



# NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

## LEARN • GROW • GIVE

## June Newsletter

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### Needham Community Farm's Statement on Racial Inequality

Needham Community Farm is extremely upset and deeply saddened by the recent brutal killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other people of color. Their unnecessary deaths highlight the deep, historical structural inequities and systematic racism in our country leading to where we are today. [Read our full statement here.](#)

Read our full statement on racial inequality here

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### 2020 Food Donation Program Launches

#### Harvest Feeds the Hungry During COVID-19

The NCF's 2020 food donation program launched last week with the first deliveries from our Mobile Market. This program distributes produce for free directly at all of the Needham Housing Authority (NHA) sites. In 2020, the Farm has increased the frequency of Mobile Market direct deliveries from a bi-weekly to a weekly schedule. These deliveries serve the needs of residents who could not easily travel to the food pantry or other produce pick-up points.

To ensure safety and sensitivity to Covid-19 concerns, this year the Farm has started pre-packing bags of produce for NHA families. Both small and large bags are available. Recipients are very appreciative of the pre-packed bags, and incredibly excited to see the Farm back this year, despite such trying times, offering a

### Farm Manager Theresa Strachila's June Update



Over the past few weeks I have been dealing with a lot of strong emotions about current events- anger, sadness, frustration, and determination to use my voice and my position of privilege to push for racial justice. I take some comfort knowing that through the work that I'm doing with the farm, I am having a positive impact on my community.

Two weeks ago, Sam Miller, one of our summer interns and student at Colby College started working with us on the farm three days a week. I have noticed a huge jump in productivity on the farm with her help. Next week, our intern from Bates college joins us for the season, Audrey Aberg. Their willingness to work hard and commit to a small social justice-driven organization gives me great hope for the future. We will feature their respective profiles in our July Newsletter.

rainbow of beautiful, fresh produce.

This spring, the Farm began delivering bountiful bags of produce including radishes, lettuce, Tokyo bekana, salad turnips, baby bok choy, and strawberries. Any bags that are not picked up are donated to the Food Pantry.

Massachusetts has entered Phase 2 and many more businesses are reopening, cautiously. Even though COVID numbers are dropping locally, pandemic-related job interruptions and losses have had a significant impact upon lower income families. The Needham Community Council Food Pantry is still seeing an increase in need and usage by newly food-insecure families.

### 3 Spring Learning Videos



With the extra set of hands around, we launched our mobile market last week and our CSA this week. It's hard to believe that there is already so much food coming out of the ground at the farm. We've been harvesting radishes, salad turnips, lettuce, and lots of other greens. In just a few short weeks, we look to be harvesting some of our earliest summer crops ever as our cucumbers and tomatoes in the high tunnel are growing rapidly.

I personally am so grateful for the chance to be at our mobile market and interact with our community members who benefit from the food donation programs that your support makes possible. It feels great to be able to bring joy and healthy, nutritious food into so many people's days.



### Join the international movement Meatless Monday and Meatless Monday Needham!

[Meatless Monday Needham](#) aims to inspire people to decrease consumption of meat and eat more healthy plant-based meals. This goal will be accomplished by encouraging people to take a pledge to eat healthy, plant-based meals on Mondays for a period of 12 weeks. These healthy eating habits offer substantial benefits both for human health and for the environment.