Year End 2026

Shelburne Farms

Dear friend of Shelburne Farms,

All season, I've watched teachers and community members enjoy the "new" Coach Barn. From hosting speakers like Bill McKibben to convening school change-makers for the Northeast Farm to School Institute, it's been amazing to witness people gather and learn together. Cooking, too! That space is making so much possible.

From my own office window, I've also watched Jonathan Brownell and his masonry team slowly rebuild the Farm Barn wall. Their craftsmanship is creating another new outdoor space for learning and gathering.

Both projects reflect the heart of Shelburne Farms as an educational organization. To inspire learning for a sustainable future, we care for our farm landscape and historic buildings as places for discovery. We create endless opportunities for inquiry and dialogue, and generate collaborations for greater impact. We explore how all life is interconnected.

You make it possible. You support the programs, place, and products of Shelburne Farms that are building a brighter world for all — today and into the future.



With gratitude,

Alec Webb
President

Positively Pastures

Our summer pasture walks introduced people to the benefits of rotationally grazing our cows.



UVM Field Naturalist Lena Andrews shows guests the complex soil structure in our pastures.

"This is the natural state for these animals: outside on grass, grazing. This is where they're happiest."

Sam Dixon
Dairy Farm Manager

Our green pastures were a beautiful space for more than 100 people to learn about how we graze our livestock and why.

1 **PLANTS & COWS THRIVE:** Cows find excellent nutrition in diverse pasture plants, and the plants are fertilized with the cows' manure.

2 **CARBON IS STORED:** As plants rebound after intensive grazing, their roots grow deep and wide and slough off pieces, all holding carbon in the soil.

3 **WEATHER RESILIENCY:** Extensive root systems support organisms who create pathways and air pockets in the soil to give it structure that holds water and nutrients.

continued p. 7



Reviving a Neglected School Garden

A Burlington teacher and Shelburne Farms program alum brought a neglected school garden back to flourishing with a few simple but impactful steps.



Maisie Anrod (in hat), welcomes other educators to the school garden that she has revived for students, teachers, and nutrition staff to learn from, tend, and enjoy.

Four years ago, when sixth-grade teacher Maisie Anrod began working at Hunt Middle School in Burlington, the school garden had gone quiet, its once tidy beds untended.

"It was alive, but overgrown, and teachers weren't coming out with their students," Maisie remembers. "We were questioning all the work: why care for the space if it isn't being used? I thought, we should care for this space so that it gets used."

That mindset change began a second life for the garden. Now, seasonal volunteers show up weekly for planting, weeding, and harvesting (and Maisie's baked treats), and the garden is a busy outdoor classroom and a source of special ingredients for the cafeteria. How did the garden go from overlooked to embraced? Here are some tips from Maisie (get the full list on our blog):

1 ASK YOUR COMMUNITY WHAT THEIR DREAMS ARE

One of the most important steps was listening to the community and setting a vision that truly reflected it. Maisie did this through a simple survey for students, teachers, families, and community members to really dig into "What is this garden for?" Four big values emerged: connection and belonging; student empowerment; agency, mentorship, and skill building; and care and social emotional development.

Surveys offer practical feedback, too, like a crop list. "I created a huge, color-coded spreadsheet! My goal is to grow every crop that was mentioned more than once. There are like 50, but I think we can do it."

2 EXPRESS GRATITUDE

A favorite activity of Maisie's extends gratitude throughout the entire school. Each September, her sixth graders cut bouquets from the garden for someone who helped them get started that year: a teacher, custodian, paraeducator, or nutrition staff member. "It's a way to say thank you," Maisie says.

Maisie is an alumna of our Climate Resiliency Fellowship and Northeast Farm to School Institute. She currently is in our Education for Sustainability Leadership Academy.



Feeling Less Alone

"What's been most valuable for me is just to be able to connect to colleagues, because this work can feel kind of lonely. We're working on systems change, and these are big, slow-moving, bureaucratic systems: farming systems, food systems, and public education systems. It can be exhausting, and sometimes you're the only person in the building or the district doing this work. So to be able to connect with folks from around the country who are doing the same work, and to share ideas and challenges is incredible. You're like, 'Oh yeah, it's not just me!'"

Rebekka Henriksen, Farm to School Project Manager
Schenectady City School District, NY. *Alumna of our Northeast Farm to School Institute & Farm to School Leadership Academy.*

The Ripple Effect

Educating for sustainability can look very different in different settings. Here's how two teachers in our graduate certificate program offered with the University of Vermont are tackling it.



