



Shelburne Farms

Annual Year in Review

THANK YOU FOR HELPING EDUCATE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Dear Friend,

The first time I came to the Farm (doesn't everyone remember that moment?) was in 1974. I had several bags of tomatoes and a baby on my hip, heading for a canning center in what is now O Bread Bakery.

So much has evolved since those early days, as we grapple with the big questions of how we all can live responsibly in the 21st century.

We've taken great care to **steward** this historic campus to make Shelburne Farms a leader in a global network educating for a sustainable future. The ideas we share are grounded here.

Education is Shelburne Farms' overarching purpose and young people, their teachers, and families are our primary audience. We deliver wide-ranging programs — both on- and off-site — to foster awareness, understanding, and active citizenship around topics from healthy food to renewable energy, to sustainable forestry, and much more. Each child that we impact is a seed of hope for tomorrow; each teacher, farmer, educator, and family that we support helps to broadcast and nourish those seeds to take root in communities near and far.

Shelburne Farms doesn't work alone: we are part of an international community of organizations shaping a more healthy and just world. Collaborating with educators, strategic partners, and concerned citizens like you **extends our impact.**

Thank you for being part of this important work for a bright future. I hope this beautiful campus and our educational programs continue inspiring you to be a lifelong learner making a difference in this world.

With heartfelt gratitude for your past and continuing support from all of us at Shelburne Farms,

Lisa Steele

Lisa Steele, Board Chair



Stewarding

Your support allows us to steward our 1,400 acres as a living campus for learning, exploring, and inspiring others. Our landscape has endless stories and lessons to share about the big ideas of sustainability — cycles, systems, diversity — and is an ideal place to reflect on them. Caring for our natural, agricultural, and cultural resources brings authenticity to how we answer the questions about how to live sustainably.

Farming & Food Systems

The **dairy** had a great year of high quality pasture and hay production, and we'll hand craft the milk from our Brown Swiss Cows into about 170,000 lbs. of farmstead cheddar. The lamb and beef we raised was served at the Inn throughout the season.

This year's **170,000 lbs.** of cheddar is nearly **30 miles** of our **½-lb. blocks** laid end-to-end.



Our **farmstead cheddar** earned:

- ◆ 2nd place for cheddar aged 2+ years from the American Cheese Society
- ◆ Gold for smoked; Silver for clothbound at the Big E



We added a new wash shed and a cooler/freezer at our 7-acre certified organic **Market Garden**. This is important infrastructure for strengthening the Farm's food system. The new facilities will allow us to safely and efficiently process and store produce and meat as we increase year-round use for programming.

The amazing **Formal Gardens Restoration Project** took another major step forward this year with reconstruction of the walls and steps of the "Grand Allee." The fourth and final phase, rebuilding the pergola area at the north end of the garden, is planned for completion in 2016. This multi-year endeavor is made possible thanks to the generosity of many like you. Thanks so much.

We've added a new segment of pedestrian path and new, hand-crafted wooden trail benches to enhance your experience of our working fields and forests.



Executive **Chef David Hugo** was named "**Chef of the Year**" by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, recognizing his long commitment to creating dishes based on fresh, local products. This collaboration with Vermont producers also earned us **special recognition** from Vermont Fresh Network.



Cultural Resources



GOAL: **\$3.35 million**

REMAINING: **\$660,000** [Phase 4]

