



PENNYPACK FARM & EDUCATION CENTER

FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY



Mission
Pennypack Farm makes local sustainable agriculture an important part of the community.

2015 Annual Report



PFEC GROWS nutrient-rich food that is Food Alliance-certified for more than 500 families at two farms. Our organic practices restore nutrients to the soil. 2014 was a great growing season, with good weather and strong production.



PFEC GIVES more than 4,600 pounds of fresh, organic produce to four local food pantries: Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard in Ambler, Loaves and Fishes at Jenkintown United Methodist Church, Manna on Main in Lansdale, and Hope Gardens Transitional Housing in Ambler.

PFEC TEACHES farmers, children, school groups, teachers, and adults about the importance of local food and farming, where food comes from, and how to improve family health through cooking and eating well.

Horsham

Celebrating 12 Years!

We completed the farming season with 335 families receiving their weekly vegetables from June to mid-November. 43 of these families worked at the farm in exchange for their bounty.

Our deer fence is aging and in the coming year will need significant repairs. We also need to consider equipment storage.

The Edible Classroom hosted 3,236 College Settlement campers and Outdoor School students, who enjoyed planting and harvesting carrots and cherry tomatoes.

"I think this is the best year yet! Great quality and variety. It's my little piece of heaven once a week!"



The Highlands

Restoring Agriculture to The Highlands

With grant and donor funding, we completed our 2nd growing season with deer fencing, electric lines, a well in place, and most of the poison ivy eradicated! Though we are still working out of tents and a small truck for refrigeration, we provided vegetables to 187 families each week. 34 families worked in exchange for their food shares.

The Edible Classroom now has a cob oven and compost demonstration area, and hosted more than 1,000 children. The new plantings have helped The Highlands to become registered as a natural habitat "Bird Spot."

"This [joining the CSA] is the best thing we've ever done for our health and enjoyment!"

Volunteer & Service Learning

More than 2579 hours this year! Groups include: Harriton High School, Prudential, Kreischer Miller, Amedra, Holy Redeemer Ministry Corps, Dow, and Beacon School.



Film Series

Each year, PFEC presents three films on the topics of food, agriculture, or sustainability with a networking expo and panel discussion.



Food Donations

PFEC provided more than 4,600 pounds of fresh produce in 2014. Next year, we will increase this through 1,000 additional pounds from The Highlands site.



Farm to Table Dinner

In August, nearly 60 people gathered at a private home in Chestnut Hill to enjoy a delicious, seasonal meal prepared by local chef Matt Beck. Despite some rain earlier in the day, attendees dined on a menu featuring PFEC produce, homemade cheese-cake, and locally brewed beer.



Localicious

PFEC's annual harvest celebration in September honored Volunteer of the Year Missy Barnhart and Sustainable Living Leaders Mark and Judy Dornstreich. More than 150 attendees helped to raise more than \$18,000, including \$7,000 to purchase a used tractor for the Highlands site.



Education Programs at The Highlands

Many schools and groups visit the Edible Classroom for education programming centered on sustainable and organic practices. Favorite programs include salsa making, dispatching Mexican bean beetles, turning the compost pile and looking for worms.

Groups and Schools:

Beacon School, NYC - 3-day community service
Germantown Academy - Second grade
Abington Friends School - Kindergarden
Blue Bell Montessori School - Primary students
Malvern School - Summer camp
PA School for the Deaf - Teacher training and student visit
Temple University - Dept. of Horticulture
Upper Dublin High School - AP Environmental Studies Class
Beth Am - 8th grade community service
Ambler Moms' Group

School Garden Consultations

From planting through harvest, we provide schools with gardening tips and fun activities for students of all ages.



FARMER APPRENTICE PROGRAM: This innovative program teaches young farmers how to start and manage their own sustainable farm. 2014 brought the first graduate from PFEC's program. Our two first-year apprentices have moved into their second year and we are interviewing new applicants. The curriculum includes: organic soil science and pest management, greenhouse propagation, record keeping, business planning, compost and cover cropping, tractor safety and maintenance, season extension, and much more!

Harvest Fest

For our biggest community event of the year, farmers made smoothies, led hayrides, and answered questions about growing vegetables.



Adult Classes

"This was another fabulous class - chock full of information and tips."
"What a fun & informative way to learn to use all of our delicious CSA bounty!"



Summer Camps

"I love worms, compost and butterflies!"

What did you like most about Farm Camp?
"Everything!" -Hatboro-Horsham YMCA Camper



SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

This 12-week program gives students interested in sustainable agriculture a hands-on opportunity to work at an organic farm.



Thank you to our Donors!

Arcadia Foundation
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First Niagara Bank
The Forrest C. and Frances H. Lattner Foundation
110 individual donors
PFEC Board of Directors



Pennypack Farm's Horsham site is hosted by
The College Settlement of Philadelphia.

Pennypack Farm at The Highlands is a collaborative partnership with The Highlands Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.