Our Farm Year

A Year Of Transition

What an amazing year for Brookfield Farm. The transition in leadership from Dan and Karen to myself and Kerry went about as smoothly as anyone involved could have hoped for. While it wasn't without some bumps and mishaps, we have settled in nicely after taking over day to day management of Brookfield a little over a year ago.

The first season at a new place is always going to be a challenge and this season was especially challenging. We were hoping for a nice easy growing season to settle into our new roles, but mother nature had a different plan. An incredibly cold, windy, dry spring, record setting rain over the summer, and a seemingly endless slew of new corona virus variants kept us on our toes.

Despite its sogginess, 2021 was a really great year for us, for Brookfield Farm, and we hope for our greater community. Even with literal lakes in some of our fields for much of July, we managed to grow over 170,000 pounds of food. We had great crops of parsnips, onions and strawberries to name a few. The watermelon surprised us all by producing a great crop despite the weather. We lost some crops due to weather, and yields and harvests weren't always what we planned for but we're feeling optimistic for the future.

We were excited to return to almost normal share distributions with relaxed Covid protocols, tables set up like pre-Covid times, children and members socializing and playing in the barn backyard, and even a momentary break from masking during the summer time. It was truly refreshing to see everyone's smiles again, many we even recognized from 10 years ago when we were last at Brookfield!

Farms never exist in a stable state; if they're not improving, they're declining. We continued to improve the farm and help facilitate its evolution. We added several new tractors and tools to the farm fleet, both to replace tired equipment but also to improve our capacity to do certain jobs. Notably, we replaced one of the 1940's gasoline powered Allis Chalmer's G tractors with an Allis G that was converted to electric. This involved replacing the 80 year old gasoline engine with an electric golf cart motor and batteries. It allows us to seed better and quieter while not burning fossil fuels and charging it with our solar panels.

Using seed money from the Grinspoon Foundation, we purchased and fabricated a tractor mounted flame weeder. A slightly intimidating piece of equipment at first, this proved to be a game changer and is single handedly responsible for one of the nicest parsnip crops Brookfield Farm has seen in years.
We applied for and received several grants from the state to improve farm infrastructure and improve our climate resiliency. The first is to install an irrigation well on our Warren Wright property. The second grant is to install a new cooler on the farm to increase our cooling capacity.

5 piglets came to the farm in May and our herd of beef cattle resided on the Snyder property this year. Kerry wears the herds(wo)man hat and updated the electric fencing with stronger energizers and solar panels. We reduced the size of the beef herd to reduce the grazing pressure on our pastures and spent the summer getting to know our new herd and pastures.

Our attempts to make compost were repeatedly stymied by a very wet year, but we were able to clean out the barn yard of our cows’ manure to be used for future compost. We continued to receive leaves from the town and shareholders, and stand at the ready to make compost when we have a window of opportunity. Our compost is the basis of our farms nutrition and 125 tons were spread in the spring across our fields.

Share sales for 2021 were strong and we met our summer and winter sales goals and maintained a waitlist. Early renewals going into the 2022 season were strong and comparable to 2021.

**FARM FINANCES**

**Farm Finances Strong!**

The farm ended the year in strong financial standing. Though income was slightly down by 3% primarily due to the lack of a meat sale, expenses were also down by 6% (primarily due to budgeting high for labor to help with a challenging transition year). After paying our loans and completing capital improvements we were able to grow our Capital Account to $50,572 which will be used for future capital improvements. Our balance sheet showed positive growth at 87% both from the receipt of COVID relief funds and the Land Legacy Campaign.

