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NOFA-NH E-Newsletter: April 2023

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Dear Friend of NOFA-NH,

Happy Earth Month! While every month is a fantastic month to support organic, regenerative agriculture and ways to walk gently upon this planet we all call home, April invites us to celebrate and reflect on how we can make our planet a more sustainable, just home for all. As always, there are many events and occasions scheduled around the state for this very purpose, and we hope you had a chance to enjoy some of them this past weekend!

With warmer weather gracing the Granite State, it feels as though spring has officially arrived. Many of us are busy tending to soil and seedlings as we savor the first delicacies of the season in the form of radishes and tender greens. Dive even deeper into celebrating all our state has to offer this season in the [Indigenous NH Harvest Calendar](#).

If you are seeking guidance on spring gardening, we've got you covered with our online "[Feeding the Family](#)" [Organic Gardening Series](#). The final class will be held in-person on Saturday, April 29th. Gardeners and growers can also purchase the recordings of prior classes for a limited time!

We know how much you value organic food and agriculture. Your support is vital to our mission in every season. You can support NOFA-NH and our many important programs, including our Farm Share Program, policy & advocacy work, CRAFT program, and so much more, all April long by participating in the [Round-It-Up Program](#) at the [Concord Food Co-op](#). You can also:

- [Become a member, renew your membership, or give the gift of membership](#)
- [Make a donation, or donate to a specific program](#)
- [Volunteer with us](#)

Thank you for continuing to help us build resilient, sustainable and just food systems across New Hampshire. We couldn't do it without you!

In Solidarity,
Team NOFA-NH

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Calling All Farmers! Seeking Mentors & Mentees for the Transition to Organic Partnership Program

NOFA-NH is excited to begin working with farmers across New Hampshire on the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). This program will connect transitioning farmers with farmer mentors, host community building opportunities, create technical assistance resources, support the organic workforce through training and education, and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the organic sector.



We are currently seeking farmers in all areas of production to join the program as mentors and mentees. Mentors will be paid an annual stipend. Mentees will work with experienced organic mentors, receive access to technical assistance, and other educational and networking opportunities. Interested in becoming a mentor or mentee? [Please complete this interest form.](#)

To learn more about our partners in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic TOPP region visit: <https://paorganic.org/topp/>

We welcome conversations and questions! Contact us at 603-224-5022 and info@nofanh.org for additional information.

Join Us for the Last Organic Gardening Series Workshops of The Season - or Purchase Workshop Recordings You Missed!

Join us for our final Organic Gardening Series Workshop of the season:

Truly No-Till Beds with Sheet Mulching (In-Person)

Instructor: Linh Aven

Location: [Dandelion Forest Farm](#),
Nottingham, NH

Saturday, April 29th, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Many no-till vegetable beds start with a onetime rototill which damages the soil structure & sets back the soil biology. Sheet mulching allows us to keep the existing soil structure while feeding the soil biology, no plastic or machinery required. This is a simple and useful technique that can be as small as a few feet in your backyard or up to an acre of beds on a small commercial farm.

Members receive a 25% discount for all gardening series workshops. [Register via our website.](#)

Interested in the Organic Gardening Series topics but missed the live webinars? Not a problem! All of the workshops have been recorded and you can register to get access



to one or all of the programs. Learn about techniques for growing tomatoes, methods for managing deer damage, insight into earthworms and the impact of jumping worms, or tips for integrating nitrogen fixing plants into your edible or visual landscape. Each webinar is only available for three months so don't wait long to sign up. [Learn more & register.](#)

Farm Share Program Applications are Closed

Thank you to everyone who has applied this season. If you applied, you will be hearing from us shortly. If you have any questions, feel free to email our Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Xochi Berry, at xochi@nofanh.org.

[Learn more about food access resources in New Hampshire.](#)



**NOFA-NH's
Farm Share
Program**

Helping provide CSA
shares to limited
income NH residents

**Apply By
April 9th**

www.nofanh.org/farm-share-program

Thank You, Steve Forde, For Six Excellent Years as NOFA-NH's Board Treasurer!

