



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Celebrating 50 years of NOFA!

**Mission Statement:** NOFA-NH actively promotes organic, regenerative, ecologically sound farming, gardening, eating, and land care practices for healthy communities. We help people build local, just, and sustainable food systems.

- 421 Members, including 96 new members
- 35 Educational workshops, hosted in-person and online
- 44 Educational videos produced
- 4,000+ People reached through educational offerings
- 202 Bulk Orders, 3,481 items sold, 122,000 pounds of product moved
- 61 Volunteers
- 970 New email subscribers & social media followers
- Published a [Five Year Strategic Plan](#)



## NOFA-NH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF & CONTRACTORS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karl Johnson, President (Apr-Dec)  
Laura Hartz, President (Jan-Mar)  
Edith Pucci Couchman, Vice President  
Steve Forde, Treasurer  
Joan O'Connor, Secretary (Apr-Dec)  
John Martin, Secretary (Jan-Mar)

Julie Davenson  
Kate Dobrowski  
Jennifer Robinson  
Bill Wardwell  
Deneé Woods

### STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Laura Angers  
Chadley Kolb  
Nikki Kolb  
Denise Rico  
Nancy Voorhis

# HISTORY OF NOFA

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In 1971, Samuel Kaymen and a group of young environmentalists and concerned citizens started the Northeast Organic Farming Association. Since that time, the organization has grown, with branches in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. The NOFA Interstate Council continues to do the work of policy and legislation at a national level, while each of the subsidiaries do their part to support the organic agricultural mission in their respective states. NOFA-NH is proud to be a founding chapter along with our neighbors at NOFA-VT.

To commemorate our 50th anniversary, we developed a “Conversations with the Founders” video series featuring early board members, founders and volunteers, as well as a [50th Anniversary archive](#).

## Conversations with the Founders Video Series

We were delighted to speak with a number of NOFA's founders, early volunteers, members and board members in honor of our 50th anniversary. Hear from those who seeded the movement about the most important things NOFA accomplished in its first 50 years, our most pressing tasks for the future, advice for beginning farmers, favorite memories, overcoming hardships, and so much more.



## Founders Featured

- Samuel Kaymen – Founder of NOFA and Founder of Stonyfield
- Paul Doscher – Early NOFA volunteer, board chair, and farmer at Windcrest Farm
- Timothy Meeh & Jill McCullough – Early NOFA volunteers, board members & farmers at North Family Farm
- Rick Estes – Early NOFA board president and farmer
- Chuck Cox – Early NOFA board member and farmer at Tuckaway Farm
- Gary Hirshberg – Early NOFA volunteer; early partner, former CEO and Chair of Stonyfield
- Kirke Olson – Early NOFA board member, conference volunteer and homestead farmer
- Mary (Shields) Kerwin – Early NOFA educator and farmer

We are grateful to the many individuals who helped grow NOFA and the organic farming community in New Hampshire through the years.

[Watch the Videos & Visit the Archive](#)



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# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## Winter Conference

14 workshops reached 165 attendees through our 19th annual Winter Conference, held virtually February 13th-14th. Workshop topics included soil health, ecosystem balance, food justice, organic seeds, land access, and more. Keynote speaker Mukhtar Idhow, executive director of the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS), explored how ORIS is working to cultivate stewardship, health, harmony, and resilience in New Hampshire through sustainable agriculture, food access, and economic opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided unique challenges and opportunities for our first ever virtual Winter Conference. The Green Market Fair was held virtually, and online workshops were recorded, giving registrants who were unable to initially attend a chance to access the sessions later, furthering our educational reach.



## Bulk Order Program

The Spring Bulk Order, a collective buying program for farmers and gardeners, had a record-breaking year in 2021. Over 3,480 items were sold and 122,000 pounds of farming and gardening supplies were safely distributed to 202 customers amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thank you to our host pick-up sites and volunteers! In 2021, 36 volunteers helped organize, distribute, and load orders at Belletetes in Andover, Country Three Corners in Weare, and the Spaulding Industrial Complex in Rochester.



