Mission Statement: NOFA-NH helps people build local, sustainable, healthy food systems by actively promoting regenerative, ecologically sound gardening, farming and land care practices for healthy communities.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 372 Members, including 102 new members
- 58 Educational workshops, hosted in-person and online
- 3,993 People reached through educational offerings
- 11 Educational videos produced, with 2,307 views in 2020
- 137 Bulk orders, 2,061 items sold, 67,054 pounds moved
- Established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and made public a formal, Board-approved DEI statement
- 48 Volunteers contributed their time
- 6,247 Social media followers

NOFA-NH’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF & CONTRACTORS

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Winter Conference

Forty-eight workshops reached 265 people through our Winter Conference, held on February 8th at Kearsarge Regional High School in North Sutton. Workshop topics ranged from farming and gardening practices to policy and advocacy to health and nutrition. Keynote speaker Steve Gabriel, co-author of “Farming the Woods” and author of “Silvopasture,” presented about silvopasture in a changing climate. Attendees also enjoyed the Green Market Fair with 30 exhibitors, food provided by Crust and Crumb Bakery (Concord), and live music by The DoBros.

The event was made possible by 36 sponsors, a grant from the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, and fees. Thank you to the Board Members and 10 volunteers who helped the event run smoothly.

Bulk Order Program

The Spring Bulk Order, a collective buying program for farmers and gardeners, had a record-breaking year in 2020. Over 2,000 items were sold and 67,000 pounds of product were safely distributed to 137 customers amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Products available through the Bulk Order program include: soil amendments, potting soil and compost, pest and weed control products, organic cover crop seed, animal nutrition, and other farming and gardening supplies.

Thank you to our host pick-up sites and volunteers! In 2020, 15 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

Forty-three shares from nine farms in four counties were distributed to 126 limited-income New Hampshire residents. Just over half (51%) of the shares went to families of three or more people.

The CRAFT of Farming

The CRAFT (Collaborate Regional Alliances for Farmer Training) program provides opportunities for peer-to-peer technical education, training, and networking. In place of on-farm tours in 2020, we pivoted to an online model. Six farm tour videos were produced and screened via Zoom during live online discussions and Q&A’s with the different farms. A total of 147 people attended, and the tours are now on YouTube with 1,127 views by the end of the year.

Thank you to the participating farms: Work Song Farm, Hip Peas Farm, Mermaid Hill Vineyard, Kearsarge Gore Farm, Hop N Hen Farm, and Stonewall Farm.

This program was funded by grants from Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement, Farm Aid, the Clif Bar Family Foundation, and the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

"Feeding the Family" Organic Gardening Series

Our 2nd Annual Feeding the Family Organic Gardening Series, held at the NH Audubon Massabesic Center in Auburn, began in March 2020 and was ultimately cancelled due to safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. As interest in home gardening surged during the first wave of the pandemic, the series' instructor, organic farmer Ron Christie of Living Earth Farm, taught a free garden planning workshop on Zoom.

We then produced 5 organic gardening video tutorials, made possible by the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation. Released bi-weekly from May to July, the videos are posted on our YouTube channel and had 1,180 total views by the end of 2020.

Why Organic Now? Virtual Panel Discussion

In November, we hosted a virtual panel discussion entitled "Why Organic Now? Linking Social Justice to Personal and Planetary Health," featuring leaders from around the state and region. Marita Canedo of Migrant Justice, Diana Carpinone of Non-Toxic Dover NH and Non-Toxic Communities, and Jameson Small of ORIS and Fresh Start Farms explored specific ways that localized, organic, regenerative growing and eating can contribute to the repair of unjust social structures, personal health, and the environment that sustains us. The event was free to all, thanks to the event sponsors: Littleton Food Co-op and Bona Fide Green Goods.
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

NH Feeding NH
During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring, NOFA-NH partnered with the NH Food Bank, NH Farm Bureau, and NH Food Alliance to create a program using CARES Act funding to provide locally grown food to those in need. The program connects food pantries with local farmers in their area to create partnerships and provide them with the funding to purchase more produce, fruit, dairy protein and more. In its inaugural year, 170 farms participated, providing 77 agencies with nearly 40,000 pounds of locally-grown food.

NH Gleans
NH Gleans is a statewide network of organizations working to increase the availability of fresh and local produce distributed through community organizations. NOFA-NH’s Gleaning Coordinator distributed over 300 lbs of produce and 400 dozen eggs to organizations in the Plymouth area and Grafton County from January to May. A generous grant from the Agnes M. Lindsay Trust and grant funds received through NH Gleans provided funding for this program.