---

**SPECIAL THANKS**

*to our neighbor & welder*  
*Bob Gray*  
*for completely overhauling our plow this summer (and so many other genius repairs over so many years)*

---

**BIODYNAMIC FARMLAND CONSERVATION TRUST (BFCT), INC.**

PO Box 227  
Amherst, MA 01004  
Phone: (413)253-7991  
Email: info@brookfieldfarm.org  
Website: www.brookfieldfarm.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Peter Littell, President  
Phil Petitt, Treasurer  
Roberta Lojko, Clerk  
Donald Allison  
Paris Boice  
Marcie Muehlke  
Jen Veshia  
Jessica Wolff

**STAFF:**

Max Taylor  
Kerry Taylor  
Abbe Vredenburg  
Leila Tunnell  
Bonnie Lathrop  
General Manager  
General Manager  
Administrator  
Farm Educator  
Assistant Manager

**BFCT NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2022, VOL 36, #1**

*Writer/Designer - Max and Kerry Taylor (except where noted)*

The BFCT Newsletter is published once yearly (February) by the BFCT, Inc.
LAND LEGACY

A Successful Campaign

After an amazing year of transition at Brookfield Farm, this is a good time to reflect on our project to protect all the tillable land Brookfield Farm stewards for future generations to use and enjoy. We set ambitious goals for this campaign, knowing that to be competitive in this market we would need to bring in at least $550,000.

The campaign turned out to be as successful as it was ambitious. By the time we reached our Campaign Celebration on July 31, we had $559,383 in pledges to secure the long-term home of Brookfield Farm. 350 individual gifts were made from a wide variety of current & past shareholders, past apprentices, relatives, employees, friends, and unsolicited donors alike. This was truly a group effort and the celebration on a beautiful summer evening was a high-energy, farm-affirming tribute to the place that this enduring land-connection holds in the hearts of a multi-generational community of people.

Since that time, the pledges have rolled in; Despite not needing to be paid for up to three years, our administrator Abbe reports that $499,518 has been received into the Trust account to date. The first step in securing the land was taken in November, when the $85,197 loan on the Warren Wright Rd parcel was paid off. This brought the total of tillable acreage owned by the Trust to 58%. In addition, it freed up over $9000 of operating income for Brookfield Farm each year.

The recent sale of Small One’s Farm to a local family reminds us of the shifting landscape of farm land in Amherst and speaks of the importance of having funds on hand so that we can move quickly and decisively when land becomes available. The campaign was a success, the funds are secured and the leadership at the farm has the resources necessary to move forward. We will continue to keep you up to date as news develops.

This has truly been an inspiring effort for all who participated and reminds us of all what we can do when we have a goal and work together to achieve it.

DONORS

Zoe Abram & Will Van Heuvelen
Elizabeth Adams
John & Natalie Adams
Doug Adler
Jan Alburo & Robert Gallant
Elizabeth Allan, in honor of the Zobel Family
Edie and Donnie Allison
Patricia Appelbaum & Bill Holladay
Brad Arndt
Available Potential Enterprises, Ltd.
Kate & Steve Atkinson
Joanna and Clay Ballantine
Christina Barber & Matt Lorenz
Olive Barber & Pete Sienkewicz
Donna Baron & Steve Silvern
Helen Barrington
Jan Baudendistel & James Pewtherer, in memory of Ekkehard Piening
Ann & Klaus Becker
Ilana & Mark Beigel
Andrea Berlowe & Jonathan Binder
Carol Berker
Iris and David Berkman, in honor of Karen and Dan
Jennifer & Mark Bixby
Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein
Timothy Bobrowski
Paris and Jay Boice
Ronnie Booxbaum
Ellen & David Bollier
Janet Bordwin
Stephen Bosco
Andrea & Christopher Boyko
Alisa Braverman, in honor of Les Kanter
Mark Brownell
Lenore & Ira Bryck
Paul Bucciaglia
Alyx Burns & Zoe Crabtree
Anne & Tony Burton
Kelly Cahill-Murphy & Brian Murphy
Melissa Campbell
Claudia Canale-Parola & Matthew Blumenfeld
Vivienne Carey
Karen Carriera
Cindy Carpenter & Jesse Winch
Gregory Carter
Venuta Carulli & John Larsen
Barbara Carulli & Thom Masterton
Elaine Cat & Dick Loomis
Judith & David Cesario
Laura Chalk & Stefano Crema
Stephanie Chan

