OUR MISSION: We promote local agriculture and food access through our farming operations and educational programs, using practices that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable. We encourage healthy relationships between people, their food supply, and the land from which it grows.

Dear Friends,

Wow! Twenty years and going strong! What a thrill for Waltham Fields Community Farm to spend 2014 celebrating two decades of food access, farm education, community service, and responsible land management. And what a year it was, with record-breaking food assistance distributions, increased education offerings, extensive community collaborations, and engaging public events – including our annual free Farm Day festival and a 20th Anniversary Brunch on the farm. Amidst this strongest year ever for organic vegetable production and program delivery, 2014 was also a big one for our staff and Board of Directors to engage in deep reflection and forward thinking, resulting in a new three-year Strategic Plan for the organization (available on our website). The process provided a framework to take stock in our strengths, face challenges, talk with stakeholders, and vision for community impact and organizational sustainability as we forge ahead.

At the end of July, we said goodbye to long-time Farm Manager Amanda Cather, who moved to Maryland to start a farm of her own. Amanda was instrumental in growing our nonprofit’s efforts to meet fresh food needs, improve production efficiency and produce quality, advance regional farmer training, and build a great work culture – all components that our remaining staff recognize as so special to who we are and are proud to carry on. Throughout 2014 we also worked with the University of Massachusetts to develop plans for revitalizing our base of operations as a Center for Urban Sustainability, with the Lexington Community Farm Partnership (LexFarm) to help them begin to manage a new community farm for the town, and with our Youth Crew Jobs Initiative in expanding it from a pilot program to full summer employment – all activities that exemplify our continued dedication to advancing organic agriculture, economic opportunity, and community health. Thanks for your own efforts and support of Waltham Fields along these lines – here’s to another 20 years and more!

Sincerely,

Claire Kozower, Executive Director
2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- We surpassed $100,000 in value for Food Access, providing the largest amount ever of fresh, organically-grown produce for low-income households and assistance programs.

- Expanded our Youth Crew Jobs Initiative from last year’s 3-week pilot program to employment for six teenagers throughout the summer and fall.

- Promoted sustainable agriculture and farm viability through farm management of Lexington Community Farm, continued fiscal agency for the Waltham Farmers’ Market, steering committee participation with farmer training and farmer resource groups, and advocacy for creation of the UMass Center for Urban Sustainability in Waltham (at our base of operations).

- Received our largest contribution ever - a $65,000 Strategic Grant from the Clipper Ship Foundation to aid our infrastructure and farm stand development.

FINANCIAL STATUS

We began and ended 2014 in good financial standing, making annual contributions to our reserve accounts for capital purchases, employee leave, and emergencies. Our net operating surplus was $51,603.

We are pleased to continue working with accountant John M. Monticone, CPA, of Medford, MA, who will complete an audited review in accordance with nonprofit accounting regulations and adjust for non-cash expense items (such as depreciation) at that time. A copy of this audit is available from our office upon request.

Financial Statement for FY14 (cash basis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural income</td>
<td>Wages and benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$405,889</td>
<td>$547,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions</td>
<td>Agricultural expenses (non-salary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201,361</td>
<td>153,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>Organizational infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58,276</td>
<td>48,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Facilities, fees &amp; insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23,200</td>
<td>43,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service/program fees*</td>
<td>Budgeted contributions to reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177,775</td>
<td>24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise</td>
<td>Total expenses:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,045</td>
<td>$818,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_</td>
<td>Total revenue:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$870,549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes $157,677 from Lexington Community Farm Coalition for Lexington Community Farm management services, which was a straight reimbursement for personnel expenses (wages & benefits).
Farm Production Overview

The 2014 growing season was an excellent one; despite a good stretch of cooler summer nights, we had plenty of sunshine and fully functioning irrigation systems on all farm sites. One of the great outcomes of these factors was that we had a record-breaking year for food distribution. For the first time ever, we hit (and surpassed) our goal of providing 20% of our total vegetable production by both weight and value for community members in need of food assistance. We provided abundant value to shareholders in our CSA program – well over the 110% return we aim for – and were able to open up our distribution barn to the public as a farm stand, offering a nice variety of our own produce for sale in addition to a range of retail items from other local farms and producers. There were no major crop losses and careful attention was given to pest and disease control, in part due to our second year partnership with the UMass Extension IPM Advisory Group.

