

Winter 2020 LUFPP Newsletter

Well, the election is over, Thanksgiving has come and gone, we've had our first snowfall, and we are now embracing the holidays and the New Year (social-distance style, of course). We hope your holidays are filled with a thought to the nature and quality of our food supply.

As we mentioned in our last message, 2020 has been exceptionally challenging. Still, it has shown us how critical access to local food and a sustainable urban food system are for our Lansing residents' well-being.

We are lucky to have a growing number of dedicated urban farmers in Lansing. They need to be congratulated and supported for the resilience they have shown this year as they increasingly raise and market amounts of fresh produce to feed their neighbors, some of whom would otherwise go hungry.

Too often, we take food for granted. It seems ubiquitous. And like all things that 'just appear' without much effort, we ignore the people and processes that underlie them. Even if we never grow a tomato ourselves (though it is a worthy enterprise), we should know more about those who do. We encourage you to know the Lansing Grown farmers we currently work with and seek out their produce, flowers, and value-added products throughout the city. <https://www.lufp.org/our-farmers>

We would also like to introduce you to other urban farms that have emerged in the last couple of years:

- Root of the Vine <https://www.facebook.com/rootofthevineurbangarden>
- Tender Heart Gardens <https://www.facebook.com/tenderheartgardens>

LUFPP plans to continue working with urban farmers in 2021 and strengthening the Lansing Grown campaign we initiated two years ago. We have also decided to improve our home field's infrastructure, making it more farmer and production-friendly. Our first project for 2021 will be to bring electricity permanently onto the site. This will make it possible to work the hoop house vents, light up the packing shed, and operate storage coolers – all essential for increasing the food supply.

We estimate the cost will be about \$4,000. We are currently writing for grants to cover this cost. But grants are always 'iffy.' So, if you are able—and haven't been tapped out after Giving Tuesday or online holiday shopping—please consider donating to the "**Light Up Urbandale Farm**" project. You can do this here: <https://www.lufp.org/donate-1>

We look forward to a safer and more graceful 2021 for everyone. Enjoy the holidays and take care of yourselves, your pods, and your communities.