



2021 Annual Report

Lexington Community Farm (LexFarm) is a non-profit, working farm connecting the community with local food and sustainable practices while preserving historic farmland. In 2021, LexFarm celebrated its eighth year of farming, and achieved a surplus for the third year.

On the Farm Farm Managers Emmy Smela and Allison Ostrowski and three farm crew:

- Offered 200 Summer produce CSA shares, 60 Flower shares, and 75 Fall produce shares, same as in 2020. Sold out in 10 days!
- Online seedling sale sold out much more quickly.
- Increased the number of no-till fields
- Planted full season in the glass greenhouse
- Welcomed volunteers back for weekly farming projects
- Farm crew met higher demand for locally grown produce, despite lower yields in 1 flooded field.
- Farmstand gross sales rose 26%, even with pandemic-related occupancy limits.
- Farm stand offered consistent hours weekly and extended hours in the fall.
- Farmstand staff met higher than usual demand for value-added products sold in the farmstand.
- Increased interest in locally grown food drove newsletter subscriptions up by 11%.

Providing Access to Healthy Food for All Community Members:

- Donated \$28,193 worth of produce to rescue partners FoodLink & Boston Area Gleaners to help individuals and families in need, 15% of LexFarm's total produce sales.
- Approved by MA to offer subsidized CSA shares to SNAP recipients, starting with 4 shares.
- Donated \$1,000 in seedlings to an urban farming initiative that promotes food justice through community gardening
- Facilitated \$7585 in reimbursements for local produce through the SNAP program, twice as much as in 2020.

Educating/Events

- Operated spring/summer youth farm education, through partner Wright-Locke Farm, in LexFarm's learning garden.
- Operated our own fall youth education program.
- Held 2 free outdoor multicultural concerts, supported in part by a Lexington Council for the Arts grant
- Over 700 adults and children attended our annual Harvest Festival, enjoying many family activities and information booths from area environmental non-profits.
- LexFarm hosted its first Artist in Residence to celebrate local artists. In NOURISH, local dance artist Jessica Roseman explored creative connections between dance, racial justice, and growing food at monthly sessions on the farm for visitors.

Changes at our Organization

Staff Hired Executive Director Pamela Tames to take over operations management, communications, outreach and fundraising. Hired a new farmstand manager, Alexandra Wolf and farmstand assistants to help with increased business.

The Board Completed a 3-year strategic planning project, working with pro bono services from a professional management consulting group, SOAR, to support this work.

Lexington Community Farm in 2021 by the Numbers

- **436** member households • **200** Summer CSA shares
 - **75** fall CSA shares • **75** flower CSA shares
- **over \$226,000** in farm stand sales (including seedlings)
 - **\$28,000** produce donated
- **\$127,000** in membership fees and donations
 - **250** On-Farm Volunteers

A Look Ahead at 2022

We said goodbye and thank you to Farm Manager Emmy Smela who worked at LexFarm for 4 years. She and co-manager Allison Ostrowski have guided our move to no-till farming, seeking to improve soil health and increase our yields.

We welcome back Miranda Lachman, LexFarm's 2021 Assistant Grower, Miranda will serve as Assistant Farm Manager in 2022, and will share farming responsibilities with Farm Manager, Allison Ostrowski. Alexandra Wolf will return as farmstand manager.

LexFarm will increase staffing in the field and in the farmstand to strengthen our operations and customer experience. We also will maintain consistent farmstand hours, open the store one month early in May, and remain open through mid-December, continuing to offer seedlings, produce and local products. In January 2022, Lexington Community Farm offered and sold out of the same number of Summer, Fall and flower CSA shares as in 2021.

The Board approved the purchase of farming equipment and implements to more efficiently farm using no-till techniques. The Board also approved the purchase of additional cold storage units to be able to increase offerings in the farmstand.

The LexFarm Board welcomes new people to join the board, committees and projects. Communications, advocacy and fundraising are just a few areas of interest. LexFarm will continue to manage soil health, control weeds, and grow produce using organic practices and will maintain its organic certification in 2022. The volunteer program will be expanded to include gleaners.

We look forward to seeing you at LexFarm in 2022!