



# The Crows' Courier!

ISSUE NO. 1 | NOVEMBER, 2020

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## OUR PURPOSE

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*The mission of Crows' Feat Farm  
is to build community through a collaborative  
commitment to regenerative farming*



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## WHAT'S GROWING ON

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### *To Everything, There Is a Season*

The first summer at Crows' Feat Farm is one we will never forget. Spurred by musicians' and our society's distress at being unable to connect in person, we launched an outdoor concert series that drew eleven amazing bands and hundreds of visitors to the farm. The extraordinary support & enthusiasm of this community convinced us that a cooperative approach to cultivating these farmlands is not only possible, but necessary. Crows' Feat Farm would not exist—and cannot exist—without community. It's who we are.

We started a process of finding farmers, thanks to the help of the visionaries who created [Land for Good](#), The [New England Farmland Finder](#), and the [Cooperative Development Institute](#). We are well on our way toward creating a community of farmers who share our vision of regenerative agriculture embedded in the principles of natural conservation. Our task now is to build the structures (both physical and organizational) that can sustain these farmers decades into the future.

Onward & upward!

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## KAREN'S CORNER

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### *Cultivating Community*

It's been an exciting few months here at Crows' Feat, as we gather like-minded individuals to help us envision a future as a large-scale, cooperative, permaculture farm. We welcomed nine farmers to our first planning session, where we discussed the Three Whys?

1. Why cultivate these lands?
2. Why pursue permaculture?
3. Why operate cooperatively?

It was a fascinating conversation—one that took us many places—but the basic answers are simple. Because: this land is an incredibly valuable resource that's well-suited to growing food, and we're going to need a lot more local food over the coming decades. Because: local makes social and environmental sense. Because: permaculture techniques allow for intensive, rather than extensive cultivation of the land. Nurturing the soil and creating an integrated strategy for stewarding resources within the farm permits higher yields at lower cost. Most importantly, permaculture minimizes humans' impact on nature's other inhabitants, who enjoy a nurturing existence while bringing their own gifts to the enterprise. Because: cooperative farming brings together a diversity of talents and activities that make the most of the land, while sharing the burdens of this challenging work.

Farmers sometimes get in trouble by relying on a single crop, going heavily into debt to purchase land and equipment, and getting burned out from years carrying the world on their shoulders. The diversity of a cooperative farm reduces risk to the individual farmer, allows for sharing of overhead costs, and brings welcome assistance when the work is heavy. This resilient approach is how traditional societies have always farmed, and sustained themselves through challenging times. If we succeed, we will be the first large-scale cooperative, permaculture farm in New England. We hope to be a source of advice, inspiration and encouragement to farmers young and old, as they bring their gifts to the earth.

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## COME & GROW WITH US

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### **First Saturday Work Parties**

December 5<sup>th</sup>

January 2<sup>nd</sup>

February 6<sup>th</sup>

From 9-12 noon, followed by a farm lunch!

### *Let's Work Together*

On the first Saturday of each month, the Crows' Feat "farm team" gets together for a working party. On November 7<sup>th</sup> we put our permaculture beds to rest for the winter. Fourteen of us gathered to (a) lay down cardboard and wood chips for weed prevention on the garden paths, (b) remove plant debris from the beds while leaving the roots intact in the soil, (c) layering manure & compost on the beds; (d) covering all with a layer of cut grass and leaves as a blanket against winter cold & wind.

It was a gorgeous day, perfect for community and conviviality, as we celebrated our accomplishments and savored a fabulous lunch prepared by Anna with the farm's produce: Frittata with carrots & sweet potatoes; a vegetable soup of kale, pumpkin & white beans; and red-onion focaccia with goat cheese. [Read more...](#)