



2021 Annual Report



1. Letter From Farmer Michelle

***“We are the ones
we’ve been waiting for.”***

- June Jordan

2021 made very clear for me the need to create space, down time, time for deep listening and conversations. As well as space and time for relaxation, recreation and restoration. I have had 4 years of hyper focus on the goal - keep the farm alive, make enough money to pay my bills, capitalism has me go, go, going! There’s no time for rest when you are busy surviving, especially in an industry that is notoriously under valued and filled with steep and constant learning curves. The learning curves and pressure of unpredictable weather have me feeling like I can never rest or make time for meaningful conversations and time with employees, friends and family, that I always need to be improving and working on the farm with the plants. The combo of capitalistic productivity and the urgency of time has been a hard barrier to overcome. Ultimately choosing rest has been a practice in radical acceptance and community building that is so deeply needed in the agriculture industry.

In an effort to achieve more rest and to create more expansive space for myself and others meant having to cut programming (Internship, SOS and future dreams are all on hold) and focus on the Farms foundational work and operations. It’s so difficult to operate a farm on only 40 hour work weeks in the summer and this goal may hinder us but ultimately it’s an attempt to bring into action our visions of what a more humane and equitable future can look like. It’s been very difficult to enact these shifts when the world around us continues to hum at an unbearable pace. It’s a pace that breaks people, spiritually, emotionally and physically. And us farmers need all that and more to push forward into this unknown climate crisis. We are working so hard to make a resilient farm that’ll continue to feed the community even if I, Farmer Michelle, become sick or injured or simply want to go on vacation. We are also working to make the farm efficient and productive with less demand on our human brains and bodies so we can do more healthfully.

2021 was full of frustrations and heartache around an economic and social system that values very little from the people who contribute to it. Good Rain Farm is striving to value people over profit but it's a goal that's swimming against the current. I've had 30 some years to learn to be in society and this economy one way and I have no doubt it'll take me the rest of my life to unlearn those habits and create new neural pathways of knowing. I've also accepted that not every minute of life is the highlight of the year. But if I know I am contributing to and being helpful to my community, plant, animal & human, then I feel a bit better about my struggles for the day. The practice of radical acceptance and carving out restorative rest time and strengthening my boundaries between my needs and self care and others was really prominent in 2021. I don't think there is any one singular way to change our economic, political or societal systems around us and I support and participate in a multipronged approach that includes not just monetary support but educational support, material support and emotional support. For 2022, Good Rain Farm will focus on offering better benefits that include paid time off, health care, financial literacy as well as gear and other types of compensation with clear policies for us to refer to and share with our farm community. These actions will build on our efforts towards creating the more equitable and restful future we envision.

I am proud that we are still here, that we made it through some really rough times and we are still here doing our best to grow food for our community! I am so proud of our payment pathways and how it reflects and shows how our community shows up for us! I am proud of my fellow farmers in all their efforts to continue to carve pathways forward to feed our community fresh, local, nutrient dense foods. We have done amazing collective work to shape and build a local food system that can persevere! I am proud of what Save Our Seeds did and can do. I am also deeply grateful to the Good Rain Farm team for their steady support in the Farm's vision and mission. Without the community of CSA members, fellow farmers and the team Good Rain Farm wouldn't be here. I am so proud of us for sticking through the ups and downs as this little farm reaches its 5 year birthday as a successful, though maybe not wholly unscathed, living example of Native Food Sovereignty!

As we look to the future we have big, BIG, plans and I am so excited for all of them to come to fruition! This farm has succeeded at everything it's set its sight on- we can do this! As we continue to build and document the daily foundation of operations of the farm we are also being realistic in what we can reasonably achieve while still being sure to take care of each other. I have faith that the farm will be a worker-owned co-op one day as I believe in the liberation of the labor force through economic and consent based democratic governing styles. And I am so excited for the Farm to find stability in long term land access - regardless if this looks like ownership or a 99 year lease.

Our ancestors held the wisdom and know-how on living in harmony with the various ecosystems around the world and I am eager to bring back the Internship to continue to support and share this knowledge with the next generation of food tenders and providers. There are so many ideas and dreams for the future of Good Rain Farm and the most important dream and long term goal is that this farm gets passed on to the next generation, out-living my time on this earth and continuing forward in new, innovative and creative ways to nourish the land, plants, animals and people along the way.

Limlmt (thank you) for all your support,
Sx^wk^wanłqm (Farmer) Michelle

Good Rain Farm in 2021, At A Glance:

