

## **New Leaf Farm's Response to COVID-19**

In this uncertain time, we would like to say that we miss you all, that we are thinking of you, and that we are wishing you well. With the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak we realized that we needed to add new measures to the precautions that we already take to ensure food safety and comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

We take the current COVID-19 outbreak very seriously. To address the current situation, we have turned to the CDC, New York Ag and Markets, the New York Health Department, UVM Cooperative Extension, and Cornell Cooperative Extension for guidance. Based on these agencies' recommendations we have implemented a number of new practices.

We are practicing social distancing by keeping 6 feet away from friends, family, customers and neighbors at all times. We are limiting our outings to weekly farmers markets and necessary supply and food purchases.

Our home on the farm has been closed to visitors since March 13<sup>th</sup>. Our farm is closed to visitors except for necessary deliveries.

We have postponed the start date of all employees until we deem it safe to have them begin work with us. For now, New Leaf Farm owners Ellen and Mike will be the only ones handling your produce. If at any time, we feel sick we will stop farm work and look for guidance from our doctors and the health department.

We are washing our hands frequently during the day. We are also sanitizing work surfaces, harvest tools, the cooler door, door handles, our vehicles, bathrooms, and other high touch surfaces frequently. On harvest days and farmers market days we wear gloves and homemade masks.

Based on Cornell Extension's recommendation, we suggest that you wash the produce that you receive from us then wash your hands. You can also help us to protect each other by keeping your distance at Farmers Market Pick Up. We miss you all and look forward to handshakes, hugs, and longer conversations as soon as possible.

Please feel free to call or write with any questions.

Stay safe,

Mike and Ellen