



Strengthening farms and communities since 1993

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture One Sugarloaf Street South Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373 413-665-7100 www.buylocalfood.org

CISA is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.



### Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) links farmers and communities to strengthen agriculture and enhance the economy, rural character, environmental quality, and social well-being of western Massachusetts, and partners with other organizations in its region and around the country to sustain agriculture.

#### From Succession Planning to New Leadership

Last year marked a time of change for everyone. For CISA, change came at the beginning of 2008 with the departure of Annie Cheatham and the arrival in March of Philip Korman, CISA's new executive director.

CISA was well-prepared for its executive transition, in large part because of succession planning led by Annie as the outgoing executive director, with strong support from the Board, the staff and talented consultants. Our transition plan provided a road map for leading the organization through a period of interim management to the hiring and arrival of new leadership. The transition period was also a time to embrace new beginnings fueled by a renewed sense of value and purpose.

We are ready to move forward, and, as Phil acknowledges in his letter, thriving local farms will play a central role in the health and well-being of our local economy, food systems and landscapes. We know that CISA's progress would not be possible without your enthusiasm and



interest. Thank you for your continued support.

Pureal?

Russell Peotter, Chair



#### Letter from the Executive Director

hat began fifteen years ago as a small project with a large vision has become the tremendously successful and vibrant CISA you see today. The path CISA follows was built by many hands; we are a community effort involving thousands of farms, businesses, advocates, community groups, and residents. That's how we were able to stand strong during a year of transition, as we said goodbye to veteran CISA leaders and welcomed new leadership on the board and staff.

CISA's vision for how we grow, purchase, and bring agricultural products into our homes is as vital today as it was in 1993. This past year, we saw the nation move in the direction promoted by CISA. National questions regarding the importance of local agriculture, carbon footprint reduction, food safety, and the strength of local economies were examined by the media and discussed throughout the blogosphere. As a state, regional, and national participant in efforts to sustain local agriculture, CISA has led the local food movement that seeks to address these issues and provide sustainable solutions.

In 2008 we had many successes. Most notable were a 20% increase in the number of farms and businesses enrolled in our Local Hero program and the launch of a community membership program.

During our initial ten-week drive more than one hundred of you became community members of CISA.

As we look back over the past fifteen years in preparation for our next fifteen, we have taken steps to position ourselves for continued success. We are changing the "look & feel" of CISA to communicate the scope of our work, and will be providing even more opportunities for community involvement through our membership activities and the introduction of a re-designed web site.

Where do we go from here? To put it simply, we want more local foods and agricultural goods available, more of the time, to more of the people. A strong, local, agricultural economy is part of the answer to the big questions facing our nation and our valley, from protecting the environment and stunning landscapes to ensuring health and food security.

With your involvement we will continue to do what we do best: linking farmers and communities to strengthen agriculture. Join us as we celebrate our 15th year into 2009, and help us to build the path we will travel together!

plulo & for

Philip Korman Executive Director





Ver the past fifteen years CISA has developed an array of initiatives to build a thriving agriculture economy. By far our greatest success is CISA's *Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown®* public awareness campaign. This program has expanded to include more than 270 area farms, restaurants, and related businesses, and is a national model for the hundreds of buy-local groups sprouting up around the country.

The Local Hero concept is simple: create a network of farms and businesses that work together to raise the visibility of local agriculture. And it works! Research has shown that eighty percent of consumers recognize the Local Hero brand and are twice as likely to shop at their local farm stand or farmers' market, or to choose local products at their grocery store.

CISA has been successful in helping farmers respond to new demands from institutional buyers and individual consumers. We have worked with farmers, buyers, and distributors to increase sales of locally grown products to restaurants, growers, schools, hospitals, and other institutions and to deliver a range of workshops for farmers on everything from marketing to new business opportunities. CISA has also brought locally grown food to urban residents by setting up prepaid distributions of farms products to workplace sites (workplace CSAs).

