

Dear FLT Society Supporters,

We are writing all of our supporters to let you know that [The Farmlands Trust \(Greater Victoria\) Society](#) has continued to move forward in 2023 to achieve our organizational mandate. Our mission is to enhance farming capacity in the Greater Victoria region by protecting local farmland, protecting eco-sensitive and culturally special areas, producing food for those in need, providing relevant educational opportunities, promoting the economic viability of farmland, and providing community access and public awareness programs. This is part of our long-term commitment to provide agricultural stewardship (2015 – 2025) on a three-acre portion of the historic 100+ year old Newman Farm. With our mission in mind, the following are highlights of the FLT Society’s accomplishments in 2023.

The FLT Society continues to lead the “field to plate” food redistribution initiative at Newman Farm where our FLT Society team and local volunteers grow, harvest and share local produce to those in need at [Our Place Society](#) and their supportive housing sites across the Greater Victoria region in support of their meal and snack programs (for example, preparation of entrees, soups, side vegetables, nutritious salads, snacks and desserts).

In 2023, the FLT Society “field to plate” initiative expanded donations of food produce at Newman Farm to [Nil,tuo Child and Family Services Society](#), [Tsartlip First Nation](#) and [Tsawout First Nation](#) in support of food security protection and reconciliation.

With our on-going focus on the FLT Society “field to plate” food redistribution initiative (producing apples, assorted squash, beets, blackberries, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, garlic, kale, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsnips, pears and turnips), we had an extended farm season and record breaking year for our production at Newman Farm. We grew, harvested and shared 26,736 lbs., worth \$173,200.75 of fresh local produce. **From 2014 – 2023, our cumulative “field to plate” initiative total has reached 129,420 lbs. of produce grown, harvested and shared in the Greater Victoria region with recipient organizations, worth \$488,861.73**

Newman Farm fields, orchard and raised garden beds with assorted crops during the 2023 growing season. The harvested bounty is then distributed to recipient organizations via the FLT Society’s “field to plate” food redistribution initiative.



In recognition of the important role that trees play in aesthetics, air quality, soil and water conservation and protection of the environment, a 30+ fruit tree orchard at Newman Farm continues to flourish. The orchard provides another food source to share with recipient organizations in the Greater Victoria region.

Each year at Newman Farm, we plant a portion of our lands into a pollinator-friendly meadow; includes sunflowers, wildflowers, buckwheat and clover. This beautiful display of flowers is an attractant for birds and bees from the local agricultural lands to support pollination activity. A series of lavender beds and assorted pollinator-friendly flowers and crops are also thriving.

The FLT Society is a recognized model for sustainable farming and food re-distribution in the Greater Victoria region, utilizing national award-winning certified pollinator-friendly farm and green gardening practices. Specifically, the FLT Society's agricultural stewardship work at the historic Newman Farm is certified by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for completing an environmental farm plan assessment, is a certified bee-friendly farm via Pollinator Partnership and is a certified wildlife-friendly habitat via the Canadian Wildlife Federation. The FLT Society's Bee Friendly Farming Program was recently re-certified at the historic Newman Farm for the next three years (2023 – 2026).

The following is notable news in 2023 about the FLT Society and our charitable agricultural stewardship at Newman Farm:

- [Celebrating the success of the Farmlands Trust at Newman Farm in Central Saanich - Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, March 2023](#)
- [Pollinator Partnership Article: Bee-Friendly Farming at Newman Farm - Reflections from The Farmlands Trust \(Greater Victoria\) Society](#)

We extend our appreciation to FLT Society funders, partners and donors (individuals and families) for your timely contributions in supporting our charitable agricultural stewardship at Newman Farm.

The FLT Society is a charitable not-for-profit organization (Registered Charity #80839 3359 RR0001).

This is why we write you today to ask for your donation.

Please take a moment to donate to ensure that we can maintain our regional food re-distribution endeavours and national award-winning pollinator-friendly farming and green gardening initiatives at Newman Farm through the coming year.

If you would like to donate to the FLT Society, visit <http://farmlandstrust.org/donate>.

Annual amounts over \$25.00 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Thanks for your support,
FLT Society Board of Directors
www.farmlandstrust.org

Volunteering at Newman Farm

Would you like to volunteer with us at Newman Farm in 2024? Please contact us at farmlandstrust@gmail.com.

Weather permitting, from April to November 2024, key volunteer activities at the Farm include preparing seeds and starter plants, planting, managing weeds, organic fertilizing of plants, tidying up the vegetable garden plots and 30+ raised garden beds at the Farm to support optimal growth, boxing and packing produce for donation to recipient organizations, and winterizing the Farm.

All levels of experience in gardening are most welcome!

