



Main Street Farms

www.mainstreetfarms.com Homer NY



LOCAL NY

PARTNER Main Street Farms Homer, NY

Doing business with ASC
since 2014.

Main Street Farms — an urban aquaponics farm, organic plant nursery and education center — is dedicated to sustainable agriculture and local food security. Former social studies teacher Allen Gandelman started Main Street Farms in 2011 after years of research and gardening.

The farm grows in both water and dirt, utilizing aquaponics techniques (aquaculture plus hydroponics) to raise tilapia in tanks. It feeds them and uses waste water to fertilize the plants (lettuce and herbs). The plants in turn clean the water for the fish in a closed loop cycle, creating a symbiotic relationship.

Main Street Farms recently expanded to a new urban farm on South Avenue in Cortland.

Last spring, Dining Services and Main Street Farms collaborated to produce tomato sauce made almost entirely of local ingredients. Dining Services agreed to purchase one acre of Roma tomatoes, roughly 5,000 pounds, from Main Street Farms to produce approximately 500 gallons of sauce. Unfortunately, late summer blight destroyed most of the tomato plants and Dining Services produced only a small amount of sauce.

“We were disappointed, but we believe in the partnership and have renewed our tomato agreement for this year,” said William McNamara, director of dining services. “Our partnership with Main Street Farms allows us to expand our local produce purchases and offer students more of what they are looking for — fresher, healthy, locally grown products.”