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January 2025 Newsletter

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

Thu, Jan 16, 2025 at 1:02 PM

Reply-To: office@needhamfarm.org

To: csodano@needhamfarm.org



January 2025 Newsletter

Notes From the Field



Hi Folks -

Happy New Year! I thought I'd provide a sneak peek into winter growing at our Farm. These photos of baby greens were taken at the end of November. We let them grow for a few more weeks before harvesting them mid-December. These were an important and delicious part of our Fall CSA!

Now, some of the greens are growing back, but we won't get as big a harvest the second time around. Of course, growth is slow this time of

year, but it is a real treat to have fresh greens in the winter, especially if you're used to eating seasonally!

There's more photos below of greens growing in our new small greenhouse structure at the Farm, as well as in the high tunnel. The greenhouse does not have heat, just sunlight and row cover to protect the greens on cold nights.

Now that the fall share is over and all of our crops are out of the field and into people's homes, we are in true winter mode. This means crop planning, garden class planning, ordering supplies, and hiring for next season. Some of this planning is a bit more complicated this season as we work on expanding the Farm!

We're looking forward to spending time with our friends over at Natick Community Organic Farm in their sugar shack during maple season! If you visit, you might even get a tour from Sasha or our previous intern Bridget! Now I'm off to another farm to play ice hockey! Hope

you're finding ways to get outside this winter, it always keeps my spirits up through the short days!

Stay warm,

Avery Westa
Farm Manager

Thank You for Your Support of Our Annual Appeal



Thank you to all those generous donors who supported our 2024 Annual Appeal! Your donation will ensure that we start 2025 strong, and will continue to help drive our mission throughout the year! By supporting NCF, you help the entire Needham community and beyond. We are so grateful for your gift!

We look forward to sharing our progress with all of our friends of the Farm later this year.

Happy New Year!

P.S. - If you haven't sent a gift, you're in luck: we accept [donations](#) year-round!

Get Ready: 2025 Gardening Classes Enroll 1/29!



Enrollment for our 2025 Gardening Classes begins January 29, 2025! We have refreshed things for this coming season, with new class names, locations, but the same great education! Take a peek at our summary below, read the class overviews on [our Gardening Class page](#), or check out [a comparison chart!](#)

Monday Night Collective Growers - NEW!

This NEW class offers all the same benefits of our previous Beginner Class, but with a more community-feel. Ideal for beginner individuals and/or families, provides a supportive, hands-on and community-based environment! Class will be located on the Farm.

Wednesday Night Independent Growers - UPDATED!

Our signature Gardening Class has moved to the Community Garden Beds! At this new location, students can enjoy improved pest control and more accessible gardening beds. Ideal for independent gardeners who are excited about the joys and responsibilities of caring for their own garden bed, with expert advice to match.

Virtual Gardening Class

Learn to garden from the comfort of your home with our virtual gardening class! This class is designed for all gardeners-whether you are just starting your gardening journey or you are years in, we are here to answer your questions and share foundational gardening knowledge!

[Learn more on our website here!](#)

Coming Soon: Community Garden Bed Registration!



The Needham Community Garden Bed registration will begin on January 29, 2025!

Be sure to sign-up when registration opens so you can secure your spot for the 2025 season!

What do you get when you register for a NCF Community Garden Bed?

Registration includes:

- Season lease of a raised garden bed at our primary site off of Pine St. All beds are 4' x 12'. 135 beds have a height of 22" and 15 beds have a height of 30" to accommodate those with accessibility issues.
- Use of supplies, including hose, tools, and wheel barrow.
- All beds come complete with compost/soil from Black Earth Compost.
- Unlimited daytime access to Community Bed area, including picnic tables.
- A great place to meet new friends while growing fresh, local produce for your household!

Buy a Bag - Support NCF



Needham Community Farm has been chosen for Hannaford's Fight Hunger Reusable Bag program! For the month of January, NCF will receive \$1 for every \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag purchased at:

Hannafords on [55 Russell Street, Waltham MA](#)

Special Volunteer Opportunity

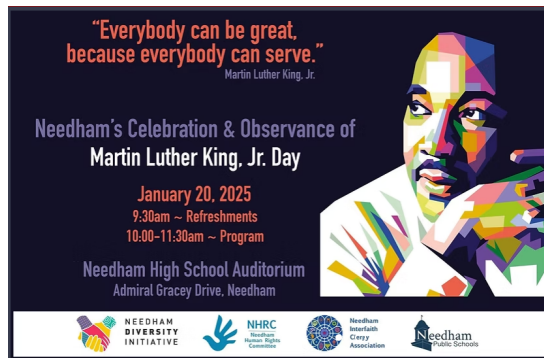
Starting as soon as the snow falls we will need volunteers on stand-by to help us remove snow near and on top of our high tunnel!

This is a great volunteer opportunity for an adult or a responsible high school student looking to earn community service hours. If you are interested, please email info@needhamfarm.org and put "Farm Snow Shoveling" in the subject line.

Thank you!



Community Events



NDI presents Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Come honor and celebrate at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with the Needham Diversity Initiative on Monday, January 20th, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

The event will be held at the Needham High School Auditorium, and doors will open at 9:30 am. The event is free to the public and refreshments will be provided.

More details [here!](#)

Farm View



Arugula in the greenhouse on the Farm!



Spinach in the high tunnel in early winter

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 2023-2024 Food Donation Program Sponsors



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Needham Community Farm



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