

Sustainable Agricultural US Case Study Projects
US and Canadian Projects Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Tab 6

Greenleaf Industries

Grants Pass, Oregon

Lead Organizations:

Greenleaf Industries, non-profit working with developmentally disabled since 1981. Greenleaf serves as the Northwest's largest horticultural training center, providing training and employment opportunities to twenty (20) men and women who have varying developmental disabilities. Greenleaf also partners with several local high schools that bring over part-time students who have developmental disabilities.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled youth and adults

Project:

This is the best case study of a highly successful program that covers nearly 100% of its operating costs from agribusiness revenues, yet works with special needs population. Over 94% of our program's 'total' operating budget is generated through plant sales or related services. Our nursery annually produces over 2.5 million plants including over 300 varieties of flowers and vegetables. Greenleaf's wholesale nursery is the backbone of the organization, producing a majority of the work and training opportunities for our DD employees. Our three and one-half acre nursery includes over 60,000 square feet of greenhouses and cold frames in which over 2.5 million plants are annually produced. We grow over 300 varieties of annual and perennial flowers, herbs and vegetables. Twenty-five years ago when Greenleaf was just an idea on paper, we chose the production of bedding plants because it was felt the work would compliment the skill levels and potentials of our D.D. employees. A majority of the tasks associated with bedding plant production are very labor intensive. They include transplanting, filling flats, pulling spent flowers and leaves, and moving plants from the greenhouses to cold frames and finally, when appropriate, to areas of full sun. The repetitive nature of such tasks has allowed our employees to develop specific skills needed in bedding plant production. While our D.D. work force is considerably slower in terms of production, compared to industry norm, the quality of performed work, especially amongst long-term employees, is quite exceptional.

Website:

www.greenleafindustries.org

References:

- Greenleaf Industries website (www.greenleafindustries.org)
- Greenleaf Industries – Program Description of Greenleaf Industries for Disability Compass, a web-based resource for people with disabilities (<http://www.disabilitycompass.org/organization.php?pid=7138&page=G>)

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Tab 7

Green Chimneys

Brewster, New York

Lead Organizations:

Green Chimneys, non-profit working with developmentally disabled since 1947. In 1996, The Friends of Green Chimneys, a third not-for-profit corporation was organized in order to support the work of the agency and school.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled youth

Project:

Founded in 1947, Green Chimneys is the nationally renowned, non-profit organization recognized as the leader in providing meaningful work and animal and horticultural therapy on its 166 acre farm for children with emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. Each year, Green Chimneys' restoration system gives hundreds of children and their families the tools that enable them to positively experience their youth, regain a sense of self-worth and create hope for the future as independent, positive and productive adults. Green Chimneys strives to develop a harmonious relationship between people, animals, plants, nature and the environment through an array of educational, recreational, vocational and mental health services.

Website:

www.greenchimneys.com

References:

- Green Chimneys website (www.greenchimneys.org)
- Dayle Haddon, "*Welcome to Green Chimneys: a sanctuary where troubled children and harmed animals recover together and blossom*", Interview, February, 1994

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Tab 8

Camphill Village

Copake, New York

Lead Organizations:

Camphill Village, non-profit working with developmentally disabled since 1939. Camphill Village in Copake, New York is the oldest and largest of ten independent Camphill communities in North America. The North American region in turn is part of the international Camphill Movement: 100 independent communities, schools and training centers in 20 countries in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa working with children, youth and adults with developmental, social, emotional and mental disabilities. The ten independent communities in Camphill's North American region are located in New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Ontario, California and British Columbia.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled youth and adults

Project:

Camphill Village offers a variety of meaningful work and training options. "Meaningful work" is work that meets real needs and—equally important—offers both the challenge of acquiring new skills and the satisfaction of a job well done. At our farm, we practice sustainable agriculture through biodynamic and organic methods to help bring healing to the earth. The Camphill Village farm provides a healing landscape and therapeutic work. The rhythm of work, the cycles of the seasons, the care and attention given the plants and animals, the daily encounter with the wisdom and beauty of nature—all these are healing for body, soul and spirit. Camphill Village is much more than a provider of basic services for people with developmental disabilities. It offers an environment that is fully integrated — people of all ages and abilities share home, work and social activities.