While we are always grateful for productive years, the impact on labor and infrastructure by such surpluses should also be acknowledged. Harvesting accounted for more labor hours than ever before and cold storage capacity was continually maxed out. The 2014 crop plan was an ambitious one with ample buffers built in. The fields were planted intensively and they graciously provided accordingly. Moving forward, we will continue our attempts to account for the inherent risk and unpredictability of farming in our crop plan, while striving towards balancing those factors with sound ecological decisions and land management, ensuring good working conditions for all farm staff and working within the limitations of current farm infrastructure.
**FARM HARVESTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Total Produce Harvested</th>
<th>Produce for Food Access Programs</th>
<th>Food Access as Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight (lbs.)</td>
<td>257,528</td>
<td>59,468</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Value</td>
<td>$666,857</td>
<td>$149,384</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2014 Total Farm Income: $405,889**

CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Revenue = $332,910*
Restaurant/Retail Produce Sales = $3,352
Products Sales from Other Farms/Producers = $39,547
Seedling Sale Revenue = $17,288
Income from Food Access Sales = $12,792**

*Our own harvests account for the large majority of our agricultural revenue, with 12% of our CSA value obtained through share partnerships with other farms. ½ Price CSA revenue for low-income households ($5,850) is included with Food Access revenue (see **)

**Most of the value of produce distributed through our food access programs is fundraised for and provided for free, but a small amount of income is made by offering produce at subsidized prices through our farm-to-school partnerships, ½ price CSA shares, and Outreach Market, where low-income customers that don’t have vouchers can pay $5/bag with cash or SNAP/EBT.

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**2014 Farm Highlights**

- For the first year ever, our two Assistant Growers took on their positions after being members of our field crew in previous years.

- Due to an all-around great growing season and a lot of hard working people, we had record food donations by both weight and value.

- Made two key equipment upgrades with the purchase of a Kress Finger Weeder mechanical cultivator and a new plastic mulch layer to improve efficiency and efficacy of weed control & bed preparation.

- Formed a new partnership with Waltham Boys and Girls Club to provide fresh produce for their daily Summer Meals Program.

- Increased our “Vegetable of the Month” partnership with Waltham Public Schools to include kale in December.

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**CSA Program - Community Supported Agriculture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number &amp; Type of Shares</th>
<th>Share Price</th>
<th>Ave. Retail Value Provided per Share</th>
<th>Ave. Pounds Provided per Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 Summer Shares – 20 wks.</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$953 Includes 100 shares from Picadilly Farm. Value includes $35/share of winter squash and potatoes from partner farms and $193 of pick your own.</td>
<td>346 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125 Winter Shares – Nov/Dec</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$289 Retail value includes $56/share of winter squash and potatoes from Atlas Farm and Maple Row Farm</td>
<td>126 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS

Waltham Fields Community Farm remains committed to ensuring that all people in our community, regardless of income, have access to fresh organic vegetables.

Bulk Donations: The top four crops for donation in 2014 (by weight) were cabbage (6,175 pounds), cucumbers (6,808 pounds), lettuce (4,814 pounds), and carrots (9,037 pounds). Throughout the season, we made weekly donations to Food for Free for the 20th year in a row (and were proud to honor this nonprofit at our 20th Anniversary Brunch as our longest running food access partner)! Donations were also made to Greater Boston Food Bank and the Boston Area Gleaners, who helped to provide harvest labor. The majority of the donated produce went to residents and meal programs in Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, with smaller quantities distributed throughout the larger Greater Boston region.

Waltham Fields Outreach Market: Our Outreach Market for low income families and individuals continued to be a high-demand program, with $54,966 worth of produce distributed in 2014. This is an increase of over $11,000 in distributed produce from last year’s Market. Overall, 76% of weekly produce allotments were paid $5 for, 19% was through redemption of vouchers we provide to local social service agencies for distribution to their clientele, and 4% was purchased as $5 SNAP/Food Stamps benefits payments. The average value per allotment of produce per week was $39.43. Of the total $54K in value distributed, we brought in just under $6K in revenue from the $5 cash and SNAP purchases.

Food for All ½ Price Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Shares: The number of low-income households participating in our subsidized Food for All CSA program grew from 11 to 17, but still fell a little short of our goal of providing twenty half-price shares.