## Farm Share Program

We partnered with 11 farms in 7 counties to provide 40 subsidized CSA shares to 122 low-income NH residents through our 2021 Farm Share Program. 53% of shares went to families of 3 or more and 47% of those served were children or elders. Participating farms included Abenaki Springs Farm, Brookford Farm, Hip Peas Farm, Local Harvest CSA, Mountain Heartbeet, Picadilly Farm, Pork Hill Farm, Stonewall Farm, Stout Oak Farm, Winter Street Farm, and Worksong Farm.



Private donations and our second annual Share the Bounty Day, held September 19, 2020, raised \$13,676 for the 2021 program. Thank you to our Share the Bounty Day partners and program sponsors: Monadnock Food Co-op, Co-op Food Stores, Concord Food Co-op, Merrimack County Savings Bank, The Works Bakery Café, Republic Cafe, Warner Public Market, Revival Kitchen & Bar, and Sweet Beet Market at Kearsarge Food Hub.



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## The CRAFT of Farming (Collaborative Regional Alliances for Farmer Training)

The CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliances for Farmer Training) program provides opportunities for peer-to-peer technical education, training, and networking. In 2021, we returned to in-person, outdoor, on-farm tours. We connected farmers across NH with 6 farm tours in 5 counties. Tours covered land access, no-till practices, intensive growing in small spaces, community partnerships, farm diversification, sustainable maple production, and more.



Thank you to the participating farms and collaborating organizations: Winter Street Farm, SHARA Vineyards, Winnepesaukee Woods Farm & Busy Lizzie's Blooms, Mountain Heartbeet, Stonewall Farm, North Family Farm, Vital Communities, and Land for Good. This program was made possible by funding from Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement.

## "Feeding the Family" Organic Gardening Series

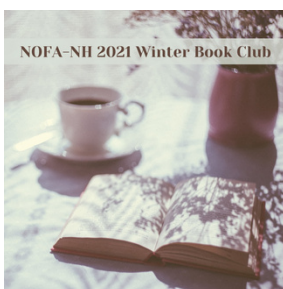


Our 3rd Annual "Feeding the Family" Organic Gardening Series included 15 virtual workshops from February to October, spanning the entire growing season, with 417 attendees across New Hampshire and the Northeast. Workshop topics included garden planning, container gardening, transplants, healthy soil, pests, four season gardening, and so much more. Low and no cost tickets were available to learners in need. Thank you to our program sponsors: NHEC Foundation and Merrimack County Savings Bank.



## "Kiss the Ground" Screening & Panel

In collaboration with Seacoast NH Permaculture, we hosted a free screening of the documentary film "Kiss the Ground," followed by a panel discussion with over 120 attendees. Panelists included Julie Davenson of Stonewall Farm, Julie Snorek of Dartmouth College, Ramblin Farmers Logan and Cheezy, and Ron Werner of the League of Conservation Voters.



## Book Studies: *Who Really Feeds the World?* and *Think Like a Commoner*

In another combined effort with Seacoast NH Permaculture, NOFA-NH facilitated two 5-part book studies in 2021.

These studies and their participants dove into *Who Really Feeds the World?* by Vandana Shiva and *Think Like a Commoner: A Short Introduction to the Life of the Commons* by David Bollier.



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# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## "Why Choose Local Organic?" Brochure & Social Media Campaign

In 2021, our Education Committee developed the "Why Choose Local Organic?" brochure and social media campaign to share the many reasons to use our buying power to support local, organic agriculture and to open the conversation to the public.

From better taste and higher quality, to bolstering regional economic vitality, to actively supporting sustainable, regenerative practices, and cultivating community, the reasons for supporting local organic are vast and layered.

