



FARMER'S BLOG 5:15AM

There is something honest, simple and pure about living on a farm, working the land and growing your own food. Inspired by a lifelong dream to live on a farm, I decided it was time to work my land and plant a vegetable garden. I contacted Pamela Clifford and Everett Waterhouse of the Dodier Farm to rototill an area on my property. Once mud season and frost heaves had passed, Everett brought his Massey-Ferguson tractor down the Valley Road and tilled a generous 40' by 20' area. It was my first sizable garden, and it did well.

As I forge this agricultural journey, I am not alone. Supporting local agriculture, sustainability and going green is the wave of this generation. Clothes lines, rain barrels, solar panels, small flocks of chickens, continue to pop up in yards, and to "put up" for winter isn't just about stacking wood for a long winter season. The level of participation varies from front yards turned into edible landscapes to those living off the grid.

When I started interviewing local farmers for this year's edition, it became evident that many families are making their way back to the land. For folks like Virginia Taylor, the Fredericksons and the Horskens, they have labored to reclaim many of the historic properties in Wolfeboro and turn them back into working farms.

The motives of today's generation of farmers are different than the back-to-the-landers of the 60s and 70s. They are not trying to drop out. They are a part of the local community. Local produce is available in restaurants, grocery stores, farmer's markets, and farm stands that dot our country roads. With a growing relationship between farmers and residents, people are becoming reconnected with the source of their food by purchasing farm fresh produce, joining community supported agriculture programs, touring local farms, visiting u-pick orchards and learning various aspects of sustainability.

As our rural landscape boasts the remains of a thriving agricultural era, there are still generations operating the family farm. Lifelong resident of Pleasant Valley Road, Pam Clifford puts up of 500 jars each winter at her family farm. The extra produce she grows is donated to the local food pantry. She is not going green nor is she returning back to the land - she never left.

Members of our community have always embraced a generous spirit. Last year many local farmers donate a portion of their harvest to the Farm-To-Table Feast, a dinner prepared by local chefs and bakers, to share the highlights of the summer growing season and to support local agriculture.

As the growing season begins again, it is time to turn a patch of my soil - to reclaim a small plot of Wolfeboro's historic farmland and enjoy the pleasure of getting my own food to the table.



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Publisher