



Red Hook Farms March Newsletter

WARMING UP!

As per usual, winter came and went in a flash! We were busy poring over last year's data, surveys, and staff reflections to plan for the coming year. Seeds have arrived, crop plans are done, and spring curriculum is coming together. We cleared out the greenhouse and repaired the caterpillar tunnel. This week, we're onboarding 22 youth farmers, and everyone on the team tried to squeeze in a vacation of sorts before spring takes us off at a sprint.

We've been open for Friday morning compost-focused volunteering through the winter, but now we'd love to invite folks back to volunteer at the farms on Saturdays once again! We encourage you to [sign up in advance](#) so we can plan tasks and staffing accordingly! And let's give Wolcott farm a little more love this year everybody - if you haven't volunteered there as well yet, come feel the special magic that is our hug of a farm.

And for those who may be considering the farm world as a career move, or know someone who is, please check out this paid summer farm internship opportunity from the Saxelby Legacy Fund. We've hosted amazing Saxelby interns the past two summers, but host sites are all over the country. [Applications](#) are due March 15 so get it going!



Talking Bugs at BBG

Farms Director Saara will be co-presenting an Auditorium Talk called "Bugs of Note" at

the upcoming free community grower conference at Making Brooklyn Bloom, at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Along with farm friend Sam Anderson of Cornell Cooperative Extension, we'll explore our favorite insect friends and foes! Join us **Saturday, March 9 at 11am** to talk life cycles, taxonomic orders, predator/prey relationships, identification tips, and more! Other workshops include native plants, compost, seed starting, companion planting, blueberry botany, and more - plus garden tours! Keynote address by Courtney Streett of the Native Roots Farm Foundation at 1:30pm. Check the full line up of this amazing annual FREE conference and [register here](#)!





Calling Red Hook NYCHA Gardeners!

We're getting ready to restart Garden Club this year - are you interested in having your own raised bed to grow your own vegetables, herbs, and flowers at the Wolcott farm? Mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 30, 10am-12pm** for the spring member orientation. New and returning members can come and learn what it means to join Garden Club, and we'll assign beds at the end of the meeting. There is no cost to join and no experience is necessary - we provide tools, seeds, and whatever knowledge we can share! Open to Red Hook Houses residents only - help spread the word! Please email farms@rhicenter.org with questions or to register for the 2024 orientation.

Saturday farm stand opens **June 15**; **Friday** free farm stand for NYCHA residents opens **June 21**. **CSA** starts **6/13 and 6/15** - registration opens in April!





Red Hook Farms, a project of Red Hook Initiative, is a youth-centered urban farming and food justice program in Red Hook, Brooklyn. We create opportunities for teens to expand their knowledge base, develop their leadership skills, and positively engage with each other, their community, and the environment. We operate two urban farm sites, and our programs include a teen farm apprenticeship, farm stands, CSA and Fresh Food Box farm shares, and a school workshop program. Since 2001, we have strived to improve community access to healthy, affordable produce, while nurturing a new generation of green leaders.

Red Hook Farms

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