

## TWO TRACKS ACRES NEWSLETTER

October 2012



### LOOK OUT FOLKS, WE'RE HERE TO STAY

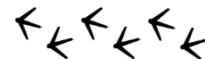
We've bought a farm! It is in Grass Lake, MI, about ten minutes from Tantre.

We weren't even house hunting when a friend called us up and told us about a property for sale – a handyman's special – that was ten acres, a barn, and a house. Wow, everything we need! And at a great price. Both Taik and I had thought it would be years before we would be able to buy a place of our own, but this was exactly what we wanted and affordable.

We jumped at the chance and are now jumping into the home/farm owner life. Lucky for us, one of our Two Tracks CSA members, Maris Laporter, is a real estate agent. She was a huge help throughout the entire process and was able to get us the best deal possible, making sure we knew what we were getting into.



The new farm consists of ten acres of pure pasture; perfect for pigs and chickens. There is an old wooden barn with hand hewn beams, and a white farmhouse surrounded by lilac bushes. The buildings were built around the late 1800s and need a lot of TLC, but we are up to the challenge. First on the list? Get our new piglets settled in. Second? Fix the leaky roof, buy a water heater, patch the holes in the ceilings.... Can't wait to get our hands dirty, in every sense of the word.



### FOOD HUB RECIEVES \$200,000 GRANT

The Food Hub has just received a value-added producer grant for \$200,000, which will go a long way toward helping us build the local food economy. The money will go toward processing equipment to make slaws and mixed salads and things with vegetables from local farms. These types of value added products are appealing to larger institutions like hospitals that like raw food that is already prepped to save time. Also, there will be lots of room for storage, helping to extend the season for vegetables and

giving us a distribution point for selling food to restaurants. The hub plans to partner with the Brinery to grow and expand this local business that ferments vegetables to make krout, pickles, and all kinds of fermented veggies (if you haven't checked them out already, you should!). It will also partner with Eastern Market in Detroit to access bigger markets and with Food Gatherers to recycle old food. Grant money will also go toward equipment that recycles the heat from the coolers and uses it to dry vegetables, making products such as kale chips.

The space and equipment will be a boon to local farms that are struggling with storage space and distribution. Already there is talk of forming a coalition of farms that can act in partnership to supply the Hub with goods.

Much of these plans are still in the works and will continue to evolve as the project moves forward. However, the jump start that the grant has given the Hub tells us that big things are on the horizon.

### **SIGN UP FOR NEXT YEAR**

Thanks to those who responded to us about signing up for next year, we were so encouraged by your positive support! We are now ready to officially start signing people up, so below is a solidified schedule and instructions. If you need a member contract or options for next year, let me know.

- (1) Optional informational meeting on Thursday, November 8, at 7pm at the Food Hub located at 4175 Whitmore Lake Road
- (2) Sign up due by January 1. Let us know through email or by calling Stephanie at [\(616\) 734-9123](tel:6167349123).
- (3) Member contract signed and returned by January 1. Email or mail to Stephanie at 2510 Hayes Rd, Chelsea MI 48118.
- (4) Early deposit of \$100 due by January 1. Please send to above address. Make checks payable to Two Tracks Acres
- (5) Remainder of deposit due by March 15, 2013
- (6) Share distribution begins early June and goes through November



Thanks and Be Well!