



**FARM
INSTITUTE**

Barnyard Tails

FALL
Newsletter
2005

THE FARM INSTITUTE | Food, Agriculture & Resource Management | www.farminstitute.org | 508.627.7007



In This Issue:

Fall Programs & Events

Animal Updates

Memories from a
Bountiful Summer

Seasons of Change

Facilities Update

Supporting the FARM

Call for Volunteers

Fall Letter From the Farm

By **Matthew Goldfarb**
Farm & Education Director

Greetings!

I am thrilled to be part of the FARM Institute's community and near the ocean.

Since 1994 I have been a farmer and educator. Like an agricultural Woody Guthrie, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Redwood Forests, I have shared my passion for the outdoors with kids, families, plants and animals on working farms. However, I didn't farm the Gulf Stream

waters, I just sailed them.

In my time I have established a raw milk collaborative, harvested grains and crops, raised dairy cows and grass fed livestock, taught biology at a Quaker school, created a diverse organic farm for a small private high school, and used draft horses to help produce food for over 100 families.

My commitment to farming centers around the notion that farming provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen communities. Local farms are an

important part of a sustainable food system. Also, the farm connects people to their place (the land, their ecosystem, their home, their environment) and to each other.

I have joined the FARM Institute because I share the vision that a farm is a system that provides nourishing food, education, balance, joy, and knowledge.

Thanks for having me.
Peace,
Matthew

Fall Programs & Events

This season's educational series at the FARM Institute is entitled *Fall: Food, Farming, & Fun*. We are offering events and classes to connect island students and the community to the traditions of the harvest season on Martha's Vineyard. Our programs and events revolve around learning about and exploring life on the farm and celebrating this robust time of year.

The FARM Institute will once again welcome school classes, children, and their families to the property for after school programs, school class field trips, and special events. The FARM Institute programs adapt each season to the rhythms of the planting, harvesting, and renewal of the land. Through our work,

we encourage inquiring minds, confidence in problem solving, and a conservation ethic. Also, we hope to share information about where food comes from and why support for local farms is essential.

On the fall schedule for the first time are our **Saturday Family & Community Chore Mornings**. On the first Saturday of every month, from 7:30-9:30am, we invite everyone to come to the farm and see what a morning on a working farm involves. Among other things, we'll feed the cows, lay out the hay, and collect the eggs from our hens.

We will be hosting and co-hosting several fall events. First is our **Fall Open House Field Day**,

On Sunday, October 9 from 12-4pm, come pick pumpkins, press cider, enjoy a pig roast, and enjoy music.

Sunday, October 23, 1-2:30pm, the Hebrew Center will be hosting **Harvesting Peace** on the FARM. This non-denominational lunch celebration will give thanks to the harvest and offer hope for peace. The picnic will include a potluck vegetarian meal and island musicians and singers.

On Sunday, October 30 from 2-5pm the FARM will host our second annual **Halloween Party**. Ghoulish girls and boys are invited to visit our spooky haunted barn, carve pumpkins, hear stories, and enjoy some sweet treats.





Facilities Update

This summer, the town of Edgartown committed \$40,000 to help save the Katama Barn. This money will be used for Phase I that will fix the roof and the south side of the barn. Reconstruction will start this fall.

The summer classroom, once a barn, will return to its original use and become home to animals and farm equipment.

While our permanent classroom is constructed, our temporary winter classroom space has generously been provided by the Mattakesett and Winnetu Inn and Resort, our neighbors on the south side of our property.

The cow barn restoration is underway. Our goal is to save the old milking barn and once again make it a healthy functioning hay, storage, and livestock barn.



Program Highlights

Memories from a Bountiful Summer

By **Peter Granquist**
Summer Intern/Teacher/Farmer

Words cannot convey the impact that I saw the FARM Institute summer program have on both the children involved and on myself over the course of the summer. It was magical to watch kids being up close and personal with the cows and sheep, because many

Americans are removed from the process of farming.

During my stay with the farm, I saw a spark of hope for the future of sustainable agriculture every time a child wrapped their arms around a sheep, every time they fed a cow an alfalfa cube, and every time I saw a child taste their first vegetable pulled freshly from our beautiful garden

with their own two hands.