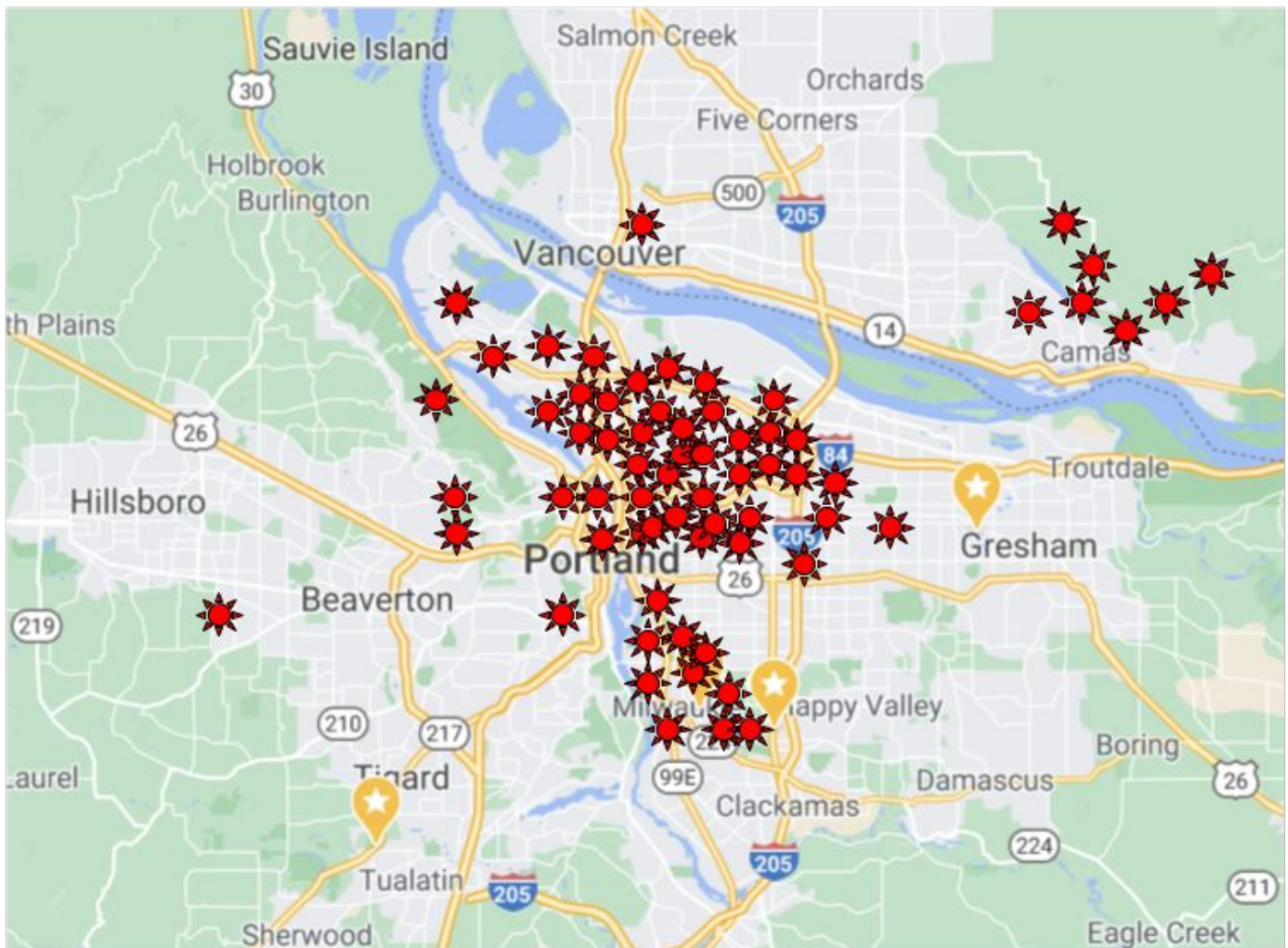
2021 held a lot of scaling up and growth for GRF!

- CSA Membership grew from 75 - 130 shares a 158% increase
- Established a paid crew with permanent management and field positions
- Expanded our community partnerships
- Received National and Regional news coverage recognizes the farm's efforts and challenges during COVID
- Our delivery range expanded to include Milwaukie and Beaverton and we introduced Home Delivery into the Add-on options
- We expanded our Add-on selection to include Bread from Bella's Italian Bakery (local and woman owned!), Takelma Roasting Coffee (Indigenously owned and locally operated!) in addition to our local Mushroom and Egg offerings
- Most importantly we increased our community impact in a few different ways: We provided more lbs of food to local food banks, began serving low income families through Portland Public School District, reached more SNAP and EBT recipients, and offered more payment options including sliding scale, payment plans, and comprehensive scholarships.
- We also started paying Michelle for her labor - ! not nearly enough, but a beginning step toward longer term equity.

3. 2021 CSA By the Numbers

Fast sdit served over 125 households across 23 zip codes in 2021 through its CSA memberships.

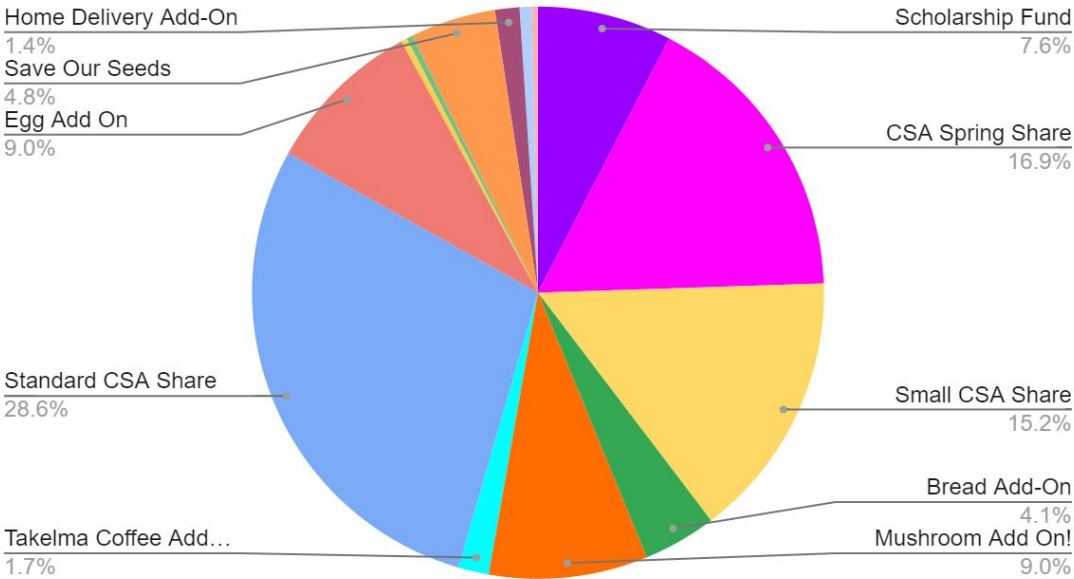
The map below gives a rough sense of where our members are located, and is not exact.