RAISED: **\$2.69 million**

Formal Gardens Restoration & Endowment Project

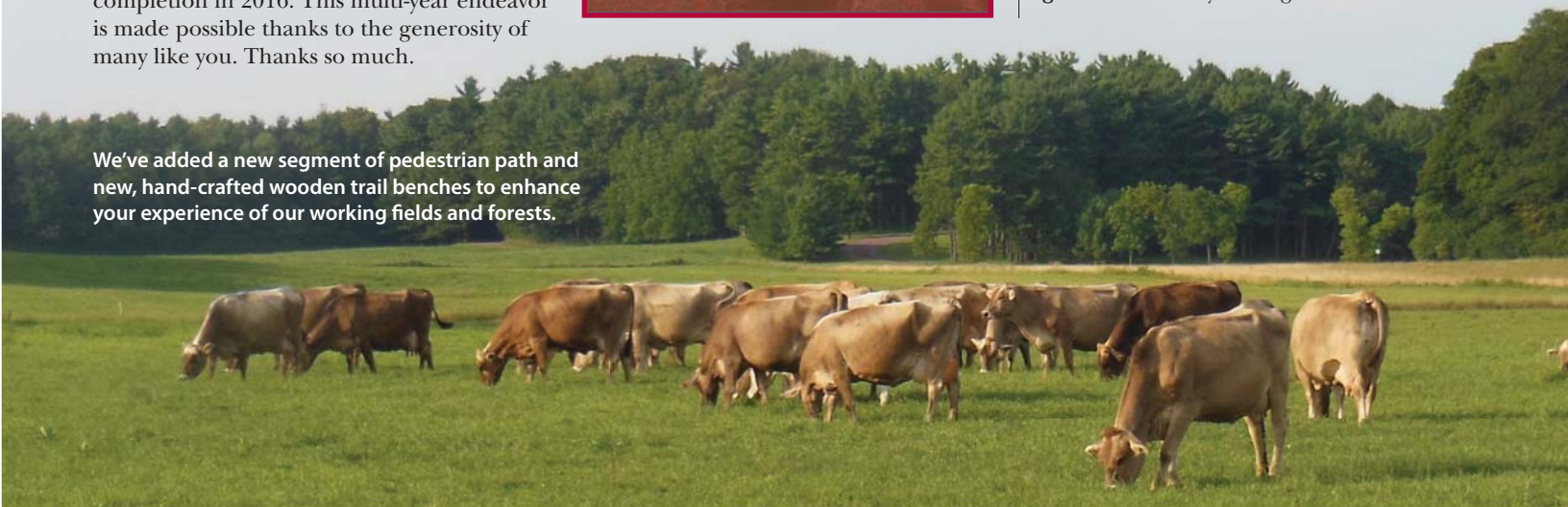
Your gift by Dec. 31, 2014 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50K.

Forests & Natural Resources

We began thinning trees and cutting invasive shrubs to reclaim 90 acres of **historic evergreen plantations**. Frederick Law Olmsted planned these groupings to create outdoor "rooms" that you experience as you move through the landscape. We're committed to stewarding this National Historic Landmark for multiple values: historic preservation, ecological health and habitat, and productive, sustainable forestry.

New automated water quality samplers were installed by UVM students to **monitor water quality** in one of the Farm's seven sub-watersheds. This will add important data as we continue to look for and better understand trends in the relationship between different land uses and water quality.

For the thirteenth year, we've supported research on the impact of farming practices on **grassland birds** by serving as a research site.



SEVEN DAYSIES

2014

Voted Best Vermont Day Trip with Kids



"Weston loves Ariella so! Every time we visit he runs right over to her. She is so patient with him when he 'pets' her."

— Karri Crossman (pictured with Weston)

Our Children's Farmyard is a joyful first experience of farming and food for many. In addition to day visitors, more than 3,100 students explored food systems at the Farmyard on school visits.

Educating

From enjoying the peas you've just harvested to baking bread from wheat you've just milled — these are profound experiences of our ties to the earth. Because of your support, you and other families, children, and educators are able have experiences like this at the Farm. We hope you leave inspired, with a renewed sense of how your actions can help build a more sustainable future.

Over 660 campers joined us for a Farm camp. Harvesting and preparing food from our Gardens

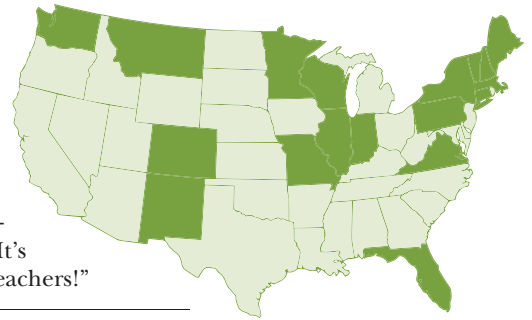
is a foundational experience for them. Many tasted fresh fruits and vegetables they'd never tried before.

Over 4,700 students experienced a Farm school field trip during the academic year, on themes that included forest ecology, maple sugaring, wetlands, and farm systems.



Professional Learning for Educators

More than 390 educators from 18 states had transformative workshop experiences here at the Farm. Educators engaged with activities and ideas that they'll bring back to their classrooms. We often hear, "It's like summer camp for teachers!"



The **ABCs of Farm-Based Education** is our twice-a-year workshop to support farmers and educators developing agricultural education programs. It's a fertile few days of sharing their collective experiences and expertise. ABCs is co-presented with the Farm-Based Education Network, which we spearhead.



"It doesn't get any better."

"The idea that I could come to a place that was a working farm, and talk about how farm systems fit into school systems, fit into community systems was... well, it doesn't get any better than that!"

