Waltham Fields Community Farm Charity
Harvest Up and Running!
by Dee Kricker, President, Community Farms Outreach Board of Directors

The first delivery of spinach, kale, and other greens was made to the Waltham Salvation Army on Monday, June 9th. A larger harvest was distributed on Wednesday, June 11, including 300-400 heads of lettuce and large amounts of spinach that were distributed to the Waltham Salvation Army, the Waltham Red Cross and Bristol Lodge Family Shelters. The Salvation Army serves a daily hot lunch to between 60-80 adults and has a daily food pantry serving 400 households a month. The Red Cross, servicing thirty communities in MetroWest, provides family-sized bags of groceries to 65+ households per week on Thursdays. Bristol Lodge provides three meals daily in their shelters for homeless persons from a men’s shelter, a women and children’s shelter, and a family shelter. There are 100 young children being fed in the women and children’s shelter.

For the remainder of June, we have scheduled regular Monday and Wednesday charity harvests and distributions. The Produce Donation Committee has met with the coordinators and visited each of these three agencies to gather the information to plan a more deliberate produce distribution effort this year. Our goal is to meet the fresh produce needs of these agencies for the entire season.

*It’s not always possible to know in time for publication exactly what will be in the share each week, but your share is likely to contain at least some, if not all, of the vegetables in the list.

WHAT'S IN THE SHARE*
- arugula
- Chinese cabbage
- Hakurei turnips
- lettuce
- radishes
- red Russian kale
- spicy greens
- spinach

Urgent Appeal for Action: Farm's UMass Extension Site at Risk
If you haven’t yet contacted your legislator about the House-Senate Budget Conference Committee deliberations on the UMass budget, please consider doing so today. If the UMass budget cuts are increased more than the 12% in the Senate’s version of the budget, the Field Station may be closed or rents increase so dramatically that we will be unable to continue renting land there. All you have to say is “I want to you to oppose further cuts for UMass and in particular Extension services. Hold the reductions at 12%.” Give them your name and town. They don’t want to have a long conversation with you, they’re just tallying the calls.

An urgent meeting of the Friends of Cornelia Warren Farm has been scheduled for Thursday, June 19 at 7pm at the Waltham site – directions to our farm are available at http://www.communityfarms.org/a-directions.htm. CFO members and shareholders are invited to attend this meeting. It will address the budget cuts facing UMass Extension, the possible consequences to CFO as well as all other tenants on this site and what we can do to help. Any questions about the meeting can be directed to Dee Kricker (kricker@theworld.com).

Continued...

Ed. note: An acquaintance once described turnips as “donkey food.” Obviously he never had the pleasure of one of our Hakurei turnips! These "salad turnips" are crisp, sweet, and mild. Enjoy!
Growing season, as best we can.

We have several members who have volunteered to drive produce from the farm to the agencies: Toby Peterson, Nora Bloch, Janet Yaracaris and Betsy Blagdon. Oakes Plimpton will help out, too. Produce will be picked up at the farm on Monday and Weds. at 9:30 AM and driven to the WSA. Another pick up is at noon on Wednesdays to be delivered to the Red Cross. Bristol Lodge has a van and will pick up at the farm on Mondays and Wednesdays. When we have large surpluses of vegetables, some will be delivered to the Red Cross who will drive the extra produce back to their Boston location on their return run Thursday afternoons. As the summer progresses and we get huge amounts of tomatoes, etc., Food For Free will come out with a truck to pick up and distribute to hunger relief agencies in greater Boston. We have plans to deliver the leftover CSA share veggies, as well.

FARM-RELATED HAPPENINGS

Thursday, June 19, Urgent meeting of the Friends of Cornelia Warren Farm. See article in this newsletter.
Saturday, June 21, Summer Solstice
Sunday, June 22, Farm Safety Training with John, 4:00. Open to everyone, strongly recommended for regular fieldwork volunteers.

Wednesday, July 2, CRAFT at Appleton Farm, 3:00-5:30, potluck dinner on the beach afterwards. Open to regular volunteers, staff and wanna-be farmers. See http://www.emasscraft.org/ for details.
Sunday, July 20, 3rd Sunday Gathering at the farm, byo picnic and beverage, 12:30.
Monday, July 21, CFO Board of Directors Meeting, 8pm at the farm.

August 8-10, NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association) summer conference in Amherst. See http://www.nofamass.org for details.

* Sundays, 10am and 1:30pm • Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays 9am • Wednesdays, 10:30am
Brief Orientations to Fieldwork - Every week beginning the week of May 4th, these short orientations will provide a review of farm safety and instructions on specific farming tasks scheduled for the day. Rain or shine.

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