

Annual Appeal

FOR YOUR FARM

December 2019

Dear Farm Friend,

You know from your own experiences that little moments can be life changing.

Here at the Farm, “a-ha” moments happen every single day:

Henry figured out how to fix a mower. Now he's running his own small engine repair service.

Leah discovered she was good at working with animals. Now she's training to be a vet.

Celia discovered she was good at running the tiller. Now she is teaching others to operate it.

Rusty tackled shearing sheep. Now he's working as a professional shearer.

Jacob served customers at the market stand. Now he's a student member of the NCOF Board.

Beth learned how to care for gardens. Now she has her own farm.

Each moment at NCOF offers opportunities to grow as individuals...

NCOF is a working farm, that engages you in real farm tasks that challenge — both physically, mentally, and emotionally. “Learning by doing” builds stamina, on-your-feet problem solving, and understanding of how things work, or in many cases, don't. It encourages reflection on personal values and teaches when you fail, try again. You'll discover what you're good at and perhaps, your life path.

...and to come together as a community

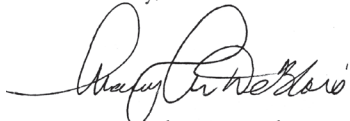
This small farm continues to serve as a place where we can come together, learn to see the good in one other while working through differences, and experience the power and satisfaction of working towards a common goal.

Your support will help make these and many other “a-ha” moments possible.

Natick Community Organic Farm, Inc. raises the bulk of its operating budget through its programming, produce sales, and events. But it depends on donations from good people like you to help make ends meet. Your timely contribution to this year's Annual Appeal, whether large or small, will allow NCOF to continue serving as a vital community resource — one that will bring about many more “a-ha” moments for you, your family, and for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of our Farm community, and for your support.

Gratefully,



Mary DeBlois, President

Natick Community Organic Farm, Inc. Board of Directors

PS. For a deeper look at the Farm's year, please take a look at the enclosed *2019 Annual Review*.

A nonprofit, certified-organic farm providing productive open space, farm products, and hands-on education to people of all ages, year-round." Serving Natick since 1975. Contributions to NCOF's Annual Appeal are tax deductible.



“ My favorite part about volunteering at the Farm was when we got to feed the animals. One thing I got out of working at the Farm was that sometimes I might have to work really hard to do something, but it all has a purpose in the end. I enjoyed this whole experience very much.”

- Middle School Student/ Community Service Volunteer



Natick Community Organic Farm

2019 ANNUAL REVIEW

It has been quite a year of "firsts." We sold meat shares in January and spread compost in February. Maple Magic was held in a March blizzard, and our first international live-in volunteer moved upstairs in April. We ran through the woods in our Farm 5K in May, and sent kids there for afternoon forest programming in June. July's big weeds succumbed to our new fail mower, and August's piglets delighted our summer kids. The Dave Matthews' band feasted on our September meat and produce, a new processor took our October bacon to new glory, and November's girl calf, Verdigris Spoons, has us all flutter. As we reflect on the year's accomplishments and look ahead to the coming year, we'd like to say thank you again for your support.

Best wishes for a happy and restful holiday season from the Staff and Board of NCOF!



2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

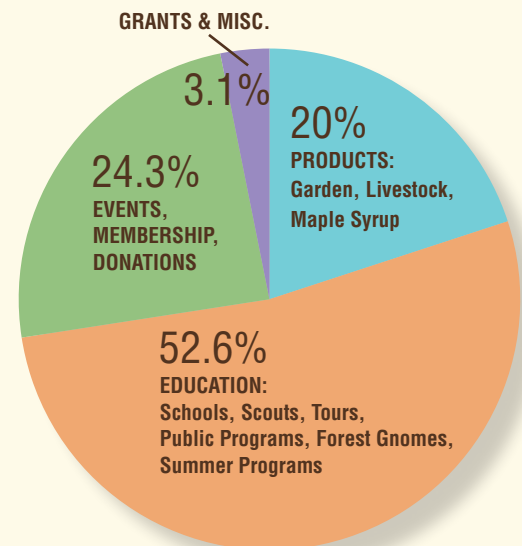
This past year, with your help, we've helped youth, seniors, and the under served by:

- >> Opening up the Farm as a work-study site for Keefe Regional Technical High School Landscape and Horticulture students.
- >> Expanding our summer Teen Work Crew to include Keefe students and providing them with transportation.
- >> Establishing a weekday pop-up market at the Natick Community Senior Center, run by our Apprentices, making our food more easily accessible to seniors, downtown residents, and people who rely on public transportation.
- >> Successfully applying to the USDA to become an official SNAP retailer.

