



Food Studies Newsletter

March 2025

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NOFA-VT Conference

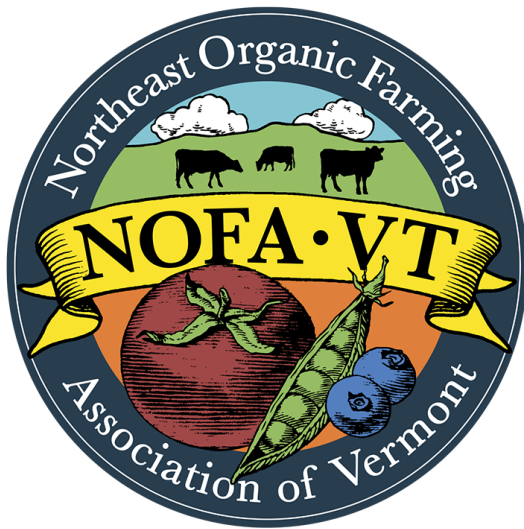
Upcoming Events

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Weybridge House

Northeastern Organic Farmers Association Winter Conference



Each year, the Northeastern Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) hosts a conference where farmers, gardeners, earth tenders, land managers, educators, students, policy-makers, and other food system activists come together to share thoughts and ideas and build community. This year's theme, "Growing Together" focused on coming together as a community to share knowledge, humanity, and inspiration to create change in the food system.

The 42nd NOFA Winter Conference kicked off with a keynote address from Dãnia Davy and Tim Gibbons who spoke on building people power across the agricultural landscape followed by over 40 workshops where everyone had the opportunity to share knowledge, try local products, and joyfully network.

12 Middlebury students attended the conference funded by the Climate Action Capacity Project.

Reflection from Lucy Rector

"My favorite presentation during the NOFA conference was titled "What to Expect When You're Expecting Fascism: Stewarding an Equitable, Anti-Racist, Local Food System Under an Old Regime," which many of us Middlebury students attended. The presenter was a brilliant and charismatic company-founding, senior policy advising, law professor-ing, mothering, Chinese Jamaican person named Dãnia Davy, who not only gave a fascinating talk, but stirred passion and joy from the audience. I believe my largest takeaway from this experience was simply how invigorating it felt to be in community with one thousand others who cared about food, Earth, and each other so deeply.

The experience as a whole was amazing, accessible, and really quite moving. I left feeling empowered and thinking critically about what it means to be a good human, food producer, and steward of this land."

Upcoming Events

Book Talk

5-6:30pm on April 15th in RAJ Conference Room

“Barons: Money, Power and the Corruption of America’s Food Industry”

“Why is our food system broken? Austin Frerick describes the rise to power of 7 “food titans”, whose exploitation of consumers, farmers and workers has contributed to high prices and poor conditions for farmers and workers. Frerick is a Yale University agricultural policy fellow and the author of *Barons: Money, Power and the Corruption of Food Industry*, chosen as a Kirkus Review Best Indie Book of 2024.”

Middlebury TEDx

1pm on April 5th in Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center

“TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. The theme for this year is “Testing the Waters”, which explores the role of uncertainty in sparking innovative thinking, reimagining societal structures, and fostering resilience in the face of global challenges. This year’s speakers are Akshata Nayak, Brooke Mumbi ‘26, Jenna Tang, Becca Balint and Caroline Corrente.”

Tickets are on sale now at the box office at [go/tedxsvp/](https://go.tedxsvp/). To learn more visit [go/tedx/](https://go.tedx/)

Taste of the Valley

9:30am-12pm on March 20 in Wilson Hall

Taste the Valley is a trade show event hosted by ACORN Food Hub that brings together diverse local food producers and buyers to connect and discover the flavors of Vermont’s Champlain Valley. Come to Wilson Hall for a casual morning of good food, conversation, and connections.

To learn more and register for the event visit the [Taste the Valley event page](#).

