

# GREEN ACRES URBAN FARM

## CSA *communiqué*

### WHO WE ARE:

Rebecca: Raised in California and heavily influenced by farmers and ranchers around me, I started gardening at a young age by willingly working in our family food garden. As a young adult I started several community gardens from scratch while living in inner city neighborhoods including St. Louis and Chicago. After marrying we bought an organic farm and sold produce, herbs and flowers to stores, restaurants and farmers markets for many years. My entire life has been devoted to horticulture, young people and the arts which has culminated here on Green Acres Urban Farm.

Brie: After graduating from IU in 2014, I wanted to get as far away from The University as possible and learn the value of physical labor. I “apprenticed” at a rural eco-village in French Lick Indiana where I grew into my crusty farm punk self. The biggest take-away for me was the reciprocity driving our farm crew. This is what I hope to resurrect as a farmer. My work/play philosophy is rooted in the work of Wendell Berry and I am (more than!) ready to resurrect the commons through food production.



## WHAT/HOW WE GROW:

\* Non-GMO and Organic Seed

\* Heirloom Varieties

\* A blend of Permaculture and traditional growing techniques (no chemicals!)

In the ground now: Carrots, Beets, Radish, Lettuce, Spinach, Okra, Tomatoes, Cucumber, Squash, Herbs, Onion, Black Berries, Strawberries, Wonderberries, Comfrey, Burdock, Rhubarb, Horseradish, Perennial Flowers, and more.

Value-added: In order to make the most of the bounty at peak season we will be canning/preserving all extra food. This may mean community work-days of putting up food. We will keep some for the winter for our community, put some in CSA shares, and the rest goes back to the commons.



## COLLABORATORS:

Recognizing we can grow more food collectively, Green Acres Urban Farm is looking for **strategic partnerships** that increase food security for all. Bloomington Cooperative Living is buying our first full share as they begin planting their own garden. Personal comrades make up the other full share. We are committed to **rightness of scale** to ensure agriculture that moves away from exploitation of land and people.

We imagine partnering with these groups in the coming season:

- 1) Local Growers Guild
- 2) Bloomington Community Orchard
- 3) Center of Sustainable Living
- 4) Paoli Community Garden
- 5) Bloomingfoods (Members)
- 6) Mother Hubbards Cupboard
- 7) Local artists, carpenters, herbalists, independent presses, service-industry folks, bakers, writers, political organizers and on..

**“Let me outline briefly as I can what seem to me the characteristics of these opposite kinds of mind. I conceive a strip-miner to be a model exploiter, and as a model nurturer I take the old-fashioned idea or ideal of a farmer. The exploiter is a specialist, an expert; the nurturer is not. The standard of the exploiter is efficiency; the standard of the nurturer is care. The exploiter's goal is money, profit; the nurturer's goal is health -- his land's health, his own, his family's, his community's, his country's. Whereas the exploiter asks of a piece of land only how much and how quickly it can be made to produce, the nurturer asks a question that is much more complex and difficult: What is its carrying capacity? (That is: How much can be taken from it without diminishing it? What can it produce dependably for an indefinite time?) The exploiter wishes to earn as much as possible by as little work as possible; the nurturer expects, certainly, to have a decent living from his work, but his characteristic wish is to work as well as possible. The competence of the exploiter is in organization; that of the nurturer is in order -- a human order, that is, that accommodates itself both to other order and to mystery. The exploiter typically serves an institution or organization; the nurturer serves land, household, community, place. The exploiter thinks in terms of numbers, quantities, "hard facts"; the nurturer in terms of character, condition, quality, kind.”**

**-Wendell Berry, “Unsettling America”**

## Where We Are Going:

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Our business plan is one of organic expansion based upon autonomous participation and word-of-mouth credibility. The farm commons we are working to build rests on the principle of reciprocity and Social Kapital. We are not practicing agriculture for profit but for livelihood of the greater community. The CSA model allows us to build direct relationships without competing with other growers.

More property owners in the Green Acres neighborhood are joining us in the effort to turn residential lawns into healthy growing spaces. By next fall, we should have neighborhood seed libraries to compliment free book libraries.

We will soon have garden work days (Thursday evenings at 7pm) that will include an evolving farm team of neighbors, friends, kids, etc.

This urban farm is part of a larger vision which grew out of the transition movement of Bloomington.



## EN SOLIDARIDAD:

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\*other ways to help

- \* Invest in other local economy opportunities
- \* Preserve common spaces
- \* Cooperation > Competition
- \* Experiment in reciprocity - do for others and see how it comes back around
- \* Imagine every lawn as garden
- \* Subvert your job
- \* Destroy institutions
- \* Make connections with your elders
- \* Empower others
- \* Know your native plants
- \* Teach a child
- \* Decolonize knowledge
- \* Support craftspeople
- \* Force-feed your own growth
- \* Barter
- \* Wake up everyday ready to

