



NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

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June 2021 Newsletter

Notes from the Farm

With each passing month the farm gets more and more busy! This month we have started harvesting twice a week for our CSA boxes and donation programs. The highlights of these early harvest weeks are fresh greens and fragrant chamomile. This week Assistant Manager Ceilidh has started up our Mobile Markets - free veggies in a farmers market atmosphere at select Needham Housing Authority locations. **Live in Needham Housing? Check out this flyer for when/where to find us.**



Spring Learning Video: How to Plant Tomatoes



Click image above to watch Liz demonstrate how to plant a tomato seedling.



Last week we pushed through planting hundreds of tomato and pepper plants with the help of our 3 new interns, Jenny, Elizabeth, and Maddie. Their first weeks have been action-packed, and I

am grateful for their help and enthusiasm on the farm. For now, their focus is on farming, but in a few weeks they will each develop an individual project related in some way to the farm's mission. I'm looking forward to see what they come up with!

Finally, this weekend we all let out a collective sigh of relief with the 3+ gentle inches of rain that fell over Memorial Day Weekend. Things were getting pretty dry out there - we were seeing poor germination and slow growth on many of our crops. Here's hoping for shorter dry spells and more frequent, gentle rains.

See you on the Farm,
Liz

Seedling Sales a Huge Success!



A big THANK YOU to everyone that came out to support NCF at our seedling sales. We sold out of seedlings both weekends in record time and are eager to begin planning for 2022. Stay tuned!

Welcoming New Interns to the Farm!

We are excited to announce that we have three interns that are joining the Farm for the summer. We will introduce each of them over the coming months. This month we welcome 2021 interns Maddie Bray and Jenny Brassil,



Hello, Needham Community! My name is Maddie Bray (she/her), and I can't wait to be on the farm this summer. I grew up in Newton Upper Falls and graduated from Newton South in 2020. I also recently wrapped up my first year of college at the University of Vermont where I am studying Environmental Studies within the Rubenstein School. I have a passion for the environment, and I hope to form my education around environmental justice and food systems. Otherwise, I am a lover of all things outdoors. I have played many sports since my youth including soccer, track, and skiing but have continued with skiing, biking, running, hiking... anything outside, count me in! My indoor passions are more limited, but I love painting, ceramics, hanging with my dog, and trying to keep my houseplants alive. I am so excited for this summer on the farm to combine my love for being outside and building relationships with others who are involved with the farm and with the community.

NCF's CSA Enters 4th Season!

Seasonal produce continues to be in high demand, and the forty shares sold out quickly! Now in its fourth year, NCF's CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares provide an opportunity for community members to support NCF's work while enjoying a box of seasonal vegetables grown right here in Needham. Members sign up in late winter to receive produce each week for 20 weeks during the growing season.

The number of shares offered by NCF has grown from 20 to 40 shares in just four years. Our farmers are excited for the opportunity to grow food for more members of our community, with about half of our produce distributed via the CSA and the other half through our food donation programs.

This year we have two CSA pick-up days. On May 25th, our first Tuesday share was distributed. Subscribers stopped by Hearth Pizzeria to pick up a bounty including french breakfast radishes, spring salad mix, pea shoots, chives, and chamomile. We are very grateful to Ivan Puliceo of Hearth Pizzeria for opening up his restaurant for NCF's CSA weekly pickups. Please consider supporting our community and eating local. Stop into [Hearth Pizzeria](#) for your next dinner out.

If you're interested in learning more about our CSA and subscribing in the future, [sign up here for our Email List](#).





Van Finds New Life at the Farm

The partnership between Needham Community Farm and Needham Community Council has been growing every year over the last 12 years. NCF would like to recognize the Needham Community Council for the generous donation of the Council's van to the Farm. Both organizations are grateful that the van is finding a new life at the Farm and will continue the hard work of helping people with food insecurity here in Needham.

My name is Jenny (she/her) and I am a current intern at Needham Community Farm! As for my background, I am an undergraduate senior at Boston University studying Nutrition and Health Science with a concentration in Public Health. I grew up and currently live in the town of Medfield, which is only a few towns over from Needham. In my free time, I enjoy exercising (running, weight lifting, yoga and kicking boxing), cooking, painting and hanging out with my dog, Pepper. This summer, I'm excited to learn more about agricultural practices in a public health setting as well as meet members of the community!



Pictured from left to right: Sue Biasizzo (Needham Community Council), Ceilidh Peden-Spear (Needham Community Farm), Susan Shaver (Needham Community Farm) and Sandra Robinson (Needham Community Council)

Harvest Season is Here! We Need Volunteers!

We have officially switched over to our summer volunteering schedule. Volunteer opportunities on Tuesday mornings for experienced volunteers and Thursday afternoons/Friday mornings for everyone, but no more Saturday sessions. **Please sign up here to volunteer.**

Don't forget to fill out a 2021 waiver and a COVID waiver if you haven't already for 2021. **Please complete the waivers here to volunteer.**

We are still observing physical distancing at this time, and we require that you wear a mask to the farm. Youth under the age of 13 need to be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18.

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



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