

Seminary Hill Farm and the  
Land Stewardship Initiative at MTSO

# 2025 Year in Review



# Contents

Our team.....	3	The next generation.....	12
Origins.....	5	Tomorrow's farmers and agroecology	
How the farm and land stewardship came to be		advocates gain valuable experience	
Land Stewardship.....	6	The MTSO connection.....	14
A year of growth		Our integral relationship	
for the Land Stewardship Initiative		to the school that founded us	
Seminary Hill Farm.....	7	Rooted in community.....	16
Like woodlands and wetlands,		Our culture invites people	
the farm is part of a whole		to know the land and each other	
How we farm.....	8	Thank you, donors.....	19
We look through the lens of agroecology		We recognize those	
Good food for all.....	10	who contribute to our mission	
Improving access to fresh vegetables and herbs		Growing into 2026.....	20
		Our goals for the year ahead	


Seminary Hill Farm and the  
Land Stewardship Initiative at MTSO

## 2025 Year in Review


A publication of Methodist  
Theological School in Ohio

3081 Columbus Pike  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

**President:** Jay Rundell  
**Chief Operating Officer:** Leigh Precise  
**Editor:** Laura Ann Bergman



seminaryhillfarm.org



mtso.edu

## Dear Reader,

This snapshot of a year of MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm and Land Stewardship Initiative is presented to you with gratitude – for the sacred ground that is Earth and for the beauty of life.

Thank you for being present on this shared journey, even if you are reading about these endeavors for the first time. You are welcome in this evolving, living landscape.

May your feet be steady on the path that is only yours to follow.

The Farm and Land Stewardship Team  
at Methodist Theological School in Ohio



# Our team

**Leigh Precise**  
Chief Operating Officer

Leigh grew up in Alabama, where her father instilled in her the love of growing vegetables, particularly tomatoes and herbs. Managing the farm and land stewardship team is a part of her work at MTSO that she cherishes. Leigh holds a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.



**Tim Bachelor**  
Land Steward

Tim grew up in the rural Hocking Hills of southeastern Ohio. After high school he worked in construction, landscaping and gardening, both before and after college. He received his master's degree from the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University in 2017 and started at MTSO in 2022.

**Nate Detwiler**  
Farm Manager

Nate forged an agricultural vocation from childhood through 10 years of diverse farming experiences. For Nate, regenerative agriculture goes beyond sustaining what is already present in an ecosystem. He strives to leave a place healthy and alive for all forms of life. He received his Bachelor of Science in agriculture, specializing in horticulture, from Ohio State University.



**Laura Ann Bergman**  
Farm Liaison

Laura Ann has spent much of her life with her hands in the soil, from childhood on a grain farm in Lorain County to farming in Delaware County. She came to Seminary Hill Farm in 2022 following a career in agriculture, nonprofit management and physical therapy. She received her Master of Divinity from MTSO in 2024, specializing in chaplaincy.

Continues

**Will Summers**  
**Interim Chef**

Some of William’s earliest memories are baking in the kitchen with his dad. These experiences ignited a passion for cooking and a love of nourishing others through good food and fellowship. William has worked in a variety of different kitchens throughout his career before landing at MTSO in 2023 as a kitchen assistant. William holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from MTSO, focusing on biblical studies and languages.



**Gwyneth Hagerty**  
**AmeriCorps Agroecology Practitioner and Educator**

Gwyneth supports educational programming and volunteer coordination, co-manages the Community Greens Field, and finds new opportunities for agroecological practices on the farm. Born and raised in central Ohio, Gwyneth earned her bachelor’s degree in environmental science from Xavier University, where she also pursued coursework in peace and justice studies, entrepreneurship, and music. After graduating in 2023, she worked as an environmental specialist.

**Adam Willis**  
**AmeriCorps Conservation Specialist**

Adam supports conservation implementation projects, invasive species removal, trail maintenance and development, and educational programming on and off the MTSO campus. Adam earned his bachelor’s degrees in biology and creative writing from Otterbein University in 2025. Throughout college, Adam worked as a naturalist and conservation intern with Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Ohio, where he learned much of what he knows today about conservation, habitat restoration and native species.



