



Haverfarm Annual Report 2019

Madison Tillman, farm fellow

The Haverfarm is a year-round farming and educational space designed to integrate sustainable food and agriculture into the academic and extracurricular lives of Haverford students, faculty, staff, and community members. With a focus on interdisciplinary and experiential learning, the Haverfarm invites students and other members of the community to engage with issues of food justice and local, progressive agriculture. Produce is distributed to students, community members, the dining center and local food banks.



Table of Contents

Haverfarm. Then & Now.3

Meet the Farmers4

Educational Programming.....6

Program Highlights – Farmer Favorites8

Volunteers at the Haverfarm.....9

Sharing the Harvest.....10

Financial Review.....12

Season Reflections.....13

Looking Forward.....14

Looking Forward: Condensed Timeline15

Appendices

Appendix A: Harvest Totals16

Appendix B: High Tunnel Proposal 2019.....17

Appendix C: 2019 List of Events/Programs.....19

Appendix D: HCA Garden Revitalization Plan20

Appendix E: Haverfarm Job Description 2019.....21

Appendix F: Haverfarm P.E. Syllabus – Fall 201922

Appendix G: Farm Inventory – November 2019.....24

Haverfarm: Then & Now

Where we came from

The Haverfarm originated in 2010 with a group of students pushing to practice sustainable agriculture on campus. These students built a garden of raised beds in the Haverford College Apartments and established the first Farm Club. In 2012, following the destruction of a temporary parking lot behind Haverford facilities, the Environmental Studies Capstone led by Professor Helen White worked to create a large Haverfarm plot and community garden. Under the guidance of Helen White and Claudia Kent, of the Haverford Arboretum, the Haverfarm Club developed a 2014 funding proposal for the farm and farm fellow position.



Then. (Haverfarm 2014)



Now. (Haverfarm 2019)

Who we are today

The Haverfarm club has given way to a large group of regular volunteers organized and supported by the farm fellow. Also, student workers have been hired to work closely with the fellow to maintain the plots and organize farm programming during the academic year. The student worker positions are funded by the Environmental Studies Department, Arboretum, and farm earnings. Throughout the summer, the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship and Arboretum sponsor student interns to work 40 hours per week. Volunteers and student workers alike work with the fellow to make decisions about the future of the Haverfarm.

The land stewarded by the Haverfarm consists of a production plot, located in the Haverford Community Gardens, and a smaller community plot located in the Haverford College Apartments. The farm has grown to include a greenhouse, classroom, an orchard area, beehives, and soon, a high tunnel. The Haverfarm is a living laboratory where everyone is welcome to explore agroecology and develop their own land-based practices.

The 2019 Annual Report

This document serves as a comprehensive report of the continued progress of the Haverfarm. Its goal is to provide a detailed reflection on the farm's engagement with the community, its productivity, and its commitment to the mission throughout 2019, and to suggest avenues of growth for the Haverfarm program.

Meet the Farmers



Madison Tillman '18, farm fellow

As a student of Sociology and Education, I found the Haverfarm to be a wonderful marrying of my interests. I believe very strongly in the intersections of ethical, sustainable agriculture and these disciplines, and am happy to continue to explore these passions as the Haverfarm fellow. As the fellow, I am responsible for maintaining the Production Plot, Greenhouse, and HCA Garden, as well as coordinating volunteer events, workshops, and other educational programs.

Luigie Febres '22

I am a prospective Environmental Studies Major and a double minor in Education and Growth and Structure of Cities. I am a member of the ALAS Executive Board, First-Year Dean's Council, and BSL. I am a 2019 Haverfarm summer intern funded by the CPGC. In the first semester of my first year I was introduced to the farm. I was reminded of how central agriculture was in my family back in Puerto Rico. Growing up, my grandmother's first choice was not western medicine instead she opted for homeopathic remedies. This summer I hope to learn about sustainable agriculture as well as further explore homeopathic remedies.



