Our Mission: NOFA-NH actively promotes organic, regenerative, ecologically sound farming, gardening, eating, and land care practices for healthy communities. We help people build local, just, and sustainable food systems.
Dear Friend of NOFA-NH,

We are so pleased to share with you NOFA-NH’s 2023 Impact Report. 2023 brought new challenges and opportunities to the community we serve, highlighting how NOFA-NH’s fifty years of experience promoting ecologically sound farming, gardening, land care practices, and eating are more essential than ever before.

By growing farmer services through the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), developing a Farmer Relief Fund in the wake of extreme weather events, increasing local organic food access through the Farm Share Program, expanding educational programming, collaborating with stakeholders on the future of organic certification in New Hampshire, and so much more, we have made great strides together in building the robust, resilient Granite State food system and agricultural community we all seek to nurture.

From the integral microorganisms building healthy soil, to the vast network of people cooperating to bring food from farms to forks across the Granite State, community is central to NOFA-NH’s mission of building local, just, and sustainable food systems. With your help, we’re proud to support New Hampshire’s farmers, gardeners, and eaters by strengthening community food security, offering accessible educational opportunities, advocating for policies that increase farm viability, celebrating diversity, and centering human and planetary health.

This critical work would not be possible without our generous and passionate members and donors who believe in the power of a vibrant local food system that feeds us all. On behalf of everyone at NOFA-NH, thank you for your ongoing commitment to organic farming and food. We hope you will continue to learn and grow with us for many years to come!

Yours in Good Health & Healthy Food,

Nikki Kolb
Operations Director
NOFA-NH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF & CONTRACTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Julie Davenson, President
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Bill Wardwell, Vice President
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Transition to Organic Partnership Program Coordinator
Kyle Jacoby
Education Program Coordinator
Nikki Kolb
Operations Director
Denise Rico
Bulk Order & Finance Coordinator
Nancy Voorhis
IT Contractor

- 560+ members, including 199 new members
- 54 educational workshops & listening sessions, hosted in-person & online
- 20 educational videos produced
- 5000+ people reached through educational offerings
- 215 Bulk Orders, 2,989 items sold, 102,834 pounds of product moved
- 53 generous & dedicated volunteers
- 540+ new email subscribers & social media followers
- 3 new knowledgeable Staff & Board members welcomed to our team
- $29k distributed to 11 farms via a newly created Farmer Relief Fund
Winter Conference

For the first time since 2020, an in-person Winter Conference was held at Southern NH University on February 11, 2023, with select workshops live-streamed online to increase conference accessibility. We gathered to explore The Art of Food & Farming: Skill Sharing for a Brighter Future with 25+ workshops, and activities reaching 220 attendees. Conference highlights included an opening panel entitled Adapting New England Farms to Climate Change, incredible, diverse workshops, which covered topics from making masa and building a local grainshed, to increasing winter production, and farming with permaculture principles, the Sowing Stories Makerspace hosted by Ink+Light Creative, Farmer Consultations, and so much more. Keynote Speakers Mark & Kristin Kimball of Essex Farm, explored community focused practices that helped them grow and how we can work together to create the next era of organic, regenerative agricultural design.

Bulk Order Program

The Spring Bulk Order, a collective buying program for farmers and gardeners, sold nearly 3,000 items, amounting to 103,000 pounds of farming and gardening supplies safely distributed to 215 customers.

Thank you to our host pick-up sites and volunteers! In 2023, 27 volunteers helped organize, distribute, and load orders at Belletetes in Andover, Country Three Corners in Weare, and the Spaulding Industrial Complex in Rochester.

Farm Share Program

We partnered with 15 farms in 9 counties to provide 64 subsidized CSA shares to nearly 200 NH community members with limited income through the 2023 Farm Share Program. Participating farms included Abenaki Springs Farm, Brookford Farm, Good Earth Farm*, Kearsarge Gore Farm*, Middle Branch Farm*, Mountain Heartbeet, Open Woods Farm, Pork Hill Farm, Stone Ridge Farm*, Stout Oak Farm, Sweet Beet Farm, Tuckaway Farm, Vegetable Ranch*, Winter Street Farm, and Waxing Moon Gardens.