CISA's Senior FarmShare program is a great example of our work creating demand, building new markets, and fostering community. In 2008, 344 low-income seniors in western Massachusetts became shareholders at local farms and received a portion of the farms' bounty free of charge. The seniors receive fresh and nutritious produce, the farmers receive payment for their work, and often, when the elders and the farmers meet, another bond in the community is forged.

CISA has been strengthening farms and communities since 1993—connecting neighbor to neighbor to ensure that local agriculture is a growing part of all of our lives.









In the fall of 2007, CISA launched a positioning study to evaluate how local residents perceive the organization. What did we discover?



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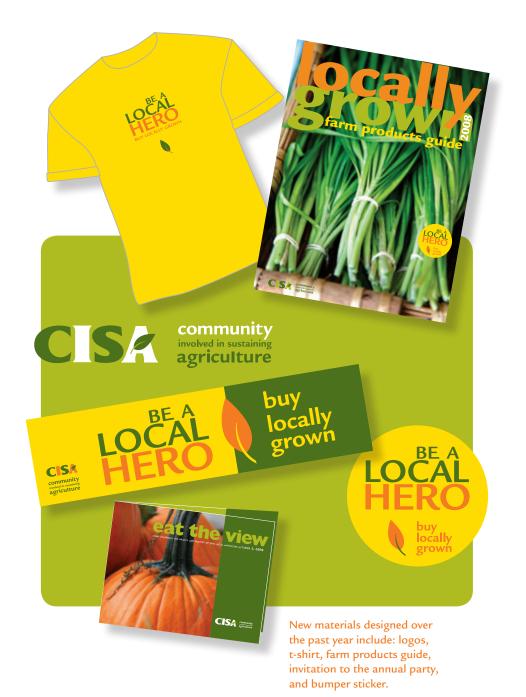
Many people do not know that there are more ways to get involved in sustaining agriculture in addition to buying locally grown products.



A lot of people do not feel the urgency inherent in saving and growing local agriculture.

CISA's goal for 2009 is to significantly increase community support of, and involvement in, the work of sustaining local agriculture. To prepare, we worked to clarify our mission and create a stronger "brand identity" in the marketplace that would better reflect CISA's maturity and sophistication as a leader in the local agriculture movement.

We began by developing a new look that would visually link CISA and its Local Hero public awareness campaign. Revised logos, with updated fonts and colors, were introduced in the 2008 Farm Products Guide and later rolled out through re-designed Local Hero materials as well as community membership materials, event invitations, and letterhead. In June 2009 we will unveil a completely revamped web site to provide more content and easy-to-access resources for farmers, community members, and supporters.



A well-designed logo can serve as visual shorthand for the messages and the meanings behind an organization. For CISA, it's about community: farmers, community members, and supporters coming together to build and sustain a thriving local agricultural economy. Events over the past year have shown that the case for community-supported local agriculture has never been stronger, and our new logos go a long way toward positioning CISA for greater visibility and recognition in the years ahead.



#### Building the infrastructure of local agriculture

A griculture in our region has many strengths, including the great diversity of our production and the creative, entrepreneurial spirit of farmers and business owners. That creative energy, coupled with soaring demand for locally grown products, has resulted in many strong new businesses, including on-farm milk processing and local delivery and the resurrection of a regional meat processing facility. In addition, new market outlets, such as a busy cooperative market and many CSA farms, are providing a growing array of farm products each year.

Like the creators of these successful ventures, CISA is working to shape the future of agriculture in our region. Our infrastructure projects share the broad goal of nurturing agricultural business innovation so that locally grown food is available to more people in western Massachusetts for more of the year. Through these projects, we've asked a number of questions: What bottlenecks or gaps in our infrastructure prevent sales of locally grown products from keeping pace with demand? What do we need, in terms of processing and storage facilities, clear and reasonable health and safety regulations, and distribution networks, to achieve our goal?