Ellis Maxwell '20

I am a rising senior and second-year summer intern at Haverfarm. I have learned so much from other student-farmers here and I appreciate how we share the knowledge that we gain from our farming experiences. I love cooking and making teas, lotions, and tinctures from the herbs we grow at the farm. Elsewhere on campus, I am an English major concentrating in Creative Writing, and I am co-head (with Alicia Lopez-Torres) of Rethink Incarceration, a student group that works in solidarity with incarcerated people toward the abolition of all prisons.

Meet the Farmers



Alicia Lopez-Torres '20

I am a senior International Studies major with a focus in Health and Environment and a minor in Fine Arts. I identify as a diasporic indigenous person from San Francisco and all of my work is about indigenous/city kid environmental politics. I work at the Haverfarm as part of this work. For me, the farm has been a place to heal by sitting, thinking, weeding, planting and watching something grow and nurturing it throughout its lifecycle. I recognize, however, that our farm sits on stolen Lenape land. Every day I work at the farm, I commit to nurturing new reciprocal relationships to the native land, people, plants, and creatures of this region. Lastly, I want to recognize my ancestors Doria, Isabel, Agapito, Sarita, Leticia, for bringing me to the farm and supporting me in my educational work.

Joslynn Provow '23

Joslynn is from San Antonio, Texas, and joined the Haverfarm family in the fall of 2019. She enjoys working alongside others at the farm and learning from their diverse practices, as well as discovering new and better methods for working on the plot. The Farm has been a beacon of inspiration for her and she hopes to use the knowledge and experience gained in future study and employment. Fun fact, Joslynn is the oldest of 10 children.



Leia Thompson '20

Leia began working at Haverfarm as a stress relieving hobby, but soon became one of the student workers. She is an advocate for redistributing agricultural power into the hands of black and brown people and increasing food autonomy and access in underprivileged communities. Leia loves working outdoors and learning about the connections between the land, plants, and people.

Eliane Nieder BMC '22

I am a second-year student at Bryn Mawr College, studying Sociology and Chinese language. After living on two organic farms through World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, I became interested in farming as an educational and activist tool. I have been working on the Haverfarm since my first year and I love the community and knowledge it has brought me.



Educational Programming

Students at the Farm

426 students toured the farm in 2019. Of those, 153 were Haverford or Bryn Mawr College students touring with class groups, pre-customs programs, clubs, and other organizations. The remaining 273 students came from neighboring schools including Chestnutwold Elementary, Phoebe Anna Thorne School, and The Shipley School. These tours typically include a brief history of the farm, discussion of current farm operations and goals for the future, and a tour of the greenhouse, orchard, and production plot.

Community Collaboration

This year, the Haverfarm has developed a partnership with Chestnutwold Elementary's 5th grade classes in Haverford Township. In addition to hosting eight farm tours, Tilly worked with Erin Oelkers and Joel DiBartolomeo at Chestnutwold to develop a school garden in front of the elementary school. In the spring, the 5th graders visited the farm and used the Haverfarm greenhouse to start seeds for their first school garden. This fall, the second cohort of 5th graders explored the farm on four occasions to learn more about organic gardening. Tilly visited the school to work with the students as they developed their own crop maps and assessed factors that come into play when designing a garden.



Workshops & Events

In addition to engaging students through farm tours and volunteer programs, the Haverfarm hosted 23 workshops and special events this year. Most of the workshops pertained to natural health practices and herbal medicine. Workshop subjects included tincture-making, beeswax lip balm, all-natural deodorant, foraging walks, a three-sisters planting, and more. 260 members of the larger campus and Arboretum community attended these programs. We advertised events on social media, on posters, and in collaboration with Jennie Ciborowski, the Arboretum program coordinator to reach a larger off-campus community.



Educational Programming

Physical Education at the Farm

The farm P.E. program is a means for students to be involved with the farm while fulfilling their physical education requirements. This is an excellent opportunity for those students interested in the Haverfarm to have consistent contact with the farm, farm fellow, and more experienced farm student leaders.