*Sorghum Sudan-Grass was grown in both the north and south fields in 2025. Growing 5-12 feet tall, it is an intense biomass producer, which builds soil organic matter. Roots penetrate deep into the soil. As those roots die, they leave wormhole-like openings that improve soil drainage and aeration. Seedlings, shoots, leaves and roots secrete allelopathic compounds that suppress weeds.*

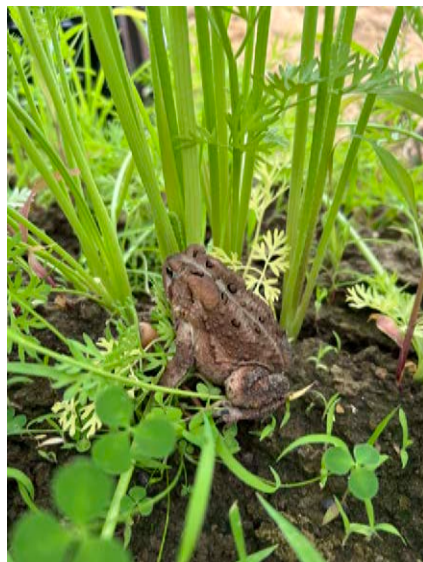


# Origins and intentions

## *How MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm and Land Stewardship Initiative came to be*

In the fall of 2013 MTSO birthed the Sustainability and Land Initiative, launching an endeavor now in its 13th year. The intention then – and now – remains:

*To establish a model for theological education through the cultivation of sustainable teaching and learning communities on our land. In addition to our classroom and hybrid learning communities, we are committed to creating a sustainable campus seeking the health of all. We are creating a campus space that pays particular attention to our impact on food, water, soil and our fellow creatures.*



Seminary Hill Farm's 10 acres are nestled within the Land Stewardship Initiative's 80-plus campus acres, nurturing dynamic ecosystems that balance and complement one another. Together, people from within MTSO and the broader community are learning to practice reciprocity and respect in relationship with Earth and one another. In the words and in memory of Patrick Kaufman, an MTSO alum who was instrumental in establishing the farm, we endeavor to “build rhythms, be intentional and live with purpose.” 🌿



*Captivating clearwing hummingbird moths (Hemaris diffinis) have been a joy to see on monarda, one of the many native perennials that are being established at MTSO.*

# Land stewardship

## *A year of growth for the Land Stewardship Initiative*

“Growth” would be a fitting word to describe 2025 for the Land Stewardship Initiative.

We grew the existing trail system to include two new sections of path on the north side of campus. We expanded the prairie restoration and completed a large installation of native perennial species around campus, including blazing star, big bluestem and other grasses. We also planted a couple thousand saplings such as oaks, dogwoods and poplars.

Using the practice of hügelkultur – a German term for a permaculture technique utilizing woody debris as the base for raised beds – we built a tree nursery behind the greenhouse. There we planted native saplings for overwintering, so they could develop root systems in time to plant in early fall.

Our team grew to include AmeriCorps

conservation specialist Adam Willis, who has assisted with these projects as well as educational programming at MTSO. We also continue to develop the Land Stewardship internship program, offering certificates and training in areas including pesticide application and field first aid. We welcomed three interns last year and hope to do the same this year.

The one thing we don’t want to see grow: invasive species such as privet, honeysuckle and Bradford pear. In 2025, we established a new five-year conservation stewardship program to eradicate these types of invasives along the southwestern side of campus.

We’re pleased with what the Land Stewardship Initiative accomplished in 2025 and look forward to more growth in 2026. 🌱



# Seminary Hill Farm

*Like woodlands and wetlands, the farm is part of a whole*

Seminary Hill Farm's 10 acres bookend campus. The north side includes production fields and the greenhouse where seedlings are raised. In 2025 we reinvigorated gardens surrounding the greenhouse and initiated planning for a 0.2-acre food forest. The south side includes two high tunnels, several low tunnels, asparagus beds, production fields and specialty gardens. These include the Children's Garden, a 90-foot-diameter garden enclosed in a dead hedge tended by volunteers, as

well as herb beds, an ADA standing garden, cut flowers and a Unity Garden that features ethnoculturally relevant crops.

We recognize that the farm's agroecosystems – nestled adjacent to woodlands, prairie, riparian corridors and wetland ecosystems – are part of one whole. Expanding the circle, we are farming within an Earth system experiencing a warming climate, rapid change and biodiversity loss, calling for continual adaptation and attentiveness. 🌿

## *Our mission*

Seminary Hill Farm teaches small-scale farming and produces good food for all in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world.