In 2008 we worked with growers, business owners, and buyers interested in ready-to-eat salad greens, local dairy products, grass-fed meat, and winter storage crops. Our work on these projects included assessing equipment costs and financing options, understanding shifting regulatory environments and strong community sentiments, and looking closely at interwoven requirements related to production and scale.

One of the most important areas of exploration in this work is the potential role of the larger community in the creation and success of new ventures. That involvement could take many forms, including working to influence the regulatory environment governing farm and food businesses, speaking up about the benefits of these businesses for local communities, or sharing the risk of new ventures through large or small investment. We know that the future of agriculture is important to many, many people, and we're learning how to work together to build that future. CISA's community, farm, and business members, and our colleagues at other organizations and agencies in the region, will be important partners in achieving our shared goals.



#### Community membership: strength in numbers



hen CISA launched its Community Membership program this past fall, it signaled a shift in how we think about accomplishing our mission. With farmers facing increased challenges, including the cost of land operating in a global marketplace, we knew that we needed to expand the ways in which we approached sustaining local agriculture. We needed to learn what aspects of our work resonate with the Valley community. We needed to build a network of informed consumers. And we needed more people to become advocates for local food and local farms.

The Community Membership initiative provides a clear and direct way for people to act on thier values and to financially support CISA. It provides a platform for people to connect the act of eating with supporting family farms and participating in decisions about their local food supply.



By helping people move along a succession of everyday, consciousnessraising actions—buying, eating and building with locally grown agricultural products; displaying the bright yellow bumper sticker; attending a farm festival; asking their grocery store manager where their food comes from; joining together with like-minded people to preserve family farms and the community legacies they represent—CISA provides a channel for individual involvement in local agriculture.

Enrollment in the Community Membership program is open to individuals and families, beginning at just \$35. Benefits include the new *Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown®* bumper sticker, a subscription to the print newsletter *Field Notes*, a monthly e-newsletter, and invitations to various CISA events throughout the year. And all community members will be offered special training opportunities to learn how to broaden CISA's voice throughout the Pioneer Valley. For more information, please visit **www.buylocalfood.org**.

"Providing the structure of an annual membership program inspired me to make a larger donation than I have made before."

Mary Williamson, newly enrolled community member



CISA is pleased to acknowledge the individuals, businesses, foundations, and government agencies whose generous financial contributions in 2008 provided critical support for our programs and outreach efforts.

#### Donors

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Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs Mass Highways: UMass Transportation Center Northeast Center for Risk Management Education Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Marketing Service United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development



In 1999 CISA launched the *Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown* ® campaign. Nine years later, it has become the longest running and most comprehensive "buy local" program in the country. We are pleased to recognize our 2008 members who, with CISA, have joined together to raise awareness and sales of locally grown farm products.

#### Farms

Apex Orchards Apple Valley Galloways Atlas Farm Austin Brothers Valley Farm Australis Aquaculture Barstow's Long View Farm Bashista Orchards Bear Swamp Orchard Bird Haven Blueberry Farm Bloody Brook Farm Blue Heron Farm Bob's Everlasting Bostrom Farm Bree-z-Knoll Farm Brook's Bend Farm Buckboard Veggies **Burnt Hill Berries** Calabrese Farm Carl Popielarz Pig Farm Chase Hill Farm Chee Chee Mamook Chester Hill Winery, Inc. Chestnut Farms Chicoine Family Farm Ciesluk Farm Stand Clarkdale Fruit Farms Common Wealth CSA Cooleyville Farm Couch Brook Farm Cowls Lumber and Sawmill Coyote Hill Farm Crabapple Farm Craigieburn Farm Alpacas Crescent Moon Farm Czajkowski Farm Dancing Bear Farm Dave's Natural Garden Deerfield Farm Devine Farms Dickinson Farm Diemand Farm Downhill Farm East View Farm E. Cecchi Farm Echo Hill Orchards & Country Market