"Teaching for sustainability is not just conservation and ecology. When you start thinking about systems, it opens opportunities to work with kids in different spaces—food, transportation, energy—not just out on the land," says Susy Remillard, exploratory teacher at Nauset Regional Middle School on Cape Cod. Her seventh graders learn about the interconnectedness of the ecosystems surrounding them, a curriculum anchored in Wampanoag wisdom. And her eighth graders work on projects with local nonprofits. As one project this year, inspired by Shelburne Farms' Climate Creative course, Remillard's students designed a sculpture made from marine debris and installed it on school grounds to raise awareness about ocean pollution.

> "There are lots of ways to teach sustainability. These certificate courses at Shelburne Farms give you the space to explore and figure out the best practices that fit your program and the way you want to teach."
>
> **Susy Remillard**
> **Nauset Regional Middle School, MA**



At Amherst Regional Middle School, science teacher Kerrita Mayfield starts every class with two minutes of Quiet Time, an invitation for students to sit quietly and catch their breath. It's part of a set of practices she calls "humane pedagogy." "I'm interested in understanding what it means to be in a learning space that is both rigorous and loving. Where you feel cared for, valuable, seen, but you're also pushing yourself. That love is why I keep coming back to Shelburne Farms, and it's the type of space I'm trying to create in public education," she says. Mayfield recently organized a day-long, school-wide Climate Change Carnival. Students were immersed in learning with dozens of community partners; choices included building mini electric cars, planting climate-resilient trees in the school's arboretum, cooking with local produce, and mending thrifted clothes.



Kerrita's students made landscape-inspired art during the Climate Change Carnival.

Shelburne Farms
Institute for Sustainable Schools

2027 Programs

Education for Sustainability Programs (EFS):

EFS Certificates
MULTI-YEAR
Take a series of courses for credit. *With University of Vermont or Vermont State University Center for Schools.*

EFS Foundations | JULY 5–9
An intro to EFS, linking wonder, knowledge, inquiry, and collective action for positive change.

EFS Immersion | JULY 20–22
Deepen your EFS practice as you reflect, learn, and collaborate with colleagues.

EFS Leadership Academy
YEAR-LONG, BEGINS JULY 27–29
Explore systems thinking, leadership skills, and changemaking with a peer community.

More Programs

ABCs of Farm-Based Education
APRIL & OCTOBER
A three-day workshop to help farmers engage and inspire visitors.

Northeast Farm to School Institute | YEAR-LONG, BEGINS JUNE 29–JULY 1
Build action plans with lasting impact on classrooms, cafeterias, and communities. *Offered with NOFA-VT.*

Cultivating Joy & Wonder
JULY 12–16
An immersive, energizing week to inspire your early childhood curriculum.

A Forest for Every Classroom
YEAR-LONG, BEGINS AUGUST
Explore sustainability concepts on the land, and translate those lessons into curriculum.

Farm to School Leadership Academy
YEAR-LONG, BEGINS IN FALL
Build a community and strategies to transform your school meal program.

All Educator Programs
shelburnefarms.org/programs







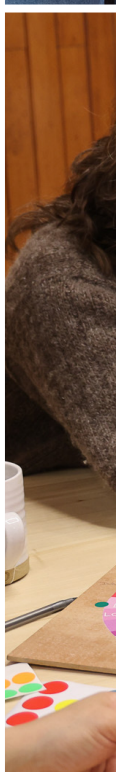






Bringing learning to life!

In and around the “new” Coach Barn this summer.















A Coach Barn Season

1 Environmental writer Paul Hawken spoke about addressing a warming planet to a sellout crowd in September. It was one of several author talks this season.

2 "I Am Vermont Too" exhibit spotlighted the identities and experiences of BIPOC Vermonters. *(with The Root Social Justice Center)*

3 Nando Jaramillo of Moon & Stars, a Vermont nonprofit dedicated to supporting a food system based in climate resilience, taught Northeast Farm to School Institute participants how to make arepas with locally grown flint corn.

4 Sicilian cookbook author, chef, and educator Fabrizia Lanza offered a spring workshop and conversation on preparing food that celebrates culinary traditions and is rooted in the land around us.