**Our vision and purpose:** Seminary Hill Farm is committed to teaching and learning about local agriculture, the stewardship of land, engaging matters of environmental justice, and working toward food security and community health.

**Our distinctiveness:** Seminary Hill Farm is an integral part of MTSO, a graduate professional school that is a vibrant, diverse, inclusive community that faithfully engages the intersections of church, society and academy to prepare leaders for ministry and service in pursuit of a transformed world. As such, we are committed to becoming an open and challenging formational community, cultivating learning for leadership and service.



# How we farm

*We look through the lens of agroecology and cultivate a relationship of reciprocity and respect with the soil biome*

Seminary Hill Farm pursues agricultural practices following a path of agroecology. Agroecology is a lens that recognizes interconnection, synergies and the vital importance of diversity – from the soil to those who eat food that is produced. While agriculture is a human-created system that implies action *upon*, agroecology intends human accompaniment *with* macro- and microecosystems and the life that resides within. Agroecology encompasses ecological, social and economic elements.

## Ecological elements

- Soil health: We continue to grow in our practical understanding of soil health, challenging our agriculture practices towards nurturing strong, diverse soil ecosystems to support nutritious vegetable production.
- Composting: While in-field composting and a static composting pile have existed in different iterations, two active compost piles were constructed in 2025 utilizing onsite brown materials and

plant materials along with reclaimed food waste.

- Vermicomposting: In the fall of 2024 red wiggler worm vermicomposting was initiated. Due to the care and love from CSA participants and volunteers, we generated an appreciable amount of vermicompost. Volunteers constructed new worm hotels, allowing us to sustain and grow worm populations during the cold months.
- Mindful tillage: In two fields on the north side, we continue to trial no-till management with an eye toward moving away from heavy rototilling as a primary field preparation step across the farm. In several fields a cycle of deep tilling was also introduced, using a moldboard plow followed by a rotary harrow to address compaction and promote biological activity at greater depth within the soil profile. This practice is

Continues

projected to repeat on a 4- to 5-year cycle as we continue establishing lower impact tillage across the farm.

- Cover cropping: Cover crops are plant selections that specifically build soil health, address weed pressure and facilitate natural nutrient cycling. In 2025, 30% of total field space was pulled into a multi-year rest cycle, allowing for these fields to grow targeted cover crops and address field specific variables.
- Collaborative decision making: While weekly field walks have been a staple to inform priorities and responsiveness to changing field settings, 2025 saw a shift towards leveraging the weekly field walk to greater utility. Field walks were shifted to later in the week and tied to generating the work plan for the following week. This allowed space for the whole team to participate in identifying project needs, discuss action steps and collaborate on workflow.
- Increasing perennial crops: We initiated planning for a 0.2-acre food forest that will be installed in 2026 and include fruit and nut bearing trees and shrubs along with complementary pollinator-friendly plants.

### Social and economic elements

- Exploring culturally significant crops: We continue to recognize the ethnobotanical heritage of cultivated vegetables and explore new crops in our Unity Garden. In 2025, gongura (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*), cucuzza squash



(*Lagenaria siceraria*), perilla (*Perilla frutescens*), Chinese five-color peppers (*Capsicum annuum*), Callaloo (*Amaranthus*) and Oaxacan green corn (*Zea mays*) were among crops trialed.

- Supplying fresh produce to food insecure communities: Thirty-five percent of all produce grown was distributed through food-insecurity partners in Delaware and Franklin counties.
- Supporting reconnection and reciprocity in our relationship with Earth.
- Practicing radical hospitality to all. 🌱



# Good food for all

*Seminary Hill Farm seeks to improve access to fresh, nutritious vegetables and herbs so that all may eat*

The farm's diverse harvest is shared with Community Supported Agriculture members, nonprofits serving food-insecure communities, the MTSO community and volunteers.

## Community Supported Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture is a hyperlocal food system that forms a direct relationship between farmers, the agroecosystem and those who eat the harvest. Individuals and families purchase memberships that support annual operating costs for seed, equipment and labor in advance

of the growing season, and they receive a weekly share of the harvest in return.

The Community Supported Agriculture program averaged 55 shareholder families a week across the season, with distributions at Seminary Hill Farm and Livingston United Methodist Church in German Village. We offer standard shares and work shares, with a two-hour volunteer commitment each month. In 2025, 17 families held work shares and helped regularly in the fields. The Community

Continues

Supported Agriculture food is distributed market style, allowing members to take what they like and will utilize.