Off Campus Events

March 20, 10am-4pm in Vergennes: [Organic Dairy Day](#)

March 22, 10am-4pm in Winooski: [Grand Opening of VT Garden Network’s new Greenhouse](#)

March 25, 11am-4pm in Burlington: [Ferment Fest](#)

April 5, Lafayette College: [Northeast Student Food and Farm Conference](#) (Funding available)

Thinking About Jobs in the Field?

Finding Your Future in Food Systems

Spring 2025 Webinar Series

Are you an emerging food systems professional?
Are you in career transition, seeking a job in community food systems work?
This webinar series is for you! Come to learn, network & ask questions!
Hosted by NAFSN, an association of community food systems professionals.



Wed, Mar 19, 6-7pm ET

featured speakers:
Jordan Blekking - Cornell CALS
Jaclyn Pace - Utah Farmers Market Network
Maria Elena Alvarado-Rodriguez - DAISA



Wed, Mar 26, 6-7pm ET

featured speakers:
Laura Smith - Chef Ann Foundation
Jennifer Hashley - New Entry
Tera Ashley - The Nashville Food Project



Wed, Apr 16, 6-7pm ET

featured speakers:
Alondra Cano - Marbleseed
Maddie Kempner - NOFA VT
Nora Miller - Farm Aid



Wed, Apr 23, 6-7pm ET

featured speakers:
Hakeem Holmes - NCAT
Zainab Pixler - Cleveland Department of Public Health
Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin - Kentucky Black Farmers Association

Webinar Series

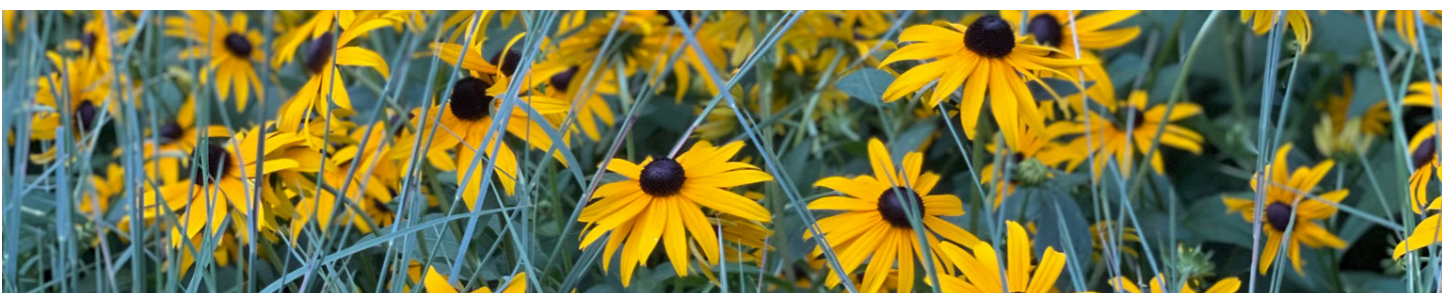
Wondering if a future in food systems is for you? The online webinar “Finding Your Future in Food Systems” webinar series hosted by the North American Food Systems Network brings professionals from a variety of sectors to talk about their work and ways to get into the field. The series consists of 4 events over the course of the spring and are all on Zoom.

To learn more visit <https://www.foodsystemsnetwork.org/events.php>

Check out these job boards

Want to work in food systems but not sure where to start?
Check out these job boards for available positions in the field:

[North American Food Systems Network](#)
[Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group](#)
[Good Food Jobs](#)
[COMFOOD List Serve](#)
[Green Collar Job Boards](#)



Need Funding for a Project?

Climate Action Program

“With its launch in the Fall of 2020, the year-long, paid Climate Action Fellowship program offers students from various backgrounds and disciplines the opportunity to deeply engage in collaborative thinking and skill development on how to confront the climate crisis in meaningful ways”

“Fellows work together (and with partners and mentors) to identify their own roles and theories of change in the world of climate action, while supporting the engaged learning pillar of Energy2028. They coordinate with groups on campus and in the community through a mix of defined projects and projects of their own design to envision pathways for all students to leave Middlebury with the knowledge, motivation, and capacity to act on climate change in just and equitable ways.”

