

Drumlin Farm Agriculture

At Drumlin Farm, we are committed to growing quality food in a way that does not strip the land of its vitality. Sustainable agriculture builds healthy soil, which is the foundation of a healthy environment.



Each year, we add tons of organic matter to the vegetable fields in the form of composted manure and bedding, which we make on the farm. Lime and other natural amendments are added as needed. We do not use any chemical fertilizers. The result is a balanced soil full of minerals, nutrients,

microorganisms, earthworms, and humus (organic material). Our sustainably managed soil has all of the elements needed to grow healthy plants.

Healthy plants produce abundant crops and are better able to resist disease and insects. If required, non-chemical and/or botanically derived controls are used. We do not use any synthetic or petroleum-based insecticides or herbicides.

Drumlin Farm has a crop rotation plan that seeks to break disease and insect cycles, while increasing soil fertility. The use of cover crops is essential in any crop rotation system. Cover crops help prevent soil erosion, suppress weeds, and add humus and nutrients to the soil. Examples of cover crops used at Drumlin Farm are winter rye, red clover, buckwheat, oats, and field peas.

Drumlin Farm Stand

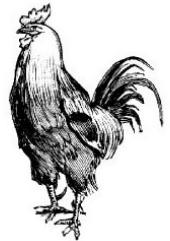
We operate a farm stand at the sanctuary year-round. When in season, we sell fresh-picked produce, pesto, eggs, flowers, maple syrup, meat, yarn, and sheepskins. We also have a pick-your-own raspberry and strawberry patch. Each May at the stand, we sell seedlings of heirloom tomatoes, basil, peppers, eggplant, and flowers.

Food Contributions

Drumlin Farm donates vegetables to three Boston area organizations. Our collaborative partners include Food for Free of Cambridge, Parker Hill / Fenway ABCD Food Pantry of Roxbury, and Catholic Charities of Somerville. In 2007, Drumlin Farm donated over 4,000 pounds of fresh produce to these organizations.

Drumlin Farm Livestock

As a working farm, we raise sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, and laying hens. All of our animals are raised with plenty of space, fresh air, and without the use of growth hormones or routine antibiotics. They are humanely handled and slaughtered at a small, USDA-inspected slaughterhouse, where the meat is frozen immediately after butchering. Our meat is available seasonally and selections will vary depending on the animals being raised at any given time. Additionally, we produce hay and sell yarn and sheepskins. In fair weather, we also have mule-drawn hayrides.



Apprentice Program

Each summer, Drumlin Farm offers several apprenticeship opportunities. Apprentices work closely with the crops manager, learning many aspects of the farm operation: sustainable growing practices, greenhouse propagation, compost management, tractor operation, and farm product marketing. Apprentices also participate in the Collaborative Regional Alliance of Farmer Training (CRAFT). CRAFT is a series of bi-weekly farm visits to assist in the on-farm training of new and beginning farmers.

Boston Farmers' Markets

Drumlin Farm sells its produce at two Boston Farmers' Markets that run from early June through late October. On Thursdays, we set up our stand in Brigham Circle. On Saturday mornings, we sell at the busy and festive Union Square market in Somerville. Drumlin Farm also participates in the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program. This federally funded program seeks to safeguard the health of low-income, nutritionally at-risk women, infants, and children by providing access to nutritious foods, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. The WIC program distributes food vouchers that can only be redeemed at farmers' markets. In 2007, WIC coupons accounted for 4% of sales at our markets.

Drumlin Farm Research

In 2004, Drumlin Farm completed a study on the effectiveness and profitability of various mechanical weed control techniques. The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program funded the work. Our study compared weed control methods used on other local farms to the system in place here at Drumlin. The results of the research demonstrated that coordinated use of the two implements—The Star Hoe and the Einbock Flex-tine Weeder—increases profitability, and reduces the overall number of tractors (and associated maintenance costs) and equipment farmers need.