In 2021 we expanded our reach towards the West Side with a drop site off Canyon Road and with home delivery within 20 miles of zip 97214

3. 2021 CSA By the Numbers - continued

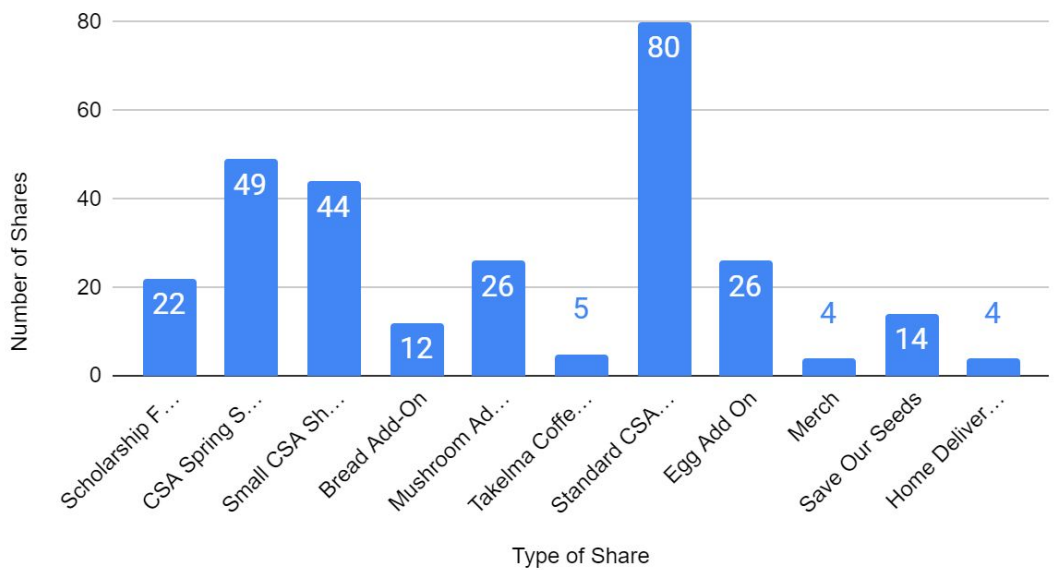
Good Rain Share and Sales Breakdown 2021



This chart shows our expanded range of Add-ons and Shoulder Season shares. These percentages have drastically changed our sales breakdown since 2020

A look at the numbers by volume. Each year is shaped too by our community non profit partners - Our spike in Standard Shares in 2021 was in part due to a collaborative grant initiative with Metro Family Service, Providence, and Growing Gardens.

Shares and Sales By Volume 2021



Thank you to our 2021 Vendors:
FlatTack Farm Eggs,
Bridgetown Mushrooms, Bella's Bakery, and Takelma Coffee



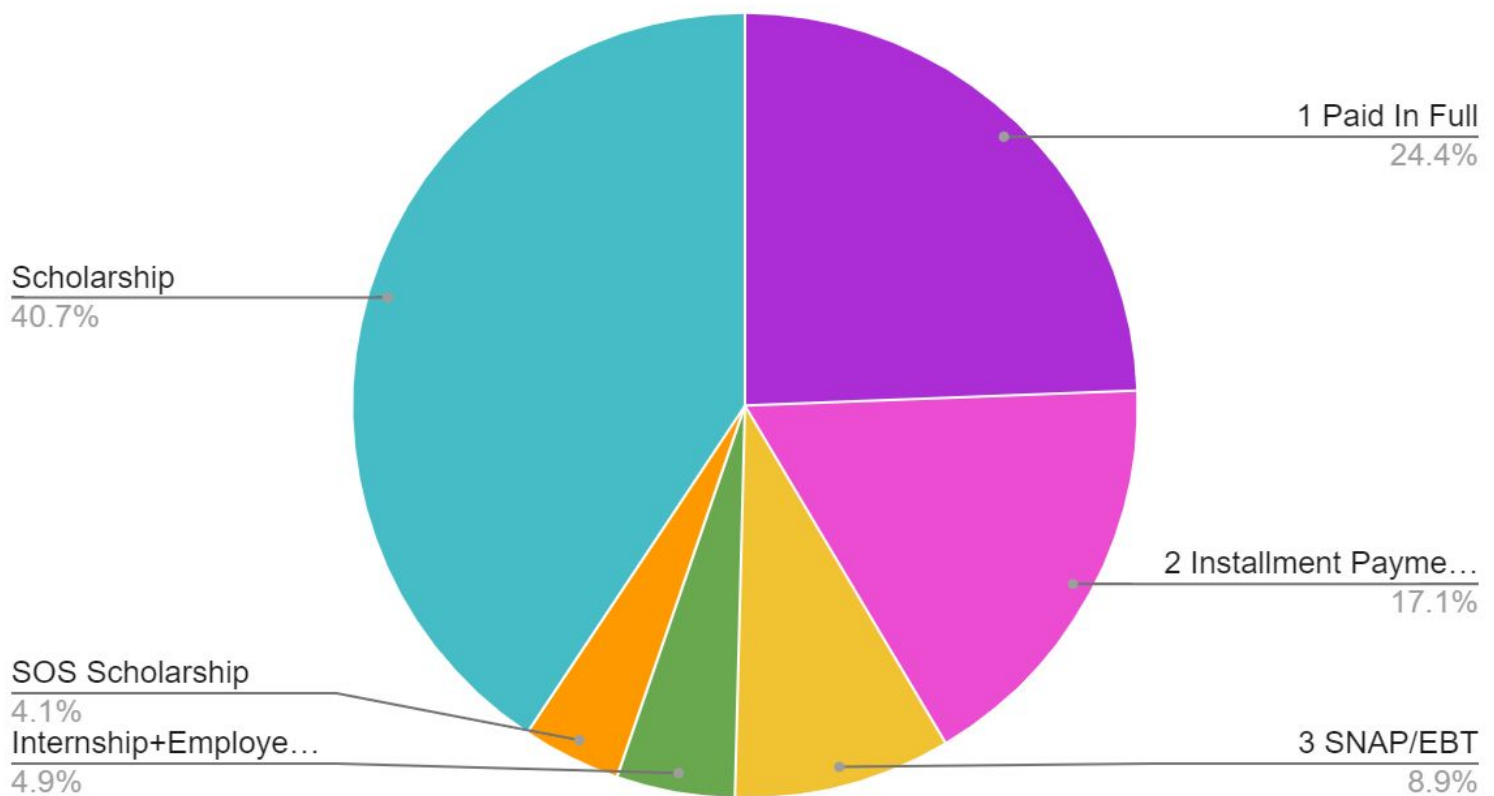
3. 2021 CSA By the Numbers - continued

Ever wonder what wealth redistribution and community repair looks like in action? Check out this chart breaking down the payment types used to access our CSA in 2021. You'll notice the majority of members paid in full, up front, meanwhile some of our members utilize SNAP, benefitted from direct fundraising and scholarships, or paid in installments. **In 2021 we aimed to provide 30% of our shares at no cost to BIPOCQ+ community members in need and we exceeded that goal for a total of nearly 50% .**

What warms our heart is that many of our paying members also contribute to the CSA scholarship fund. It is easy to talk the talk, but putting your money where your mouth is? That takes integrity, and our members are chock full of it. We have complete confidence in our community's ability to take care of each other.