Enterprise Farm Fairweather Farm Fini's Plant Farm -Agawam Flavvors of Cook Farm Food Bank Farm Four Star Farms, Inc. Foxbard Farm Foxfire Fiber & Designs at Springdelle Farm Freeman Farm Funny Farm Garden of Delights Glenbrook Gardens Goat Rising/The Farmstead at Mine Brook Godard's Red Hen Farm Golonka Farm Gooseberry Farms Goosefoot and Garlic Farm Gran Val Scoop Greenhorn Farm Hager Bros. Farm Hamilton Orchards Hardwick Sugar Shack Hardwick Vineyard & Winerv Hartman's Herb Farm Harvest Farm of Whately Heyes Forest Products Hickory Dell Farm Hillman Farm Intervale Farm |&|Farms I.M. Pasiecnik Farm Iohnson Hill Farm Justamere Tree Farm Kelso Homestead Kenburn Orchards Bed & Breakfast King Creek Farm Koran's Farm & Gift Shop LaSalle Florists Linda M. Fuchs Greenhouse Little Brook Farm Long Plain Farm

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CISA's work is accomplished in collaboration with a number of program partners. We thank them for their continued interest in sustaining local agriculture.

American Farmland Trust **Baystate Organic Certifiers** Berkshire Grown Berkshire/Pioneer **Resource** Conservation and Development Council Buy Fresh, Buy Local Cape Cod Center for Self-Reliance Chesterfield Council on Aging Chicopee Council on Aging CitySeed Community Action Brattleboro Area Cooperative Development Institute Deerfield Land Trust Edible Pioneer Valley Environmental League of MA Farm Credit Farm Fresh Rhode Island Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets Field to Table First Pioneer Food Bank of Western Massachusetts Target Hunger/Food Bank Farm FoodRoutes Franklin County CDC/ Western Massachusetts Food Processing Center Franklin Land Trust Frontier Senior Center Gardening the Community Glynwood Center Greenfield Senior Center Holyoke Council on Aging Holyoke Food and Fitness Huntington Council on Aging Island Grown Initiative Land for Good Live Well Springfield/Partners for a Healthier Community Lutheran New Farmer Project Maine Organic Farm and Gardening Association Mason Square Senior Center MassGrass Massachusetts Department

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#### 2008 Financial Summary

	2008 (1)	2007
Revenue and Support		
Grants and Government Contracts	569,300	476,867
Donations	192,630	183,302
In-Kind Donations	32,300	41,278
LH Membership Dues	52,700	47,550
Rental, etc.	26,900	48,402
Interest	3,020	4,984
Advertising and Merchandise Sales	24,700	38,736
Total Revenue and Support	901,550	841,118
Expenses		
Program	561,000	502,291
Marketing and Communications	90,700	72,364
Fundraising	75,000	91,987
Administration	160,600	153,618
Total Expenses	887,300	820,260
Change in Net Assets	14,250	20,858
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	321,247	300,389
Net Assets, End of Year	335,497	321,247

<sup>(1)</sup> Unaudited figures. Audited figures are availabe upon request.

#### FROM THE TREASURER

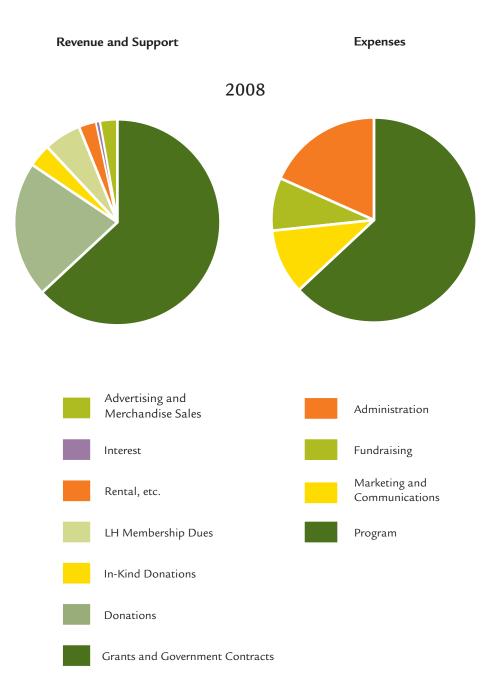
The financial results of Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, Inc., for fiscal year 2008 reflect the health and vibrancy of the organization and the strong and expanding support of all our constituents. After fifteen years, CISA's financial stability is due to the generosity of our supporters, the skills and passion of our staff and volunteers, and the responsible fiscal management exercised by our board. CISA also continued to receive strong support from grants and government contracts. Expenses remained in line with our budget. The overall result for FY2008 was a modest growth in net assets.

