



2016 Annual Report

Lexington Community Farm is a non-profit, working farm connecting the community with local food and sustainable practices while preserving historic farmland. In 2016, Lexington Community Farm Coalition (LexFarm)'s third year operating the farm, the organization built the foundation for a staff-run operation to better serve this mission.

On the Farm This year, we grew produce, herbs, and flowers on an increased portion of the farm's arable land and actively managed the remainder to address weed pressure and soil disease.

Farm Manager Tim Hines was joined by Assistant Farm Manager Elena Coleman. Tim and Elena started seedlings in the greenhouse for a spring seedling sale and to transplant to the fields. 200 CSA shareholders, and 50 flower shareholders, enjoyed market-style pickup of vegetables in the farm stand and pick-your-own vegetables, herbs, and flowers in the fields. LexFarm grew the majority of CSA produce and supplemented with produce from Picadilly Farm. The farm stand offered produce and products grown on site and from other local farms and vendors.

In December, farm staff and the Property Committee reskinned the large hoop house, which will allow for extended growing seasons.

Providing Access to Healthy Food for All Community Members LexFarm donated \$15,670 of produce to area food pantries and other organizations that help individuals and families in need. We accepted and offered to match SNAP payments in the farm stand.

Growing an Organization LexFarm continued the process of strategic planning begun in 2015, through a generous grant from Community Endowment of Lexington. With the help of Adviza Consulting, LexFarm defined three near-term strategic priorities:

1. Operate an economically viable and environmentally sustainable farm.
2. Transition to an organizational structure where paid farm leaders manage daily operations and programs with support from volunteer leaders.
3. Engage and retain community support in the farm to ensure its long-term success.

LexFarm restated its staff, board, and committee roles and responsibilities and developed a plan to address these priorities.

The continued support of members and foundations will allow LexFarm to grow the farm sustainably, strengthen the organization, and develop its education, volunteer, and membership programs.

Educating LexFarm offered volunteer-run educational programming and events to a wide range of participants. Families enjoyed fresh produce, learned to save seeds, and carded alpaca wool from our neighbor SLK Fields at the annual Block Party and Harvest Festival.

Our Members and Volunteers LexFarm membership continued to engage members from Lexington, Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville, and other neighboring towns, with a newsletter, programs, and many opportunities to volunteer. LexFarm developed its volunteer program under the leadership of Gretta Anderson with grant funding from Adobe Foundation.

Lexington Community Farm in 2016 by the Numbers

- **433** member households ● **200** CSA shares
- **\$45,000** in farm stand sales ● **\$15,670** produce donated
- **\$56,210** in membership fees and donations
- **234** volunteers ● **3810** volunteer hours

A Look Ahead at 2017 Tim Hines and Elena Colman, in her new position as production manager, will expand their roles as we transition from a volunteer-run to a staff-run organization. Tim and Elena will manage the newsletter, events, and volunteering, in addition to running the farm and farm stand. They will also relieve volunteers of administrative and behind-the-scenes tasks.

LexFarm is actively recruiting members for its committees – the Development Committee, Audit Committee, Community Education & Engagement Committee, and the Property & Agriculture Committee. 2017 committee activities include: long-term education planning; redesigning the website; and scoping options for refreshing the farm stand building.

LexFarm manages soil health, controls weeds, and grows produce using organic practices. Having achieved the mandated three-years of record-keeping on these practices, LexFarm will apply for organic certification in the Spring.

Lexington Community Farm will offer 200 CSA shares, with a larger portion of the produce grown on the farm and the remainder again provided by Picadilly Farm. As begun in 2016, full share and ten-week shares will be offered, as will flower shares. The farm stand will continue to offer seedlings (this year with an option to preorder), produce, and local products.

Lexington Community Farm

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For more information, to sign up for our newsletter or to become a member, go to: www.lexfarm.org.