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Farm News

November 2018

A Message From the Director

This year marks the 10th anniversary since a group of Winchester residents came together to save Wright-Locke Farm. In these past ten years we have achieved that goal and we've accomplished a lot more.

Wright-Locke Farm is now a vibrant community asset, open to all, where people come together to enjoy a wide range of activities. We have witnessed a colossal outpouring of support, participation, and demand for what we offer. This year we:

- Produced and sold \$110,000 of organic fruit, veggies, eggs and flowers
- Offered education programs attended by over 3,000 children and adults
- Attracted over 7,000 people to our free public events like Family Farm Night
- Benefited from more than 10,000 hours of meaningful volunteer work

As stewards of the Farm, we have restored and maintained our historic Town-owned buildings. This year, we installed new windows and restored the exterior of the Squash House. With this work completed, we have now renovated and protected all our major buildings for the future.

We've done all this while keeping a balanced budget funded by earned revenues from agricultural sales, education tuition and event revenue, and supplemented by generous contributions from our many donors. **With no heated buildings and our New England weather, we accomplish all of this in just six months per year!** Because of that short window of time, our calendars are full and we have reached the capacity of what we can offer to the community.

In this newsletter, you will read about our plans for the All Seasons Barn -- a new, heated barn that will allow us to extend our programming year-round, increasing our impact and insuring the Farm's sustainability.

We hope you share our excitement about this next chapter of the Farm's future. Please join us in supporting this vision!

Sincerely,
Archie McIntyre
amcintyre@wlfarm.org



A Modern Barn Raising

Many people say they feel a sense of calm when they step onto the Farm. Sometimes it's a feeling of wonder or inspiration while soaking in the landscape or history. Still more say they love the feeling of true connection that they get from the Farm. How do you feel when you're here at Wright-Locke Farm? What if you could feel that all year long? What if we could share those feelings with more people?

Amidst the turmoil of everyday life, Wright-Locke Farm strives to provide a welcoming, engaging, and healing space to gather and create community. Perhaps you've also felt a sense of connection here -- to the soil, to nourishing food, to other beings, to yourself?

We connect people to nature so that they will value and protect it for a lifetime. We teach people from all walks of life how to grow food that nourishes both ourselves and the land. We also work diligently to build a broad and supportive community by welcoming people of all ages and abilities to visit, work, and volunteer.

However you came here, whatever your connection to the Farm, we hope to cultivate a sense of belonging for all.

The last ten years have proved that our community is eager for the opportunities we provide, but now we are feeling the pressure from the limitations of our facilities and seasonal schedule. We increasingly have to turn people away! So, how do we open our barn doors to more? How do we increase our impact and support our community's needs?

We come together to raise the All Seasons Barn at Wright-Locke Farm....



Wright-Locke Farm is free and open to all, everyday.
Visit, volunteer, and enjoy your local farm!

Barn Raising

Now is the Time for the All Seasons Barn

Your need to connect to nature, yourself, and your community doesn't stop in October, so why should the farm close up shop? Our community needs us year-round.

- 1) Being closed during the cooler months limits school partnerships. The Farm cannot operate any programs in the winter because we have no heated indoor spaces. We see so much potential to collaborate with schools from Pre-School to graduate level and beyond, but not operating on the academic calendar limits our abilities to work with schools.
- 2) Having no kitchen space restricts the types of impactful programming we can provide. Not only is a kitchen critical for cooking and nutrition education, but cooking and sharing food is an integral part of creating community -- the heart of Wright-Locke Farm's mission.



- 3) We always operate at the mercy of the weather. While the 1827 Barn is sufficient shelter for small groups, we must cancel larger community events and educational visits when the forecast is foreboding. With the calendar booked to the brim, we cannot accommodate new requests and innovative classes, and we can never double book programming for safety reasons. We receive so many requests for large group tours, local business service days, and farm activity days for entire school classes - but we have to turn most away due to space limitations.



Educate



Nourish



Connect



Sustain

We can do so much MORE with the All Seasons Barn. We will...

- **Educate leaders and educators of tomorrow** with internships, classes, job opportunities, and conferences for youth and adults hungry to learn. A year-round facility allows us to collaborate with schools and universities on an academic year schedule and build more efficient, long-lasting partnerships.
- **Provide cooking and nutrition education** with a teaching kitchen to better serve our existing community, collaborate with hospitals, patient groups, and other local food and social-justice organizations.
- **Provide twice the capacity for programming** and the ability to hold year-round programs. We won't have to turn away interested school groups or cancel community events for lack of a safe retreat from bad weather.
- **Improve accessibility** for special needs groups and those with mobility challenges so even more people can enjoy the Farm.
- **Sustain and steward the Farm for generations to come.** This building will foster sustainability on multiple fronts: year-round programming will stabilize our financial model and the building will be a key element in working towards becoming a Net Zero operation.



A Place For Everyone: *The Farm's Impact on Individual Lives*

A Place for Healing

Sheri Weber

(Has volunteered with teen daughter since 2013. They were at the finish line during the Boston Marathon Bombing.)

"The Farm became a safe place to turn to after we witnessed the devastation at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. We needed to get away from all of the coverage about the bombings and suspects on the run. My daughter, Lucie, helped with the children's program as a CIT and I started helping Adrienne, the farmer. It's such a great place, inclusive for everyone, nobody judges you. You might be with two older people, a third-grader, some city kids... **It's one of the places that makes Winchester special.**"



Lucie and Sheri with the Farm's staff and volunteer field crew.

A Place for Connection

Sarah Doyle

(Family has been involved for 5 years as chicken chore and field volunteers, Farm Ed participants, & CSA customers.)

"I'm amazed that the Farm's mission is always so clear and honored. It's a working farm, community-based, a deep part of Winchester's history, and it hasn't become overly commercialized. At Wright-Locke Farm **we feel a deep-rooted connection to the community.** My older two have become attached to Farmer Adrienne. Working with her has been so important for their social and emotional growth and their independence. When I'm at the Farm, I feel connected -- something good is happening."



The Doyle kids walking the Farm's goats at the En Ka Parade.

Support Your Farm by Making a Donation.

Thank You!

Donate online:

WLFarm.org/donate

Or send a check with this form

For Pledge Options for the All Seasons Barn, please contact Executive Director, Archie McIntyre, Email: amcintyre@wlfarm.org Phone: 781-760-1017

My Annual Support \$50 \$125 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2500

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- Join email list Become a Farm Friend and enjoy early registration for children's education programs (\$125)

Please make your check payable to Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Inc. and mail with this form to:

Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, Inc., P.O. Box 813, Winchester, MA 01890