The "Why Choose Local Organic?" social media campaign garnered 200 direct engagements and was viewed by hundreds more. NOFA-NH continues to use our "Why Choose Local Organic?" brochure at events to connect with community members and continue the dialog about the importance of buying local organic.



## Five Year Strategic Plan: 2021-2026

The importance of a resilient, equitable, and healthy organic New Hampshire food system has been highlighted by the historic events of 2020, which exposed major flaws in a globalized food chain largely dependent on industrial agriculture.

Our intention is to continue amplifying our work of fostering ecologically sound, just food systems in New Hampshire and the Northeast.

Our strategic goals for the next 5 years include:

1. Increase public awareness and commitment to the benefits of organic practices.
2. Increase the impact and visibility of NOFA-NH's educational offerings.
3. Support resilience, security, and sustainability at every level of the food chain.
4. Promote diversity, equity and racial justice in our organization and the organic community.
5. Improve NOFA-NH's financial health to allow it to transition from a Board-led organization to a staff-led organization.

[Download the Strategic Plan Here](#)



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# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

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## NH Feeding NH

During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, NOFA-NH partnered with the NH Food Bank, NH Farm Bureau, and NH Food Alliance to create a program using CARES Act funding to provide locally grown food to those in need. The program connects food pantries with farmers in their area to create partnerships and provide them with the funding to purchase local produce, fruit, dairy, protein and more. In its second year, 195 farms participated, providing 117 agencies with over 85,000 pounds of locally-grown food.



## NH Food Alliance

This statewide network engages and connects people and organizations dedicated to growing a thriving, fair, and sustainable local food system in the Granite State. NOFA-NH is an active member, and in 2021 we became part of the NH Food Alliance's Network Leadership Team and continued to participate in the NH Food Alliance's Racial Equity Team. We also partnered in a film screening and panel discussion of the documentary "Shadows Fall North," hosted by the NH Food Alliance and the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire.



## NH Food Access Coalition

The NH Food Access Coalition brings together public health and food system professionals to develop and advocate for policy change to ensure food security for all in New Hampshire. In 2021, NOFA-NH participated in monthly meetings to build relationships and strategize about how to use our collective voice to influence policy change.

## NOFA Interstate Council

The NOFA Interstate Council provides coordination between NOFA's seven state chapters, conducts the annual NOFA Summer Conference and acts as an umbrella organization for projects of collective concern to NOFA chapters, including public policy. NOFA-NH board and staff members participate in monthly policy committee meetings, bi-monthly interstate council meetings, racial justice & equity committee meetings, and an annual retreat.



## CT NOFA & FMPP Grant

We collaborated on a three-year USDA grant led by CT NOFA to launch a Farm Share program in each NOFA state chapter and support community food security across the region through education and outreach.



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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# POLICY & ADVOCACY

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## **HB 199: An Act Including Soil Health and Soil Conservation in the State Soil Conservation Plan**

Members of NOFA-NH's Policy Committee, representatives of the New England Farmers Union, Stonyfield Organic, Megafood, Stonewall Farm, and others helped to draft the language of HB 199. The act, which was introduced by Representative Bixby of District 17 (Strafford County), passed the state House and Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Sununu on July 30, 2021. The legislation explicitly expands the mandate of the state's ten county Conservation Districts to encourage practices that contribute to biologically active, healthy soils and officially recognizes the capacity of such soils to increase drought resistance and climate resilience.

## **HB 1657: Local Food For Local Schools Reimbursement Bill**

Rep. Alexis Simpson (Exeter) with the sponsorship of 10 other NH legislators including Rep. Megan Murray (Amherst) introduced a Local Foods for Local Schools Reimbursement Bill. The bill was largely drafted by the NH Farm to School Network, an organization in which NOFA-NH participates. The bill incentivizes school nutrition directors to channel more incoming federal school meal dollars towards the purchase of fresh, locally produced foods for breakfast and lunch services in cafeterias across the state. It would boost youth health and wellness, and increase economic opportunities for local farmers. NOFA-NH organized a formal webinar as well as additional public outreach for the bill, and will continue to support a new version of this proposed legislation next year.