Sincerely.

Sugg Malinde

Greg Melnik

#### Revenue and Support / Expenses





#### **Board & Staff**

#### 2008 Board of Directors

#### 2008 Staff

Rus Peotter, Chair Mark Tanner, Vice Chair Ryan Voiland, Clerk Greg Melnik, Treasurer Faye Omasta, Past Chair

Dō-Han Allen Bob Antil Charles Barker Sheila Dennis Warren Facey Steve Goodwin Ann Hallstein Pauline Lannon Diane Roeder Gary Schaefer Brian Schultz Tim Smith Barry Steeves MA Swedlund Mike Wissemann Philip Korman Executive Director

Pamela Barnes Development Director

Tracie Butler-Kurth Membership & Development Associate

Margaret Christie Special Projects Director

Kelly Coleman Program Director

Jessica Cook Program Coordinator

Gina Gigante Bookkeeper Claire Morenon

Program Coordinator Allison Neher

Program Assistant

Devon Whitney-Deal Local Hero Member Services Coordinator

Jennifer Williams Office Manager

#### Volunteers

The following individuals have generously contributed their time and talent this year to assist CISA in accomplishing our mission.

Mitch Anthony **Christine** Arcese Nancy August Rick Bean Lisa Bertoldi Rachel Besserman Damon Blanche Kirsten Bonanza Koren Butler-Kurth Megan Butow Justine Bertram David Carlson Cate Carulli Justin Cascio Annie Cheatham Court Cline Cris Coffin Sarah Coleman Henry Compton Regina Curtis Heather Damon Joan Dickson Laura Dinwiddie Larry Dixon Robin Dizard Erin Donnally Drake Charles Dougherty Jack Eisenstadt Michele Emanatian Ioel Feldman Gail Fuller Katie George Ann Gibson Maida Goodwin

Nate Greenspan Margie Haffer Jim Hafner Mary Haigis Hendrix **JB** Hebert Marilyn Hebert Ron Hebert Mary Hocken **Kim Holloway** Maria Horvath Greg Kline Deb Lapaire Scott LaRochelle John LaSalle Jim Levey Robin Levine Michele Marotta Callie Millington Joe O'Rourke Patrice Pare Rosie Pearson Dave Perlmutter The Pioneer Valley Symphony **Chamber Players** Mary Clare Powell Linda Prokopy Suzanne Rataj Ginger Sajiera Becca Schoen

Judith Seelig Brian Schultz Pamela Schwartz Roy Scott Risa Silverman Jen Smith Alex Swetland Joan Tabachnik Gail Thomas Anna Welch April Williams Josh Williams Thomas Williams Susan Worgaftik

Design/Production: Radwell Communication by Design

Photography: Ben Barnhardt, Rachael Chandler-Worth, CISA Staff, and Jason Threlfall

Printing: Hadley Printing

# Ee-i ee-i oh?

## Top 10 reasons to become a CISA member

- 10. Cows smell better than cars
- 9. Try growing veggies on tarmac
- 8. Food security = "social" security
- 7. Chickens don't roost in McMansions
- 6. The road less traveled stays that way
  - 5. "Factory farm" is an oxymoron
- 4. Local economies look good in green
- 3. Farm policy should benefit... farmers
- 2. Eating well is the best revenge
- 1. Old McDonald keeps her farm



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