



“We might say that the earth has the spirit of growth; that its flesh is the soil.” - *Leonardo da Vinci*

November 2017

Dear Friend,

As we prepare for our Annual Winter Conference: **Healthy People, Healthy Planet**, I've been considering the many intersections of health and agriculture. If you said to a doctor, “*Soil is the foundation of my health*,” what do you think he or she would say? Some might struggle with the idea, don't you think? But many of us know healthy communities are built on healthy food, and healthy food is grown on a foundation of healthy soil. Thank you for being an important part of the NOFA-NY community. The efforts we've undertaken together to ensure the health of our soils have accomplished a great deal:

### **Soil Health through Education**

With your help, NOFA-NY ensures healthy soil is built and maintained by offering programs and workshops on soil improvement through crop rotation, assessing soil structure with the presence of organic matter, soil management through grazing, and cover cropping. NOFA-NY offers year round support and training to ensure New York's soils are well stewarded now, and in the future.



### **Soil's Vital Role is Understood by All**

The importance of soil health needs to be understood by more than farmers and gardeners. We bring the voices of *all concerned citizens together*, to advocate for organic, and ensure Organic Integrity is protected in perpetuity. Now, more than ever, we have to educate people that organic is based in an entire ecosystem from the soil to the atmosphere.

### **Soil as Key to Climate**

On the highest, and most urgent level, improving soil health provides one concrete step we can take to address the devastating natural events occurring with increasing regularity. Each of us stewarding our soil thoughtfully and responsibly has the potential to remove carbon from the atmosphere and sequester it in the soil. Meaning, the increased use of agro-ecological farming methods can help address climate change. Think about that, we can address climate disruption and improve lives beyond our borders.

To lead these efforts—and address many other relevant organic issues—NOFA-NY needs to raise \$100,000 from our members and supporters this year. Today, I am asking you to make a donation, or become a NOFA-NY member to help us meet this ambitious goal. Will you join us today?

Thank you for recognizing the importance of what is right under our feet, and doing your part to steward our soils and ensure the health of our people and our planet.

Sincerely,

Andrianna Natsoulas  
Executive Director, NOFA-NY

**P.S. Help create a healthy NOFA-NY by visiting [www.nofany.org/join](http://www.nofany.org/join) to become a member today! Join us on Giving Tuesday, November 28th, to follow along and see your impact live!**