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### Winter Fare

By Mara Bright, member

Hundreds of people enjoyed the Winter Food Fare held at Greenfield High School on Saturday, February 7th. Sponsored by CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture), Franklin Community Cooperative, Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative Exchange, and Greenfield Savings Bank, the event brought together farmers from across Western Massachusetts. Resembling an indoor farmers' market, visitors could wander from table to table, taking in the diversity of products and talking to vendors. Among the local riches were salad mixes, root vegetables, organic eggs, sprouts and wheat grass, yogurt from grass-fed cows, maple products, honey, garlic and shallots, grass-fed beef, pork, lamb, homemade jams and preserves, baked goods, house plants, vinegars and pickles, sheep skins, goat cheese, apples and squash. In addition, there was a table for swapping recipes and a barter fair from 1 – 2 PM in another location on site. Many CSA options were represented as well.

Volunteers from at least two local organizations were present. Juanita Nelson was available to talk about Equity Trust, dedicated to "helping people organize land and money to build healthy community." CISA spokespeople were on hand to gather support for the organization's vision "to preserve the farms and farmland of the Pioneer Valley." Co-op Power, also seeking members, was promoting "member-to-member solar hot water installations."

Visitors were delighted with the breadth of selections. "It's like a scaled-down Common Ground Fair," one person said. "Except it's right here in Greenfield."