CSA members who pick up their shares on MTSO's hillside campus look out over fields growing food that will soon be on their dinner tables. A vibrant children's garden with weekly activities, frequent cooking demonstrations in the barn, and the opportunity to walk field and forest make each Tuesday food distribution an experience. In 2025 seven CSA families participated in a week-long farm camp for children.



### Food-insecure communities

With support from MTSO's Community Food and Wellness Initiative, Seminary Hill Farm was able to distribute 35 percent of the harvest to organizations serving food-insecure communities. In 2025, Seminary Hill Farm distributed vegetables through our partners People in Need of Delaware County, the Linden Fresh Market, Central Ohio Free Pharmacy, and Food Not Bombs.



### A farm-to-table dining hall

Dunn Dining Hall, where the MTSO community gathers for meals on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and for special events, has the first choice of farm produce. During much of 2025 the dining hall was being renovated. Chef Will Summers continued to prepare food for our intern teams in a secondary kitchen and even took his skills to Worthington United Methodist Church, where he taught a sustainable seasonal cooking class for 25 people who worked in five groups to prepare and enjoy three vegetarian dishes.

### Seminary Market

On Earth Day 2025, Seminary Market was opened as a simple, self-serve market offering fresh vegetables, local sourdough, SHF swag and select Ohio-produced pantry goods. Located in an alcove in the barn, the market makes small amounts of produce, herbs and flowers available to MTSO residents and the local community. 🌿



# The next generation

*Tomorrow's farmers and agroecology advocates are gaining valuable experience working at Seminary Hill Farm*

From March through November, five people from as far away as Nevada participated in SHF's internship program. In addition to seasonal internships of shorter duration, we launched two new internship positions that span the growing season. The agroecology intern is a team lead, working closely with the farm manager to support field production. The food systems intern focuses on supporting the CSA, volunteers and visiting groups alongside the farm liaison.

## Seminarian farmers

In 2025, 12 seminarians regularly contributed to the farm as work-study students or volunteers. Seminarians are on the farm at either end of the growing season when classes

are in session, helping with everything from starting seedlings in spring to tucking in fields for winter.



*Seminarians and interns joined together in several on-farm workshops to learn about soil as a superorganism.*

# All about regenerative farming

By Matt Kelley  
*Agroecology intern*

Here at Seminary Hill Farm, we describe our practices as “regenerative,” but what does that really mean? And why does it matter?

There are many different names for the style of agriculture conducted at the farm: organic, ecological, sustainable, integrated etc. These terms all describe a similar approach to farming, where an emphasis is placed on preserving the natural environment. While farms of this style can vary widely, common practices include avoiding synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, rotating crops from field to field, planting lots of different types of crops (polyculture), improving soil fertility, reducing tillage and other soil disturbance, integrating livestock with crops and orchards, and fighting pests with natural predators.

All of these methods can boil down to an overarching idea – farming with nature rather than against it. Activist, novelist and farmer Wendell Berry describes it perfectly: “An organic farm, properly speaking, is not one that uses certain methods and substances and avoids others; it is a farm whose structure is formed in imitation of a natural system; it has the integrity, the independence, and the benign dependence of an organism.”

These concepts are increasingly important as the climate changes before our eyes. We are all already trying to adjust to warmer seasons, heavy and sudden downpours, and extreme events like tornadoes, droughts, floods and



heatwaves. Our method of farming aims to help the food system adjust, too, by weaving in resiliency.

Let’s paint an example. In the spring and summer of 2025, we experienced generally above-average precipitation in Ohio, with especially heavy isolated rain events. For many farmers, these precipitation events can wash away bare soil, deplete nutrients and result in stunted growth, or they can flood fields which can cause entire crops to die off or become contaminated. We try to avoid these climate consequences with our practices – we cover our soil in mulch to minimize erosion, we add compost to our soil to improve overall health and help retain nutrients, we reduce tilling with tractors to preserve soil structure and allow more water to be absorbed, and we plant our fields along natural contours of the land so rainwater is unable to pool around our crops.