Thank you for being a part of that work with us this year!

How People Paid for their CSA 2021



Also check out our Farm Bucks: They seem like just another gift card at first glance, but in reality they serve as a flexible and accessible way our community can provide direct mini-scholarships to individuals!

We are always on the lookout for a creative way to use the tools we have on hand to feed the community and redistribute wealth intentionally.

4. Internship Essay - Air

2021 Farm Intern Air shares their experience with Good Rain Farm:



“

**Building a long lasting
relationship with the
land ...**

”

The six months I spent on ʔast sq̓it farm were full of ancestral wisdom, Indigenous futurism, personal growth and acceptance. I signed up for this internship with merely a beginner levels knowledge of growing food (just put a seed in some dirt and that's it! ... right?) and left feeling more prepared to step into the complex world of farming. I won't lie, farming is intimidating! The moment you dip your toe in you quickly learn that there is no end to the infinite amount of knowledge to come across. From chemistry, to ecology, to entomology, to climatology, you can never stop learning about life on earth as a farmer.

It really takes building a long lasting relationship with the land; knowing the soil and what it needs, knowing the weather patterns, what each bug is and what purpose it serves, knowing the birds who greet you each morning, knowing the life that lives underground, the genetics of your plants. I was quite nervous starting this internship, questioning my capabilities; will I be a good student? Am I cut out to be a farmer? Can I commit myself to staying in one place and showing up consistently?

ʔast sq̓it taught me both about the land and myself. Indigenous people always say; We are the land. The farm really instilled this lesson into my being this year. Between direct seeding, amending the soil, setting up irrigation, hours of weeding and harvesting; ancestral wisdom (and Michelle's teachings) flooded my mind.

I learned that we all have seeds to plant, and with care each one of those seeds can feed our community. I can spread those seeds alone, silently embracing life or I can spread those seeds with community, over tea (not the kind you drink) and laughter. Both are okay. I must continue to water my seeds, even when I don't see growth right away. I can speak kind words to my seeds (and myself) as they learn to break out of their shell and just exist.

4. Internship Essay - Air, continued

I learned that we all have seeds to plant, and with care each one of those seeds can feed our community. I can spread those seeds alone, silently embracing life or I can spread those seeds with community, over tea (not the kind you drink) and laughter. Both are okay. I must continue to water my seeds, even when I don't see growth right away. I can speak kind words to my seeds (and myself) as they learn to break out of their shell and just exist. The land reminded me to take care of my body too, as much as I take care of those plants, making space for nourishment and rest. I can pull out the weeds that overcrowd my clarity, allowing room for deep breaths and growth. I can prune away what is withering and holding me back from flourishing. I can grow as fast or slow as I need to and it will always be at the right time as nature intends. I can exist, even if I don't bear fruit to share, my existence matters. I too am part of the environment, and I should always be aware of the impact I make, as we all should.

My grandfathers and ancestors are farmers, and I dream of bringing my community together with medicine and food while revitalizing the land. I am grateful for this internship and the Indigenous teachings that Michelle and Olivia have offered. They've made it possible for me to move forward in my goals, I feel confident coming back to my ancestral lands and knowing what to look for and how to test the soil. I hope that efforts towards Indigenous food sovereignty continue to grow as we see what glimpses of what the collapse of industrial farming and worker exploitation looks like. There is a way to thrive, to feed everybody we love and more without exploiting the land. Indigenous people have proved that for millennia. Thank you Good Rain farm, for paving a path towards food sovereignty.

- Air

“

I can grow as fast or slow as I need to and it will always be at the right time as nature intends.

”



P.S. Donate to my gofundme! All donations will go towards getting land back to build a community center, grow food and house Indigenous people.

[Gofundme: Help Me Get My Ancestral Land Back](#)

5. Farm by the Numbers



What Good Rain grew in 2021:

- Primarily Grew in 9 Plant Families.
- 49 General Crop types
- Roughly 125 Varieties:
 - 30+ are Indigenous & Ark of Taste heritage varieties.



Plant Family, Crop =

Alliums

Red, Sweet, & Yellow Onions
Scallions
Garlic

Chenopodiaceae

Chard
Beets
Lambsquarter
Orach
Amaranth
Spinach

Gramineae

Corn

Fabaceae

Peas
Green Beans
Fava

Solanacea

Cherry, Sauce and Heirloom Tomatoes
Tomatillos
Eggplants
Potatoes
Hot, Pickling, Sweet & Roasting Peppers

Cucurbitaceae

Cucumbers
Summer Squash

Umbelliferae

Fennel
Dill
Carrot
Cilantro

Asteraceae

Lettuce
Chicory
Sunflowers

Brassicaceae

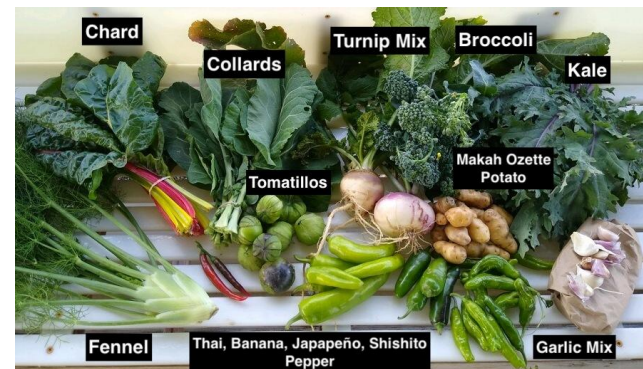
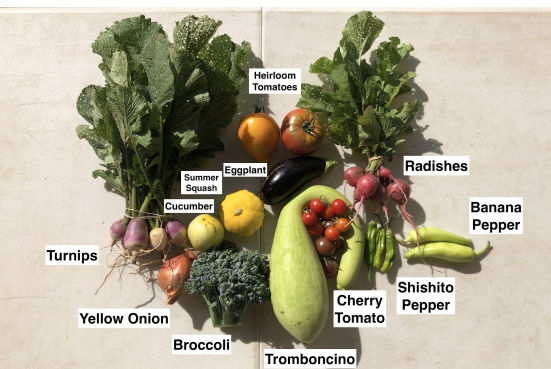
Kale
Collards
Bok Choy
Turnips
Radishes
Cabbage
Broccoli
Mustards
Arugula
Romanesco
Kohlrabi
Rutabaga