— Sara Barton, Teacher, PA

The continued success of our national **Education for Sustainability Institute** has prompted us to craft a new, year-long EFS Leadership Academy for 2015, a learning community to explore education for sustainability, systems thinking, and school transformation.



Farming & Food Systems in the Community & Schools



We continue to be active in Vermont's **Farm to Plate Initiative**, including chairing their task force on agritourism (due in part to our work below), and contributing to state-wide efforts in consumer and school education.

We're playing a **leadership role supporting agritourism in Vermont**: through free technical assistance, workshops, and resources, we're helping Vermont farmers develop and expand agritourism and on-farm programs. It's part of a collaborative effort to strengthen agricultural viability, while connecting consumers to food systems.

AGRITOURISM PARTNERS: UVM Extension, Vermont Farms! Association, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing



What is "Farm to School"?

Anore Horton of Hunger Free Vermont shares her response to "What is Farm to School?" at a **Vermont Farm to School Network** celebration at the Coach Barn.



Senator Leahy showcased our **VT FEED cookbook, New School Cuisine**, at a US Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on child nutrition and had a copy hand-delivered to Sam Kass, White House Senior Policy Advisor for Nutrition.

We hosted the **National Association of State Departments of Agriculture** as part of their annual meeting in Burlington. Our message: agricultural literacy must underpin diverse, community-based agricultural systems.

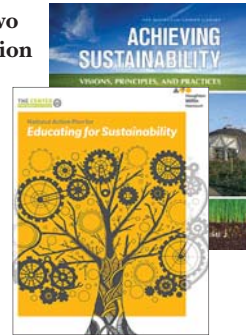
Ten Vermont school teams — 67 people — engaged in our **Farm to School Institute**, an intensive year-long professional development program to help each school build and implement a Farm to School action plan. It's part of VT-FEED, our partnership program with NOFA-VT.

Since 2010, over **37 school teams** have developed **Farm to School programs** through our Vermont Farm to School institute.

Sustainability & Place

We contributed to two **foundational education texts** this year:

Achieving Sustainability, a two-volume encyclopedia, and the *National Action Plan for Educating for Sustainability*. The books aim to inspire educators, school districts, and education policy by capturing current thinking on how education for sustainability can transform schools and communities.



Building on connections made at our summer *Cultivating Joy and Wonder* workshop, we launched a **new professional learning project among Burlington early childhood educators**. We're combining monthly gatherings with individual support in the classroom to inspire educators to get their kids outdoors to play and learn.

Brighter Vermont
BUILDING A BETTER ENERGY FUTURE. TODAY.



brightervermont.org

As a **partner in Brighter Vermont**, an initiative of the Energy Action Network, we're making it easier for Vermonters to access information about energy so they can make wise choices about how to use it.



20 teachers joined our **A Forest for Every Classroom** year-long professional development program. We'll be offering it again in 2015.

PARTNERS: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service; many local partners.

Extending Impact

There's no place quite like Shelburne Farms. But there are endless places that people call home — places people care about, learn from, and are inspired by. Much of our collaborative work strengthens the ability of educators, farmers, and families to engage learners with their own special places. The impact of this work ripples out far beyond Shelburne Farms.



Nineteen teachers participated in the year-long **Watershed for Every Classroom** program, which we offer as partners in the Champlain Basin Education Initiative.

Thank you

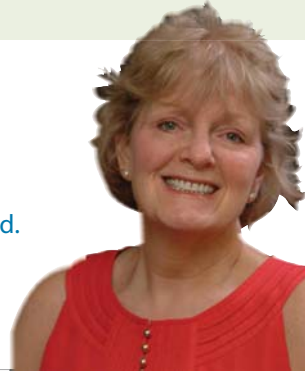
Behind every number on this page — every charitable gift, every hour volunteered, every collaborative partnership — there's a person, like you, who cares deeply about Shelburne Farms. We deeply appreciate your investment in the Farm: it keeps our programs thriving.

Stewardship Circle

As of November 2014, **77** individuals or couples have notified us that they have included the Farm as a beneficiary of their estate plans.

"I go to Shelburne Farms to refresh and re-energize. Lone Tree Hill is different every season that I am there, but what never changes is how it makes me feel. It is like hitting my recharge button. From snowshoeing and hiking, to maple syrup and cheddar cheese, this is my backyard. This is our "shining jewel" in Shelburne. No surprise that Shelburne Farms is mentioned in my estate planning."