Our regenerative practices not only allow us to continue to provide food for folks like you even with unpredictable weather, but they also strengthen the ecosystem that is our farm in the face of a rapidly and continuously changing circumstances. 🌱



# The MTSO connection

*Seminary Hill Farm and the Land Stewardship Initiative are integral to the campus community and academic life*

The farm and the Land Stewardship Initiative are woven throughout the foodways and culture at MTSO in diverse ways – from flowers on the dining hall tables, to Earth Day chapel in the greenhouse, to walks in the woods for reflection and nourishment, to discovering bird species in our midst. We are part of Earth, and Earth is part of us.

## Ecology intensive

All incoming students are required to take an ecology-focused course, Practicing Ecotheology. Taught by Dr. Tim Van Meter, it grounds seminarians to place at the onset of their academic journey. Students spend two days with the Land Stewardship Initiative and SHF staff learning water and soil science within

riparian and agricultural ecosystems while creating space for sensory exploration and bridges to their personal theologies.

## Community Food and Wellness Initiative

With support from the Harry C. Moores Foundation, MTSO's Community Food and Wellness Initiative engages Central Ohio churches and community groups on food and wellness, facilitates field experiences for seminarians, provides resources for food-insecurity contributions, and supports seminarian farmers and interns to participate in food and farming system gatherings. 🌱

## *Academic course description: Practicing Ecotheology*

Through an immersive experience on Seminary Hill Farm and campus lands, students are invited into deep reflection on the relation of theology and ecology, and to construct new relationships with food, land, and community. In doing so, they are exploring understandings of faith and spirituality through ideas and metaphors reflecting their commitments to community and agrarian values and are introduced to the meaning and significance of MTSO's values of justice, sustainability, and generativity.



## *Communion in the garden*

In September, MTSO students gathered in the Children's Garden for communion, led by student (and ordained elder in the United Methodist Church) Hae Seon Lee. The communion elements were created from the harvest of the farm: bread from potatoes and juice from tomatoes.

## *Alum return: Ed Trimmer*



MTSO alum and former faculty member Ed Trimmer spent two weeks volunteering at Seminary Hill Farm weeding, mulching, harvesting and a lot more. "I'd been reading about the farm and wanted to see what it was all about," he said. "It's a tremendous opportunity for students to get the environmental piece and be a part of it, not just theoretically in a classroom but actually doing it."



# Rooted in community

*The hands and hearts of volunteers can change the world*

In 2025 we received the gift of over 1,200 volunteer hours across field and forest, including seminarians, CSA work share members, visiting groups and area residents. We cleared more garlic mustard than ever before. The Children's Garden, only in its second year of production, had innumerable improvements under the care of our three steady volunteers: Chris, David and Mark. We built worm hotels, harvested for food pantries, started a monthly bird census and smiled along the way.

Continues



*Volunteers Chris, Mark and David, aka "The Three Musketeers"*



## Community connections

Seminary Hill Farm welcomes individuals and groups for tours, workshops and retreats designed to meet the group's intentions and purpose. In 2025 we welcomed youth service groups from Hilliard, Lima and Worthington United Methodist churches; Hilliard and Shorth North congregants; People International; Community of Caring

Development Program's Food As Medicine; Stratford Ecological Center; Franklin Park Conservatory's Teen Corps; SourcePoint; AmeriCorps and others.

We also participated in local, state and regional networks including the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, the FairShare CSA Coalition, the Hunger Alliance of Delaware County, and FaithLands.



## Radical hospitality

On a cool September evening, more than 70 people gathered on the greenhouse patio to watch the sunset and enjoy good food and live music. It was an evening of celebration and gratitude for the gifts of community and this land. Sunset on the Farm may become an annual tradition. Across the season, we hosted friends for workshops including the Earth Day open house, prairie walks, woodland walks and garlic immersions. 🌿

# A month in the life: July 2025

At CSA pickup, children romped in the Children's Garden, harvesting (and eating) tomatoes. Over the course of the season, this "nest" became a haven for adults and children alike. While deadheading zinnias, Amelia noticed this ... butterfly? Moth? Moses chimed in and pointed out its proboscis, guessing that it was a butterfly. Amelia quickly ran to the barn to get a camera so we could figure out the mystery later.

We discovered we had seen the silver spotted skipper, *Epargyreus clarus*. Skippers include several families of the order *Lepidoptera* with wings like butterflies (but more muted in coloration) and large bodies like moths. These skippers fly alone during the day, enjoying woodland edges and gardens, and landing upon anise hyssop, thistles, red clover, liatris, common milkweed and others. They are known to enjoy pink flowers. And so does Amelia.