After six years as Board Treasurer, Steve Forde's term on NOFA-NH's Board of Directors has come to an end. Steve kindly, thoughtfully, and passionately stewarded NOFA-NH in his time as a Board Member, helping to expand our staff, budget, and programming. Going above and beyond in each of his roles, Steve served as the finance committee chair, as a member of our quality assurance committee, winter conference committee, and executive committee. He managed, counseled, and interviewed staff members, drafted and monitored our annual budget, moderated panel discussions, hosted a [virtual CRAFT farm tour](#), co-led our Farm Share Program in its inaugural year, piloted an operating reserve fund, created numerous financial policies, put in countless hours of heavy lifting in preparation for some of our largest events of the year, and so much more. Thank you for your invaluable service to our



organization and community as a member of NOFA-NH's Board of Directors! Learn more about Steve and his wife Dawn's passion for certified organic agriculture at [Hop N Hen Farm](#).

Board Officer Update

We are pleased to share with our members and friends the following updates regarding our Board Officers:

President - Julie Davenson
Vice President - Bill Wardwell
Secretary - Edith Pucci Couchman
Treasurer - Joyce Ford

[Learn more about NOFA-NH's Board of Directors.](#)

Interested in joining our Board or Committees? NOFA-NH is always seeking dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who love good food and farming to join our community! [Learn more here.](#)



Round-It-Up at the Concord Food Co-op Register all April Long

Concord Food Co-op's [Round-It-Up](#) at the Register program empowers shoppers to round their purchase to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to a partnered nonprofit organization each month.

There's still a few days to Round-It-Up at the Concord Food Co-op this month to contribute to NOFA-NH's mission of building a more local, just and sustainable food system in the Granite State! Funds raised will support programs like our annual on-farm workshops, food access programming, policy and advocacy efforts, and community events. We're hoping to raise \$3000 - can you help us reach this goal?



May Membership Raffle - Renew or Become a Member in May &



Win Free Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix

Become a NOFA-NH member or renew your membership in May and you will automatically be entered into a raffle to win 3 1-cubic ft bags of Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix! We'll select 4 winners at the end of May!

You can renew/become a member online at www.nofanh.org/membership, call our office at 603-224-5022, or mail a check to NOFA-NH at 84 Silk Farm Rd, Concord, NH 03301.



Submit a Proposal for the 2023 NOFA Summer Conference

This summer's theme is Buen Vivir: Celebrating Harmony with Nature and our Communities. NOFA/Mass will host a week of online programming beginning Monday, July 24th before gathering in person Saturday, July 29th at Worcester State University in Worcester, MA.

The NOFA Summer Conference draws hundreds of farmers, gardeners, homesteaders, consumers and advocates of organic and regenerative land stewardship throughout the Northeast. A wide range of selections and styles are welcome, from lectures to discussions, video-based farm tours to hands-on demos and everything in between. This year a few tracks will be identified to frame online content throughout the week, culminating in larger discussions bringing each track's ideas together in person on Saturday. [Submit your proposal by April 27th!](#)



2023 Farm Bill - NOFA Priorities, NFFC Toolkit, & Climate Policy

The NOFA state chapters have developed six Farm Bill principles advocating for a Farm Bill that:

1. Invests in and protects the integrity of organic and agroecological practices



as a core solution to our climate and biological crises.

2. Ensures fair treatment and just livelihoods for farmers and workers throughout the food and farming system.
3. Invests in rural communities, increases fairness and resilience of local and regional supply chains and breaks up consolidation in agriculture.
4. Centers racial justice across all programs and repairs past and ongoing racialized harm.
5. Promotes food sovereignty for disadvantaged communities and ensures nutrition security for all.
6. Eliminates the use of toxic substances on farmland and in our food system while supporting a just transition for farmers.

[Read the full Farm Bill Principles document here.](#)

Looking to advocate for a just, sustainable and equitable Farm Bill that supports organic, small family farmers?

- [Sign your organization on to stand against Carbon Offsets in the 2023 Farm Bill](#)
- [Sign on to the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative - 2023 Farm Bill Campaign Letter](#)

Write for *The Natural Farmer* - NOFA's Quarterly Publication

The Natural Farmer, NOFA's quarterly publication, is seeking stories for upcoming issues!

Interviews, personal stories & technical articles are welcome.

