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## Who we are

Newton Community Farm (NCF) is a thriving and bountiful working farm with sustainable agriculture at the core of its mission. With Farmer Greg at the helm, the chickens clucking, crops growing and volunteers harvesting, we offer the community the unique opportunity to experience the growing of food in a suburban setting. Located at the corner of Winchester and Nahanton Streets, we are the last working farm in the City of Newton, carrying on a tradition that stretches back some 300 years. Growing over 40 different crops on 1 acre of land and with a newly renovated Barn including modern kitchen facilities we are a living example of the modern day value of farm to table.

## About our program

The Newton Community Farm Preschool Discovery Program connects our youngest learners to the natural environment by offering experiential discovery of a market farm that uses sustainable agricultural methods. By engaging the five senses, and observing our food growing, children begin to develop the seeds of knowledge about where food comes from, sustainable growing methods, and making healthy food choices. Building on themes and concepts outlined in the MA state standards our Preschool Discovery Program provides real, accessible examples while also providing preschoolers with the unique opportunity to notice, experience, and enjoy their natural world.

We invite preschool groups to visit our farm for onsite visits or to take part in our year-round seasonal discovery program. NCF is also available to bring programming to your preschool. We have three programs available to suit your needs. They range from a classic field-trip to a more in-depth discovery of the farm over the course of the school year. More detail can be found below on each of our offerings.

### **1 - Visit our Farm: one-hour exploration**

During this exploratory hour at our farm, our youngest learners will take a tour and learn about the different foods we grow and the work that is involved in getting food to the table. Our visitors will spend time in the field, identify the different produce being grown, meet the chickens, and engage the senses by smelling and tasting samples as we go. Time will also be spent participating in a seasonally appropriate, hands-on activity in our designated learning garden. This program provides the perfect opportunity for young learners to observe and feel comfortable in their natural environment while providing the foundation for understanding how nature can provide for us.

**Fee:** \$10 per child. Runs April to October. 20 student maximum per visit with a required chaperone ratio of 1:5. Ideal for children ages 2.5 to 5 years old.

## 2 - Planting the Seed: a school year exploration program

Growing food is a year-round process and through our school year program children will develop a seasonal understanding of a farm and deepen their understanding of where food comes from and the process of growing food. This program includes 5 lessons, alternating between the farm and your preschool.

**April:** Preschool Visit As we prepare to plant for the coming season, children learn what a seed is and discover what is hiding inside. Children observe and compare the seeds of favorite vegetables and are challenged to match the seed to the correct vegetable. We then take a closer look at what is inside a seed and set up a simple experiment in your classroom to see if it really does grow into a plant.

**May:** Farm Visit Take part in a scavenger hunt in our learning garden as we learn what plants need to grow. We will then plant our own seeds either on the farm or in small containers to take back to school and practice what we have learned.

**June:** Preschool Visit What are the different parts of the plant and can we really eat them? Students will identify the main parts of a plant and learn their function. By the end of this session students will be able to identify which part of the plant we are actually eating when we munch into some of our favorite veggies.

**September:** Preschool Visit This is the ideal time for our Farm Educator to come and visit your school to showcase some of our produce and celebrate the harvest. We will investigate why there are so many seeds in the fall season and learn the difference between a fruit and vegetable through hands on exploration of a variety of produce.

**October:** Farm Visit Out in the field we will explore what is growing at this time of year and why, as well as techniques we use to help us keep growing delicious food in the colder months. We will then spend time exploring the steps it takes to get food to our table as well as looking at some popular food items and whether they too, started off on a farm.

**Fee:** Planting the Seed is offered as a 5 class package for \$590. This fee includes 3, one hour visits to your school by our Education Coordinator, and 2, one hour visits for up to 20 children to the farm.

## 3 - Classroom visits

Newton Community Farm is available to visit your classroom and deliver an inspiring one-hour program to support your curriculum. These programs combine hands on exploration, songs, stories and the occasional craft to bring our session alive. Whether you have a school garden or not we are always happy to incorporate time outdoors into any of our classes. Some possible topics for our visits include:

**Super Soil** Without soil we would not be able to grow our food or the cotton for our clothes. But what is soil? We will use our senses to investigate different soil samples from around the farm and see if we can identify the different ingredients. We will then think about ways that we can look after this valuable resource.

**Why are there so many seeds in the fall?** We will investigate why there are so many seeds in the fall season and we will learn the difference between a fruit and vegetable through hands on exploration of a variety of produce.

**What is a seed?** Take a closer look at a seed, what is inside and set up a simple experiment to see if it really does grow into a plant.

**Parts of the Plant** Using seasonal produce available from the farm we will identify the different parts of a plant, and their function. Students will be amazed to learn that they regularly eat flowers, roots and stems!

**A Leaf: The Plant's Kitchen** Are all leaves the same size, or even the same shape? What is their role and why are they so important? Take a closer look through the magnifying glass and see what we can see.

**Helpful Critters** In this session we will learn about two friends of the farm; the worm and the bee. We will take a closer look at these two creatures and why they are both so valuable to the life of a farm.

**Fee:** \$85 per 1-hour program

*Please note: NCF is not responsible for providing transportation or chaperones. Content may change at the discretion of the instructor. Programs at the Farm will take place rain or shine. Prices are valid for 2016.*

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