



NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

LEARN • GROW • GIVE

December 2021 Newsletter

Farm Manager Update

Farm work in December finds us reflecting on the past year and making plans for the next. Here are some of the 2021 highlights:

- Grew over 75 different kinds of vegetables, with the first seed planted in the greenhouse on March 6th and the last harvest on November 30th
- Donated over 2,300 pounds of food through 44 Mobile Markets and the Needham Community Council Food Pantry
- Distributed produce through a 20 week CSA program with 39 members
- Hosted 110 individual volunteers and 4 volunteer groups for a total of 1,032 hours of community service
- Taught three different garden classes with a total of 62 students
- Worked with three fantastic summer interns
- Hosted our first annual Fall Farm Open House

In 2022, we plan to grow produce for donation and CSA shares, offer more events and workshops, and host individual volunteers and volunteer groups.

On a personal note, this is my last farmer update since I will be moving away in January and stepping down from my role at the farm. I am headed to sunny Spain, where my partner is from. I have so enjoyed working at the Needham Community Farm for the past three years, and I want to thank all of you who have connected with the farm for making my time here special, especially those of you who have come out to the farm through classes, events, and volunteer sessions. I am proud of the produce, programs, and community space the Needham Community Farm has been able to offer, and I am so excited to watch it grow with the hard work of Ceilidh, Mary Helen, and the Board of Directors.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a restful winter,

Special Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a volunteer to install two new outdoor signs at the Farm, If you are interested in this project, please send an email to office@needhamfarm.org.

January Workshop: Indoor Winter Micro-gardening

Learn how to grow fresh, flavorful micro-greens in winter with tasty suggestions for how to use them. All you need is a sunny window.

Zoom online event, seeds free for pick up with registration, you provide soil and pot. Look for registration information in the January newsletter.

Saturday, January 22nd
11:00AM on Zoom

Contact Ceilidh at cpedenspear@needhamfarm.org with any questions.



Support the Needham Community Farm

DONATE NOW

Please consider making a generous gift because people in our community cannot afford to put healthy food on their table without us. We count on your generosity just as much as our food insecure neighbors count on us.

Donations can be made on our website at NeedhamFarm.org/donate or send a check made payable to the Needham Community Farm and mail to P.O. Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492.

Thank you to our supporters who have already donated in 2021! We could not do all that we do without you, our community of friends.

Simmons Intern Project: Effect of BiocharNow on Soil Quality & Plant Growth

In partnership with Simmons University, the Needham Community Farm, will be evaluating the effect of BiocharNow on soil quality and plant growth. This work will be spearheaded by student Samantha Margolin, working in Dr. Anna Aguilera's research lab. BiocharNow is an activated charcoal-based product used to remove contaminants, such as phosphate, nitrogen, E.coli, and hydrocarbons, from waterways. Given its low cost and minimally invasive application, BiocharNow is currently being researched for its potential applications in the Muddy River located in Boston, Massachusetts. The hope with this research is that the BiocharNow used in the Muddy River will be recycled as a sustainable additive to soil to naturally improve plant growth and overall soil health.

NCF is Hiring a Field Manager!

The Field Manager will be responsible for the management and operations of all aspects of production and will assist the Program Manager with programming including leading youth and adults in educational programming and volunteer days on the farm. This position is co-equal to and works closely with the Program Manager under the direction of the Board of Directors through its designated Farm Management member.

This is a seasonal position, starting part-time in March 2022 with full-time hours from April through September, shifting back to part time in October. This is an hourly position and total expected hours would be about 1,350 hours March through November.



Sam is on the Farm getting soil samples to test to see what nutrients already exist in our compost pile.

For more details, visit our website at needhamfarm.org/jobs.

Please submit cover letter and resume to Ceilidh Peden-Spear (they/them), Program Manager at cpedenspear@needhamfarm.org.

Talented Needham High School Students Create Video of the Farm



We invite you to watch this virtual tour and introduction to the farm in this gorgeous video produced by 3 Needham High students - Avery, Casey, and Grace. Thank you for this incredible contribution to the farm highlighting our mission and work! Click photo above to view video.

2021 Food Donation Program Sponsors

- Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Needham
- Brookline Bank
- Cambridge Trust
- Copley Motorcars
- Dedham Savings
- Direct Federal
- Eastern Bank
- Fidelity Bank
- Middlesex Savings Bank
- Needham Bank
- Needham Women's Club
- Noanett Garden Club
- Roche Brothers
- Salem Five Bank
- The Village Bank
- Volante Farms
- Whole Foods Market

Needham Community Farm



Visit our website

