MISSION

Rock Steady Farm is a women and queer-owned cooperative farm, rooted in social justice, growing speciality cut flowers and sustainable vegetables in Millerton, NY.

As a for-profit farm business, and worker-owned cooperative, we strive to provide living wages for ourselves and our employees. We believe that all people have the right to healthy and nutritious food.
OUR FARM

- 2 hours north of NYC
- Schaghticoke First Nations Land
- 2020 = 5th season
- 8 acres in production:
  - 6 acres non-certified organic vegetables
  - 2 acres specialty cut flowers
- Wholesale veggies + flowers
- 275 CSA members (NYC & Hudson Valley)
- 40% of our CSA serves low-income people in NYC & upstate
- All worker owners / farmers are women, LGBTQI+ & people of color
How does Rock Steady ground itself in social justice?
HOW WE LIVE INTO OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE VALUES

- Partnerships w/ grassroots organizations & non-profits
- Social media & storytelling that is true to our queer selves
- Flexible full diet CSA that is accessible to people with lower income
- Farmer rights + cooperative ownership model grounds us in our mission
- Democratic and horizontal work culture
- Focus on creating a safe work space for LGBTQI+ and BIPOC farmers and community members
- LGBTQI+ farmer alliance building and regional organizing
- Youth Internship Program
- White allyship and trainings for Rock Steady’s white farmers on power and privilege
HOW WE SERVE LOW-INCOME PopULATIONS

- We accept EBT/SNAP payment (previously referred to as “Food Stamps” and similar to food vouchers in the UK)
- Door-to-door delivery
- Sliding scale pricing
- Flexible payment plans - you can pay in installments
- Food pantry partnership funded by local non-profit
- Creative partnership with supportive housing organization - delivering weekly for their community meals
- High quality culturally appropriate food
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Weekly Cost</th>
<th>22-Week Season Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Solidarity Share” for immigrants, refugees, and those</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registered below the federal poverty level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBT/SNAP Users</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Weekly drop-in payments accepted at CSA pick-up</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>using EBT card</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Income</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Installments and up-front payment accepted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Income</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Installments &amp; up-front payment expected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Income Share - *Up-front payment expected</td>
<td></td>
<td>$800-$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your share also helps to fund our low-income CSA fund!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHY ARE WE AN “OUT” FARM?

**Representation Matters**
- We attract consumers who are LGBTQI+ often new to the organic & local food movt
- LGBTQI+ farmer visibility
- LGBTQI+ rural community members and youth
- Marketing efforts counter to the mainstream white hetero “family farm” model

**The Health of our Queer Community Matters**
- High percentage of LGBTQI+ people are food insecure
- High percentage of LGBTQI+ people with diet related illness
- Importance of diet for the HIV/AIDS’s patients we serve
- Healing through land and nature
LGBTQI+ people are disproportionately affected by food insecurity across intersecting race and ethnicity (Williams Institute study at the UC School of Law)

Figure IX. Not Having Had Enough Money to Pay for Food and Having Experienced Food Insecurity, by LGB/T identity and Race/Ethnicity (Gallup Daily Tracking and NHIS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Not enough money for food at some time in the last year</th>
<th>Food insecurity in the last 30 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>21%*</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN AMERICAN</td>
<td>42%*</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISPANIC</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>API</td>
<td>33%*</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGB</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Difference with non-LGB/T adult is significant at p<0.05
Rural LGBTQI+ People are Fighting Against Metronormativity
(Halberstam, 2005)

- There is an assumption that LGBTQI+ people should live in cities
- Linear pathway: unaccepting rural to welcoming urban
- Rural LGBTQI+ farmers have challenges accessing health services, capital and land as well as finding safe community
- To counter this there is an inspiring history of “Radical Fairies” and the “Lesbian Land Movement” in the 60’s & 70’s and now regional and national organizing of LGBTQI+ farmers both in the US as well as internationally.
Support Queer Farmers
Rock Steady Farm CSA
June-November
Pickup on Wednesdays at The Center

ROCK STEADY
FARM & FLOWERS

SUPPORT QUEER FARMERS
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