Website:

<http://www.camphillvillage.org>

References:

- Camphill Village website (<http://www.camphillvillage.org>)

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Tab 9

Innisfree Village

Crozet, Virginia

<http://www.innisfreevillage.org>

Lead Organizations:

Innisfree Village, non-profit working with developmentally disabled since 1971. Innisfree Village, a residential farming community with adults with mental disabilities, is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We are home to 39 coworkers (or adults with mental disabilities), 12 full-time residential volunteers, and 12 support staff, who create a dynamic lifestyle on 550 acres.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

The Innisfree Village farm produces vegetables, fruit, flowers, and herbs for the entire community as well as for sale at local farmers markets. Located near the center of our community are eight homes, a community center, weavery, bakery, woodshop, office, and gardens. Innisfree, a voluntary community with adults with mental disabilities, is dedicated to providing a life-sharing home and work environment in an atmosphere of beauty, warmth, and respectfulness. All community members are valued, and all are encouraged to explore a meaningful and challenging life.

Website:

www.innisfreevillage.org

References:

- Innisfree Village website (www.innisfreevillage.org)

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Tab 10

Red Wiggler Community Farm

Clarksburg, Maryland
<http://www.redwiggler.org>

Lead Organizations:

Founded in 1996, Red Wiggler Community Farm is a 501(c)3 non-profit that was created to meaningful jobs for adults with developmental disabilities through the business of growing and selling high quality, home grown vegetables .

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Our developmentally disabled adult seasonal growers are referred to us by agencies like the Arc of Montgomery County, CSAAC, and SEEC-Maryland who provide adults with developmental disabilities support services. In 2005 there were 12 growers helping to produce the finest and healthiest vegetables in Montgomery County Maryland. The farm annually sells 100% of its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Their CSA program is made up of 80 local households who participate in our seasonal vegetable subscription service. These community members visit the farm once a week throughout our 20 week harvest season. These people form the backbone of our activities here at Red Wiggler. They not only provide us with much needed revenue but they help cultivate the Red Wiggler vision of creating fertile ground to nourish a healthy and inclusive community

Website:

<http://www.redwiggler.org>

References:

- Red Wiggler Community Farm website (<http://www.redwiggler.org>)
- Article with photos of the Red Wiggler Solar House addition (<http://redwiggler.blogspot.com/2008/01/solar-house-photos.htm>)

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Tab 11

Left Foot Organics

Olympia, Washington
<http://www.leftfootorganics.org>

Lead Organizations: Left Foot Organics promotes self-sufficiency, inclusion and independence for people with developmental disabilities through meaningful employment and training in the business of growing and selling high quality organic food and farm products.

Target At Risk Residents: Developmentally disabled youth and adults

Project: Left Foot Organics operates an organic market garden of about two acres, producing a variety of certified organic seasonal vegetables and flowers for sale in local markets. We grow over 50 varieties of vegetables, from arugula to zucchini. We also have eggs from our free range flock! As we expand, we plan to add more crops, plants, and small livestock with the objective of working up to ten to twenty acres over time. The farm annually sells 100% of its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. They offer CSA subscriptions for supporters who are willing to help us "earn while we learn" and keep Left Foot growing. Left Foot provides part time, paid employment year round for 8-10 growers. We support individuals at varying developmental levels with a variety of relevant abilities and interests, modeling on the farm the inclusive community we advocate everywhere.

Website: www.leftfootorganics.org

References:

- Left Foot Organics website (www.leftfootorganics.org)
- Sustainable Northwest article on Left Foot Organics (<http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/stories/left-foot-organics>)

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Tab 12

Finger Lakes Fresh

Ithaca, New York

Lead Organizations:

Finger Lakes Fresh is a hydroponic greenhouse farming division of the non-profit, Challenge Industries. Since 1968, Challenge has been providing training services and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities and other employment barriers.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Challenge has also used its entrepreneurial spirit to expand and add to its own small businesses that offer integrated employment opportunities. A recent example of this spirit is our hydroponic greenhouse operating under the trade name, Finger Lakes Fresh. Produce is now shipped, year round, all over the northeast. Challenge operates small businesses both to offer employment opportunities and to generate funds that help to support its work.

