



NOFA-NH Farm Share Program Findings from 2017

Program Description: The NOFA-NH Farm Share Program was launched in 2017 to provide subsidized Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares for New Hampshire individuals with limited income, especially benefitting children, families and seniors. CSA shares provide a season's worth of local, fresh farm products (15 – 30 weeks of vegetables, fruits, dairy, eggs, meat, and/or bread) but can cost as much as \$700 a season. The program connects limited income individuals with exemplary certified organic NOFA-NH member farms to receive subsidized CSA shares that would otherwise be unaffordable.

The Need: The NH Food Bank [reports](#) that approximately 10%, or [about 130,000](#) New Hampshire residents are food insecure, and approximately 13% of NH children are living in food insecure environments. Adults in food insecure families are running out of food, reducing the quality of food their family eats, feeding their children unbalanced diets, or skipping meals so their children can eat. As the local food movement gains traction, many farmers have expressed interest in supporting food access for all in their communities.



Recipient Testimonial

“My family and I would like to thank you for the grant we were able to use to help subsidize our share at Picadilly farm! My husband and I have 2 young sons, ages 1 and 4, and we also provide foster care for children of all ages. Having Picadilly as a resource has provided a great opportunity for all who pass through our home. Thank you!”

- Jodie & Family of Hinsdale, NH

Participating Farms

Funds were awarded for the 2017 summer season to the following certified organic NOFA-NH member farms:

[Bear Mountain Farm](#)

[Brookford Farm](#)

[Picadilly Farm](#)

[Pork Hill Farm](#)

[Shaker Organic Gardens/Concord Food Coop](#)

[Stout Oak Farm](#)

[Willow Pond Community Farm](#)

[Worksong Farm](#)

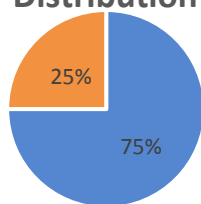
Program Highlights

- Launched our Farm Share Program with 8 NOFA-NH certified-organic member farms leveraging grant funds to subsidize CSA shares for more than 40 low-income NH residents.
- Partnering farms chose families and individuals within their own communities to receive subsidized farm shares.
- Participation resulting in the development and deepening of relationships between the participating farms and community members, food pantries and other community based organizations.
- All of the participating farmers that responded to a follow-up survey would participate in the program again if offered in 2018.
- The majority of respondents (5 of 8) were willing to partially subsidize CSAs by 1) contributing directly, and 2) by asking existing CSA participants to contribute to funding shares for low-income community members.

Participant Responses

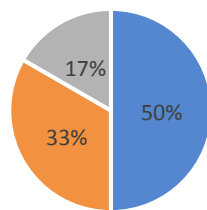
- 100% of partner farms felt that distributing farm shares to recipients was excellent.
- 7 of 8 of partner farms had direct contact with farm share recipients.
- 100% of respondents felt that interaction with the recipient was excellent and that recipients were grateful and appreciative of their shares.
- 7 of 8 of farms had at least 1 recipient picking up on the farm. Other recipients picked up at other CSA locations, or at partner organizations like a food coop or food pantry. One partner had shares picked up by a food pantry.

Farm Share Distribution



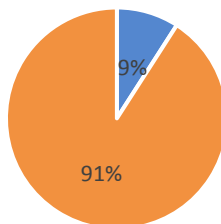
■ Shares Distributed to Community Members
■ Shares Distributed to Food Pantries

Farm Share Type



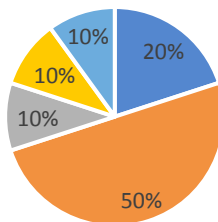
■ Partial Share ■ Half Share

Demographic Distribution



■ Senior Citizens ■ Families

Family Size



■ Family of Two
■ Family of Four
■ Family of Five
■ Family of Nine
■ Unknown Family Size

“We were one of the recipients of this grant which enabled our farm share to be half the cost of what it typically would be. My husband is not able to work outside the home due to physical health challenges so our income is limited. We have a family of four (two teens). We do not qualify for food stamps, but it is still difficult to make ends meet. So having the ability to purchase quality produce at a reduced cost was such a blessing! I was glad to put money toward an amazing farm that supplies delicious food and has truly kind owners! Therefore, I am writing to let you know not only that we were very thankful, but also to mention that if this grant was to be offered again, we would be very grateful.”

- Beth & Family of Swanzey, NH

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Our Mission

We actively promote regenerative, ecologically sound gardening, farming and land care practices for healthy communities. We help people build local, sustainable healthy food systems.

