



Shelburne Farms

Summer Newsletter 2025

Dear friend of Shelburne Farms,

I'm often asked how the nonprofit at Shelburne Farms came to be in 1972. The short answer is that we formed the educational organization in response to the environmental and civil rights movements of the 1960s. We were using the resources available to us at that time to help raise awareness about land stewardship and the impacts of personal and collective actions on the health of our environment and communities.

We believed then, as we continue to believe now, that farm and place-based learning experiences, starting at a young age, provide a path toward a better world. Every child deserves to be engaged and inspired throughout their school years, including having access to healthy food. And every person deserves access to inspiring public spaces. A sustainable future is only possible if everyone thrives.

Our commitment to this work is unwavering. Your support as a member of Shelburne Farms, at whatever level is possible for you, is what keeps us moving forward. Thank you for joining with us in supporting learning, hope, and possibility.

With deep gratitude,

Alec Webb, President



Coach Barn Project Full Steam Ahead



We are on target to reopen the Coach Barn for programs and community events this fall, thanks to support for The Campaign for

Shelburne Farms and the Robert W. Wilson Trust Challenge. The barn's efficient geothermal heating/cooling system is now plumbed inside and out. We've selected paint colors, tiling, cobbles, wood finishes, and more as we rehabilitate this treasured historic building. And the new kitchen will be a wonderful space for preparing amazing meals from the farm. We look forward to sharing it all with you once again!

 [Current updates on our blog.](#)



Mason Sean Davis works on the cobble floor in the Coach Barn's Elevator Room.

Net Zero Initiatives Underway

Buildings

- Converting several key buildings, including the Coach Barn, to geothermal systems, which utilize the stable temperature of the earth for heating and cooling
- Making energy conservation and efficiency improvements
- Reducing energy use in our operations wherever possible
- Developing plans to significantly expand our use of solar power

Dairy

- Partnering with researchers and industry leaders to reduce emissions in our dairy, including better manure management and biochar use
- Improving feed to reduce animal emissions
- Continuing to carefully manage pastures for plant and soil health, storing maximum soil carbon
- Planning for new buildings that use renewable energy as our dairy barns age out

Forests

- Prioritizing retaining larger diameter trees, which store and retain carbon
- Only removing smaller diameter trees or ones that will boost a stand's growth rate and carbon storage potential
- Using harvested trees for durable timber products



HOLLY BROUGH

Making Progress Toward Net Zero

Since its launch in 2022, Shelburne Farms' Net Zero project has significantly reduced annual net greenhouse gas emissions from the farm and operations. Here's how last year's numbers compare to those of an initial baseline assessment in 2019 and to our 2028 targets:

Shelburne Farms Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Tons CO₂ equivalent / Year

	2019	2024	2028
Total Emissions: Buildings	724	434	230
Total Emissions: Operations	251	182	170
Net Sequestration: Farm & Forest	-144	-226	-550
Total Net Emissions	831	390	-150

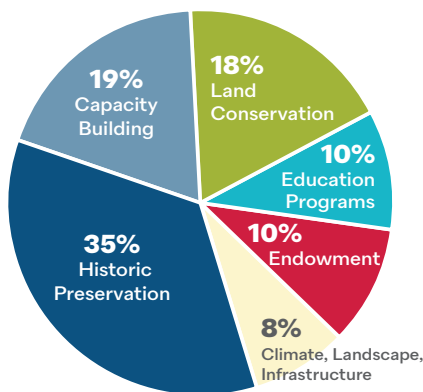
The goal of being Net Zero by 2028 is simple, but the path there is complex. We are always asking: What changes can we manage operationally? What is most affordable? And critically, how will these changes help us offer stronger, more accessible, and more relevant climate education across our programs? The answers are shaping our climate future.

Expanding Marshall Woods

Late this spring, we expanded the tree plantings west of Sheep's Knoll, known as "Marshall Woods." We added 91 more trees and 39 more shrubs to this new area of woodlands that is a lasting tribute to Shelburne Farms cofounder Marshall Webb, his climate vision, and to the key role of forests and soils in combatting climate change. Students from the Field and Forest Program at Champlain Valley Union High School, who are here each Monday, pitched in to help Woodlands Manager Dana Bishop and team.