During these classes, students learn the basics of organic agriculture by helping with soil preparation, weeding, planting, harvesting, and composting. The P.E. program requires three hours per week of farm time over the course of six weeks. 25 students participated in the spring P.E. sections, and 26 students were in the fall sections.

Curriculum Connections

The Environmental Studies 101 class toured the farm in both the spring and fall of this year. These tours were highly collaborative especially given that some of the ENVS students have taken the Haverfarm P.E. class. This is a wonderful connection between the farm and ENVS and has led to many more students coming to farm programming throughout the year.



In the fall of 2019, three student-farmers worked to develop an independent study at the Haverfarm. Alicia Lopez-Torres, Leia Thompson, and Ellis Maxwell worked under the guidance of Professor Helen White to create a course tailored to their interests. In ENVS 480, the students studied soils, integrated pest management, and ethnobotany. Additionally, Tilly, Ellis, and Alicia went to Ohio State University's student farm to learn about their farm program and bring new ideas back to the Haverfarm. We hope this independent study can be replicated and expanded in the coming semesters by other students who are looking to deepen their understanding of farming best-practices.

Program Highlights – Farmer Favorites

Student Pick: Lip Balm Workshop



"Last spring, I went to the Haverfarm lip balm workshop. It was wonderful and surprisingly easy to make a product that I use every day, instead of buying it. We were able to customize it with essential oils, and I loved how the lavender and peppermint smelled together. I use the lip balm all the time!"

-Sydney Chun, Bryn Mawr '22

Staff Pick: Healing Justice and Medicine Making with La Loba Loca

"In this workshop, we grappled with what it means to be a settler colonial person, indigenous or not, and what it means to practice medicine making in a colonial society. We learned that we need to honor those who first worked with these plants and who still work with these plants thanks to intergenerational knowledge. Once ethnobotanical knowledge even makes it to institutions like this, it is indigenous intergenerational knowledge and practice that we have to thank. Because of the history of genocide and erasure of indigenous people, it is our responsibility as medicine makers and farmers to do this in a decolonizing way. I believe this workshop was a doorway into that kind of work for the farm and for the environmental studies department."

-Alicia Lopez-Torres, Haverford '20

Member Pick: Fall Fest Foraging Walk

"My wife and I had a lovely time learning about culinary and medicinal plants on the foraging walk. The young people who led the walk, Tilly, Alicia, and Joslynn, were as knowledgeable as they were engaging!"

-Mark Oleskey, Havertown Resident



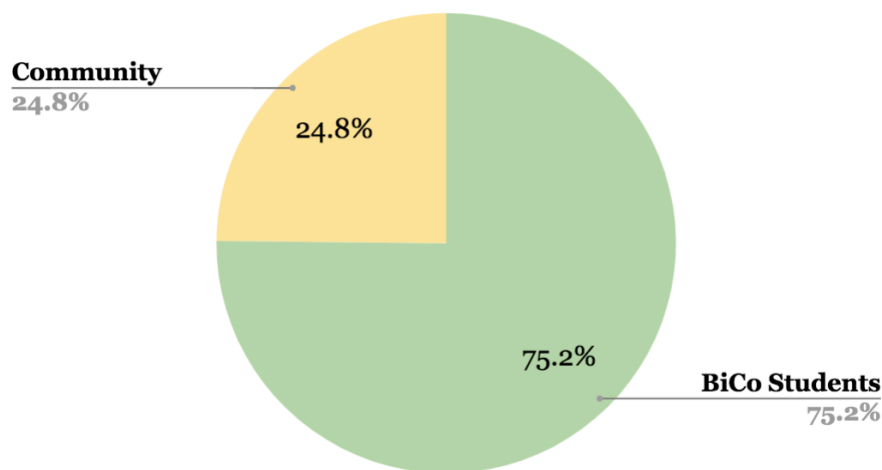
Volunteers at the Haverfarm

Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the Haverfarm. BiCo students as well as members of the surrounding community help with all aspects of physical farm maintenance.