## **Northeast Dairy Task Force**

We participated in the Northeast Dairy Task Force to address the organic dairy crisis and advocate for the 135 Northeast organic dairies dropped by Horizon Organic Milk (Danone) and Maple Hill Creamery. The task force published extensive recommendations to the USDA in December of 2021 addressing the Northeast Dairy crisis in collaboration with 27 agricultural organizations across the country.

## **NH Agricultural Policy Reform Forum**

The Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition, NH Food Alliance, League of Conservation Voters, and NOFA-NH joined forces to produce the "2021 NH Agricultural Policy" forum, held on November 15, 2021. During this free, online event, NH Representative Annie Kuster provided keynote remarks focused on food security and access, climate resiliency and opportunities to deliver climate solutions as they relate to agriculture, and the bolstering of regional food systems.

## **Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity Tour**

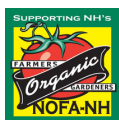
We co-sponsored a virtual stop on the relaunched Dignity Tour in October of 2021, promoting Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity program with the Monadnock Food Co-op and Community Kitchen.

## **NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, & Food Organic Certification Transition**

We supported farmers in need transitioning from NH DAMF organic certification to other entities and worked with legislators to introduce a bill that, although not successful, would continue to support all organic certification scopes at NH DAMF.

## **Letters of Support**

Throughout 2021, we signed letters of support advocating for organic dairies, co-op financing, pollinator health, farmworker protections, and more, available here: [www.nofanh.org/action-alerts-resources](http://www.nofanh.org/action-alerts-resources).



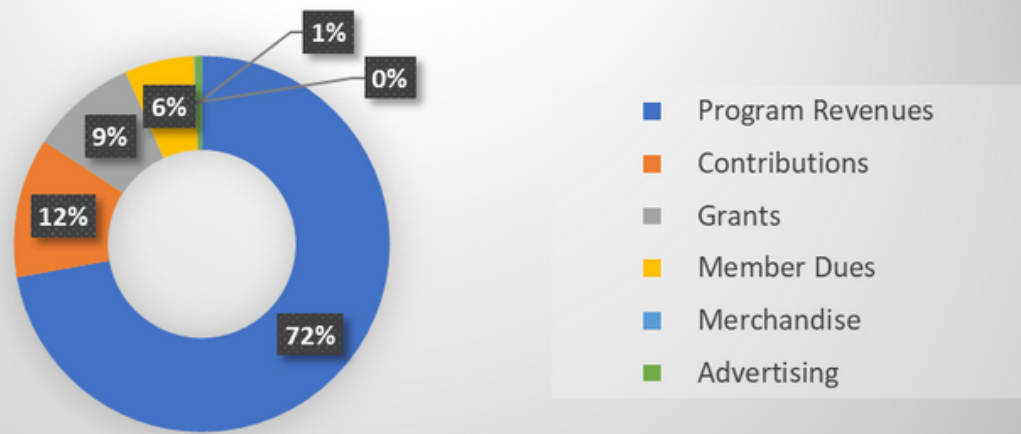
## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

