

# VOLUNTEER AT THE FARM!

## PATROON LAND FARM

A project of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York

132 Ketcham Road

Voorheesville, NY 12186

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### About the Patroon Land Farm

The Regional Food Bank, in partnership with the Patroon Land Foundation, manages the Patroon Land Farm to grow large quantities of produce for distribution to the Food Bank's member agencies. We have 14 acres under cultivation, where we grow all kinds of vegetables from broccoli to zucchini. Volunteers play an important role in the Farm and enable us to grow and distribute over 100,000 pounds of food each year—the healthiest, freshest food available, straight from the Farm to the tables of those in need.

### Volunteer Hours

- Shifts are available every day (including Sundays but only for groups of 20 or more) between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- From July through October, Thursday volunteer hours start at 1:00 p.m.
- Two-hour shifts are recommended since working in the sun can be tiring.
- Both individuals and groups are welcome.
- Volunteer shifts must be scheduled in advance.
  - To schedule a shift, contact Laura Martin at [lauram@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:lauram@regionalfoodbank.net)

### Farm Details

- The Assistant Farm Manager's name is Laura Martin. Her cell number is 518-527-9472. Feel free to call her if the weather is bad and you're not sure if you should still go out.
- Wear sneakers or other closed-toe shoes.
- Wear long pants and a hat, and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- There is not a lot of shade on the Farm. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.
- Sanitary facilities are limited. There is a port-a-john on the premises with a hand washing sink.
- We have bottled water available, but it is not always cold. Volunteers may wish to bring their own water and lunch or a snack.
- Volunteers must stay clear of machinery that is operating in the fields.
- Much of the Farm is surrounded by deer fence and temporary stock fence. These fences are electrified. Do not touch the fences! (Volunteers rarely work the outer perimeters of the fields so this is not really an issue, but we have to let people know anyway.)
- The work you will do will depend on what is happening at the Farm that day. It could be picking rocks, weeding, harvesting, or washing and packing produce. Whatever you do will help put food on the tables of people in need, so it is work worth doing!

**Monthly Activity Calendar and Directions appear on page two.**

## Farm Volunteer Activity Calendar

All activities are dependant on the weather and farm needs

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Activity	By Arrangement	By arrangement	Check w/ Vol Coords	Check w/ Vol Coords	Mon-Sun 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Mon-Sun, Thurs after 1:00 p.m.	Mon-Sun, Thurs after 1:00 p.m.	Mon-Sun, Thurs after 1:00 p.m.	Mon-Sun, Thurs after 1:00 p.m.	Mon-Sun, Thurs after 1:00 p.m.	Check w/ Vol Coords	
Fund Raising*												
CSA Administration*												
Machinery Repair/Fabrication*												
Landscape/Fence Installation*												
Farm Construction Projects*												
Planting in Flats												
Picking Stones												
Setting Plants in the Field												
Weeding, Hoeing and Thinning Plants in the Field												
Harvesting Produce												
Washing Produce												
Packing and Sorting Produce												
Making Up Boxes												
Washing Buckets												
Hosting CSA Pickers												

**\*Skilled Activities**

Fund Raising	By arrangement with Bob Baker (518-786-3691, x296)
CSA Administration	By arrangement with Bob Baker (518-786-3691, x296)
Machinery Repair/Fabrication	By arrangement with Mark Weinheimer (518-339-5726)
Land Clearing	By arrangement with Mark Weinheimer (518-339-5726)
Surveying and Mapping	By arrangement with Mark Weinheimer (518-339-5726)
Landscape/Fence Installation	By arrangement with Mark Weinheimer (518-339-5726)
Farm Construction Projects	By arrangement with Mark Weinheimer (518-339-5726)

Note: We do not advance schedule volunteers for specific activities at the farm. Work depends on the weather and the growing schedule. We appreciate your flexibility.

### Directions to the Patroon Land Farm

132 Ketcham Road | Voorheesville, NY 12186

#### From Schenectady

Take Rt. 890 east to Exit 9B (Rt. 146).

Turn Left onto Rt. 146 (Carman Road).

Go about 4 miles to intersection of Rts. 20 & 146.

Turn Left on Rt. 20 & 146 for .5 miles.

Turn Right onto Rt. 146. Stay on 146 about 5.5 miles into Altamont. Go straight through Altamont bearing right up the hill onto Rt. 156 at the Stewart's Shop.

Go 2.7 miles and turn left on Rt. 157 (Thompson's Lake Road).

Go 1.7 miles and turn Left on County Route 256 (Ketcham Road).

Farm is 1 mile down the road on the left.

#### From Albany

Take I-90 to Exit 4, merging onto Rt. 85S toward Slingerlands.

Enter next roundabout and take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Rt. 85 W.

Pass through 2 roundabouts, staying on Rt. 85W.

Enter next roundabout and take the 1st exit onto New Scotland Rd / Rt. 85.

Turn slight right onto Rt. 157 / Thacher Park Rd.

Turn right onto Ketcham Rd.

Farm is 1 mile down the road on the right.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Laura Martin at [lauram@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:lauram@regionalfoodbank.net)

Regional Food Bank | 965 Albany Shaker Road | Latham, NY 12110

[www.regionalfoodbank.net](http://www.regionalfoodbank.net)