Additionalaceae

Miner's Lettuce
Nettles
Garden Sorrel
Edible Flowers
Assorted Herbs

2021 Seed Purveyors:

In House Seed Saving
Seed Savers Exchange
Territorial
Adaptive
Johnny's
Uprising Seeds
Native Seed Search
Filaree Garlic Farm



5. Farm by the Numbers - Continued

Demand for fresh and local food skyrocketed this year due to COVID. We would have been unable to meet this sudden demand and feed our community through this pandemic if it weren't for the support of the grants we received. Rarely in the early stages of starting a small business does the income match the labor and capital investment needed and it can be difficult to get ahead and stay afloat. A fact that has always stuck with Farmer Michelle was that almost 70% of small businesses fail within the first 5 years and most don't report a profit until year 3 or 5.



AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS



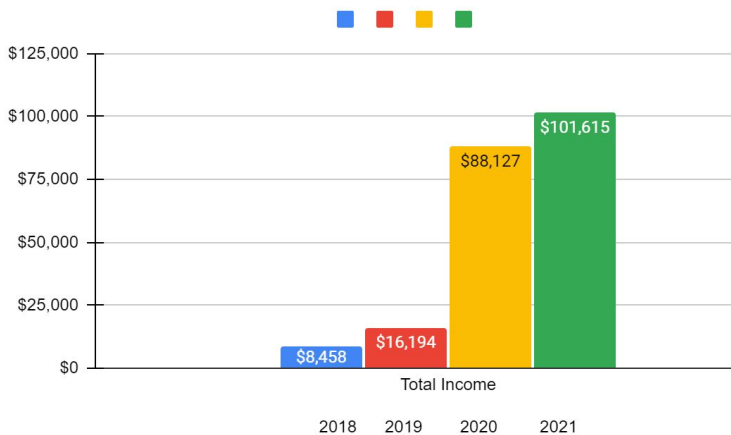
Slow Food Portland



Washington State Department of Commerce



Farm Sales Revenue 2018 - 2021



At left is a graph showing the Farms last 4 years of sales income with a 15% increase in revenue from 2020-2021

“We tried poverty for 200 years, so we decided to try something else.”

Chairman of the Oneida of New York

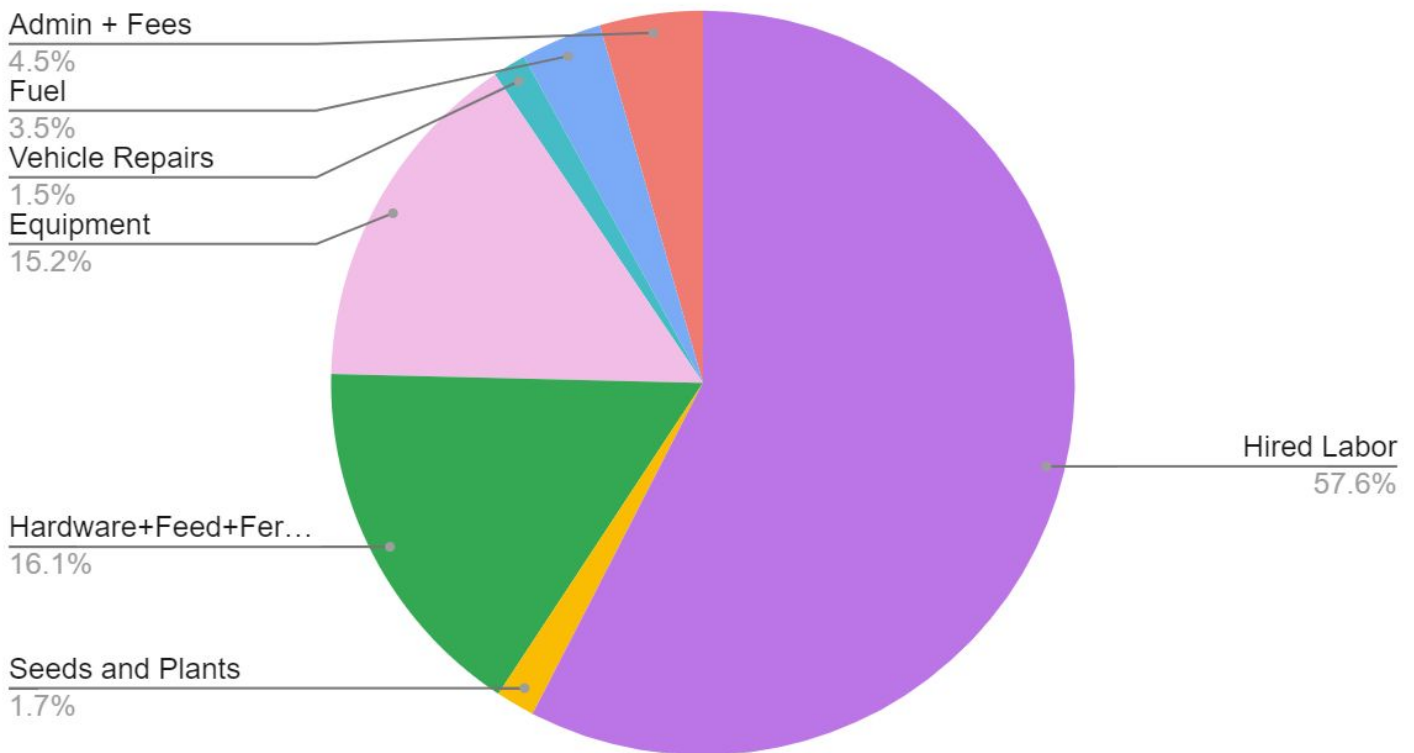
“Traditional Navajo values do not include poverty”
Navajo Nation Chairman, Peter MacDonald

5. Farm by the Numbers - Continued

How we spent money on the farm in 2021:

Because we expanded the field crew team with 2 full time permanent and up to 3 part time seasonal employees beginning in 2021, there was an understandable jump in labor costs. This in turn required adding to both the tool fleets and the vehicle fleets, so it was definitely an expensive year however still within budget and a great investment for future seasons!