Christine & Larry Charbonneau
Annie Cheatham & Ann Taylor Gibson, in honor of Abbe Vredenburg
Sarah Christensen, in memory of Marion Kaplan
Andy Churchill, in memory of Jackie Churchill
Graham Churchill, in memory of Jackie Churchill
Beth Cohen
Laura Cohen,
Lori Coillander & James Cooper
Katherine Conway
Joe Costello
Amy & Eric Crawley
Brigitte Daniel
Elana Davidson & Virginia Dillon
Jacqui & Scott DelFulce, in honor of Arthur & Heide Zajonc
Christine DeJong
Marilyn Denny
Uhrike Deeling
Ana Devlin Gauthier
Katherine & Tom Drews
Robin and Ted Diamond
Sally Dillon
Nancy Dimattie & Rob Quinn, in memory of Elizabeth Houston and June Quinn
Betsy Dinger
Heide Dollard & Don Verrastro
Olivia Dreier, in honor of Alexander Dreier
Pamela Drexler & Ken Lopez
Don Drews, in honor of Ellen Drews
Ellen Drews, in memory of Beth Drews
Priscilla Drucker
Darcy DuMont
Kathryn Dunn
Carolyn & Jesse Edsell-Vetter
Ruth Elean
Michele Emanatian & David Delaney
Carolyn & Jesse Edsell-Vetter
Kelly Erwin & Warren Graham
Jeanne Esposito & George Karras
Susan Fields & Keith Fairey
Ben Fishbein
Nancy Fletcher
Eliot Forman
Helen Fortier, in memory of Claire & David Fortier
Garth & Theresa Frable
Gary French, in memory of Bonnie French
Rebecca & Tom Fricke
Elaine Frohnofer & Michael Wright
Lorraine Fryer & Vladimir Barash
Francine & Graham Gal
donors cont.

Kalyani & Deepak Ganesan
Amy Garbis
Ilby Gemmill
Lucy Gertz & Michael DeChiara
Capitola & Ed Glica
Theresa & Matt Godfrey
Barbara Goldstein
Hannah Goodwin
Patricia Gorman
Diane and Ned Gray
Alice Groh, in memory of Trauger Groh
Jim Habana Hafner
Mara and Harry Hahn
Claire Hamilton
Cheryl Harrell & Kavita Hunt, in honor of David Pinkham
Betsy Hartmann & Jim Boyle, in honor of Martha Hartmann
Christine Hatch
Lynd Hatch, in memory of Timothy Monaghan
Jill Hathaway & Nick Fay
Jenny Hausman & Bruce Wooster
Pamela Hecht
Susan Heitker & Mat Jacobson
Tomma Henckel & Ron Miller
ME Hersey & Will Mohn
Lizzie Herskowitz
Rebecca Herst & Dan Lesser, in honor of Dan Kaplan
Mary Hill
Catherine Hilton, in memory of Robert Creed
Sue & Todd Holland
Cynthia Holmes
Lauren & Ken Holt
Max Hopley, in honor of Jen Vethia
Emily Howard & Curtis Ogden
Susan Howard & David Bernstein
Barbara Hruska
Michelle Huber
Priscilla Hunt & Victor Lesser
Jennifer Hyde & David Bronstein
Paul Ita
Joselyn Johnson
Leslie Johnson & John Tobisian
Elizabeth Kaplan & Dan Gordon
Jacqueline Katz
Gina Kaufman & Michael Ringler
Annabelle Keil
Sue & Elliot Kelly
Rachel and Dan Kennedy
Elaine Kenseth
Mary Kate Kerins
Susan Kimball & David Hamilton
Margaret & Skott Klebe
Barbara Klime & David Henion
Betsy Krause
Suekey & Rhett Krause
Jordan Krechner
Joyce & Michael Kurland
Kate Kyros & Jacob Miller-Mack
Susan Landau & Neil Immerman
Kris Larson, in memory of Steve Karpovich
Karen Lederer & Brian Sabel
Pamela Swack Ledoux
Alexandra & Jeff Lefebvre
Janice & Robert Lefebvre
Tanya Leise
Karen Levine & Tom Gardner