Themes & Deadlines:
Farmworkers - 5/1/23
Scaling Up - 8/1/23
Farmers of Color - 11/1/23

[Learn more & submit.](#)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS





Themes & Deadlines:
 Farmworkers - 5/1
 Scaling Up - 8/1
 Farmers of Color - 11/1

Stories, interviews & technical articles are welcome.

www.thenaturalfarmer.org

Organic Specialist Trainings With Vermont Tech

This training is for existing farmers, new farmers, and people interested in gaining specialized knowledge of organic production and certification for a company, agency, organization, and/or if you want to pursue a career in organic certification. The training includes in-person lectures, discussion groups and field trips focused on farm crop production including vegetable production. It is preceded by a 4 hr. online workshop on the history and meaning of "organic" as well as general organic requirements. This workshop is completed prior to the in-person session. [Learn more & register.](#)



Organic Specialist Training for Crops May 30th & 31st with instructors Joyce Ford & Jim Riddle of NOFA-NH's Board & Policy Committee. In the early 1990's, they established the International Organic Inspectors Association, (IOIA), and co-authored of the International Organic Inspection Manual. Jim is former chair of the USDA National Organic Standards Board. In 2009, Jim and Joyce started Blue Fruit Farm, growing organic perennial fruits. In 2013, Jim and Joyce received EcoFarm's coveted Stewards of Sustainable Ag (Sustie) award, and were named the 2019 MOSES Organic Farmers of the Year.

Organic Specialist Training for Livestock June 1st & 2nd with instructor Cheryl Cesario, who is a consultant for Common Sense Solutions. Cheryl has been working directly with farmers since 2004 on grazing management, organic certification, water quality regulations, and big picture planning and goal setting. She helps farmers plan and implement practices, navigate funding channels, and provides grant writing services.

Milk with Dignity Organizing Tour - Find a Stop Near You!

Throughout the month of April, Migrant Justice will be on the road, connecting with supporters and taking action for Milk with Dignity. We will hold more than 50 organizing meetings across seven states. Farmworkers and organizers will connect with audiences to share the successes of the Milk with Dignity program and help communities join the struggle for farmworker rights!

A follow-up to 2021's hugely successful Dignity Tour, April's "Organizing Tour" will take us to even more cities and towns throughout New England and New York. Milk with Dignity supporters will have the opportunity to learn about the campaign and to get involved. Every stop will include a direct action that participants can take that will put pressure on supermarket chain Hannaford to stamp out abuses on farms by joining the Milk with Dignity program. [Learn more and find a stop near you!](#)

JUSTICIA MIGRANTE



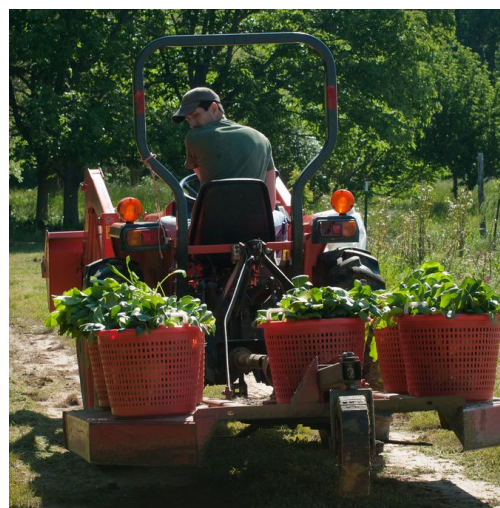
Tell Your Senators You Support PACTPA

PACTPA Could Reduce Pesticide Exposure: Support the Removal of Toxic Pesticides from U.S. Agriculture

In 2021 the multi-billion-dollar agrochemical industry derailed The Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act (PACTPA), which would outlaw several pesticides linked to catastrophic human and environmental health hazards. Now the bill is getting a second chance.

[The bill](#), recently reintroduced in the Senate, would also change how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees pesticide registration, a process with consequential shortcomings.

Organic food production prohibits some of the world's most toxic chemicals. [Eating organic food dramatically decreases a person's exposure to harmful pesticides](#), including the ones that would be banned by



PACTPA. In conventional farming, the use of dangerous chemicals is commonplace, with devastating effects to the environment and the health of humans, animals, and pollinators.