165 Volunteers 876 Hours 22 Workdays



Volunteer Population



Throughout the season, the farm hosted twenty workdays and two recurring volunteer programs. These workdays varied in number of volunteers, types of work, and genre of music. Without volunteers, the Haverfarm would certainly not have been able to grow nearly as much produce or realize our 2018 goal of implementing entirely no-till practices.

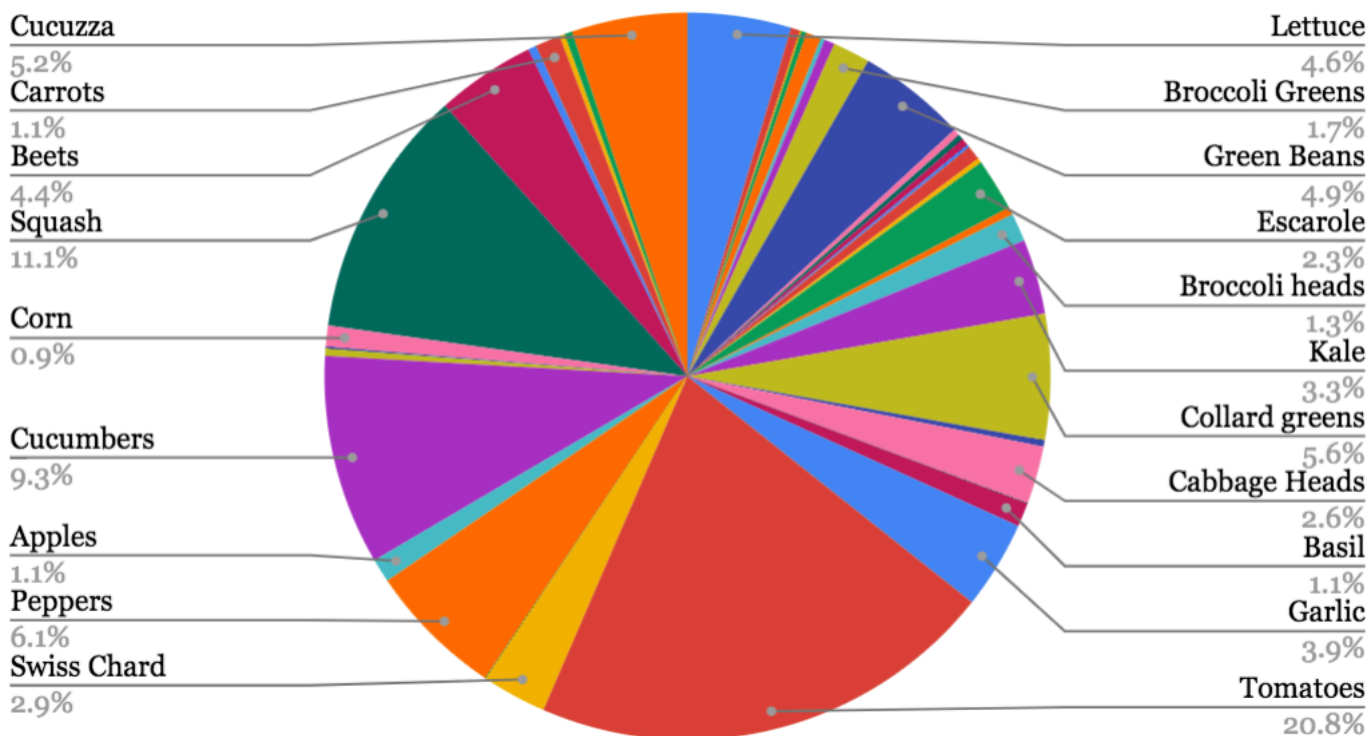
Shipley's Senior Service Project continued to be our most successful volunteer program of the season. Eight high school seniors contributed 480 hours of work to the plot over the course of three weeks in May and June. During this time, we got the plot in great shape for the start of the growing season. We managed to get the entire plot planted and lay wood chips in all of the paths and isles to keep the weeds down throughout the season. This set the farm up for success throughout the summer.