Erika Levy and Alan Kingstone, in honor of Dan & Karen
Sandy and Peter Littell
Roberta Lojko
Emily & Carl Lowenberg
Karen & Bo Mack
Kyna Mackey
Jean & John MacKinnie
Larry & Pat Manize
Mary Elizabeth Manz, in honor of Les Brown
Jane & Dudley Mairs
Anne Marley, in memory of Dave Marley
Emily Marsters
Cecilia & Dennis Mathewson, in memory of Nick Rege-Colt
Christopher McCoy
Stuart McCraken
Denise McGoldrick
Janet McGowan & Thomas Webb
Samuel McGrath
Lisa McKeag
Sarah McKee
Rebekah McLaughlin
Peter McLean
Julia Menard-Warwick
Emily & Stephen Merriman
Marcie Mirek & Brian Yellen
Maureen Millea & Erik Zimmerman
Karen Miller, in memory of Barbara Young and Alan Miller
Lenore Miller
Kimberly Mira
Monica Moran & Bill Wehrli
Klar Moriez & David Schneider
Sue Morello & Nathan Salwen
Elizabeth Morrissey
Tom Morton
Molly Moskal
Marlene Musante
Martha Nelson
Deborah Neubauer
Johanna Neumann & Nick Reich
Rhonda Newman & Jimmy Ison
Catherine Newman & Michael Millner
Joy Nicholson & Matthew Sakai
Joyce Nolan
Kathleen Norton
Marjorie Nott
Christina & Klaus Nuessele
Old Friends Farm, in honor of Mary & Dana Snyder
John O’Keefe
Aaron Okrasinski
Laura Oppedisano
Linda Osdoukanian
Chris Paradis
Angie Pate
Crystal Paul
Jessica Payne
Rosie Pearson, in honor of Kassie & Ethan
Linda Pellegrini
Elizabeth & Anthony Perry
Donna and Philip Petit
Jon Petit
Kate Pfister & Neil Stillings
Rebekah Phillips
Lisa Plantefaber & Steven Fischel
Sean Polvino
Adelia & Daniel Pope

Michele Pratusevich & Robin Deits
Michelle & Dan Prindle
Judy Raiffa
Kate Reilly & Peter Raper
Lia Raz
Nancy & David Reffsion
Melinda Reid & Charlie Tebbetts
Maya Rege-Colt
Alice Robbins
Monica Robelotto
Janet Robinson, in honor of Zoe Robinson
Lucy and John Robinson
Maria Rocco
Erin Roche
Artemis Roehrig & Colin Hill
Chris Rollins, in memory of Roger Fega
Karen Romanowski & Daniel Kaplan, in memory of Marion Kaplan
Steve Roof
Bob Rosen
Therese Ross
Fanny Rothschild
Janet & Robert Ryan
Tammy Ryan
Polly & Jan Kees Salter
Karen & Benigno Sanchez-Eppler
Joan & Bruce Schaefrer
Rebecca Scott
Bonnie Sennott, in memory of Jackie Churchill
Suzanne & Steve Severin
Laurie Shannon & Sue Everden
Margarita Shannon & Nina Dabez
Ellen Shaw-Smith
Jane Sheeburne, in honor of phoebe blaze asher
Jill Shulman & Mat Lebowitz
Joy Silverstein
Eva Skibild & Michael Stenz
Lois Sloan, in memory of Marion Kaplan
Cheryl Smith & Bernard Morzuch
Sam & Elizabeth Smith
Sheila & Don Snyder, in honor of Benjamin Greene
The Snyder Family, in honor of Mary & Dana Snyder
Amy Springer & Aaron Hayden
Linda & Roger Stenlund
Kathleen Stinson

