August 2021 Newsletter

Notes From the Field

Summer is really here on the farm. Around midday we can hear cicadas buzzing in the trees, tomatoes are ripening, and the crop plan is reminding us to plant our fall carrots, beets, and cabbage before it gets too late. A few weeks ago we harvested our garlic and moved it into the greenhouse to dry or "cure." After curing for about 2 weeks, the garlic is ready to be cleaned up from a full plant with roots and stem to the bulb you see in the grocery store - one of my absolute favorite farm tasks. We are halfway through our 20 week CSA, and I want to thank our CSA members for their support so far this season. I'd also like to thank the students from Volunteers Around Needham for helping out at the farm two days this month as well as all our new and returning volunteers for all their hard work on the farm.

June was hot, and now July has been the 2nd rainiest on record (so far, as I write this note). On the bright side, with all this rain our direct seeded crops are germinating very well (in plain English that means any seeds we plant directly in the soil are sprouting quickly). However, the rain has waterlogged parts of the farm that don't drain well, and we've lost some crops to root rot and other diseases because of it. All this water is also providing a great test environment for the new drainage we installed last summer in a small section of the farm, generously funded by a Town of Needham CPA grant. The summer squash, peppers, tomatoes, and cabbage in that section are all doing well.

See you on the Farm,
Liz

Environmental Advocacy News

There is a tar sands oil pipeline being built through Anishinaabe territory in Minnesota including the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Wild rice, or manoomin, is a sacred food for the Anishinaabe peoples, and their right to it is protected by treaties with the US Government. Line 3's route would impact 389 acres and 17 wild rice water bodies, and would be devastating to a food source already at risk from development and mining, even before the inevitable spills.

Please call President Biden (202-456-1111) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (651-290-5302), and tell them to rescind the permits for Line 3 until these impacts to groundwater and surface water can be assessed.

Check out this website for more information: stopline3.org
Donate to support the efforts to stop the pipeline: https://donorbox.org/line-3

Instructional Video: Cleaning Garlic With Ceilidh

Please click on the image above to watch Ceilidh

CSA Week 10 included cabbage, eggplant, leeks, cutting celery, tomatoes, peppers, basil, and garlic.

Harvested garlic moved to greenhouse to cure.

Save the Date!

Farm Open House

Saturday, September 11th

show us how to clean garlic.

Summer Internship Independent Projects

We are thankful for the hard work and dedication that our interns have given to the farm this summer. Here is an update on the independent summer projects for both Maddie Bray and Elizabeth Mitas.

Maddie Bray, University of Vermont
For my project with the farm I have decided to create a booklet that outlines the common farm pests and insects that we experience over the course of the summer. I believe this is an important project because these insects can be quite damaging to the farm and to our crops, so if all of our information is united and in one spot, we will be better prepared for when pests present themselves on the farm. The information I hope to present in the booklet will outline defining characteristics of the insects, target crops, life stages and cycles, management techniques, and more. I envision this booklet being used by all who come to the farm: future interns, garden class students, volunteers, etc.

Elizabeth Mitas, Tufts University
For my independent project this summer, I am creating and designing a sign to go outside of the entrance of the farm! The sign will include a description of the farm and what we do, our mission, where the food we produce goes, and our emphasis on food justice – along with pictures to accompany the text. Many people walk by the farm and are curious what our wonderful organization does. The purpose of the new signage is to educate onlookers of what occurs at the farm and give them a sense of what our goals and hopes are for the community we serve. The design application used for this project is Adobe InDesign – a helpful technology for creative projects such as this one.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Lunch Equity Project. Because of your contributions, the project raised over $25,000 to support the work of the Needham Community Council and the Needham Community Farm! 100% of the donations provided fresh produce and sustaining staples to help our neighbors who are struggling to feed their families. We are grateful for your generosity!

Your Help is Needed on the Farm!

August volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesday mornings for experienced volunteers and Thursday afternoons/Friday mornings for everyone. Also a Saturday opportunity for farm clean up has been added on August 28th.

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.**
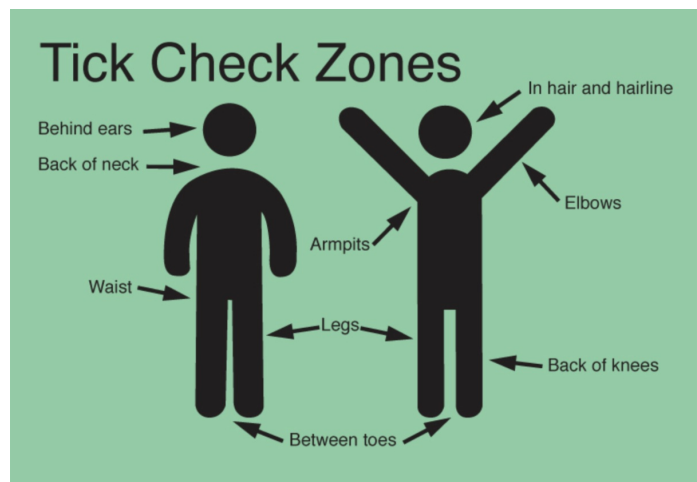
DONATE NOW

Please consider donating to Needham Community Farm. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated!

We love seeing the delicious meals you cook with the farm's CSA veggies. One of our #CSA members sent us this gorgeous pic of his grilled veggies from the NCF CSA box. (carrots, beets, potatoes with wilted beet greens). Send us your CSA creations or tag **@needhamfarm** in your post!

Visiting the Farm? Please Check for Ticks

Tick Check Zones

Behind ears
Back of neck
In hair and hairline
Armpits
Elbows
Waist
Legs
Between toes
Back of knees

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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