Website:

www.fingerlakesfresh.com

References:

- Finger Lakes Fresh website (www.fingerlakesfresh.com)

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Tab 13	Urban Oasis Farmer's Market Brooklyn, New York http://nyc.cce.cornell.edu/emerginginitiatives/marketinitiatives.php
Lead Organizations:	Urban Oasis is a horticultural business and agricultural initiative of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center in Brooklyn. Urban Oasis utilizes "real job" work experience as horticultural therapy. Produce grown on-site is sold along with New York State farm-grown products at a weekly farmer's market at the Center.
Target At Risk Residents:	Developmentally disabled youth and adults
Project:	Urban Oasis is a vocational program at Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, where students learn about organic gardening, food production, and the day to day running of a farmstand. The veggies and herbs grown at Urban Oasis reflect the cuisine of the surrounding Caribbean neighborhood: Bitter Melon, Eggplant, Collards, Kale, Corn, Malabar Spinach, Long Beans, Okra, Cucumbers, Sweet & Hot Peppers, Basil, Thyme, Lemon Balm, and Callaloo. In addition they offer houseplants (grown on site), and seasonal fruits (not grown on site). It's open Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm, through November..
Website:	http://nyc.cce.cornell.edu/emerginginitiatives/marketinitiatives.php
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Oasis website (http://nyc.cce.cornell.edu/emerginginitiatives/marketinitiatives.php)• Urban Oasis article "Callaloo grows in Brooklyn: Urban Oasis Farmstand" (http://www.chowhound.com/topics/319703)

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Tab 14

Blooming Acres

Minesing, Ontario, Canada
www.bloomingacres.com

Lead Organizations: Blooming Acres is a 100 acre residential farming community for children, teenagers and adults diagnosed with multiple and complex special needs. We offer Residential Care, Respite, Educational Day Programmes, and a Summer Camp.

Target At Risk Residents: Developmentally disabled youth

Project: The Blooming Acres farm is and is ensconced in a picturesque country setting. Our farm is fully operational and raises food for our two facilities and it is complimented by a variety of livestock. Blooming Acres Farm is a ten bed licensed residence situated in beautiful Oro Medonte, Ontario. The farm accommodates individuals with disorders such as Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Cognitive and Developmental Disabilities, Tourette Syndrome, Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder, Learning Disabilities, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and Mood and Anxiety Disorders. Often the individuals we support are deemed hard to serve and hard to place due to the complexity of their needs.

Website: www.bloomingacres.com

References:

- Blooming Acres website (www.bloomingacres.com)
- Julie DeBruin, "Farm converted to home for special-needs clients", Barrie Advance, August 28, 2007

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Tab 15

Lambs Farm

Libertyville Illinois
<http://www.lambsfarm.org/>

Lead Organizations:

Founded in 1961, Lambs Farm is a premier non-profit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities. Lambs Farm has grown from a small pet shop in Chicago to a 72-acre farm campus.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled youth and adults

Project:

Lambs Farm is a place that empowers an extraordinary group of more than 250 people with developmental disabilities to lead personally fulfilling lives. Lambs Farm is also a place where families gather to enjoy our many shops and attractions, where community groups hold meetings and picnics, where businesses have products made with care and where many others attend a wide variety of entertaining events.

Website:

<http://www.lambsfarm.org>

References:

- Lambs Farm website (www.lambsfarm.org)

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Tab 16

Hannah & Friends Farm

South Bend, Indiana

Lead Organizations:

Hannah & Friends Farm is a newly organized non-profit working with developmentally disabled by the Notre Dame Football Coach Charlie Weiss.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled youth

Project:

While the newest case study, this will probably generate the most publicity of any farm project serving the developmentally disabled. Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis and his wife, Maura, recently commenced development of the Hannah & Friends Farm. Hannah is the Weis' 12-year-old daughter who was born with something called global developmental delays. The Weis' new 30-acre facility will house adults with similar special needs.

Website:

<http://www.hannahandfriends.org>

References:

- Hannah & Friends Farm website (<http://www.hannahandfriends.org>)

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Tab 17

Aunt Marilyn's Farm

Shelby, North Carolina
<http://www.harvestworksinc.org>

Lead Organizations: Aunt Marilyn's Farm is managed by HarvestWorks, Inc., which is a division of the non-profit, Cleveland Vocational Industries, Inc.

Target At Risk Residents: Developmentally disabled youth and adults

Project: Aunt Marilyn's Farm is in Cleveland County in North Carolina on 20 acres of land that houses a farm setting where developmentally disabled kids, especially ones just leaving school, can find work and acceptance. In May 2003, HarvestWorks purchased 18 acres off Highway 180 in Shelby that also included an old farmhouse. The Mangum family purchased and donated an adjacent two-acre lot that fronts the highway. Whether your loved one is mildly mentally disabled or severe the center has something to offer. Firstly they have naturally-grown field crops, such as organic vegetables, that are tended to by the children and young adults. The goods are then sold in the open market with funds going back to the center and to pay wages. There's also a mobile lawn and garden service which includes landscaping crews, catering crews, and crews that do business and home cleaning. Every crew is supervised by a capable helper of the center. Whether you need your yard mowed or a weekly business cleaning they can handle the job. For those who are not capable of working there is a day activity service where clients can participate in activities, therapies and other interests. Some of the crops grow include: lettuce, spinach, zucchini, cucumbers, beans, peas, pumpkins, peppers, eggplants, tomatoes, and corn.