Rebecca Stowe & Ryan Alekman
Judith & Kerry Strayer
Elizabeth Stubs
The Sutick Family
Rayya Tallhavi
Michelle Tardy & William Oughton, in honor of Paris Boyce
Rhona Taylor
Danya Teitelbaum
Shubha Tewari & Narayanan Menon
Karen Thomas & Mark Hensley
Lisa Thompson
Lynne Thompson
Stacy and David Tobin
Pamela Tomie
Nathaniel & Ila Deshmukh Towery
Kathleen Traphagen & Khalid Elkalai
Karen & Bill Tunnell
Leila Tunnell & Jake Mazar
Juliana Vanderwiel
Jennifer Veshia and Nick Hopley
Pam Victor & Jeff Hausthor
Gretchen Vice
Christine Volonte & Doug Albertson
Gail & Didier Voisin
Abbe Vredenburg
Erika Wallace & Wes Somerville, in honor of Wally
Anna Warrock & Robert Smyth
Susie Wasseulke & Mike Risano
Wendy Weinberg
Nancy Gonter Weld, in memory of Peekaboo
Rebecca & Calliope Winters & John Dickens
Jessica Wolff & Kevin Landau, in honor of Dan and Karen
Betsy Wolfson
Carol Wood
Sarah & Alex Workman
Reed Wulsin & Dennis Suhuy
Elaine & Michael Yellin
August Zajonic
Heide & Arthur Zajonic
Don Zasad & Brigid Spin
Erika Zekos & Derek Noble
Katie & Chris Zobel
Mary & Jay Zyskowsky

Anonymous - 27 Gifts

Fall Brassica
## Vegetable Production 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>unit</th>
<th>per share</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEET</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2125</td>
<td>3850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEET W/TOPS</td>
<td>BU.</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1740</td>
<td>1270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROCCOLI</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>1555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUSSELS’ SP.</td>
<td>PC.</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1385</td>
<td>1415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUSSELS’ SP. TOPS</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>1730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABBAGE</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>10232</td>
<td>14040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABBAGE, CHL.</td>
<td>HDS.</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>5970</td>
<td>3285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANTOLOUPES</td>
<td>PC.</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>7705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROT</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>11010</td>
<td>19380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROT W/TOP</td>
<td>BU.</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1112</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAULIFLOWER</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1190</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELERIAC</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELERY</td>
<td>PC.</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>1435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARD</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLARDS</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>2095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORN</td>
<td>DZ.</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>4850</td>
<td>9060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUCUMBER</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2180</td>
<td>6455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGGPLANT</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3395</td>
<td>5425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARLIC</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENS</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1193</td>
<td>3075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALE</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>6450</td>
<td>9195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOHLRABI</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEEK</td>
<td>PC.</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1750</td>
<td>8020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETTUCE</td>
<td>HDS.</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>5156</td>
<td>7620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETTUCE</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1525</td>
<td>2455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONION</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>10700</td>
<td>9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARSNIP</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2485</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEPPERS, HOT</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1097</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEPPERS, SW.</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>4178</td>
<td>3925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTATO</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>17175</td>
<td>14335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTATO, SW.</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>8040</td>
<td>16580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RADICCHIO</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RADISH</td>
<td>BU.</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>2175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RADISH, DAIKON</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>2560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RADISH, STORAGE</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1620</td>
<td>3210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUTABAGA</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2285</td>
<td>3675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCALLION</td>
<td>BU.</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>2090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPINACH</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUASH, S.</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3420</td>
<td>8400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUASH, W.</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>5600</td>
<td>21250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOMATOES</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>5850</td>
<td>13480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURNIP, HAKUREI</td>
<td>BU.</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURNIP</td>
<td>LBS.</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2295</td>
<td>4530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATERMELONS</td>
<td>LBS</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>11500</td>
<td>17115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IN MEMORIAM

We remember longtime friend of the farm **Beth Cook** who passed away in the early fall. Beth and Gordy Cook have been friends and farming neighbors of Brookfield Farm since the beginning. “Beth was always ready with a warm smile, great sense of humor, unfailing generosity, and a good story from her long experience within the farming community of the Pioneer Valley. We will miss her presence but always remember her kindness in helping our family and Brookfield Farm settle in and become a part of this wonderful community.” - Dan Kaplan
A LIVING CLASS ROOM