The Campaign for SHELburne FARMS



Campaign Components

You did it! Thanks to tremendous community support, we exceeded our \$50 million Campaign for Shelburne Farms goal and met the Robert W. Wilson Trust \$5 million Challenge for the Coach Barn rehabilitation project.

The Campaign has allowed us to launch the Institute for Sustainable Schools, conserve 65 acres of beautiful land in the heart of the farm at Windmill Hill, advance our climate actions, repair the Breeding Barn's exterior, improve the formal flower gardens, build the Storrs kitchen at the Inn, grow our endowment, and more.

"It never ceases to amaze me how much comes together under one organization and in one beautiful place that holds so much promise for the future," says Alec Webb, president of Shelburne Farms. Everything we do is made possible by our supporters, and we are so grateful to all of you!

"It never ceases to amaze me how much comes together under one organization and in one beautiful place that holds so much promise for the future."

— Alec Webb
President of Shelburne Farms

Shelburne Farms
**Institute for
Sustainable
Schools**

Future teachers on their farm experience

Shelburne Farms welcomes early-career educators for fellowship positions. They lead children in our school programs and summer camps, live on the farm, are immersed in Education for Sustainability, and are transformed by the experience.



"Shelburne Farms has given me real guidance for my future. I know that I want to teach people about land, and connect it to migration and justice, and talk about how land and space is a community investment."

— Raina Carfaro
Post-Graduate Education Fellow
Now working on an organic farm



"A large part of being an educator is building up kids' confidence, and also having them focus on how to care for those around them and the space they're in."

— Naomi Gordon
Middlebury College Fellow 2023
Summer Camp Educator 2024
Now teaching English in Spain



"Education can happen in so many places, like in the garden. Kids see where their food comes from, walk around and take a little bite, and go out of their comfort zone. Kids will eat something they never would have eaten at home."

— Ivy Befeler
UVM Fellow 2023 | Burlington City & Lake Education Fellow 2023-2024
Now teaching middle school math



ANDREA ESTEY

Visiting Shelburne Farms



Walking Trails

Popular destinations on our miles of trails include the Farm Barn, Lone Tree Hill, and the Formal Flower Gardens. Check out Marshall Woods, too! (see p.2) *If walking is not an option for you, you can obtain a driving pass on our website or at the Welcome Center.*



Fun at the Farm Barn

Tractor shuttle runs daily 10am–4pm from the Welcome Center, May 10 through October 19.

Children's Farmyard

Meet our sheep, goats, rabbits, cow, calves, pigs, horses, and donkeys. Learn about how they contribute to a working farm. Scheduled activities each day.



Welcome Center & Farm Store

Come in and say hello! Get your questions answered and pick up fresh products from our farm and other Vermont farms: cheddar, maple syrup, fruit, vegetables, meats, and more. Members receive 10% off their purchases.



Cheesemaking

Watch the cheesemakers crafting our Brown Swiss cows' milk into cheddar. **Meet a Cheesemaker: Daily, 11am**

Raptors in Residence | 1pm
May 10–June 15: Sunday
June 18–Aug. 31: Wed., Fri., Sun.
Sept. 7–Oct. 19: Sunday

Learn the mysteries of birds of prey with a live owl or hawk. Offered by Outreach for Earth Stewardship.



Shelburne Farms Inn

May 9–October 21, 2025

Make your online reservation for an overnight stay or a farm-to-table dining experience (breakfast and dinner), or simply walk our trails to enjoy the Formal Flower Gardens.

 shelburnefarms.org/inn





Farm Cart | 11am–3pm

May 10–June 8: Sat. & Sun.
June 14–Oct. 19: Daily

Enjoy farm-grown lunch and snacks in simple dishes that feature produce and products grown here and at other nearby farms.

2025 Summer Calendar

➦ Additional programs and all details: shelburnefarms.org or follow us!  

Seasonal Tours



SUZANNE FAY

Shelburne Farms Tour

Daily throughout the summer

On an open-air wagon tour, explore the stories of Shelburne Farms and its evolution from a private estate to an education nonprofit.