Website: www.harvestworksinc.org

References:

- Aunt Marilyn's Farm website (www.harvestworksinc.org)

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Tab 18	Gericke Farm. New York City Public School 37 Annex, Staten Island, New York
Lead Organizations:	New York City Public School 37 Annex in partnership with Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York State Parks and Recreation, and the New York City Board of Education in Staten Island.
Target At Risk Residents:	Autistic special education youth from New York City Public School 37 Annex.
Project:	Gericke Farm is a 22 acre-tract, part of Clay Pit Ponds State Park in Staten Island. Autistic special education youth from New York City Public School 37 Annex work with assistance from Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension to nurture fresh produce and then sell it at their local school market. The special needs youth learn about growing vegetables and marketing them at a farmers market.
Website:	http://schools.nycenet.edu/d75/p37r/gericke_farm.htm
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PS 37 Annex Gericke Farm website (http://schools.nycenet.edu/d75/p37r/gericke_farm.htm)• Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Food Security: Urban Agriculture & Markets: Gericke Farm http://nyc.cce.cornell.edu/emerginginitiatives/demo-farming.php

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Tab 19

Thornhill Farm

Mt Pleasant, South Carolina

<http://healingFarm.org>

Lead Organizations:

Founded by Healing Farm Ministries, Thornhill Farm is a picturesque 100 acre farm just outside of McClellanville, South Carolina. Thornhill Farm offers recreational/social opportunities, educational and vocational training as well as employment for people affected by developmental disabilities.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Healing Farm Ministries has a two acre organic garden on Thornhill Farm. In June of 2007, we opened our first licensed community training home on Thornhill Farm that offers residential services to four adults. In the future, we anticipate housing over twenty adults at the farm -- four to six adults with disabilities and as many caring adults will live as a family in each of several houses on the farm, but no large institution will ever be permitted. Healing Farm Ministries has a two acre organic garden on Thornhill Farm. This garden supports a horticultural therapy program, as well as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. The garden's purpose is to serve the needs of the developmentally disabled through therapy and employment opportunities. We grow organic produce, such as collard greens, turnip greens, squash, lettuce, swiss chard, tomatoes, arugula, flowers, melons, cucumbers, eggplant, carrots, beans, peppers, herbs and many other items.

Website:

<http://healingFarm.org>

References:

- Thornhill Farm website (<http://healingFarm.org>)

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Tab 20

Hopewell Inn

Mesopotamia, Ohio, just east of Cleveland

Lead Organizations:

Hopewell Inn is a non-profit organization that provides a therapeutic community for adults with serious mental illness

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Established in 1996 and nestled in over 300 acres of serene countryside, Hopewell Inn is a nonprofit therapeutic farm community located in Mesopotamia, Ohio. Hopewell Inn is the only working therapeutic farm community in Ohio, and one of a small group in the country dedicated to helping people with mental illness heal. Hopewell was inspired by Gould Farm which was founded in 1913 and evolved over the years into a community where mentally ill "guests" worked together and lived in a community. At the heart of Hopewell is a community embracing farming practices, functioning as home and workplace. Residents relearn daily living skills and improve their interpersonal skills, while contributing to this effort. Organized in work teams, residents assume major responsibilities for all aspects of the farm's daily work. The farm's yield helps sustain its residents.

Website:

<http://www.hopewell.cc>

References:

- Hopewell Inn website (<http://www.hopewell.com>)

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Tab 21

Heritage Farm

Bouckville, New York

Lead Organizations:

Heritage Farm is a non-profit organization established in 1985 to provide therapeutic services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

The mission of Heritage Farm is to provide an individualized program for each participant that reflects the founding belief that farming and rural life foster self-worth, independence and a sense of responsibility toward family, friends and community. Heritage Farm currently serves over 100 families. The participants who come to the Farm gain training in farm-related jobs such as caring for small livestock or working in the gardens and greenhouse. They also receive many opportunities for community integration and training in areas like daily living skills, communication, and interpersonal skills. Participants grow their own vegetables and spices, gather eggs from the chickens and make jams or jellies from Farm grown raspberries and grapes. They can also choose to work in the woodshops or craft rooms to make wonderful folk art and other items to be shared with their families and friends or put in the Heritage Farm gift shop for others to purchase.