The people most affected by pesticide exposure are often the least able to protect themselves. Some of the pesticides banned by PACTPA have been linked to brain development issues in children, cancer, endocrine disruption, and prenatal disorders. Prolonged exposure to these dangerous chemicals poses severe health risks to farmworkers, who may not have adequate access to safety warnings and instructions.

Organic farming has shown that we can grow food without using harmful pesticides. A stronger, more resilient food system is one that [looks to organic farming for answers instead of the agrochemical industry](#).

[Learn more about what PACTPA will do, how to contact your senator, and find suggested text here.](#)

News from USDA

- [USDA Announces Funding Availability to Expand Meat and Poultry Processing Options for Underserved Producers and Tribal Communities](#)
- [Organic Integrity Learning Center - Three New Microlearnings: New Trainings Tackle, Organic Transition, Trademark, Certifier Oversight](#)
- [NRCS Announces \\$75 Million to Assist Producers Transitioning to Organic as Part of USDA's Organic Transition Initiative](#)



Family Fun This Spring: Brookford Farm's Heifer Parade & Henniker Handmade + Homegrown

Join in on two family friendly events this Mother's Day weekend to celebrate spring and delicious, local food:

Brookford Farm's Heifer Parade:

Join Brookford Farm for a fun family event to celebrate the cow's return to their first spring pasture! A delicious lunch with Brookford's own farm ingredients will be available to purchase, along with live music following the Heifer Parade at 11:00 am on May 13th. [Heifer Parade Tickets](#)

Henniker Handmade & Homegrown:

Henniker Handmade & Homegrown is back for it's 5th event, and bigger and better than ever! This two day event May 13th & 14th includes 60 art and farm vendors, live music, kid's activities, food trucks, and more! [Learn more.](#)



Agroecology: Adapting agriculture to the land

Read this eloquent and concise call for more small, diversified organic farms tended by more farmers and gardeners from PAN (Pesticide Action Network).

"Smaller farms place more people in a position to listen to the land and adjust to its needs. More people on the land increases the personal investment our global



population has in agriculture and growing food.

If we wish to promote an agriculture and food system that relies on more and smaller farms, we must also make land accessible to all who would be stewards."

[Read the full article.](#)

Organic Agriculture is Soil Based - Read the Position and Sign on in Support

OEFFA, NOFA-NY, VOF, MOFGA, OneCert, and ROP, have developed a position asserting that certified organic agriculture must be soil based:

"The USDA organic regulations define organic production as, "A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity." 7 CFR 205.2 "Organic production" Organic production requires a plan of management that has been agreed to by the producer and the certifying agent and that includes written plans concerning all aspects of agricultural production described in the Act and the regulations. According to the Organic Food Production Act (OFPA) 6513(b)(1), "An organic plan shall contain provisions designed to foster soil fertility, primarily through the management of the organic content of the soil through proper tillage, crop rotation, and manuring" (emphasis added)."

NOFA-NH is one of many organizations committed to organic integrity and soil health that has endorsed this position. You can [read the full position here](#) and your organization can endorse this statement by contacting Julia Barton of OEFFA Certification Services at Julia@oeffa.org.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IS SOIL-BASED: POSITION STATEMENT

**A Fundamental Principle Underlying
Organic Crop Certification**



NH Community Seafood is Resuming Operations!

NH Community Seafood has been reinvigorated by new Executive Director, Monica Rico of Woodthrush Farm (and former NOFA-NH Winter Conference Coordinator!), along with a new Caretaker Board of Directors. Read a snippet of Monica's letter below:

"The tides are turning at NH Community Seafood! It is an honor to announce my new role as Executive Director. I am thrilled to announce that we are working diligently to restore our organization so that we can deliver fresh fish and seafood to you again this season! We anticipate restarting our deliveries in May - stay tuned for details.

We will continue the proven and popular parts of our business model including the Community Supported Fishery (CSF), Restaurant Supported Fishery (RSF) and the Flexible Fish shares. We are also adding exciting new programs to dismantle cost barriers and give more people access to this sustainably sourced and nourishing protein. We are streamlining communications. To do that well, we need you to carefully read our upcoming emails. We expect to have our online ordering platform back up and running in the coming days. Stay tuned for announcements on when and where you can resume getting your fish and seafood deliveries in the next few weeks.