5 75 young people, educators, and other leaders from across the Northeast gathered for conversation, connection, and learning to collectively advance education for climate action. (*Climate Education Collaborative Summit)*

6 No kitchen? No problem! Educators discovered creative ways to cook with students. Sometimes all you need is one piece of equipment and the willingness to get a little messy. *(Northeast Farm to School Institute)*

7 Educators practiced making observations and asking questions about the natural world, skills they'll foster with their own learners. *(Foundations in Education for Sustainability workshop)*

8 Coursework challenged educators to think deeply about their teaching practice and describe their educational philosophies. *(Immersion in Education for Sustainability course)*

9 Through art, educators explored climate change — and climate imagination — bringing ideas back to their classrooms. *(Climate Creative)*

10 People of all ages learned how to support pollinators in their communities and own backyards at the Pollinator Celebration Day in June. *(with Vermont Pollinator Working Group)*

11 Learning by doing, teachers discovered the joy of making felted wool finger puppets, an activity they can easily share and adapt for their students to connect them to farming and farm products. *(Cultivating Joy & Wonder)*

12 In October, teams of Vermont youth and educators launched their year-long efforts to learn about their communities and develop a project to advance sustainability locally. (*Cultivating Pathways to Sustainability, with UP for Learning)*

13 U.S. Senator Peter Welch spoke at the School Nutrition Association of Vermont's annual conference where 150+ school meal professionals explored ways to increase local food purchasing and scratch cooking in their kitchens.







Coach Barn Project Earns Preservation Award

In June, Shelburne Farms and SAS Architects were awarded a Preservation Trust of Vermont 2026 Preservation Award, recognizing the project's special contribution to preserving Vermont's historic architecture. We are grateful for the vision, direction, and expertise of SAS Architects, who managed the year-long project.

The Face Behind the Wall

Jonathan Brownell and his team rebuilt the Farm Barn walls this season, but his roots at Shelburne Farms run much deeper.

Jonathan Brownell is owner of White Falcon Solutions. But in the early 1970s, his dad was legal counsel for the new nonprofit at Shelburne Farms, and suggested Jonathan look into work here after foreswearing college. "I started out as an apprentice forester with Marshall (Webb)," he recalls. "He set me up with 160 cords of elm to split!"

Soon he became a farm employee, and, with Marshall, tackled "pretty much everything": mechanical work, plowing, harvesting crops, plumbing, even wrapping cheese. When a friend suggested Jonathan start his own business, masonry made sense.

Over the years, White Falcon has done many projects regionally. Here, they've worked on the Breeding Barn and on the recent Coach Barn project, doing sitework, digging for power and water lines, and setting its courtyard pavers. "The Coach Barn work was so fun," Jonathan says. "It was a great job."

> "It is such a privilege and a pleasure. I have to pinch myself."
>
> **Jonathan Brownell**

Rebuilding the deteriorated Farm Barn walls was next. His team dismantled the original walls, poured new concrete footings, removed old mortar off stones to reuse them, then tackled the long rebuild. "We're proud of the scope of this project," he says. "Not many like this happen in a year."

Despite the project's scale, Jonathan calls it "not difficult masonry." "Almost all the angles are 90 degrees, and you just fit the stones in," he shrugs.



Jonathan Brownell sets a wall stone.

"It's so beautiful here," he simply says. "Sometimes we stop everything to set a little kid in the excavator seat, and it makes their day. That lightens everything. I mean, this is commercial work, and commercial work can be stressful. But this? We can do this all day. It is just such a privilege and a pleasure. It hits me every day. 'Wow, pinch yourself! We're not dreaming. This is real.'"

Next up: Jonathan's team is rebuilding a Farm Barn retaining wall.



Growing trees among grazing cows

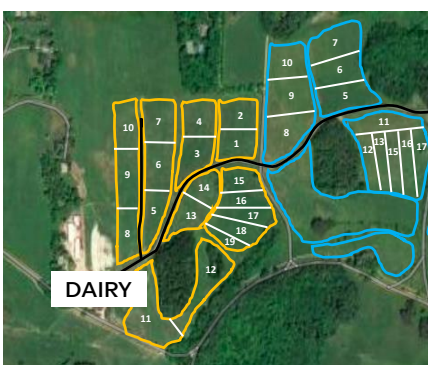
This spring, about 160 native trees were planted in rows in a ~5-acre pasture. As temperatures warm, ***silvopasture*** can shade grazing cows, boost pasture productivity, and secure more carbon in the land. Meghan Giroux of Interlace Commons will monitor the young trees periodically over the next 3–5 years.