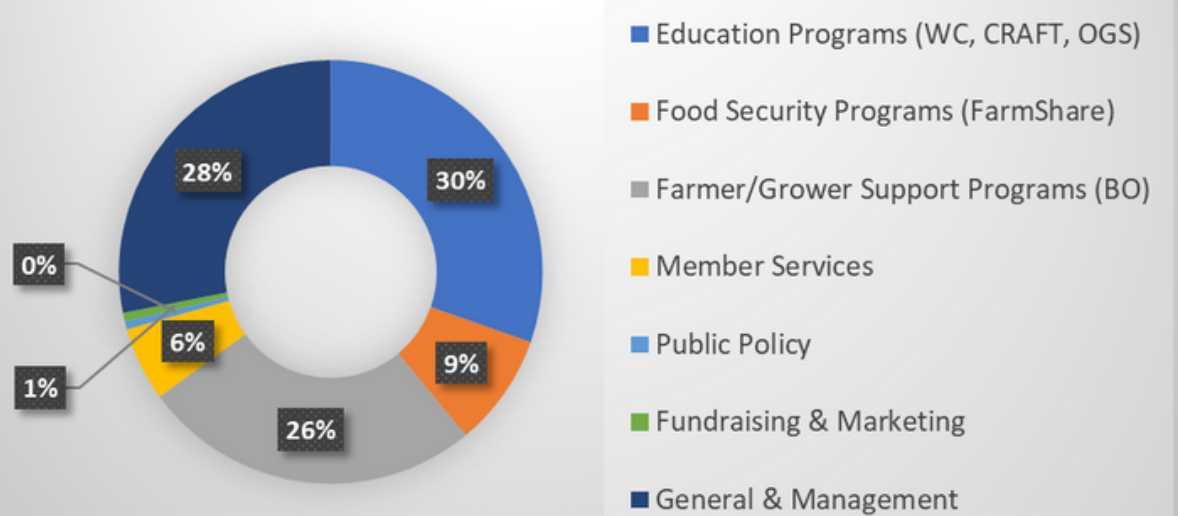


# INCOME & EXPENSES

Income Sources: \$218,131.13



Spending Allocations: \$179,822.10





# THANK YOU!

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## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Deneé Woods, Emily Murphy, Nadine San Antonio, Emma Dooley, Karl Johnson, Joan O'Connor, Nikki Kolb, Laura Angers

**Finance** – Steve Forde, Ron Christie, Denise Rico

**Fundraising & Marketing** – Deneé Woods, Nikki Kolb, Karl Johnson, Joan O'Connor, Edith Pucci Couchman, Bill Wardwell, Laura Angers

**Governance** – Karl Johnson, Nikki Kolb, Edith Pucci Couchman, Joan O'Connor

**Membership** – Laura Angers, Karl Johnson, Nikki Kolb, Kate Dobrowski, Jennifer Robinson, Joan O'Connor

**Education** – Phillip Browne, Amy Antonucci, Aniket Gurav, Nida Khan, Gene Jonas, Rachael Beikmohamadi, Edith Pucci Couchman, Laura Angers, Joan O'Connor, Bill Wardwell, Kate Dobrowski

**Policy** – Julie Davenson, Sarah Laeng-Gilliatt, Gene Jonas, Nikki Kolb, Karl Johnson, Bill Wardwell, Edith Pucci Couchman

**Quality Assurance** – Laura Hartz, Steve Forde

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## THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS & DONORS

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's You Have Our Trust Fund  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Community Grants Operating Program  
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation  
The Beane Family Foundation  
Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement  
Merrimack County Savings Bank

*Thank you to the many individuals and families who donated to NOFA-NH throughout the year!*

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## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Monadnock Food Co-op - Concord Food Co-op - Stonyfield Organic - New Hampshire Electric Co-op  
Foundation - Hanover Co-op Food Stores - Whole Foods Market - Nature's Green Grocer - BCM  
Environmental & Land Law, PLLC - High Mowing Seeds - Mainstreet Bookends - Pete & Gerry's  
Organic Eggs - ReVision Energy - Taproot Magazine - Sweet Beet Market/Kearsarge Food Hub  
Concord Garden Club - Farm Credit East - Fedco Seeds - Vermont Compost Company - Neighboring  
Food Co-op Association - Johnny's Selected Seeds - The Works Bakery Café - Warner Public Market  
Revival Kitchen & Bar - Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at VLS - Chelsea Green Publishing  
Maine Potato Lady - Real Pickles - Wellscroft Fence Systems. LLC - League of Conservation Voters



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