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October 2024 Newsletter

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Oct 2024 Newsletter

Notes From the Field



Hi folks!

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind for us! We wrapped up our main season CSA share and have now started our fall CSA share! We will continue to serve our Mobile Market customers for the extent of the fall share as well. The frost this week kept us busy, as we harvested all the crops susceptible to light frosts and covered other crops to keep them warm. Our tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants died in the frost, but many other crops are still going strong.

The Farm has made the decision to expand to some new beds, to increase food production for next year! Sasha and I spent a lot of time last week breaking new ground. We rented a walk behind tractor in order to mow the overgrown field outside our fence, plow the land, and shape beds. Some of the beds are now tarped with black plastic in order to kill weed seed and help the clumps of sod break down more quickly. This expansion will allow us to grow more food for several reasons. Beyond the simple fact of having more space to grow, we hope it will help us to manage pests, disease, and soil health better, which will all result in increased yields and more food for our community!

Avery, Farm Manager

Volunteer Opportunities



The Farm is winding down our high harvest months, but there is still a lot to do. We will continue a smaller harvest for the Fall CSA and still need help cleaning up, weeding, and more! So please sign-up for our remaining **October** sessions here.

And if you'd like to bring a group with you to volunteer, please visit the 'Volunteer Group' section of our website [here](#) and submit a request form.

We'll see you on the Farm!

Donate to Support Needham Community Farm



This year marked an exciting period of transition for us at Needham Community Farm. With new staff on board, our expansion plans are finally coming to life, and with the introduction of our Fall CSA and Kids Gardening Class, we are truly in a phase of growth (pun intended!).

However, we can't continue this vital work without your support. **Your contributions help us fight hunger, educate our community, and restore our land.** Together, we ensure a thriving community for everyone.

We hope you consider [making a donation this year](#). Your support is vital to our mission - we wouldn't be able to do all that we do without your help. Thank you.

[Donate Now!](#)

Newman Field: Growing Updates

We harvested our winter squash in early September at Newman Elementary School! It did very well there and fall CSA shareholders should expect to see it in their boxes! The remaining squash will be donated.

We are yet to harvest the sweet potatoes, cabbage, and beets we have planted there - which are currently snug under the row covers seen in the picture to the left - but they're coming soon and will be great in the fall share as well!



Checking in on our Mobile Market



Twice a week, our Mobile Market visits two Needham Housing Authority sites to share our vegetables with our neighbors. These veggies, which are free of charge for NHA residents, are a key piece of ensuring that our community stays healthy, and our mission of providing locally grown food to all is achieved.

So far this season we have donated over 4,500 lbs of veggies through this important avenue for food distribution. And while we are thrilled, as this is 20% higher than at the same time last year, the demand for healthy vegetables continues to increase.

Through our Annual Appeal, donations that we receive go directly to growing more food. These funds will help our farm expansion and overall production so that we can help more of those in need. Please consider a [donation](#) today.

Community Events



Pumpkins with a Purpose!

Carter Memorial United Methodist Church in Needham will once again hold its **Pumpkins with a Purpose** event! The mission team at the church will sell pumpkins through the end of October. All proceeds benefit a wide variety of nonprofits, including NCF.

Want to do more? The Church needs help filling volunteer shifts at their pumpkin event! If you are interested, [please sign-up here!](#)

Farm View



The Farm on a brisk October morning



Red onions, post-harvest, ready for CSA and donation!

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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