The FARM provides wonderful programs and place-based opportunities to the community, and I won't forget the wonderful kids and fellow staff that make it possible.

Sincerely,
Peter Granquist

Fall Letter From the Board

By **Caroline Fenske**
President of the Board
and **Samuel Feldman**
Chairman of the Board

We are very excited for the upcoming season and enthusiastic about this time in the FARM Institute's history. We are confident that you will find the promise of the FARM Institute alive as ever and we are very eager to see the fruit from the efforts of our new Farm & Education Director and new Education Program Manager.

This summer, we focused on the immediate and long-range goals of the FARM Institute. Those of you familiar with farm-

based education programs may have ideas about how we should proceed with our visions and mission at the FARM Institute. We encourage you to join our Advisory Committees. We have five Advisory Committees: Parent, Education, Agriculture, Food Industry, and Fundraising. The FARM Institute is a non-profit organization that depends on the generosity of friends and donors to support its programs. We are as interested in volunteer resources as we are in financial contributions.

We hope you will enjoy fall on the farm. We look forward to seeing you through out this, and the many seasons to follow.



Cows, Chickens, and Sheep OH MY!

The FARM goes all Belties and other Animal Updates

First the cows...
We have decided to temporarily go all Belted Galloway, the breed of cow you see in our pasture and in our logo. The Murray Greys we had are a highly endangered breed that require special maintenance and resources that the island does not have yet.

With the generous help of local farmers such as Fred Fisher of Nip and Tuck Farm, our Murray Greys were ferried across to the mainland where they met Will Anderson of the Farm School in Athol Massachusetts. Will, an experienced cattleman, has agreed to breed, care and expand the Murray Grey herd

as part of their educational program.

In return, the FARM Institute will be able to receive offspring in the coming years so we can also support the protection of Murray Greys.

The FARM Institute is excited to have welcomed a docile and gentle Belted Galloway bull. He'd love to meet you, so please come for a visit! He is now with the cows and we are expecting a May/June calving.

Other Animals News
We anticipate a March/April lambing for our Navajo Churro and Icelandic sheep (we have

Chilmark farmer Allan Healy's Icelandic Ram partially to thank).

This October, the 25 laying hens raised by the summer camp should start laying eggs. Omelets or crème brulée anyone?

We'll soon welcome Angora Goats kindly donated by Liz Thompson of Vineyard Haven's Thompson Farm.

In Search of...
We are looking for two sows (female pigs), a dairy goat, and a dairy cow to help cultivate our fields and to make cheese, butter, bacon, and ice cream with our students and families.

Supporting the FARM

Katama Farm's agricultural history dates back to WWI when navy and army beans were grown on the property. Since then the Katama Farm has seen over a dozen farmers tend the fields. This land has seen multiple stewards because the economics of farming was and remains extremely challenging. For this reason there are less than thirty working farms left on Martha's Vineyard. The FARM Institute remains among this diminishing number.

We are encouraged by the support and enthusiasm that the island community has given to us. We at the FARM Institute are honored to carry out the challenging, rewarding and nourishing craft of farming on this unique and historic land. However, we can't do it alone. We need your help to connect children and the community to the value of a local food source, the Katama Farm property and the rich traditions of sustainable

island agriculture.

The operating costs of the programs are not covered by the occasional fees. We have a need-based scholarship fund for families that want to attend but do not have the means. Each year we launch an appeal to the community and try to host fundraisers to garner financial contributions for the scholarship fund and our educational programs. We hope that when you hear wind of our annual appeals, you will give what you can.

We also have several projects that need your help. We need to repair the old dairy barn and build a new classroom and office space. We also need farm equipment and classroom materials (see right). We also need volunteers to serve on our Advisory Committees. We look forward to seeing our neighbors with rolled up sleeves and smiling faces.

We plan to be here for years to come, growing the farm and farm programs alongside your children. We hope we can continue to count on the overwhelming, thoughtful support of our island community.