*part of Local Harvest CSA

Our annual Share the Bounty Fundraiser, held in the fall of 2022, raised $11,300 for the program, thanks to the generosity of participating partner businesses and organizations. In 2023 we saw a 70% increase in program applications. In order to better meet the needs of our community, we raised an additional $10,000 to subsidize organic CSAs for the 2023 season.
The CRAFT of Farming

The CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliances for Farmer Training) program provides opportunities for peer-to-peer technical education, training, & networking through on-farm tours. In 2023, we coordinated 5 tours across NH reaching over 100 attendees. Topics explored rotational grazing strategies, methods for growing organic potatoes, funding conservation projects, caring for heirloom fruit trees, & farming with preventative techniques. Thank you to the participating farms and collaborating organizations: Callie’s Creamery, Mink Meadow Farm, Hop N Hen Farm, Off the Wall Orchard, UNH Organic Dairy Research Farm, Granite State Graziers, NODPA, NRCS-NH, SARE, Vital Communities, & UNH Extension. This program was made possible by funding from Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement & the Transition to Organic Partnership Program.

"Feeding the Family" Organic Gardening Series

Our 5th Annual “Feeding the Family” Organic Gardening Series included 4 virtual workshops and one in-person workshop from March to April, with over 120 attendees across New Hampshire and the Northeast. Workshop topics included the science and art of tomato culture, protecting crops from deer damage, the impacts of jumping worms, integrating nitrogen fixing plants into diverse settings, and truly no-till beds with sheet mulching. Thank you to Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation for making this program possible.

Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)

In 2023, NOFA-NH became a core partner in the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), a 5 year, USDA funded program that will invest up to $100 million in cooperative agreements with non-profits to provide technical assistance and wrap-around support for transitioning and existing organic farmers. In the pilot year of this program, we hired a TOPP Coordinator, developed a cohort of 11 state agriculture partners to deepen relationships, co-host events, & cross promote the program, fostered 15 TOPP mentorship matches, and established a monthly Farmers Organic Roundtable open to all farmers.

Farmer Relief Fund

In the aftermath of the devastating frost, flood, and freeze events across the northeast during 2023, NOFA-NH established a Farmer Relief Fund with the intent to provide swift aid to farmers after conducting a survey that clearly indicated a need for such programs. Through the generosity of sponsors like Stonyfield Organic, Farm Aid, and numerous individual donors, we were able to raise $29K that was distributed to 11 farms in amounts ranging from $1k-$4k+. Special thanks to our member-led volunteer Farmer Relief Committee who reviewed applications and made recommendations for funding.
Core Partner in Transition to Organic Partnership Program
As a Core TOPP Partner, NOFA-NH is providing valuable services to farmers in the northeast through farmer to farmer mentorship programs, technical assistance, resource development, community building, certification support & more.

AmeriCorps VISTA Project Site for Farm Share Program
In 2023, NOFA-NH was approved as an AmeriCorps VISTA Project Site to build capacity for & expand the Farm Share Program, a vital food access resource.

Fiscal Sponsorships
In 2023 NOFA-NH became a Fiscal Sponsor for the NH Queer Farmers Network & the Northeast Healthy Soil Network Symposium.

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture Climate-Smart Farming & Marketing Program
Partnering with NOFA/Mass, NOFA-NH is working on the Pasa Climate-Smart Farming & Marketing Program, which will provide funding & technical assistance to NH farmers who want to implement climate-smart practices, collect data on the impacts, & open up new markets.

NH Food Alliance
In 2023, NOFA-NH participated in the NH Food Alliance’s Network Leadership Team, Racial Equity Team, & NH Food & Agriculture Strategic Plan Action Team.

NOFA Interstate Council
The NOFA Interstate Council provides coordination between NOFA’s seven state chapters, conducts the annual NOFA Summer Conference and acts as an umbrella organization for projects of collective concern to NOFA chapters, including public policy. NOFA-NH board and staff members participated in monthly policy committee meetings, bi-monthly interstate council meetings, racial justice & equity committee meetings, & an annual retreat.

Food Security & Supporting Beginning Farmers Through Collaborative Grants
In 2023 NOFA-NH collaborated on the following state and regional grants: CT NOFA’s Building Community Food Security – Northeast CSA Farm Share grant and the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success’ Beginning Farmer & Rancher grant.
POLICY & ADVOCACY


NOFA-NH staff and policy committee members collaborated with NOFA sister chapters across the region to develop a robust 2023 Farm Bill platform, develop and distribute advocacy sign-on letters and post cards, and host meetings with state representatives and a listening session with farmers and community stakeholders to identify and advocate for the needs of our community. In early February, Senator Jeanne Shaheen and staff met with NOFA-NH to discuss 2023 Farm Bill priorities for organic farmers in the Granite State and beyond. NOFA-NH also partnered with the League of Conservation Voters to hold a Farm Bill listening session on August 29th at the Dartmouth Organic Farm with Congresswoman Annie Kuster and various state representatives from NHDAMF, USDA, FSA, and NRCS. Producers, food distribution managers, government officials, students, and more gathered to engage in important discussions about what we need in this important piece of legislation. As congress has yet to pass a new Farm Bill, NOFA-NH has continued to work on the Farm Bill platform and Farm Bill advocacy in 2024.