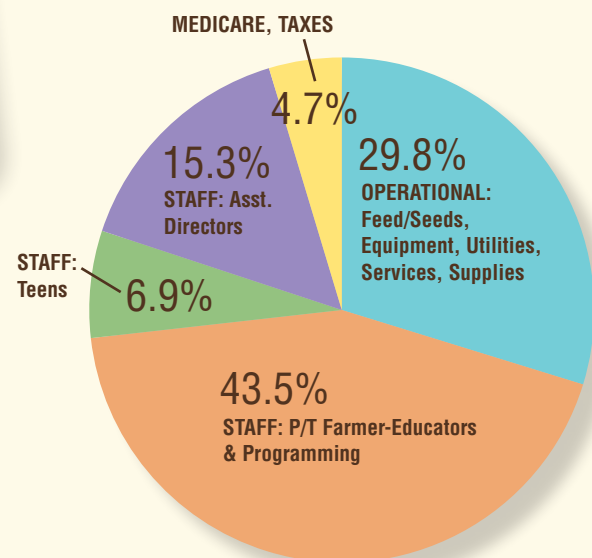


"We are really grateful for the Apprenticeship opportunity that NCOF provides students like [our daughter]. It is such a joy to see her eyes light up every time she talks about the work she does there. Not only does her work there tap into her love of farming and animals, she feels like the work she is doing is meaningful and that she is seen as knowledgeable and capable of problem solving when things come up in the course of her work that were unexpected. Such a great source of self-confidence — and much-needed at this age in particular. I wish every teen had an opportunity like this."

- Parent



2019 NCOF INC. INCOME YTD*



2019 NCOF INC. EXPENSES YTD*

*As of October 31, 2019

2020 GOALS In the coming year, with your help, we will...

...Support Our Community

- >> Purchase and install the equipment and systems we will need to process credit card and SNAP payments.
- >> Reconfigure our Rt 16 stand so we can run it as an on-your-honor market stand when it is not staffed.
- >> Increase public access to local, humanely raised meat.

...Improve Our Facilities

- >> Reduce our energy consumption by installing LED and high-efficiency fixtures and appliances.
- >> Upgrade the electrical service to our chicken coop.
- >> Rodent-proof our grain storage.
- >> Build an outdoor classroom.

...Teach the Public

- >> Hire and mentor 25 more Teen Apprentices and Teen Work Crew members.
- >> Expand our before-school Farm programs for kids from working families.
- >> Launch our new sugaring/ Farm tour for kindergartners.

... Tend the Land

- >> Put all of our vegetable beds— a whole acre!— into no-till management.
- >> Utilize the Taylor Estate for perennial flowers and berries.
- >> Purchase a new, easier-to-drive tractor with a three-point hitch, plus attachments.



"[My son] was in the Budding Farmers program... and he had an absolute ball doing the chores, particularly using tools to attempt to obliterate the compost pile. He came home explaining with such confidence how to feed the sheep, and how one can safely touch a goat to avoid losing an eye, or how a group of small children should sit so that a bunny won't escape from their circle, with particularly animated demonstrations of how a bunny should and should absolutely NOT be petted. Thank you, and thank your team for providing an outlet for this little city boy to get his farm on."

- Parent



2020 Farm Calendar JOIN US!

Annual Meeting & Potluck

Wednesday, Jan 8

Sheep Week School Programs

May 4-8

Summer Program Registration

June 15 - August 28 (11 weeks!)

Spring Spectacular & Farm 5K

Sunday, May 17

Maple Sugaring Tours

Late February - Late March

Harvest Dinner

Friday, September 25

Maple Magic

Saturday, February 29

(please note date change due to Leap Year)

Turkey Tuesday

Tuesday, November 23

Where to Purchase Farm Products

Natick Common Farmers Market

Saturdays, June - October

Rt 16 Farm Youth Stand

July - August

M-F, 9 AM - 4 PM

Farm Barn-Side Stand

Daily, 9 AM - 5 PM

(inside during the winter)

"This seven-week flower share was A HUGE HIT with my mom! Thank you again!"

- Customer

"I really enjoyed the nose-to-tail pork program! Great quality and easy to prepare. Every time, we had delicious meat."

- Customer