2021 Farm Expenses



5. Farm by the Numbers - Continued

**Our Favorite places to purchase supplies from,
by the dollars in 2021:**



Supply chain issues required us to use more box stores in 2021, but we still always source our supplies with local & BIPOC purveyors first & foremost, whenever possible.

Our Purchasing Guidelines

**We Prioritize BIPOC Owned
& USA Made.**

Purchase Used! Reduce and Reuse! We buy from our community on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, Offer Up, etc.

Buy Local! We buy from independent stores as close to home as we can.

Buy Cooperative! Many of our suppliers are also co-ops. Shout out to Wilco Farm store, TrueValue, and CityBikes!

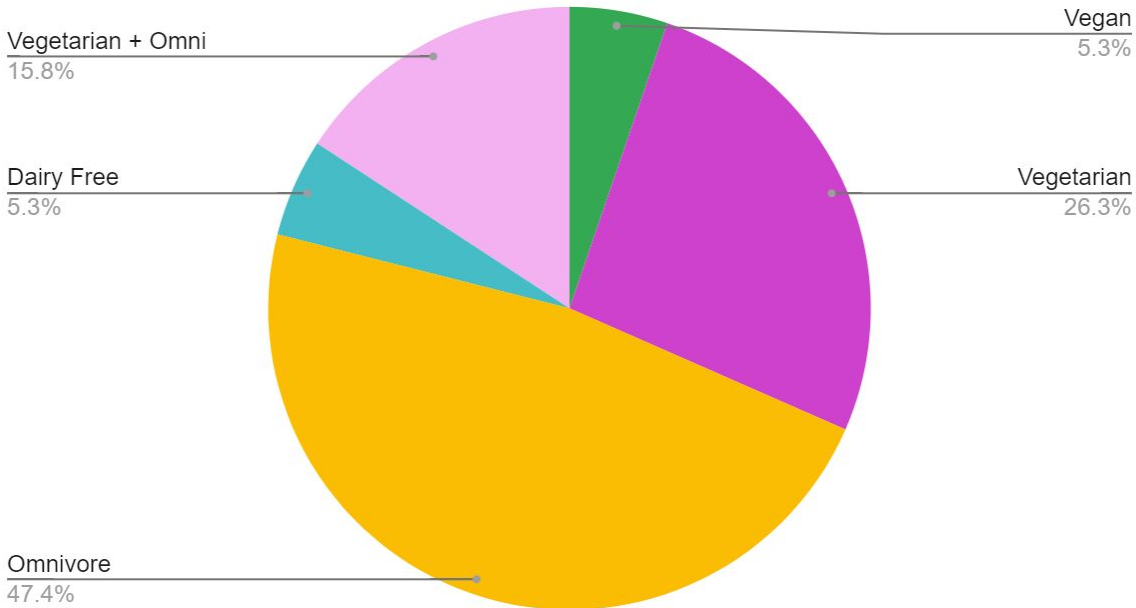
Custom Crafters! We hire artists, crafters, and makers for custom work.

Avoid Big Box Stores! Use as a last resort only.

7. Survey Says!

Every season we check in with our members and find out what they loved, hated, and want to see more of. Here are some highlights:

2021 Household Dietary Demographics



Favorite Veggies for 2021 ***Greens, Hakurei Turnips, Herbs***

A note about 2021

It was a very bad, terrible, no good year. Heat waves, Pandemics, Forest Fire Evacuations... We were hit with a number of setbacks that cost us dearly last year, in both labor hours and in dollars. There were also crop blights, irrigation issues, issues with the landlords', seed stock losses... it was devastating.

So any expansive changes from 2021 to 2022 will be much more modest, and some of our programming will go on hold until we have healed and stabilized from the losses. Meanwhile we have streamlined our CSA delivery ops, and upped our management training and HR game, investing in our staff and community as an organization.

8. Save Our Seeds - Seed Saving in Community, a reflection by CSA member Bonz Wykman

My name is Bonz and I'm a white Australian immigrant and a volunteer at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) working on a food sovereignty project led by Native friends and family. When I heard about the Save Our Seeds program through Good Rain Farm, I was immediately drawn to it. At NAYA we are integrating culturally important varieties of food to grow and save seed from as we develop the skills to do so. There had been talk through the season among volunteers about feeling a pull to learning more about seed saving and so the SOS program was a perfect fit.

We saved seeds as a group project of Native and non-Native volunteers, most of whom were brand new to seed saving. One of my favorite days in the Fall was sitting in the sun and gently threshing amaranth by hand with garden friends and welcoming the change of pace of the season. We practiced winnowing techniques and shared tips on different ways to separate some of the stubborn seeds from their casings. I processed the different varieties of Native melons at home by myself and I thought about the people that had grown them in the past and their living ancestors who would have them rematriated through this program. It felt good to be a part of meaningful work and even better to do that collectively.



NAYA Community Garden,
located in Portland OR



NAYA Community Seed Saving
Event, Summer 2021

I would like to tell you that we handed all of our seeds back to GRF and I could feel like it was a job well done. But that wasn't the case. I went back to Australia for a few months when the international border finally opened and I wasn't able to get everything done in time before I left. I didn't store the seeds well enough in our shed and a rat got in and ate a bunch of the Native seeds.

