



Coggeshall FARM
MUSEUM



OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE
Sturbridge, Massachusetts



Announcing A New Historic Partnership in 2020

Good day and happy New Year!

You are among the first to learn about some exciting news! This year, Old Sturbridge Village and the Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island are launching a transformational partnership to sustain and expand living history in New England. For nearly fifty years, Coggeshall Farm has been interpreting life on a marsh farm in the 1790s. Like many nonprofits, it is a small organization employing a handful of staff to execute a myriad of responsibilities – from milking cows to plowing snow to writing grants to recording payroll. Organizations as small as Coggeshall often live very close to the edge of financial sustainability. Old Sturbridge Village is a large museum that employs over 200 people in departments ranging from costumed interpretation and museum education to marketing and accounting. While Coggeshall sees ten thousand visitors annually, Old Sturbridge Village sees more than 260,000 in an average year.

Under our agreement, Old Sturbridge Village will manage Coggeshall Farm. We will handle the back-office functions like accounting, fundraising, marketing and human resources for a management fee that is significantly less than what the Farm would have to pay to employ these functions individually. We will also put at least two full-time employees at the Farm year-round. These professionals will be supervised and supported by Old Sturbridge Village staff. They will work collaboratively to rebuild and revitalize the successful agricultural and horticultural programs for which the Farm is known and loved while also introducing new programs and experiences that have proven successful at Old Sturbridge Village. The economies of scale on the expense side combined with the program synergy created by the two organizations makes this a real win-win.

This partnership is about much more than the effective stewardship of financial resources and organizational sustainability. **It is about doubling down and investing in living history as a critical piece of our New England experience.** When visitors come to Coggeshall and Old Sturbridge Village, we want them to find relevance and inspiration in the stories of the lives of New Englanders who came before us. We want them to be inspired to learn a craft, to raise a garden, to farm and to find out more about the people who lived in our community two centuries ago.

I encourage you to sign up for the Coggeshall Farm eNews list [here](#) and learn more about programming at Coggeshall as the year progresses. Coggeshall will be closed to the public for the next few months, but if you sign up for this eNews, you'll be one of the first to know when it re-opens in the spring! I hope you'll make time to visit both Coggeshall Farm and Old Sturbridge Village in 2020.

I want to thank you for your continued support of Old Sturbridge Village. You have made it possible for the museum to achieve things we never imagined a decade ago. Thank you for sharing in our commitment to keeping history alive in New England for generations to come, and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jim Donahue
President and CEO
Old Sturbridge Village