Sharing the Harvest

Haverfarm produce is distributed to the college community as well as Ardmore residents. The avenues of distribution are Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, farm stands, and Bethel A.M.E. and St. Mary's food pantries in Ardmore. See Appendix A for the total harvest weight of each crop.

Harvest Distribution by Crop



Community Supported Agriculture

This summer the bulk of the harvest went toward a 20-member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. While 20 members participated in the CSA, each week about only about 15 people would come during the pick-up. Members paid a sliding scale rate of between \$40-\$120 for the summer. While most of our members were Haverford staff or faculty, we had several students among the CSA membership. Many of our CSA members are longtime supporters of the farm. However, the CSA did not reach students as effectively this summer.



Sharing the Harvest

Founders Farm Stand

The Friday farm stand continued this summer with varying success. Farm stands were held in Founders Courtyard from 12-2 p.m. on Fridays from June through August. This summer we re-evaluated our pricing model, to better communicate the purpose of a sliding scale model to customers. Our goal is that those who can afford to pay more do so, to offset those who cannot. Market research allowed us to arrange the sliding scale more fairly. We gave each customer a suggested range based on what/how much they took. Customers adjusted quickly, and our farm stand profits increased substantially.



HCA Farm Stand

This summer we experimented with holding farm stands in HCA rather than only at Founders. These farm stands were a huge success. We reached many more people than farm stands in Founders Courtyard. Once, we even persevered through rain and ran a “rolling farm stand” out of Tilly’s car. It was a blast! These farm stands helped us achieve our goals: we got more produce to students, made enough money to add substantially to our funding for student workers, and sold everything at sliding scale prices. For these reasons, we decided to hold most of the fall farm stands in HCA. We expected the student energy around the farm stands to continue, and while it somewhat continued, the fall HCA farm stands were patronized in much lower numbers than in the summer.

After both the farm stands and the CSA pickup, all remaining produce was brought to Bethel A.M.E. or St. Mary’s Episcopal. Additionally, HCA Garden remained a pick-your-own produce space. Often, students, staff, and community members used the garden to harvest herbs, flowers, and fresh vegetables.

Financial Review

The Haverfarm is funded by an alumna donor who supports the maintenance of the farm, including tools, seeds, and the salary of the farm fellow. Historically, the Committee for Environmental Responsibility has supported the farm through its Greening Haverford Grant. This year, however, CER funded \$6,000 of the Haverfarm High Tunnel project, a much larger scale grant, and project, than in past years. The Environmental Studies department supports the farm by funding workshops, a student worker, and other farm programs. Haverford's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship funds a summer intern each year, and the Haverford Arboretum supports the farm in many ways including funding summer and academic year student workers, ordering Haverfarm t-shirts for the farm to sell, and funding part of the High Tunnel Project.

Haverfarm generates money via sales throughout the season. In May, we set an earnings goal of \$4,000 to fund two student workers during the 2019-2020 academic year. Proceeds from the CSA, farm stand, workshops, and other sales all went toward achieving this goal.



For the first time, we charged community members to attend select events and workshops. While all events remained free for Haverford and Bryn Mawr students, we charged \$5-\$10 for staff, faculty, and Arboretum members and \$10-\$15 for outside community members. Jennie Ciborowski, the Arboretum program coordinator, encouraged this shift. It has been an excellent source of income for the farm this year, and has made it possible for us to continue developing our programming at the farm while also building our fund for student workers. To further increase earnings, we sold t-shirts, herbal teas, and beeswax lip balm in addition to produce at farm stands.