8. Save Our Seeds - Seed Saving in Community, a reflection by CSA member Bonz Wykman

When I realized, I felt this horrible pittance in my belly emerge. I felt like I had failed as a seed steward, let down GRF folks and the folks who would have received that rematriated seed. I strive to be in solidarity with Native community and making mistakes can send me into feelings of guilt or harshness towards myself. I see that harshness as a product of internalized white supremacy that tells me I need to be perfect or else I will be rejected. When I did tell them what happened, I was met with graciousness and Domenika reminded me that seed work is long term relational work. I have a lifetime to continue to build relationships with seeds and to build my skills to treat them with care. The same applies to solidarity work and I have learned (and relearn) to move beyond shame when I make mistakes and learn to do my best to repair, learn and not repeat.

Working with seeds this season was a reminder of these big life lessons. Sometimes the work feels beautiful and enriching and connecting and sometimes it can feel hard, to be confronted when we are imperfect or our intentions don't align with our actions. I can honestly say that being a part of the SOS project was beautiful, challenging, enriching and provided lessons in fundamental seed saving techniques for the NAYA gardeners and some fundamental lessons in being an imperfect human for me. I'm grateful for it all.



Ozette potato seed selection



Amaranth and sunflowers ready to process

You can support [NAYAPDX.ORG](https://nayapdx.org) in many ways locally and from afar:

To Make a Donation - <https://nayapdx.org/support-us/ways-to-give/>

To Volunteer or Attend Events - <https://nayapdx.org/events/>

9. Community Partnerships:

We work with Indigenous led local nonprofits and community partners who serve our Native community.

We work closely with **Slow Food USA Chapters** on various collaborations and events.



Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) We've shown up in support of the Native Community Garden learning space and are excited by the prospect of a Urban Farm.



“Take what you need, leave what you can!” PDX Free Fridge is a community effort to offer free food resources to our neighbors in need. We love what they do and look forward to collaborating further!



GROWING GARDENS

We offer seedlings and produce to **Growing Gardens** - an organization that installs raised gardens throughout Portland..

9. Community Partnerships: Continued



In 2021 we served 40% of all our CSA's benefitting from 100% cost-covered scholarships & programs!

We offer SNAP payment options and allow for combinations of discounts with the intention of making our food as accessible as possible.

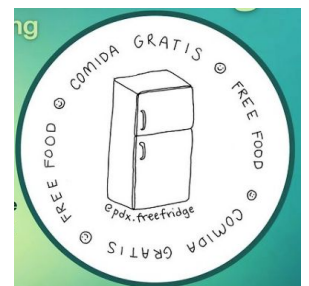


We host farm tours with Ecotrust's Green Workforce Academy students, a program for Black and Indigenous youth to explore and learn about job opportunities in the Green Economy sector.

Feed the Mass is a nonprofit organization that educates people about nutrition, cooking, and healthy lifestyles. We are grateful to our CSA site hosts who coordinated these donations over at City Bikes!



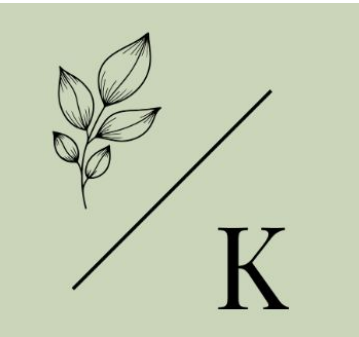
“Take what you need, leave what you can!” PDX Free Fridge is a community effort to offer free food resources to our neighbors in need. We love what they do and look forward to collaborating further!



9. Community Partnerships: Continued

Big Shout Out to our 2021 CSA Site Hosts!

We rely on a network of drop site hosts to act as hubs for our members to pick up their shares. Each year we try and expand our geographic reach to better serve our rural community members, and to make the CSA as accessible as possible. Thank you Drop Site Hosts for doing this work with us!



Galvan Residence



Sherman-Nelson
Residence



Movement. Community. Lifestyle.



Camfield
Residence

10. Merry Neckmas to All and to All A Good Night

By Domenika Radonich, Accounts Manager

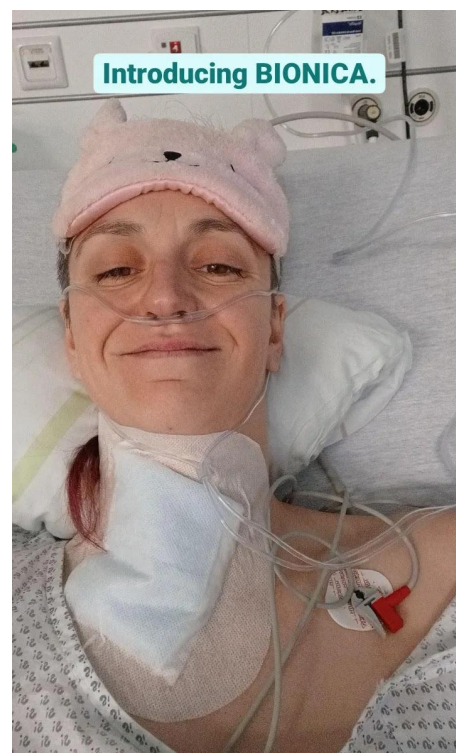
As a person who strives to be self sufficient let me tell you how humbled and awestruck I am by 2021 and the humans in my community. Humbled because pain will strip you down to the core essence of who you really are, right quick. Awestruck because community showed up in force for me when I needed it the most and I felt incomparably lifted and held by that show of support.

20 years of not-so-bad-at-the-time injuries began to add up in my body. Combined with repetitive straining at work and capitalism demanding I work a little too hard, a little too long, a little too often for 20 straight years - I was primed for a catastrophe. In 2019, after a few years of gradually worsening symptoms in my hands, shoulders and neck, my first cervical disc herniated severely and very suddenly. I just woke up one morning and my neck joint dissolved, leaving my neck bones teetering bone-on-bone in its wake. While in reality it took years to happen it felt like my spine aged 50 years in that one second, and only at that location.

By 2020 a second disc had failed. I steeled myself for a long wait for orthopedic care during a global pandemic. The emergence of the pandemic actually helped me mentally - it distracted me from the pain I was in, and made me feel so much less alone in my house, unable to leave, facing a broken health care system. Also I met Michelle and began working remotely for the farm, on the computer, very very part time and only on the days I could manage my pain. Meanwhile the doctors were now inundated with delays and shortages due to the pandemic, and so I further submitted to my fate. By 2021, a third disc was bulging and threatening to herniate or rupture. My prognosis had worsened and I was still no closer to getting in front of a surgeon.

