

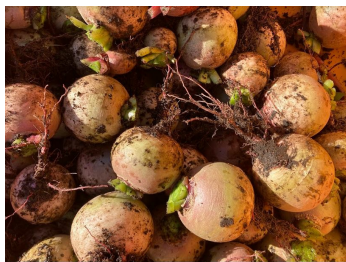


NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

LEARN • GROW • GIVE

November 2022 Newsletter

Notes From the Field



As October came to a close we finished our last big harvest for the season. We brought lots of greens and root crops to the Friday Mobile Market, and

were sad to say goodbye to market attendees for the season. We will be back next June! We have been busy cleaning up and putting the farm to bed for the winter - lots of organizing tools in sheds and laying a thick blanket of straw mulch on any bare ground. The last crop we plant for the season is garlic, which we've planted with the help of lots of volunteers. Garlic will have a little bit of time this fall to start to build a root system, and then will be mostly dormant in the ground through the winter before sprouting up in the spring. It is a hopeful way to end the season, with the anticipation of a beautiful garlic crop to harvest next summer!

See you on the farm!

Take care,
Allie (she/her)
Field Manager

2022 Annual Appeal: We Need Your Support!



2022 Highlights

Learn Grow Give

NCF educated over 400 adults and children on the farm + held 12 free community education programs to ensure equal access.

NCF harvested 3,000 lbs of sustainably grown produce for our CSA shareholders + signed a 10-year lease with the Town of Needham for the Pine Street property.

NCF harvested and donated 3,000 lbs of produce to 4 Needham Housing Authority sites + the Needham Community Council Food Pantry

Please donate **today** to ensure NCF can thrive into 2023
[» needhamfarm.org/donate](https://needhamfarm.org/donate)

2022 has been a year of growth for Needham Community Farm. In July, we signed a 10-year lease with the Town of Needham, ensuring that our deeply rooted commitment to this community will continue to thrive over the coming decade.

There are many challenges ahead that compel our work to continue. Your generosity today will help us continue growing local food for hunger relief, providing programming to youth and families, ensuring environmental soundness of this land through sustainable farming practices, and supporting hundreds of students in their volunteer needs. We are grateful for your support - of any amount - today.

Donate Now!

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



Multicolored string beans for our Mobile Market



Our incredible Farm Staff during a bright November morning!

Volunteers - We Need You!

Attention farm enthusiasts and winter warriors! Starting as soon as the snow falls we will need volunteers on stand by to help us remove snow near and on top of our high tunnel. This is a great volunteer opportunity for an adult, or a responsible high school student looking to earn community service hours. Also, a great way to exercise your dog or kids! It can take up to 60-90 minutes for heavy storms, snow must be cleared within 24-48 hours of the storm.

If you love New England winters and want to help please email Ceilidh at cpedenspear@needhamfarm.org. Please put "High Tunnel Shoveling" in the subject line.

Welcome! NCF's New Development Director

NCF is thrilled to welcome Courtney Sodano as our new Development Director. Courtney joined NCF this past September after spending time in fundraising, outreach, and more at Waltham Fields Community Farm. Previously, she managed the marketing and online fundraising for Conservation Law Foundation and Dedham Square Circle. She has lived in Needham for nearly 10 years with her husband, two boys, three chickens, and an unruly garden. She will be supporting NCF in all development, event, and more capacities. Welcome Courtney!

A Fun-gi Time on the Farm!

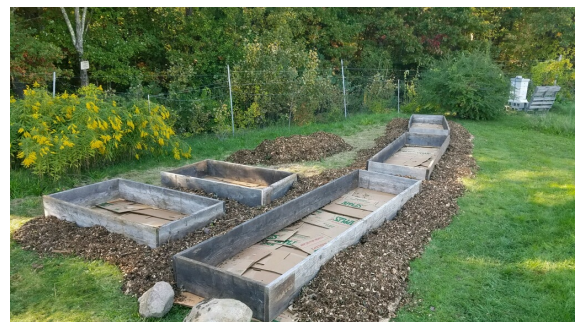
After many rounds of bumper wheelbarrows, and a multitude of shovelfuls of wood chips, we have completed our new mushroom beds! Adding about 144 sq ft of growing space to the farm, our Wine Cap mushroom beds will produce well during wet periods with very little tending from us, and lay in wait during dry spells. This ended up being a great opportunity to educate folks about how mushrooms grow, and how to use drills! Volunteers also enjoyed living their hobbit dreams. We are hoping for our first harvest early next summer.

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Members of Needham High School's Food Security Club
Employees from Karyopharm Therapeutics
Dan, our volunteer weed whacker
and other folks from our open volunteer sessions!

Thanks to the following organizations for the donations!

Neighborhood Farm- a whole load of cardboard
Needham Furniture Makers- sawdust
Town of Needham Department of Public Works- wood chips



NCF in the Community

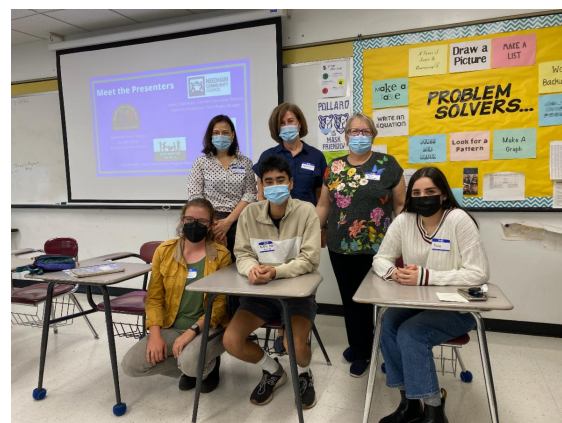
NCF's Ceilidh Peden-Spear joined a panel last



weekend at the **Needham Diversity Initiative's** Annual Needham Diversity Summit 11.0 to discuss local food justice. The rousing discussion included panelists from the Needham Community Council, Needham Public Schools, and the High School Food Security Club. To learn more about the Needham Diversity Initiative, [visit their website here.](#)

Online Education Series

Seed Savers Exchange is proud to work with Indigenous communities through their Seed Rematriation Project, identifying seeds in their collection that have Indigenous connections, increasing seed quantities, donating seed back to tribes of origin, and continuing the conversation about how to share knowledge and resources together. Visit their [YouTube channel](#) to learn more about the Seed Rematriation Project through the [Welcoming Seeds Home webinar series.](#)



Some washed and ready watermelon radishes

Community Events



Blue Lotus Healing Arts

Yoga - Acupuncture - Massage

Get ready for your food festivities with a Thanksgiving morning yoga class at Blue Lotus Healing Arts in Needham at 9:15am on Thursday November 24. All proceeds from this class will benefit NCF! Registration is only online, please [visit their website](#), select schedule, and 11/24 date, and "Sign Up". This class will be taught by Susan Shaver, President of Needham Community Farm.

Thank you to our 2022 Food Donation Program Sponsors!



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Needham Community Farm



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