Sun to Cheese Tour

Daily throughout the summer

Discover the story behind our farmstead cheddar on an open-air wagon tour to our cows, pastures, dairy, and cheese facility.

House & Garden Tour

Sun., Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Enjoy a guided, in-depth walking tour of the Inn's main floor, upstairs bedrooms, and flower gardens.

Community Farming & Grassland Birds: A Local Conservation Strategy

May 28 | Wednesday

Prof. Noah Perlut shares stories of the grassland birds that he's studied for years, inspiring Vermont landowners and communities to halt the declining populations of these birds.

Pollinator Celebration Day

May 31 | Saturday

Vermont Pollinator Working Group presents a celebration of all things pollinators for learners of all ages!

The Art & Science of Herbal Tea

June 9 | Monday

Savor the delicate flavors of summer for an afternoon teatime at the Inn's North porch, overlooking the lake and flower gardens. *With Spoonful Herbals.*

Summer Concert Series

July 9–August 27 | Wednesdays

Set up your lawn chair, blanket, and picnic dinner or enjoy food for sale on site. Live musical performances for the whole family! *The first 3 concerts are part of the Town of Shelburne's summer concert series.*

Summer Forest Bathing: Shinrin-yoku

July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20 | Saturdays

Slow down and be guided by a Nature Connection Guide through a series of sensory invitations.

Breeding Barn Adventure Dinner

August 7 | Thursday

A magical farm dinner and 3-hour experience inside this breathtaking barn. *With Adventure Dinner.*

Vermont Cheesemakers Festival

August 10 | Sunday

A celebration of Vermont cheese producers. *(See article on p.6)*

➦ vtcheese.com/festival

Vermont Cheese Week

September 6–13 | Sat. to Sat.

Vermont Cheese Council celebrates producers with events statewide.

Cultivating Hope in Action: Earth Charter 25+

September 7 | Sunday

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Earth Charter with a full day of inspiring speakers, immersive art, and beautiful music offered by community partners. Build momentum for action that's aligned with planetary consciousness, ethics of care, and intergenerational justice.

Shelburne Farms Institute for Sustainable Schools

➦ For more on programs, graduate certificates with the University of Vermont, and graduate credits: shelburnefarms.org/programs

Graduate Certificates in Education for Sustainability

Choose the Micro Certificate (9 credits) or the Certificate of Graduate Study (18 credits). *Offered with University of Vermont.*

Northeast Farm to School Institute

Year-Long | Kickoff: June 24–26

School teams build action plans for lasting impact on their school communities.

Farm to School Institute Adaptation Program

Year-Long | Kickoff: June 23–27

States learn from this proven model for growing robust farm to school programs.

Foundations in Education for Sustainability

July 7–11

Learn systems and strategies to amplify youth voice and agency for positive change.

Cultivating Joy & Wonder

July 14–18

An immersive, energizing week to inspire your early childhood curriculum.

Education for Sustainability Leadership Academy

Year-Long | Kickoff: July 29–31

Aligning education for ecological integrity, economic vitality, and social justice.

A Forest for Every Classroom

Year-Long | Kickoff: August 5–7

Explore sustainability concepts on the land; translate them into your curriculum.

ABCs of Farm-Based Education

October 19–21

Inspire your existing farm education programs or begin building new ones.

Pollinator Perambulations

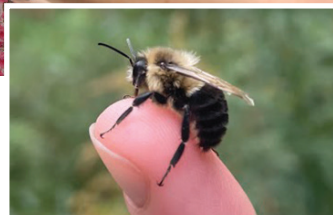
This summer, Shelburne Farms is offering a series of free pollinator walks with UVM PhD candidate Leslie Spencer. They're part of a larger plan in the works to protect pollinators more intentionally on site and to inspire and encourage others to take action, too.

Many pollinator species, like native bees, are in decline due to multiple pressures. But they play a vital role in natural and agricultural ecosystems, pollinating up to 75% of the world's crops by some estimates, especially fruits and nuts. Their health is tightly connected to broader ecosystem biodiversity, too.

