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help us GROW

Providence Farm Collective is Growing the Future of Farming—right here in Western New York!

Through investment and partnership by our greater community, Providence Farm Collective is a leader in building resiliency, sustainability, and equity in our regional food and farm systems. While most grants provide organizations like ours with program support, very few provide operations support. It is through investments like yours that provide unrestricted funding that empower PFC to cultivate farmer-led and community-rooted programs for just and equitable access to food and farmland.

As the federal government cuts essential funding for nonprofit organizations, vital regional agriculture and food access programs like ours are at risk of being lost. Your investment in our work is more important than ever. Thank you for joining us!



Upcoming Tours & Workshops

Join us on the farm this season with exciting farm tours, workshops, and cooking classes. Visit our Events page for offerings and registration: providencefarmcollective.org/events

Find Out MORE

We are happy to share more information with you, including details about partnership opportunities, programs, and news. To learn more, visit our website and follow us on social media:

Visit our website providencefarmcollective.org

Follow us on  [@providencefarmcollective](https://www.instagram.com/providencefarmcollective)

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The Collective

Newsletter Volume 3

Spring 2026



Growing the Future of Farming



Carving Pathways for Farmland Access

Providence Farm Collective grew out of necessity: From new entry farmers needing access to farmland and training to Western New Yorkers needing access to locally grown foods. In 2019, the PFC community established the organization and innovated farmer-led and community-rooted solutions through our Incubator Farm and Community Farm Programs.

Farmland and food go together. Today, farmland access remains the number one barrier to new entry farmers across the United States. Over the past 70 years, the loss of 40% of Erie County’s agricultural land has exacerbated the problem regionally through ever-increasing and prohibitive farmland costs. Farmland consolidation and loss of agricultural soils to development are creating a situation where our region cannot produce enough food for its residents because new farmers cannot access land. Across Western New York, as farmers near retirement, there isn’t always a clear path for someone to take over their vital farm businesses.

Providence Farm Collective and its farmers are employing impactful solutions for training the next generation of growers and keeping farmland in production. This season, PFC incubator farmers Adamu, Ndanga, and Therence are taking an important next step in developing their farm business by trialing a shared farm model on leased land in Attica. They are working in partnership to develop markets for the culturally meaningful foods they grow. The Attica Project is just one example of creative pathways for new farmers to access land, technical assistance, networks, and resources.

Last season, Nurta — another recent PFC graduate — set her sights on building an urban farm, right at home on Buffalo’s East Side. With determination and support from the regional USDA/NRCS office and PFC staff, Nurta navigated the NRCS grant application process and secured the resources she needs. This season, Nurta is building a high tunnel and will prepare for the growing season ahead by constructing raised beds to plant her crops. It’s a big undertaking, but for Nurta, it’s an exciting step toward her goal of eventually farming full-time, made possible through the opportunity to grow her business.

Providence Farm Collective farmers show what’s possible when new growers have the support they need. For all of us in Western New York to thrive, it is imperative that we build networks of support and innovate creative solutions and at PFC, this means creating opportunities for farmland access and transition that promote the security of our agriculture and food systems across the region. If you own farmland and want to keep it in production, reach out to us at info@providencefarmcollective.org and include the subject line: Farmland transition. The joy of connecting farmers to land and consumers to food grown by local farmers is at the core of what we do at Providence Farm Collective – and it’s made possible through your partnership.

Land Owner Survey



Meet Nicole

Join us in welcoming Nicole Kubiczki, PFC’s new Farm Director! Nicole joins PFC after distinguished service within government, including pivotal roles at the USDA where she coordinated successful initiatives between federal agencies and national nonprofit organizations. Nicole’s rich background goes beyond government service. Through her extensive work on commercial and small scale farms, Nicole brings invaluable hands-on farming experience to Providence Farm Collective!



New at PFC!



Everybody Eats: Celebrating our Agricultural Heritage

Several years ago, 4 PFC farm families participated in an art project, led by photojournalist Brendan Bannon, where they created large cyanotype tapestries that serve as pictures of each farmer’s agricultural practices and food traditions. This summer Providence Farm Collective is launching a 5-month traveling art exhibition featuring the tapestries, photos, and videos from the project.