This federally funded project is being conducted in partnership with Interlace Commons and others.

Positively Pastures *cont.*

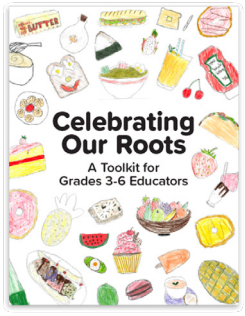
This helps support plants in dry spells and contain flooding and erosion. Managed pastures can also support the livelihoods of farmers; habitat for grassland birds, wild animals, and pollinators; open space; cleaner watersheds; and food.

2/3rds of our cows' diet is from our farm's pastures, hay, and silage. We purchase the balance from farms that grow grain. Our lamb is 100% grass-fed.



Map of key pasture paddocks that our milking herd rotates through.

Farm News Roundup



Collaborative Resource: Celebrating Our Roots

Every student has a story about food: an ode to a favorite dish, a treasured family recipe, or a memory of a celebratory meal. This new toolkit offers lessons to help students explore identity, culture, and belonging through food. Written by Aziza Malik, Kate Mattina, and Sara Brown, educators at Champlain Elementary in Burlington, VT.

Free download at our education resource library.



Children's Farmyard

It's a "children's" farmyard, but it educates learners of all ages, too. This season, we added a new trail and bench behind the pig pasture for one of the farm's nicest views!



Deterring with Decoys

This season, we tried using coyote decoys to keep Canada geese off the seawalls—a moderate success.



Engaging Students Outdoors

All fall, we've been welcoming local schoolchildren to our living classroom to learn about farming, food, and forests. This team was on a seed scavenger hunt. Along the way, they also found other treasures, including a spotted salamander and a big brown spider!



VT Cheesemakers Festival

We loved hosting the Vermont Cheese Council's annual event in the Breeding Barn, showcasing our cheddar along with so many other Vermont cheesemakers and artisan food crafters. **See sidebar to order your cheddar this season!**



Tending to the Gardens

Josh Carter and his team had a great season growing veggies, flowers, and fruits for the Inn and our local community. Shade cloth and deer fencing helped protect crops from heat and predation.



Jessica Sipe

Order Your Cheddar, Maple Syrup & More

store.shelburnefarms.org

For your holiday entertaining, gift giving, or client list! A taste of this farm. A taste of Vermont. And an American Cheese Society 2026 ribbon winner!



Stay with us at the Shelburne Farms Inn

Engage with the farm in Shelburne Farms. Savor farm-to-table meals, wander the trails and gardens, and enjoy the beauty indoors and out, like these farm-grown flowers.

Make Your 2027 Reservations
shelburnefarms.org/inn

Shelburne Farms News & Stories

Year End 2026

Shelburne Farms is a 501(c)(3) education nonprofit on a mission to inspire and cultivate learning for a sustainable future. We believe that transformative learning experiences sow the seeds for a more just and thriving world. Our work seeks to create the space, spark the conversations, and share the stories to inspire educators and students to build a better future for everyone. Our home campus is on the homelands of the Winooskik band of the Abenaki.



Welcoming College Students

We regularly welcome classes from the University of Vermont to learn from our living classroom, like this student from Foundations of Place-Based Education, a course we offer in partnership with UVM.



Convening Farm Educators

The Farm-Based Education Network, coordinated by Shelburne Farms, gathered 90+ educators here in October to strengthen their collective work connecting people of all ages to the farms that sustain them.

More news inside!

"I can't look back on my childhood in Vermont without picturing a small kid at Shelburne Farms. I have never found a better place to foster curiosity and a love of learning than on those working acres. The Farm centers people around a genuine love of land and community. Now, starting to root myself into a community in California, donating to Shelburne Farms seems the least I can do.



Claire Stoner, Santa Cruz

Make a Gift Today!

Use the enclosed envelope, scan the code, or visit **shelburnefarms.org/donate**

Thank you for your support.

Shelburne Farms
1611 Harbor Road • Shelburne, Vermont 05482
shelburnefarms.org • 802-985-8686

PHOTOGRAPHY: Holly Brough, Sue Dixon, Andrea Estey, Meghan Giroux, Roxie Lauer, Sarah Webb