Website:

<http://www.heritagefarminc.org>

References:

- Heritage Farm website (<http://www.heritagefarminc.org>)

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Tab 22

Plowshare Farm

Greenfield New Hampshire

Lead Organizations:

Plowshare Farm is a non-profit organization nestled into the foothills of southern New Hampshire.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Plowshare Farm in Greenfield N.H. is a lifesharing farming initiative that serves developmentally disabled adults in a peaceful residential setting surrounded by natural beauty. Plowshare Farm is a small, thriving community where lives are shared, where nourishing the land in turn nourishes the individual who is tending that land, and where animal care creates the potential for people who are usually the care receivers to become the care givers. The pace of life is slower here to be all inclusive, and people of all abilities can find meaningful work and self-respect. Our farmers care for the land and the many tasks on an organic farm: milking, compost turning, feeding animals, training oxen, tending seedlings, or harvesting the fruits of their labor.

Website:

<http://www.plowsharefarm.org>

References:

- Plowshare Farm website (<http://www.plowsharefarm.org>)

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Tab 23

Quest Farm

Georgetown, Kentucky

Lead Organizations:

Quest Farm was born from a special needs Sunday School class that started more than thirty years ago. Quest Farm is a non-profit organization with a rotating Board of Directors from the Central Kentucky area monitoring the financial and operational aspects of the farm.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Quest Farm's mission is to provide a loving home/workplace for adults with developmental disabilities where they may reach their full potential spiritually, physically, mentally, and vocationally. Quest Farm, Inc. is a working farm community where adults with developmental disabilities live in a nurturing and enriching environment. Each individual is encouraged to attain their full potential in every aspect of their life. The educated and knowledgeable staff encourages and trains individuals to be farmers with skills in areas such as gardening, horticulture, landscaping, crafts, woodworking, cottage industries, vegetable production, animal care, retailing, equipment use and maintenance, lawn care, etc. The vocational and educational skills we teach are two-fold. One, it allows the farmers in training, to be productive citizens and contribute as much as they can to society. Two, it gives the farmers in training, a sense of pride and accomplishment when they see that they have helped stock the store with flowers and crafts, or sold vegetables at the farmer's market or to the local grocery store.

Website:

<http://www.questfarm.org>

References:

- Quest Farm website (<http://www.questfarm.org>)

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Tab 24

Danny's Farm

Altadena, California
www.dannysfarm.com

Lead Organizations:

Danny's Farm is a farm petting zoo nestled in the foothills area of Pasadena, California that is open by appointment only and is completely handicapped accessible. Danny's Farm has partnered with the California Department of Developmental Services and Villa Esperanza to employ adults with special needs.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled youth and adults

Project:

Danny's Farm is a very unique petting zoo and events facility designed for children affected with autism and special needs. While Danny's Farm was founded to be a special place for special children, it is open to children from all walks of life, with or without disabilities. It's a dream come true for the thousands of special needs children in the Los Angeles area who will now have the most amazing place to call their own — a place to come and interact with the gentlest of creatures from donkeys to bunnies, lambs to pot belly pigs, all who are very lucky to call Danny's Farm their home as all the animals on "the farm" have been rescued or have special needs themselves

Website:

www.dannysfarm.com

References:

- Danny's Farm website (www.dannysfarm.com)
- Danny's Farm press release "*Opening Day of Danny's Farm — A Very Special Place for Very Special Children*" (<http://www.dannysfarm.com/press.php>)

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Tab 25

The Farm in the Dell

Helena, Montana

Lead Organizations:

Opened in 1989, The Farm in the Dell was created by the Rural Opportunities Project nonprofit organization to provide a home in a rural, farm-like setting for adults with developmental disabilities.

Target At Risk Residents:

Developmentally disabled adults

Project:

Built with community donations of money, labor, and love, Helena's 34-acre Farm in the Dell. It has housed 22 residents and has provided an opportunity for more than 50 people with disabilities to perform meaningful work and gain vocational skills. There now is a waiting list of people wishing to live and work at the Farm

Website:

<http://farminthedell.org>

References:

- The Farm in the Dell website (<http://farminthedell.org>)