I still cannot speak articulately about the next phase of chaos I encountered, it causes me such frustration and indignation. I could not access surgical care for my type of injury in the United States. A combination of my limited healthcare paired with our country's limited advances in Orthopedic spinal surgeries over the past decades left me with few choices stateside, all of them grim.

At this point any of my remaining stoicism cracked.



10. Merry Neckmas to All and to All A Good Night

By Domenika Radonich, Accounts Manager

Ultimately, and thankfully, Michelle made me take some of my own advice: **Dream First. Rob The Bank Later.** Which is a silly mantra I tell myself whenever a dream is held back because I am afraid of the scarcity of money. Dream First. We'll figure out the budget and funding later. And so with a lot of encouragement from Michelle, I did something that still feels impossible - While I was broken and broke I sought out medical care from the best doctor I could find in the world and asked everyone I knew to help me pay for it.

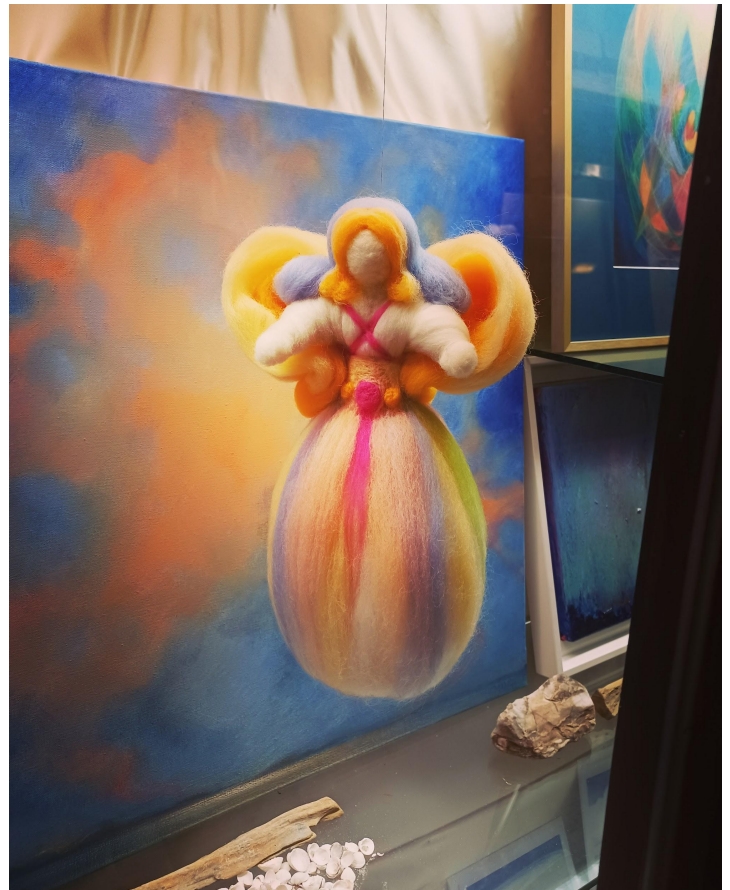
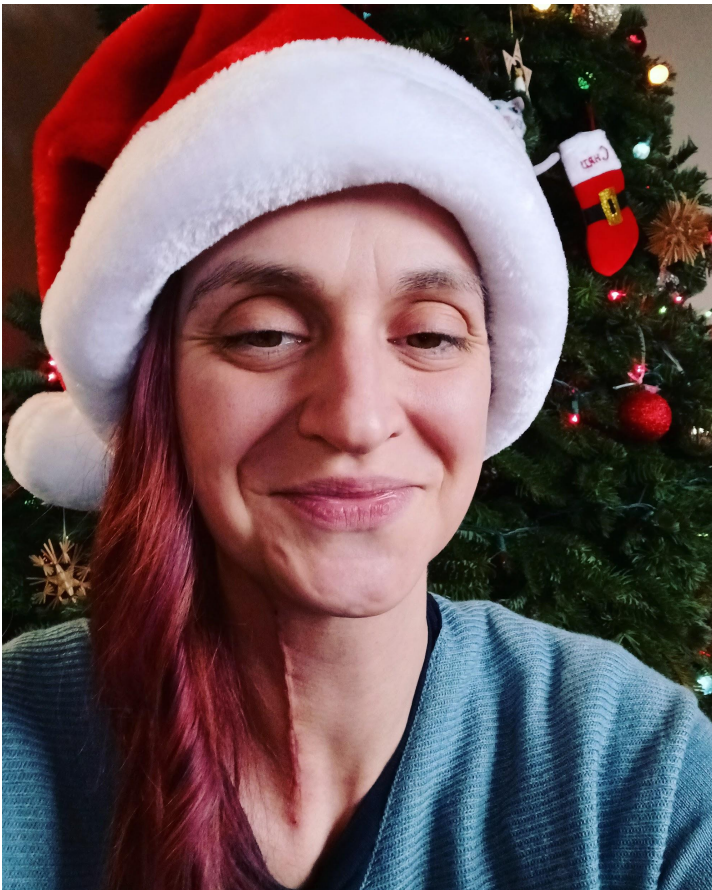
And it worked - both the fundraising and the surgery were a massive success.

As I type that I instantly cry. I cry because I am relieved - physically and financially and mentally!- of so much pain. I cry because I feel unworthy to be so lucky when so many will never get the care they need- is that survivor's guilt? I don't know. I just cry and marvel that I live in a horrible timeline of limited healthcare in this country that is also simultaneously the validating timeline where my community cares enough about me to not let me rot to death in chronic pain no matter what the system had in store for me.

To all you Angels that supported me in all the ways - Thank you, a thousand times - Thank you. My neck may be part machine now and hell I have a robot streak in my personality - sure- but my heart is like 3 times bigger and more human from this experience.

I look forward to the day when no one needs a fundraiser to survive their medical care costs, but until then <https://www.gofundme.com/discover> is a great place to find people who need your help.

- Take Good Care of You and Yours! - Farmer Domenika





Limlmt, Mvto, Hvala!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
WE LOVE OUR FARMLEY!**