Here is our current WISH LIST:

If you have any of these items, or would like to purchase them for the FARM, please contact Matthew:

Donations Wanted

- Chain saw
- MIG welder
- Hammers
- Wrench set
- Horse trailer
- Art supplies
- Chest freezer
- 4 wheel drive truck
- Screw driver set
- Ratchet set
- Table saw
- Color printer for materials for our educational programs
- Laminating machine



Mark Your Calendar!

Wed. 9.28 After school and class field trip programs begin on the FARM.

Sat. 10.1 The Island Farmer's Festival in W. Tisbury. Come try one of our delicious hamburgers, 12-5pm.

Sat. 10.1 Family & Community Chore Morning, 7:30-9:30am.

Mon. 10.3 After school programs begin at the W. Tisbury and Tisbury School with the YMCA.

Sun. 10.9 Fall Open House Field Day. Celebrate the harvest with music, pumpkins, and a pig roast, 12-4pm.

Tues. 10.18-24 Visit the Sukkhas at the Hebrew Center and the FARM Institute. Celebrate the season!

Sun. 10.23 The Hebrew Center hosts the **Harvesting Peace** Lunch at the FARM Institute, 1-2:30pm.

Sun. 10.30 Halloween Party! Come visit the FARM's haunted barn, carve pumpkins, and eat sweet treats from the FARM 2-5pm.

Sat. 11.5 Family & Community Chore Morning, 7:30-9:30am.

Sat. 12.3 Family & Community Chore Morning, 7:30-9:30am.



Seasons of Change

Dear Friends Say Goodbye, New Friends Say Hello

The FARM is saying goodbye to some enthusiastic and dedicated staff, and we wish all of these wonderful friends the very best.



A late-summer organizational restructuring eliminated the position of Executive Director. We will greatly miss John Curelli and will carry on the good work, passion, and commitment that he exhibited for us all.

Education Coordinator Robyn Hosey is moving on. We will miss her tremendous efforts and irreplaceable passion in supporting the visiting children and the farm.

Farm Hand Vanderson Carmo is going back to Brazil and his positive attitude and ingenuity will be sorely missed.

Master Gardener Dinah Reese helped craft a gorgeous garden with the staff and children. The improvements she made to the soil will last for years to come.

New Faces & Titles

Farm Hand Dominic Dalh-Bredine comes from Silver City, NM and is an expert mechanic and engineer. He is delighted to share his background and experience in farming and community work.

Education Program Manager Melinda Rabbitt DeFeo is a native Islander who comes from a long line of farmers. For the last four years she has been the education coordinator at Polly Hill Arboretum spearheading a wide variety of education initiatives.

Debbie A. Marghella, who has been with us for two years, is now our Administration Director. We are excited to utilize her skills and talents in this new position.

A Letter From Robyn

Farm friends and family,

I do not have words to describe my gratitude for all of your support and love. I am rendered speechless every time I try to describe what the experience of working on the FARM has meant to me. If I could package this farm and all its fantastic inhabitants into a small bundle and place it into my pocket to take with me on my journey I would.

What I can do is keep all the adventures filled with love, laughter, beauty, tears, triumphs and defeats in my heart with me always.

To all the FARM Institute students, parents, teachers and co-workers, especially John Curelli, thank you, to the moon and back, thank you for your support and love.

As Always,
Robyn Rose Hosey



We're on the web!
www.farminstitute.org

In our last newsletter, we stated that it would be our last *printed* newsletter. However, many of you found the hard copy to be valuable.

In the hope of saving resources, we encourage you and your friends to visit our website. There you will find a full-color version of the newsletter as well as additional information and program updates at the FARM Institute.

Call For Volunteers

The FARM Institute is looking for volunteers to help coordinate the Fall Open House Field Day and / or the Annual Halloween Party. We are also looking for volunteers to join our Advisory Committees.

The FARM Institute relies on the great ideas and high spirits of our volunteers. We have established several committees focusing on education, agriculture, the food industry and community outreach, and we are looking for parents, educators, and agriculture professionals to join our Advisory Committees (which meet 3 times per year).

Please contact Debbie at the FARM office if you would like to learn more about joining any of our Advisory Committees at 508.627.7007, or e-mail her at office@farminstitute.org.



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