July was an abundant month at Seminary Hill Farm. We enjoyed many honored guests including children and youth from Hilliard, Lima and Worthington UMC service camps, Franklin Park Conservatory's Teen Corps, and the Community of Caring Development Program's Food As Medicine teens, in addition to our CSA farm camp and weekly volunteers. Like the skipper, each encounter was an invitation to be open to new insights and discoveries: holding red wigglers in your bare hands, tasting okra for the first time and creek walking – and even learning to think from another being's point of view.

We held a Council for All Beings with fourth- to seventh-grade youth. In this process, created by environmental activist Joanna Macy many years ago, participants spend time alone, silently noticing until a non-human being presents itself to them. They listen and return to the council speaking from the perspective of



that being. The messages children brought to the council:

- "I am a blade of grass. I want you all to know that humans are walking all over our world and squishing the grass. We need to stop global warming and waste in our oceans. We need to clean up our world."
- "I am a mushroom. I want you to know that even if you see something that is not very pretty, it is still important."
- "I am a limestone rock. I go by the name Lime. I want you to know that I don't like it when you throw me, because then I might break. And this makes me sad."
- "I am a tick. And I need you to know that I don't purposely share Lyme disease. It is something that happened to me. And I am sorry for that."
- "I am wheat. I want you to know that you can be delicate with the Earth."

After sharing, participants received these words spoken by all present: *We see you. We hear you. We respect you. In this simple and beautiful process, our attention helps us learn to see with new eyes.*

From the silver spotted skipper to the taste of the season's first tomato, that sweltering summer was filled with joy. 🌿

# Thank you, donors

We are grateful for those who financially supported the Seminary Hill Farm Fund and MTSO's Sustainability Fund in 2025.

The Seminary Hill Farm Fund is dedicated to direct support of the farm. A gift to MTSO's Sustainability Fund supports MTSO's broad commitments to sustainability, of which the farm is a part.

## Financial contributors

Laura A. Bergman  
Latoya Best  
Katherine Dickson  
Kyle R. Gould  
Rebecca L. Guthrie  
Steve Hanson  
Tom Homan  
David E. Mansperger  
Alycia G. Orcena  
Janelle Tucker  
Chris Walsh

## In-kind contributors

Beth Jensen  
David Mansperger  
Girl Scouts Troop 4811  
Brenda and Mark Markston  
Barbara Lou Morrison  
Maggi Poorman  
Janice and Clayton Rhodes  
Stratford Ecological Center  
SourcePoint  
Chris Walsh

## *Girl Scouts troop installs irrigation in Community Greens field*

The Community Greens field received a new drip irrigation system in June thanks to a group of enterprising Girl Scouts.

Two cadettes from Troop 4811 in Delaware, sisters Hasnika and Srinikshitha, worked with Farm Manager Nate Detwiler to plan and implement the system as a Silver Award project. The Silver Award honors scouts for projects that tackle real-world problems and make a positive impact in communities.

The girls, along with their troop, installed the irrigation hoses in the



farm's Community Greens field, which was created to grow vegetables for food insecure communities. The hoses allow water to drip onto the base of the plants, providing a consistent supply and promoting sustainable water management.



# Growing into 2026

## Land Stewardship Initiative goals include:

- Start the first phase of a wetland restoration project.
- Extend the prairie in front of Dunn Dining Hall.
- Increase perennial establishment in campus landscaping.
- Complete the new trail from Weiser Run to Kleist Manor.
- Build air pruning beds for tree seedlings.
- Plant 2,000 trees.
- Remove invasives on 2 acres of woodlands along MTSO's south border.
- Monitor bluebirds in the newly built nest boxes.

## Seminary Hill Farm goals include:

- In agroecosystems: reorienting low tunnels, improving on-farm green

mulch production and utilization, and trialing intensive growing practices.

- In producing good food for all: fully launching Community Greens, a 110-by 100-foot field exclusively for food insecure communities, producing abundantly for the CSA and Dunn Dining Hall, and successfully trialing new unity crops.
- In teaching small-scale farming: continue evolution toward a rigorous internship program that develops practical skills within a grounded awareness of agroecology. Establish a food forest.
- In community: continue to cultivate a space where people can be with one another and the Earth community with an atmosphere of reciprocity, respect and joy towards all.
- In infrastructure: establish a covered area near the barn as a gathering place and outdoor classroom. 🌿