Farm-to-School Distributions: WFCF provided the Waltham Public School cafeterias with the Massachusetts Farm to School Project’s featured vegetable for four months in 2014, with the new addition of about 200 pounds of kale provided in December. We also began a partnership with the Waltham Boys and Girls Club, who was granted the Department of Education’s summer meals program contract. Farm fresh produce, ranging from carrots to kohlrabi, was included in those meals!

Healthy Waltham Nutrition Education Initiatives: Collaborations with Healthy Waltham continued, with produce from our farm supplying afterschool and summer cooking/nutrition education programs and special holiday meals for the Waltham Family School and other low-income community groups.

Food Access Produce Distribution by Program
Total Value = $149,384
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Learning Garden Programs & Public Outreach: We reached a total of 1,146 people (833 children and 313 adults) this season through a range of free and tuition-based on-farm education programs - including three seasons of youth and family programming, adult workshops, on-farm events and a handful of off-farm initiatives as well, such as participating on speaker panels and holding activity tables at community events. Our own free annual Farm Day festival - a celebration of local agriculture and the Massachusetts Harvest for Students Week - was a big success, with numerous collaborating organizations and businesses and approximately 400 people enjoying hands-on farm activities, food samples, art projects and live music.

Our tuition-based Learning Garden programs brought in earned income of $15,464 and reached 634 children through after-school programs, summer sessions, and farm visit opportunities for school and community groups. Of this amount, 180 participants received either a reduction in fees or attended for free, amounting $1,350 worth of scholarship assistance to ensure that no one was turned away due to lack of ability to pay.

“My children wanted to make the recipes they made at camp. They were excited to tell me how to prepare some of the dishes they made. They loved bringing home food they had harvested.” - Parent of Garden Explorers participant

Service Learning/Volunteering:
We are so grateful for the support of 654 volunteers, who put in 1,946 hours helping in the fields, the office, or with event coordination. Nearly three dozen community-based and corporate groups contributed time in the greenhouses and fields, and our drop-in hours on Fridays and Saturdays were popular with individuals, with 100 people participating more than once over the course of the season. Our new “Crop Mob” volunteer days to encourage more people to help during critical weeding times, with refreshments afterwards. These brought in several new volunteers and were very enjoyable as well as very productive!

Youth Crew Jobs Initiative: Six teens participated in our first Youth Crew paid work program, expanded from a three-week pilot program in 2013 to more extensive summer employment and fall hours after school and on Saturdays to help with our Outreach Market, CSA distributions, and educational events. In addition to providing early work experiences, the Youth Crew program educates about food production, food justice, environmental science, and nutrition.

Farmer Training: After two years in our on-farm farmer training program, we were so pleased to have Zannah Porter join us as a full-time Farm Manager in 2014, and to bring on Anna Kelchlin as a first-year Assistant Grower in the program after working with us as a Field Crew member in 2012. Our regional work continues with steering committee participation for the Beginning Farmers Network of Massachusetts (BFN/Mass) and Eastern Massachusetts Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (eMassCRAFT), and partnership programming with UMass Extension under the United States Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency’s Targeted States grant initiative.
THANKS TO OUR 2014 DONORS
The food access and education programs of Waltham Fields Community Farm are made possible through both financial and in-kind gifts from hundreds of individuals, businesses, community organizations and foundations. **We are grateful to everyone who contributed to our work through donations and participation in our fundraising events.**

Local Business Heroes

Additional Business and Community Support
Additional Business and Community Support (Continued)


Foundation and Corporate Grant Support


Individual Support above $30 Organizational Membership

Individual Support above $30 Organizational Membership (Continued)

2015 FREE PUBLIC EVENTS
ALL ARE WELCOME!

~ Waltham Farm Day ~
Sat., September 26\textsuperscript{th} (rain or shine), 2-5pm

~ Harvest Potluck/Annual Meeting ~
Thurs., Nov. 12\textsuperscript{th}, 5:30-7:30pm

Check our website for a full listing of programs and events

Waltham Fields Community Farm
Community Farms Outreach, Inc.
240 Beaver St. Waltham, MA 02452
(781) 899-2403 www.communityfarms.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK - CHECK OUT OUR BLOG