Our plan is part of the solution. In addition to the walks, we're building a map of current and potential pollinator landmarks on the farm (maybe an educational native plant garden), expanding our resource library, and training staff. It's all to encourage more people to understand the plight of pollinators, to know how to help, and to be inspired to pitch in.



UVM PhD candidate Leslie Spencer (above right) will be leading free Pollinator Walks at Shelburne Farms this summer.



Kickoff Event: May 31
Pollinator Celebration Day
See listing on p.5 or

 shelburnefarms.org/calendar

ANDREA ESTEY

Announcing Marshall's Reserve

After small batch development, Marshall's Reserve is now available online and in our store. This block cheddar, made from our Brown Swiss cows' milk, is aged one year then sent to the Cellars at Jasper Hill for another 4-5 months of aging and rind development. Named in honor of non-profit cofounder, Marshall Webb.



Welcoming back the Vermont Cheesemakers Festival

Sunday, August 10, 2025
Breeding Barn

We're excited to welcome the Vermont Cheese Council's 13th annual Cheesemakers Festival back to Shelburne Farms this year in the spectacular Breeding Barn. "It's a celebration of our incredible community of cheesemakers," says Haley Elkins, Executive Director of VCC. "And since cheese has many friends, folks also will be able to enjoy other fresh artisan foods and craft beverages, and meet the makers behind them!" She goes on, "It will be a high summer's day of learning what makes Vermont cheese—and cheesemakers—so special."

It's not over when the Festival ends. We'll also be joining in the Vermont Cheese Council's second annual statewide Cheese Week, September 6-13.

 vtcheese.com or shelburnefarms.org/calendar



DARIA BISHOP

Inn Welcomes Farm to School Teams

In June, the Inn extends its long tradition of hospitality to all the school teams participating in our **15th annual Northeast Farm to School Institute kickoff**. During their stay, the participants are developing action plans to advance farm to school in their home communities. With the Coach Barn offline, we made this pivot, and are excited to host these educators, school food nutritionists, principals, and other farm to school practitioners.



HOLLY BROUGH

Farm to Table at Work

Our new Farm Functions Chef Jaclyn Major (right) has been spending time in the Market Garden learning and harvesting. This helps her craft menus to showcase the garden's bounty. She's looking forward to working in the new learning kitchen at the Coach Barn when it comes online later this year.



CAREY NERSHI

Farm to Table Dining

So much happens in between the dashes in “farm-to-table dining,” especially when the farm is literally steps away from the table. Starting in January and all season long, Chef John and Gardener Josh are coordinating their efforts to bring a beautiful and delicious rollout of fresh vegetables to the Inn.

What makes farm to table successful?

- Know when labor is available to harvest and prep produce.
- Plan for and communicate about peak times for crop harvests, visitors, and staffing.
- Understand how a crop performs in the field and kitchen.
- Showcase a variety of vegetables, especially those with educational value and a story.
- Know consumer preferences.
- Build strong relationships with other farms to strengthen the whole food system.
- Grow what the farmer enjoys growing and the chef enjoys preparing.

“At the farm, I get to see the most hopeful signs that humankind will be okay despite all the uncertainties in the world. What a priceless gift that is: to believe in hope.”

— Jacques Marton
South Burlington, VT

Your Support Matters!

Please Become a Supporting Member Today.

As an education nonprofit, Shelburne Farms depends on you. It takes tremendous financial resources to offer our programs and to care for and share this amazing place. Your membership gift of any amount helps us inspire learners of all ages to build a healthier, sustainable tomorrow. **Thank you!**

 shelburnefarms.org/support or use enclosed envelope.



Shelburne Farms

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Shelburne Farms is an education nonprofit on a mission to inspire and cultivate learning for a sustainable future through its programs, place, and products. We offer transformative learning experiences to help educators, students, and visitors create a more thriving world.

Shelburne Farms' historic campus is a 1,400-acre diversified working farm located on the homelands of the Winooskik band of the Abenaki.

ON THE COVER: An educator from Nepal at our Cultivating Joy & Wonder program. (Andrea Estey)