— Linda Retchin, Shelburne, VT



"We love it here. The Farm is always so welcoming and the sustainability education work that you do is so critical. We really feel the impact of our support every time we visit. Engaging young people and teachers in programs is an active affirmation of the future."

— Carol & Dan Wilson
Allentown, PA

"Shelburne Farms is truly a part of our family. We were lucky to get married at the Coach Barn, and six years and two kids later, are at the Farm with our boys almost daily! The trails, farmyard, summer camps, buying our cheese, Harvest Fest, riding the tractors, brunch at the Inn, and so much more! The Farm embodies the reasons why we live in and love Vermont."

— Laura & Jackson Latka, Shelburne, VT



Orchard Cove Photography



"Shelburne Farms has been a good friend to my family. Rick and I first came to Vermont in 1973 with our infant son. We spent a sunny March day walking the Farm. Sitting by Lake Champlain, we decided to move to Vermont and begin a life of homesteading. It's been an amazing journey. Now we enjoy the Farm with our grandchildren."

— Melinda Moulton, Huntington, VT

A Snapshot of You, Our Supporters

- 1,710 Individual/Dual Members (up to \$50)
- 1,280 Family Members (\$65+)
- 572 Donors (\$100+)
- 155 Sponsors (\$250+)
- 62 Patrons (\$500+)
- 152 Stewards (\$1,000+)
- 19 Benefactors (\$5,000+)
- 21 Sustainers (\$10,000+)
- 9 Major Gift Donors (\$50,000 – \$250,000)

How You Support Us

- 4,265 Individual gifts
- 350 Volunteers
- 126 Gifts for special projects
- 67 Gifts from foundations & trusts
- 59 Gifts in honor of others
- 88 Gifts in memory of loved ones
- 23 Endowment gifts
- 36 Corporate gifts
- 16 Gifts in-kind
- 24 Matching gift companies



"Windscaapes" installation by Nancy Winship Milliken for Of Land and Local Art Exhibition at the Farm, a collaboration with Burlington City Arts



"The student teachers I bring to the Farm experience hands-on wonderment. They learn what their food looks like rooted to the ground or walking on all fours ("twos" in the case of chickens), before it is wrapped in plastic or lined up pretty in the grocery store. They start to understand process. It's the richest learning, and the core to life-long learning."

— Binta Colley, UVM Professor
Shelburne Farms Board Member

"What you offer to the community is priceless."

— Marlena Ticker-Fishman
Educator, Waterbury, VT



"As campers we get to work in the garden, at the dairy, and be part of the working community on the farm. We create a family of trust and friendship that is so strong. It's not something that you get to be a part of everywhere. It's a wonderful thing to have in your life."

— Haeli Warren, Beyond the Barn
(above right with her sister, Silva)

Our Community

Whether you participate in a program, explore the Farmyard with your children or grandchildren, enjoy the walking trails, or celebrate with us at one of our many events, we appreciate you being a part of our community.

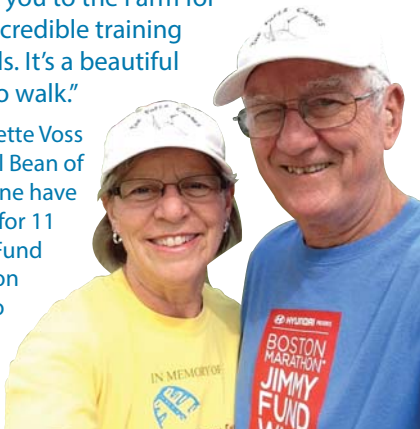
"It's nice to have such a heartening and hope-filled experience amidst the craziness of the world. And in such a lovely setting."

— Stacy Cimino
Traditional Foods Symposium
pictured at the Farm with her children



"Thank you to the Farm for such incredible training grounds. It's a beautiful place to walk."

— Jeanette Voss & Daniel Bean of Shelburne have trained for 11 Jimmy Fund Marathon Walks to fight cancer.



"My son loved his whole week at camp — the harvesting, preparing the "feast" — he even enjoyed the weeding. What I found most amazing was the enthusiasm that came into him every day. He got so inspired. Today, he said he loved eating tomatoes and preparing them (this is from a boy who does not eat tomatoes up until now)."

— Marielle Goossens
Williston, VT

Your joy, love, passion and curiosity for life is contagious. I was in tears at our campfire reflections because my soul was so touched. I want to go home and make change in my community.

— Erin Thorkilsen
Educator, Westport, CT



Shelburne Farms
Educating for a Sustainable Future

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