To learn more visit go/caf/. Applications are due 4/4/25.

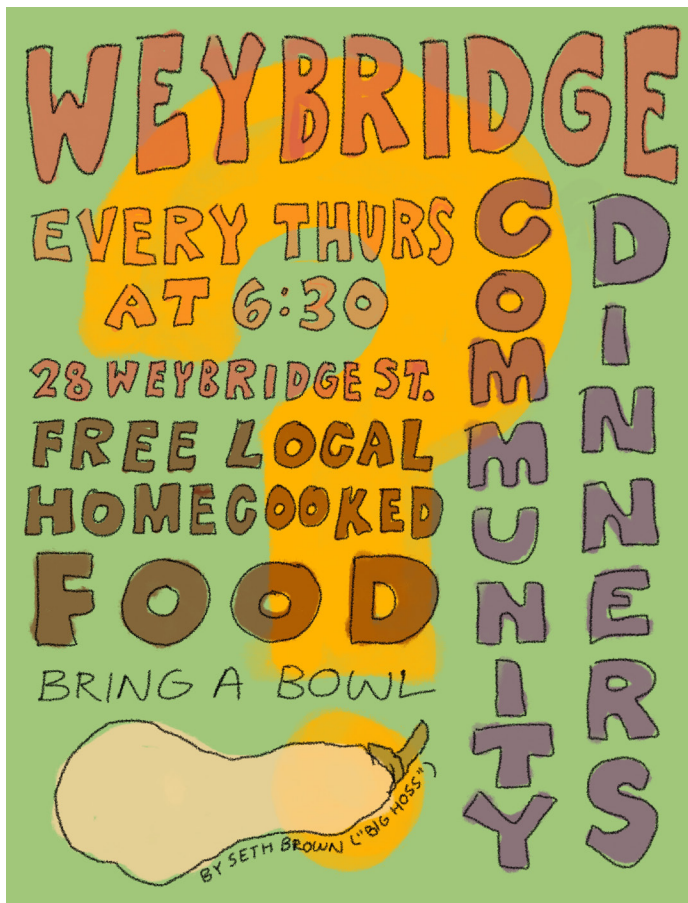
Mellon Migration Student Research Fellowship

“The fellowships support research on a variety of humanistic topics focused on migration. Students who are awarded these opportunities receive \$5000, and faculty advisors for their projects receive \$1000 in research support. Students should link their research proposal with either a senior thesis (700-level project) or an independent project (500-level project) in their junior or senior years. In both cases, a substantial written document (at least 25 pages) or comparable level of artistic work, depending on the department in question, is expected.”

Rising juniors and seniors in humanistic areas of study are eligible to apply. To learn more, start [here](#).



Wondering Where to Live Next Year?



Weybridge House

Weybridge House, located across from the CCI on Weybridge Street, is Middlebury's local food house! Twice a week, residents cook meals together using all local ingredients, with the exception of oil and spices. On Thursdays, residents share the food they've cooked with anyone in Middlebury and on Sunday nights house residents eat together to build community. During these gatherings, everyone spends time thinking about their connection with food, their stewardship of the land, and how engaging consciously with the food system strengthens our relationships. In the day to day, Weybridge works to build a community of mutual support and joy.

Want to Live in Weybridge House?

Love to cook? Interested in living in a house with other people interested in local food? Weybridge is currently accepting applications for anyone who wants to live in the house next year. To learn more visit [go/weyb/](https://go.weyb/) or visit the house Instagram [@weybridgehouse](https://www.instagram.com/weybridgehouse).

Weybridge House Thursday Dinners - Open to Everyone 6:30pm

If you don't want to live in the house but are still interested with home cooked, local food, Weybridge cooks a community dinner every Thursday. Everyone is welcome to attend at 6:30pm to eat together with the house residents. Bring your own bowl and get excited to enjoy local food.