



Tory Hill Continues to Support Local Farms and Communities

In the spring of 2020 while students were studying remotely and supply chains were disrupted, Tory Hill, the food service provider for The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT, was faced with the challenging situation of having purchasing commitments supporting their whole animal program through the remainder of the school year, with a significantly smaller on-campus population to feed.

The founders of Tory Hill began a whole animal purchasing program at Hotchkiss in 2016 as a way to locally source beef, pork, chicken and lamb that meet the criteria for local, humane and sustainable production. This program has continued to grow and evolve over the years to include more than 50 farms in the region. This program was also the inception of the Whole Animals for the Whole Region project, supported by the Kendall Foundation, which aims to develop and grow the relationship between New England beef and pork farmers and the institutional demand of larger schools.

Knowing how important purchasing commitments are to the future of the local farms and the whole animal program, Mike Webster, co-founder of Tory Hill, looked beyond the borders of campus for a solution. With the stress of lockdown, disrupted supply chains and record high unemployment rates, Food Pantries were struggling to keep up with demand. After an introduction to The Peoples Pantry in Great Barrington, Mike learned that the community was in great need of quality meat. Tory Hill was able to provide local meat; grass-fed beef, heritage chicken and pork at a cost that supported equitable food access to local meats.

Through continued connections with the organizers of the Food Pantries and their efforts to secure grants for purchasing, Tory Hill has now expanded their whole animal program to continue to provide affordable access to locally sourced, humane and sustainable meats to a number of Food Pantries throughout the Berkshires.