Education continues to be one of our core principles and reasons for farming the way that we do. We were thrilled to welcome back groups of students from the Amherst Public Schools and other local schools. After a year long hiatus from school group visits, it was incredibly heartwarming to see Brookfield Farm once again become a living class room. We saw 4 Amherst elementary school grades visit the farm this fall to dig carrots, learn about compost and visit the pigs. In addition, we had the Amherst middle school after school program VELA spend afternoons on the farm where students harvested and cooked produce.

Former apprentice Leila Tunnell continues to do a fantastic job as our education coordinator. She makes the farm come to life for the students, and ensures that their visits to the farm are educational, enriching and engaging for everyone involved.

This year Leila received the Kale Blazer Award for demonstrated excellence and leadership in farm to school activity from Mass Farm To School for her outstanding work with farm-based education. It is well deserved and we are so proud of her and happy to have her on our team.

Farmer training

Providing aspiring farmers with a practical agricultural education experience is the foundation of our education mission. Our farm apprentices perform vital work on the farm while getting an in-depth look at a complex, working farm. This year we were lucky to have two apprentices with a solid base of farm experience and an indelible appetite for learning.

Alicia McCarthy came to us from her hometown of Philadelphia PA. She had spent a season at Penny Pack Farm, a diversified vegetable CSA just outside of Philly before arriving at Brookfield. Alicia brought a great sense of humor and a tremendous work ethic to the farm. Alicia spent much of her time here getting plants and seeds in the ground, she drove the electric Allis G to direct seed and drove the Landini to pull both the mechanical and water wheel transplanter. The allure of home and South East PA is strong and Alicia is headed back to Penny Pack to continue her agriculture career.

Education on the farm

Alicia watering the greenhouse

Jumping for joy
Rye Lyzcak spent the previous season at Indian Line Farm outside of Great Barrington, a fellow Western Massachusetts CSA. He brought a wealth of mechanical knowledge and experience to Brookfield Farm. Rye performed the bulk of mechanical cultivation, killing weeds with the gas powered Allis G. He also spread compost, made beds and mowed down old crops with the John Deere 2355. Rye is continuing to pursue his passion for agriculture at Oechsner Farm, an organic grain farm outside of Ithaca NY.

Not an Apprentice in the true sense of the word, our assistant manager Bonnie Lathrop found herself in the difficult position of having to teach, train and manage while also doing so many new things for the first time. Typically assistant managers at Brookfield Farm have been apprentices themselves so they are familiar with the farm. Bonnie arrived with us from Connecticut, having spent her previous season working at Provider Farm in Salem CT. She did a stellar job of stepping into her role as assistant manager here at Brookfield.

She plowed, harrowed, cultivated and basically did whatever we needed her to do when we needed it. She made our life easier on a daily basis and made the transition in management much smoother. We are thrilled that she is staying on for another season as assistant manager.

Special thanks to our Holyoke Community College Sustainable Agriculture intern Cameron Sullivan-Daley who spent June-August working alongside us and getting a taste of sustainable farming.
Food access at Brookfield Farm

Spread the word!

At Brookfield Farm, we want everyone to have a share within their reach! In 2014, the Donor supported share program was established to help achieve this. This fund helps self identified shareholders meet their budgetary needs to secure a CSA share. In 2021, 10 shareholders accessed these funds. At the close of the year, the fund sits at $9,526.

Brookfield Farm also participates in the state HIP program which matches all SNAP dollars paid to local farms dollar to dollar. In 2022, 17 shareholders were able to use this program to secure CSA shares.

Brookfield Farm partners with the Survival Center to receive excess produce donations. In addition, Rachel’s Table, which brings groups out to glean leftover harvests from the field, gleaned 176 pounds of food in 2021 for local food banks.

We are always seeking to increase our outreach of these programs in order to get those in need enrolled. Please spread the word! Anyone interested in these programs can email us at info@brookfieldfarm.org.