\$4,046 In Farm Earnings

Ultimately, we were very excited to make \$3,595 by August and \$4,000 by November! In August, we hired two student workers to be funded exclusively via farm earnings. Each student is funded 6-8hrs per week at \$9.50/hr for both academic semesters. (See Appendix E for the Fall 2019 Student Worker Application.)

Season Reflections

The Haverfarm's 2019 season has been filled with growth of all sorts. While the crops have been busy turning nutrients from the soil into delicious vegetables, the farm's educational and volunteer programming has grown significantly. The Haverfarm has embodied the spirit of its mission statement by encouraging more students and community members to engage with sustainable agriculture and positive physical and mental health practices. The summer workshop series was a crash course in how to run workshops efficiently and effectively, and taught us so much about events and programming.

With the dedication, hard work, and commitment of the summer and academic year interns, we reevaluated farm goals. This year, the majority of produce distribution has shifted away from staff, faculty, and community, and toward a predominantly student population. While we deeply value feeding the larger community, we have decided to focus first on addressing food insecurity among the student population. With students organizing to address this issue, the farm is in a unique position to provide tangible support via local, organic, low-cost produce.



This summer, the farm also found clarity in where and how the farm earnings should be spent. Money earned via farm stands, CSA, t-shirt sales, and workshops went toward funding student workers for the full academic year. This is something we hope to repeat each year, as we've found student workers to be essential to not only the upkeep, but the growth of the farm.

The 2019 season feels like a critical year in terms of the farm's continued success. The summer team worked very well together in

terms of physical farm maintenance and redefining farm goals, making it possible for the fall team to focus on larger scale projects, like the high tunnel, beekeeping project, and developing more educational programming at the farm. We end this year loaded with energy and big ideas in terms of what's next for the Haverfarm.

Looking Forward

The Haverfarm is moving toward more sustainable programming with the help of the Arboretum, Committee for Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR), and the ENVS department, and is excited for what is to come in 2020. In line with CSSR and Arboretum strategic plans, the high tunnel proposal (see Appendix B) submitted by the summer farm team, is coming to fruition in the winter of 2019-2020. To mitigate food-insecurity on campus, and in line with our mission statement of year-round farming, a high tunnel will allow healthy produce to reach students for more of the academic year. Ellis and Luigie took the lead on the high tunnel proposal as a response to many conversations with students expressing the urgency of a food pantry on campus. As a Peer Health Advocate and Haverfarm intern, Leia worked to create an institutionally supported food pantry that will open January 2020. With support from CER, the Arboretum, and the Facilities Fund, funding for the materials, shipping, and installation of the high tunnel is in the works. Ideally, the high tunnel will be installed between December 2019 and January 2020 so we can begin growing in it early spring 2020.



The Arboretum's five-year strategic plan now includes the farm's goal of a full-time staff member in addition to the Haverfarm fellow. More consistent leadership at the Haverfarm will allow the farm to set and reach bigger goals, including engaging more Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and community students, increasing farm yields, and further developing sustainable programming on campus.

The beekeeping program is also experiencing some changes this year. Beginning in spring 2020, all beekeeping duties will be the responsibility of the farm fellow. This exciting change will allow for more student engagement with Haverford's honey bees, lower costs for jarred honey, and campus educational programs about honey bees, hive management, and honey extraction. To better prepare for these new responsibilities, Tilly will be working 10 hours per week from December 1st through March 1st. During this time, Tilly will continue her beekeeping and winter growing research, work with students to create a beekeeping club, and prepare for the spring season by selecting seeds and tools, planning programs, and hiring summer interns.

The farm team will also be working on the HCA Garden Revitalization Project throughout the winter (see Appendix D). We will rebuild raised beds and trellises, implement a more efficient compost system, repaint the front sign, arbor, and bed labels, and develop HCA Garden publications like newsletters and harvest guides. Hopefully, this project will be completed by April 15th, 2020 and we can give HCA garden the boost it desperately needs to serve as the community space we want it to be.