NH Food Alliance
This statewide network engages and connects people and organizations dedicated to growing a thriving, fair, and sustainable local food system in the Granite State. NOFA-NH is an active member, and in 2020 we participated in regular meetings, brainstorming ways to strengthen the state’s local food system and making important connections with key organizations.

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 participate in monthly policy committee meetings, bi-monthly interstate council meetings, racial justice & equity committee meetings, and an annual retreat.

Other Partnerships
Select Board and staff members also actively participate in: the NH Food Access Coalition, the NH Food Alliance’s Climate Action Team, the NH School and Youth Gardening Network, and the NH Farm to School Network.
Testimony to the Stakeholder Advisory Board of the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery

In April, we were invited to submit testimony to the GOFERR (Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery), and to give our members' perspective on the use of the $1.25 billion in CARES act funding that was allocated to the state of New Hampshire. NOFA-NH advocated for small and mid-sized farms in written testimony. We also spearheaded the development of a sign-on letter for other organizations to ensure that small and mid-sized farms were not excluded from the assistance.

Developing Legislation in New Hampshire

Climate Resilience: NOFA-NH was involved in developing and supporting legislation intended to add climate resilience language to the County Conservation Districts’ legislative mandate. We have been active participants in NH Food Alliance’s Climate Action Team. We highlighted Organic Land Care in panel and workshop formats at our Winter Conference in conjunction with a grant obtained by the Merrimack County Conservation District.

Farm to School: NOFA-NH was one of the voices involved in drafting a bill designed to incentivize the purchase of local foods for New Hampshire's school children. This legislation will provide an extra state dollar for every three dollars of federal money that’s directed towards local foods for NH's school children.

Advocating for Local Farmers in Food Assistance

We were part of the team that founded NH Feeding NH, a program that pays local farmers to grow fresh, nutritious local food for food insecure families who are accessing food from the NH Food Bank and 400 associated food distributing agencies. With COVID monies and philanthropic grants, this has resulted in nearly $100,000 being invested in local farms, in just one year, to alleviate hunger in the Granite State.

Supporting Advocacy Efforts for Dignified Working Conditions in the Dairy Industry

NOFA-NH signed onto a letter supporting Migrant Justice and their Milk With Dignity Campaign, which advocates for dignified working conditions in dairy supply chains.

Testimonies Supporting Legislation at the State Level

NOFA-NH testified on January 15, 2020 in favor of HB 1638. The bill would provide state funding for increased SNAP benefits as an incentive for the purchase of fresh, locally produced food.

NOFA-NH advocated for organic land care practices, testifying on Feb 12, 2020 in favor of a number of bills relating to pesticide use: HB 1195, HB 1190, HB 1172, and HB 1196.

Supporting Legislation at the Federal Level

On April 8, 2020, NOFA-NH signed onto a letter from the Alliance to End Hunger outlining important priorities for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that had been left out of the COVID-19 response bills. The letter highlighted the importance of increasing SNAP benefits in the next (C4) bill, and was sent to Majority and Minority leaders of the House and Senate and the President, and included the Vice President, Secretary Purdue, and chairs/ranking members of House & Senate Agriculture committees.
THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS & DONORS

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation’s You Have Our Trust
New Hampshire Charitable Foundations’ Community Grants Operating Program
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Farm Aid
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement
The Beane Family Foundation
Earth Island Institute

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Co-op Food Stores • Monadnock Food Co-op • Stonyfield Organic • Nature’s Green Grocer • Pete and Gerry’s Organic Eggs • Fiddlehead • NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food • Whole Foods Market • Branch Hill Farm & Carl Siemon Family Charitable Trust • Colby Hill Inn • Belletetes Building Products • Country Three Corners • Spaulding Industrial Complex • Vermont Compost Company • Chelsea Green Publishing • Fedco Seeds • Neighboring Food Co-op • BCM Environmental & Land Law • Farm Credit East • Badger • Concord Food Co-op • Vermont Law School Center for Agriculture & Food Systems • WellsCroft Fence Systems • Coffin Cellars • High Mowing Organic Seeds • Terra Organics • New England Farmers Union • Johnny’s Organic Seeds • MainStreet BookEnds • Micro Mama’s • New Hampshire Audubon • Parker & Sons Coffee Roasting • Real Pickles • NCAT ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture • University of New Hampshire NH Agricultural Experiment Station • Greenvest • ReVision Energy • Merrimack County Conservation District • The Works Bakery Café • Revival Kitchen & Bar • Umami • Kearsarge Food Hub & Sweet Beet Market • Warner Public Market • Mermaid Hill Vineyard • Permaculture Association of the Northeast • Littleton Food Co-op • Bona Fide Green Goods • Republic Cafe