details as well.

[Harvest Volunteer](#)



Thank You: Needham Bank



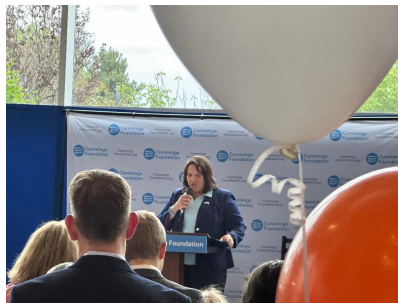
A very big THANK YOU goes out to local business Needham Bank for their continued support of our mission and programs. Needham Bank has been a supporter of NCF since 2012, previously helping

us with capital projects and now supplying key funding for our operations. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and for their commitment to our organization. Thank you Needham Bank!

Scenes from Our Cummings Grant Winner Event!



NCF Board President Susan Shaver and Development Director Courtney Sodano at the event



Lt Governor Kim Driscoll provided opening remarks at the uplifting event



Susan and Courtney with Circle of Hope's Ari Barbanell, another Needham based organization and Cummings Grant winner

Community Events

The Needham Carnival Returns!



The Rotary Club of Needham will host its annual carnival with thrill rides, kiddie rides, carnival snacks, games and more. The Carnival take place starting July 24th and ends on July 27th, at Needham High School.

[More details here!](#)

Farm View



Our farm expansion is in production! Also visible is our temporary fencing in the foreground.



Tomatoes growing skyward on a warm July day!

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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