I am supported by a newly formed Caretaker Board of Directors composed of some of the best and brightest food systems advocates in our region. We are also joined by a team of professional advisors who are committed to lending their expertise in support of our mission. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our former Board of Directors and staff who laid the foundation of this organization, and we are honored to take the helm. Today is a new day. We have a brand new and enthusiastic team. The future is bright."

[You can learn more about NH Community Seafood and read the full letter here.](#)



Tell the USDA: End Fraudulent “Product of U.S.A.” Labeling!

Join Farm Action in their
#ProductofUSACHallenge!

Farm Action was thrilled to hear USDA’s [announcement](#) of a proposed rule limiting the use of the voluntary “Product of U.S.A.” label exclusively to meat, poultry, and egg products derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered, and processed in the United States.

As many of you know, current policy allows imported meat to bear a “Product of U.S.A.” label provided it passes through a USDA-inspected plant. This heavily exploited loophole has allowed multinational corporations to import meat, repackage it, and pass it off as a higher-quality product raised by U.S. farmers and ranchers.

This week, USDA announced a 30-day extension to this important comment period, bringing the deadline to June 11th.

It is more important than ever that as many people as possible participate in this comment period, making it crystal clear to the USDA that Americans will no longer tolerate fraudulent labeling practices.

In order to help encourage more people to comment, Farm Action has developed [sample comments](#), and co-launched with American Grassfed Association a #ProductofUSACHallenge social media campaign. Here is [their tweet](#) and [Facebook post](#).



Land Access Now: Young Farmer Fly-In Calls for a 2023 Farm Bill that Equitably Invests in the Next Generation in Agriculture

"Young and BIPOC farmers need land access NOW.

Across the country, land prices are soaring, putting land access out of reach for many young farmers. As a result, many young and BIPOC farmers are leaving agriculture. That is why we launched our One Million Acres for the Future campaign and brought over 100 farmer leaders from across the country to D.C. earlier this month for the largest young farmer fly-in in history! We led 159 meetings with Members of Congress and their staff, including staff of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and held a meeting with high-ranking USDA officials, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. Young and BIPOC farmer leaders were at the table calling for land access, climate action, farmer well-being support, USDA access and accountability, and a 2023 Farm Bill that serves them, their businesses, and their communities."

[Read on here.](#)



Welcome New & Renewing Members

Thank you to our NOFA-NH Members who became new members or renewed their memberships in March 2023.

New Members:

[Headwaters Homestead LLC](#)

Renewing Members:

[Windcrest Farm](#), [Good Earth Farm](#), [Work Song Farm](#), [Winter Street Farm](#), Frank Mitchell

Classifieds

Sweet Beet Market + Cafe Now Hiring! (Bradford, NH)

Posted April 18: Various opportunities, part time and full time hours available. Weekends needed most, but weekdays also needed. Feeding the community with farm fresh goods! 25% discount

on all products for employees and a meal credit with every shift! Learn more and apply: www.bit.ly/KFHapply

Auction: Farm Equipment & Estate Items (Online)

Posted April 18: Online Auction closes May 2, 2023 @ 10AM. Preview: April 27. 200 lots of estate items, including farm & garden, collectibles, machinery, sporting goods, furniture, and more. Highlights include: Allis Chalmers AC 5050, balers, mowers, 3PH attachments. Thomas Hirchak Co. 800-634-7653. (NH Lic. #3058). [Learn more](#).

Farmers seeking land for Vineyard & Winery (Warner, Bedford NH Area)

Posted March 31: We are young farmers seeking land for purchase for a vineyard & winery - minimum 3 acres, south or west facing, well-drained soil with access via town road. Cleared land in Warner/Bradford is desirable. Contact Nicholas Kimberly at nokvinonh@gmail.com with leads.

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center Seeks Lead Educator (East Thetford, VT)

Posted March 8: Assist in developing, managing, and facilitating our agriculturally and ecologically focused youth, family, and adult education programs. In this role, there is a strong focus on developing and delivering lessons and activities for our farm programs, of which our most popular is our summer camp. cedarcirclefarm.org/about/job/education-lead

Terra Organics is Hiring (Contoocook, NH)

Posted February 23: Hiring for farm crew positions, part-time, flexible hours. Help with all aspects of certified organic vegetable production is needed. Contact Denise Rico, terraorganicsnh@gmail.com.

