

CONSERVANCY NEWS



COLUMBIA
LAND CONSERVANCY

JANUARY 2022

GROWING STRONG

In the depths of winter, my mailbox is filled with color as seed catalog after seed catalog arrives. I love poring over the pages slowly, learning about new varieties of flowers and vegetables, and planning ahead for the coming year's harvest.

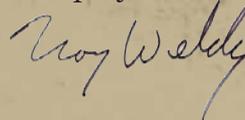
We are fortunate to live in a place with such a thriving farm community. Columbia County has a long history as a place of providing sustenance: the Mohicans hunted, trapped, and produced maple sugar. In the 1600s, the Dutch raised livestock, vegetables, and cereal crops, growing enough wheat to ship the excess down the Hudson River to New York City. Farming gradually shifted to sheep production in the 1800s - in 1845, sheep outnumbered people in Columbia County on a scale of four to one! As the demand for wool lessened in the 1900s, most sheep farms transitioned to dairy operations. Today, many of these dairy farms are shifting yet again, in response to volatile economics associated with milk prices, and growing consumer interest in small-scale, diversified operations. If you are interested in learning more about Columbia County's farming history, we highly recommend Conrad Vispo's *The Nature of the Place: A History of Living with the Land in Columbia County, NY*.

The ability connect to the land through growing your own food, or making connections with the people who do, is a right that is often seen as a privilege.

As we work to increase those connections and shape the future of farming in Columbia County, we will need to consider big questions: Can farmers earn a living wage while keeping food affordable? Does food stay here in Columbia County, or is it shipped to higher-priced markets in the city? How is food produced, and can it be done so in a way that contributes to creating healthy habitats and combatting climate change? Who has access to land? CLC doesn't have the answers to these questions, but we are committed to continuing the conversation.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find a list of local farms selling some of the best of what Columbia County has to offer, and reflections from farmers as they navigate the complexities of growing food during this time. You can also learn more at clctrust.org/farm.

I hope you have a delicious winter.



Troy Weldy
President

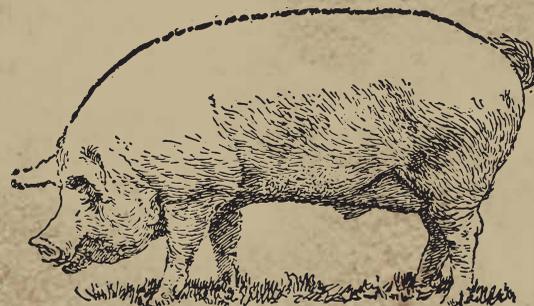
Columbia Land Conservancy
49 Main Street
Chatham, NY 12037
518.392.5252
clctrust.org
info@clctrust.org

Follow CLC (@CLCTrust) on social media:
Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, TikTok, and YouTube.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sign up for a CSA

February is Community Supported Agriculture Month. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members form a community that supports their local farm in return for a steady supply of farm-grown products. By reserving your share in January or February, you provide farmers with income during a slow season.



Buy local

Many of the farms listed in this newsletter have farm stands and garden stores open year-round. We recommend calling or checking their website before visiting to confirm pandemic safety protocols and open hours.



Share the love

Do you have a favorite apple cider doughnut? A preferred tomato stand? Know the best place to pick strawberries? Spread the word! Bring your friends to visit local farmstands, tag farmers on social media, and give local products as gifts.





**COLUMBIA
LAND CONSERVANCY**

49 Main Street • Chatham, NY 12037
518.392.5252 • clctrust.org

Address information

Line One

Line Two

Line Three



Keep farmers farming.

Your gift to the Annual Fund supports CLC's work with partners to keep farm families on their land, protect important farmland, and match beginning farmers with landowners interested in supporting agriculture.

Visit clctrust.org/give to make your gift today.