



"As Farm-to-Community Mentor for Windham County, I am working to create a farm-based event for Guilford's 250th Anniversary. We're calling it a Guilford Farm Potluck and hope it will become an annual fall event – and a template for other communities to create their own celebrations of farming.

It is very important to bring our elders and our youngsters together to share history and make history on our farms."

—Farmer Mentor Lisa Holderness



NOFA Vermont is a member-based nonprofit organization working to grow local farms, healthy food, and strong communities in Vermont. Our members are farmers, gardeners, educators and food lovers of all sorts – everyone who wants to help us create a future full of organic food and local farms.

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

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The Farm to Community Mentor Program

at NOFA Vermont



Building partnerships between farmers, educators, and community members.



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Who We Are

Farm to Community Mentors are farmers, educators, and community members who facilitate links between other farmers, educators, and community members.

We work in our regions to create and expand opportunities for food and farm education throughout Vermont.



"I truly enjoy sharing my farm with students. It is such a great pleasure to see them engaged with the task at hand.... and seeing such a sparkle of pride when they have completed the job."

—Former Mentor Kimberly Hagen

Farm to Community Mentors work to promote the critical role of farmers as both agricultural producers and agricultural educators throughout Vermont.

We facilitate the web of connections between farmers, educators, and community members in order to:

- **Enhance agricultural education** by helping transform farms and farmers into educational resources.
 - **Support the viability of farmers** by building awareness of and involvement in local agriculture & local food.
 - **Increase the economic, environmental, and physical health of communities** by promoting an awareness of local, sustainable agriculture.
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Farm to Community Mentor Activities

Farmer Correspondence Program

- Farmers and classrooms exchange letters, educating students about farming and agriculture.

On-Farm Education

- Educational activities and field studies on farms.
- Open farm days: educational tours and activities organized to introduce community members (and tourists) to farms and farmers.

Internships, Independent Studies, and Service Learning Projects

- Children plant, harvest, and glean on local farms.
- Youth help to distribute local produce to community institutions (schools, hospitals, food shelves, etc.).
- High school and college students help farmers and schools with work projects and integrate agricultural studies into their academic programs.

Farmers in Schools and Communities

- Cafeteria visits to celebrate local food with taste tests and local food feasts.
- Classroom visits to farms and activities that fit into the school curriculum.
- Farmers serve as advisors for school and community gardening and composting projects.