HB 487-FN: Local Food For Local Schools Reimbursement Bill

Rep. Alexis Simpson (Exeter) with the sponsorship of 4 other NH legislators including Rep. Megan Murray (Amherst) introduced a Local Foods for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill for the third year in a row. The bill was largely drafted by the NH Farm to School Network, an organization in which NOFA-NH participates. The bill incentivizes school nutrition directors to channel more incoming federal school meal dollars towards the purchase of fresh, locally produced foods for breakfast and lunch services in cafeterias across the state. It would boost youth health and wellness, and increase economic opportunities for local farmers. NOFA-NH provided public outreach for the bill, and has continued to support a new version of this proposed legislation in 2024.

The Future of Organic Certification Services in NH

In summer 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food (NHDAMF) informed NOFA-NH of their concerns with the Department’s ability to continue serving NH’s organic farming community as an Accredited Certifying Agency (ACA). In order to best serve NH’s organic farmers, NOFA-NH co-developed a joint statement, survey, and initial listening session with NHDAMF to gather stakeholder input on the future of organic certification services in the state. Organic farmers overwhelmingly indicated their desire for NHDAMF to continue offering organic certification services. NOFA-NH worked with local legislators to put forth bills that would support the continuation of organic certification on a state level, held additional listening sessions for organic farmers, and explored satellite ACA office options. Unfortunately, the proposed legislation did not pass in early 2024, and NHDAMF ultimately discontinued certification services soon after. NOFA-NH has continued to provide support for NH’s organic farming community by developing resources and funds to aid farmers in this period of transition.

Food & Climate Panels

In collaboration with Seacoast NH Permaculture, NOFA-NH hosted two Food & Climate Panels focused on carbon market pitfalls & better strategies for regenerative organic farming practices beyond carbon markets. Nearly 100 participants heard from expert panelists from across the region and joined lively Q&A sessions to explore issues with current carbon market and PES programs and the challenges of trying to monetize carbon sequestration for best ecological farming practices, alternatives we know work and ones being proposed that hold promise to truly support healthy growing practices. We look forward to continuing to explore these ideas and alternatives with our community!

Letters of Support

Throughout 2023, NOFA-NH signed 30+ letters supporting state, regional and national initiatives impacting organic and sustainable agriculture, food systems, equity, and justice.
2023 INCOME: $425,959.66

2023 EXPENSES: $389,397.90
THANK YOU!

2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Winter Conference Committee & Volunteers: Kyle Jacoby (Chair), Carlie Harrison, Stephanie Wood, Joyce Ford, Taci Guven, Elena Acosta, Kathy Vargo, Rebecca White, Joan O’Connor, Xochi Berry, Nikki Kolb

Education & Policy Committee: Edith Pucci Couchman (Co-chair), Julie Davenson (Co-chair), Sarah Gilliatt, Amy Antonucci, Jim Riddle, Gene Jonas, Bill Wardwell, Phil Browne, Ken Koerber, Joan O’Connor, Kyle Jacoby, Nikki Kolb, Kate Dobrowski

DEI Committee: Xochi Berry (Co-chair), Nikki Kolb (Co-chair), Emma Dooley, Teresa Downey, Kyle Jacoby, Denise Rico

Finance Committee: Joyce Ford (Chair), Steve Forde (Chair, outgoing), Ken Koerber, Denise Rico, Nikki Kolb

Governance Committee: Karl Johnson (Chair), Julie Davenson, Bill Wardwell, Nikki Kolb, Xochi Berry

Farmer Relief Committee: Becky Colpitts, Nadine San Antonio, Christine Bates, Xochi Berry (Chair), Kyle Jacoby

Bulk Order Volunteers: Monica Rico, Tim Austin, Aaron and Liz Lichtenberg, Jed Crook, Gene Jonas, Sue Greene, Michelle Lee & Tim Lee, Rozanne Macaig, Marsha Campaniello, Emma Richmond-Boudewyns, Andy Messenger, Lorna Carlisle, Pam McNary, Eileen Beebe, Amy Bailey, Todd Ringelstein, Mark Wilson, Nick Rico, Jameson Small, Barry Hayes, Jeff Benton, Lisa Nute, Bob and Mary Snow, Peter Bixby

2023 GRANTORS

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
You Have Our Trust Fund
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Farm Aid
The Beane Family Foundation
Heron Brook Fund
Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement
Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation

And the many individuals and families who donated to NOFA-NH throughout the year!

2023 SPONSORS