

## In the Spotlight...

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**Our Mission** – Berkshire Grown supports local agriculture as a vital part of our community. We do this by expanding markets for locally grown products; establishing local food and farm networks; increasing public awareness through education and outreach; and encouraging sound agricultural policy. We work hard to make locally-grown food accessible community-wide.

**Our Background** – Berkshire Grown's motto is "Keep Farmers Farming." For 20+ years we have worked to strengthen the regional food economy, promoting local agriculture as a vital part of our community. Berkshire Grown is proud to be part of the Massachusetts Coalition for Local Food and Farms working in all regions of Massachusetts to strengthen local agriculture and increase the amount of local food eaten by Massachusetts residents.

### **Our Blueprint for Success**

- Our Share the Bounty Program purchases CSA shares from 22 local farms & gets the local produce, meat, and eggs delivered to 11 food sites in the Berkshires.
- The Farm to Food Access program supports local farmers with large scale contracts to provide locally grown produce, meat and eggs to Berkshire families facing food insecurity.
- We produce eight winter farmers markets (November – April) to extend the market season for farmers and the community. These markets both increase financial viability of farmers and increase access to locally grown food for the community. At these markets we provide a 1:1 match of SNAP and HIP, which greatly increases low income shoppers' ability to buy local, fresh, nutrient-dense food.
- With our annual Guide to Local Food & Farms, we inform the community about where to find local food, farms, farmers markets and community food pantries.
- We help local farmers sustain and improve their business practices by offering educational workshops, networking events, one-on-one technical assistance, and farmer mentoring programs, all of which help farmers strengthen their capacity and grow their businesses.

### **Contact Information –**

#### **Berkshire Grown**

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