Donations to the Donor supported Share Fund to increase food access in our community can be made online at brookfieldfarm.org/donate or sent to: Brookfield Farm, PO box 227, Amherst MA 01002

The Annual Fund

While the Land Legacy Campaign really took up the bulk of our fund raising energy this year, we still held a modest annual fund campaign. While our CSA share fees pay for the operating expenses of the farm, our education and outreach efforts are funded in part by donations made to the annual fund.

We expected the annual fund to be reduced this year due to the generous and substantial giving made to the Land Legacy Campaign. We put out an appeal for funds in December and received 84 gifts totaling $2430 once again proving the generosity of our community.
We were thrilled to have a break in the pandemic to return to many of the traditions of Brookfield Farm including hosting events on the farm. We were fortunate to have Zoe Abrams return ('12-'18) as our events coordinator. She brought with her a wealth of information about events on the farm of previous years making hosting events a cinch for us newbies this year. Thank you Zoe!

We kicked off the season with our spring planting event where we planted our flower garden and tomato hoop houses. We had a very soggy garlic harvest in July, followed by a lovely Land Legacy closing event on a (unusually for this year) lovely dry July evening. Though our pumpkin patch was hit hard by the rains, we had enough pumpkins to host a delightful pumpkin painting event where young and old alike enjoyed decked out their pumpkins.

We rang in the fall with a potato pick on a beautiful fall day. We picked clean the potato field at Small Ones Farm bringing in 5000 pounds of spuds in one day! Once the harvest was in, everyone enjoyed some fire baked potatoes and chili around the fire. I can not express how affirming the community spirit was as we celebrated fall around the fire. The events season wrapped up again with our “virtual harvest celebration” where Max presented a slide show of the year in review. While things haven't totally returned to the normal of earlier years, we were happy to have threaded our way through the pandemic ups and downs of the season to gather with you.
SPECIAL THANKS

To our Farm Angel - Chris Zobel, for the donation of a van which came with a stove stuffed in it for the apprentice house and the myriad of other odd jobs he does around the farm.

To Jason Edwards who makes all our hay and helps out with all the cow things and keeps the farm driveway sanded and salted in the winter.

To our farming neighbor Gordy Cook who cuts all our straw and supplies us with manure to make compost.

Thanks to the weeder crew, without them there would be no food: Becca, Gabe, Oliver, Rachel, Jana, Spencer, Angela, Caleb, Lukas, George, Stefan, Sarah Van Horn and Sarah Kennedy, Big special thanks to Sydney who crushed her role as weeder leader this year and to Angela for staying on through the fall to bring in the fall harvests.

To Abbe Vradenburg for keeping the books in order, the CSA sign ups organized and for her treasure trove of historical information to guide us through the transition year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who lent a hand this year: Larry Manire, Carol Wood, Becca Nicholson and the Nueslein Saturday crew, Chris and Veralin Vriezen, Marcei Muehkle, Gabrial Proia, Gabriella Griffin, Caroline Keppler, Galia Pakar, Madison Cushion, Erin Cleary and the Wheelhouse Crew.

Thank you to our farm landlords and neighbors who tolerate the everyday workings of a sometimes noisy and smelly farm: Elaine Kenseth, Joanna and Victoria Hubbs, and families on Hulst Rd. To the Snyder family, Bob and Sally Fitz, and Bob Gray.

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

As the next farmers at Brookfield Farm, it was our intention when we arrived to make the farm feel like home while respecting and honoring all the amazing work of Dan and Karen and all those who have put so much of themselves into the farm. We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous amount of support we have received from this community upon our arrival at Brookfield. We are excited for the future of the farm. It is our vision to honor Brookfield's history while addressing emerging challenges like climate resilience and infrastructure challenges, a constantly changing marketplace and increasing food accessibility in our community.

We also wanted to express our deepest gratitude to Dan and Karen for their tremendous amount of help, support, advice and humor this season. We are truly standing on the shoulders of giants farming at Brookfield.