Everybody Eats Event Launch - Agriculture, Food, & Art

Join panel moderator Dejia James as she leads a discussion with participants Brendan Bannon, Mahamud Mberwa, Hamadi Mganga, Abdi Sundi, and Josh Thermidor. **Thursday, June 25 from 7:00-8:30pm at Burchfield Penney Art Center Auditorium.**

Food with Dignity: An Evening with Clancy Harrison

Join Katie Mallinson as she welcomes Food Dignity Movement founder Clancy Harrison, PFC Deputy Director Hamadi Ali, and PFC Executive Director Kristin Heltman-Weiss in a discussion about food with dignity and what that looks like in Western New York. **Tuesday, August 4 from 7:00-8:30pm at The Kavinoky Theatre.**

All events are free. Because of limited seating, events are ticketed and open only to guests who register.



U-Pick Flowers

WHAT: The PFC U-Pick Flower Stand is a self-service pay kiosk that provides opportunities for customers to harvest flowers and create unique bouquets at their convenience.

WHERE: U-Pick Flowers are located at 5701 Burton Road in Orchard Park, across the street from the big red barn and “carrot” sculpture.

WHEN: Opens the beginning of July through the first frost. The stand is open every day from 8:00 AM through 7:00 PM.

THREE OPTIONS FOR HOW THIS WORKS:

1. Occasional Stem Picker

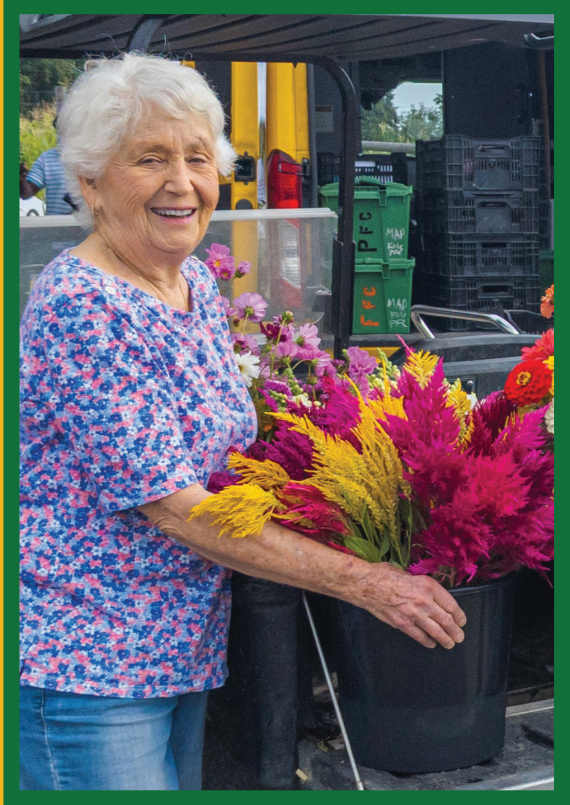
You want to pick a few flowers, once in a while. Harvest flowers by the stem and pay \$1 per stem at self-pay.

2. Frequent Flower Harvester

You want to pick flowers every week through the season. Stop by the PFC Farm Store during open hours on Mondays and Thursdays to purchase a 24 oz. jar and travel stand for \$20. During this trip, you can also fill the jar with flowers. As a frequent flower harvester, you may refill the jar as often as you like throughout the 2026 flower season for only \$10 each time.

3. Special Event Flower Harvester

Need more flowers for a big event? You can purchase a bucket for \$75 at the PFC Farm Store during open hours. Fill the bucket with your harvested flowers.



In Memory of Judy Jackson

During the summer of 2021 the joyful, loving, and energetic Judy Jackson attended a tour of Providence Farm Collective with a group of her neighbors from Fox Run, where she lived. From the moment she arrived, Judy was all in: She understood what we are trying to do at PFC, why we need to do it, and most remarkable of all, she committed to joining the work – and work she did.

After the tour of PFC that summer, Judy became PFC’s founding Flower Gal. The Flower Gals are a dedicated group of women across generations who come together to tend PFC’s Giving Garden. Every year, Judy brought people to PFC, and she also brought the farm to Fox Run. She selflessly gave of her time, resources, and energy.

Last fall, our beloved Judy passed away. She was an integral member of our Providence Farm Collective community and losing her has hit us hard.

It is in the spirit of all who loved her that we remember the light-giving and faith-filled life of PFC Flower Gal Judy Jackson.