In 2005, Drumlin Farm received a Community Crossroads Foundation grant to explore the profitability of making pesto—a value-added product—from basil and garlic grown on the farm. This season, we produced and froze 500 8oz. containers of pesto; we sold it at farmers' markets and at the farm stand. The grant taught us how to streamline the production process, and has given us a summer product to sell in the spring and winter.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

What is community supported agriculture?

In this model of farming, the consumer enters into a direct and mutually beneficial relationship with the grower and other members of the CSA. Members pay in advance for a season's worth of fresh, sustainably grown produce. The farmer, having identified a market before the season begins, can then focus on growing great crops without having to scramble to find outlets for produce during the busy season.



What is the Re-Vision / Drumlin CSA Project?

The Re-Vision / Drumlin CSA Project is a joint venture of Re-Vision House, Inc. in Dorchester, and Drumlin Farm. These two farms work together throughout the growing season to grow and distribute vegetables to 75 Boston area families. CSA members receive a big grocery bag full of vegetables – enough to feed a family of 2 adults and 2 children – every week from June through October. The share price goes towards the cost of growing and distributing a season's worth of produce, and helping the CSA carry out its dual mission: providing job training and education to women who are homeless and in transition, and growing fresh, healthy food that is affordable for all members of the community. This unique project creates an innovative urban-suburban agricultural link that strengthens both farms and supports the sustainability of urban agriculture in Boston. For more information, visit www.re-visionfarm.org.

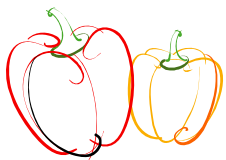
Can I pick-up a CSA share at Drumlin Farm?

Yes. In 2005, we inaugurated the Lincoln CSA with 30 member families. In 2008, we'll register 90 families. You can pickup your share between 11 and 5 on Wednesdays. Agree to give us 8 hours of work assistance, and we'll take \$50 off the price of a share. While weeding or picking the string beans, snap peas, or cherry tomatoes you'll be eating that night, you can teach your family the work that goes into producing the food we eat. The work commitment will also give you the chance to meet like-minded people from the community. Sign-up forms are available on The Drumlin Farm website, www.massaudubon.org. If you have any questions, contact Matt Celona at 781-259-2236, mcelona@massaudubon.org.

What is the Drumlin CSA Winter Share?

The Drumlin Farm Winter Share is a CSA program that provides vegetables throughout the winter to 45 families. The vegetables are grown during the summer season and stored in our root cellar. Members who purchase a share receive a variety of root vegetables, winter squash, onions, late season greens and a bag of our own greenhouse-grown lettuce every two weeks from November through the end of February.

Eating locally-grown food, especially in winter when our supermarkets are filled with produce trucked from faraway places, benefits the environment by reducing energy spent on food transport, and improves member health and quality of life by increasing the intake of naturally-grown vegetables.



Drumlin Farm Harvest Guide

	June	July	August	September	October
Asian Greens					
Beans					
Beets					
Broccoli					
Cabbage					
Carrots					
Collards					
Corn					
Cucumbers					
Eggplant					
Garlic					
Herbs					
Kale					
Leeks					
Lettuce					
Onion					
Peas					
Peppers					
Potatoes					
Radish					
Raspberry					
Shallot					
Spinach					
Strawberry					
Summer Squash					
Tomato					
Turnip					
Watermelon					
Winter Squash					

Massachusetts Audubon Society

The Massachusetts Audubon Society is the largest conservation organization in New England, concentrating its efforts on protecting the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Mass Audubon protects more than 29,000 acres of conservation land, conducts educational programs for 250,000 children and adults annually, and advocates for sound environmental policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

Established in 1896, and supported by over 65,000 member households, Mass Audubon maintains 41 wildlife sanctuaries that are open to the public and serve as the base for its conservation, education, and advocacy work across the state.

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary teaches environmental conservation using the farm to illustrate principles of sustainable land use. Visitors and program participants learn about traditions and sustainable innovations in cultivation, pest control, soil conservation, food animals, and the seasonal rhythms of life on the land. They also learn about the sanctuary as a whole, the native flora and fauna, and the diverse wildlife habitats that surround the farm fields.



Farming at Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary



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