Vegetable Ranch is Hiring Staff (Warner, NH)

Posted February 22: Great team of enthusiastic people, organic veggies, beautiful community! We are looking for staff with desire to learn, a passion for organics, and good work ethic. Potential for housing in a farmhouse on beautiful property. Email Molly at vegetableranch@gmail.com.

Handmade Skin Balms, Butters, & Salves from Berkana Wellness (Henniker, NH)

Posted February 22: www.berkanawellness.com, or ETSY store (the same name). I use my own herbs, or purchased organic ones. Local beeswax; other organic ingredients. NOFA members receive 8% discount.

Manage Your Own Vegetable Business (Tilton, Northfield NH)

Posted February 16: Exciting time to join in on the building of a new type of grocery story. Know your food (and the soil!) is the vision. Promoting organic, regenerative agriculture and education. Soil prep has begun. Infrastructure is in place. Housing is available. Biking trails and the Winnepesaukee River are at the door. Email Pierre and Judi at crossmillfarm@gmail.com.

Grow Your Profits

Posted February 28: Keeping honey bees as pollinators will increase your yield! White Mountain Apiary has everything you need to become a successful beekeeper. We offer online beekeeping classes, honey bees, queen bees, beekeeping equipment and support. Visit www.whitemountainapiary.com/store or call 603-444-6661 for more information

Upcoming Events

April 25, 2023 — [LGBTQ+ in the Food System](#) (UNH)

April 25, 2023 — [Spring Into Email Marketing: Farm Shares](#) (Local Food Marketplace)

April 27, 2023 — [Nature in Your Backyard Series](#), (UNH Extension)

April 27 - 28, 2023 — [In-Person Farm to Institution Summit](#), (FINE)

April 28, 2023 — [Grafton County Conservation District: Spring Planting and Pruning Workshop](#) (GCCD)

April 29, 2023 — [NOFA-NH's Organic Gardening Series: Truly No-Till Beds with Sheet Mulching](#) (In-Person)

May 5-6, 2023 — [NH Farm, Forest & Garden Expo](#), (NH Farm & Forest)
May 11, 2023 — [NH Statewide Food Gathering](#), (NH Food Alliance)
May 12, 2023 — [Farmer Resource Fair](#), (New Entry Sustainable Farming Project)
May 13, 2023 — [Brookford Farm Heifer Parade](#), (Brookford Farm)
May 13-14, 2023 — [Henniker Handmade & Homegrown](#), (Henniker Community Market)
May 20, 2023 — [Monadnock Grows Together: Easing Your Gardening](#), (CCCD & Healthy Home Habitats)
May 24, 2023 — [Back to School Gardening, Part 1](#), (ReTreeUS, NH Audubon & UNH Extension)
May 30-31, 2023 — [Organic Specialist Training for Crops](#), (Vermont Tech)
May 30-31, 2023 — [Organic Specialist Training for Livestock](#), (Vermont Tech)
June 3, 2023 — [NH Herb & Garden Day](#), (NH Herbal Network)
August 30, 2023 — [Back to School Gardening, Part 2](#), (ReTreeUS, NH Audubon & UNH Extension)
November 8-9, 2023 — [Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo](#), (Northeast Floriculture)

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A GUIDE TO LIVING LOCAL IN THE MONADNOCK REGION

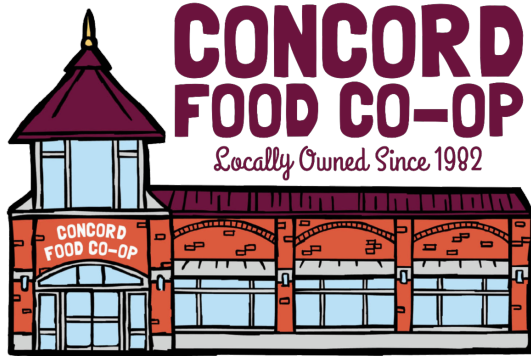


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