



The Farm at Miller's Crossing

Week of August 2nd 2010
farmatmillerscrossing.com

From the Farm...

It is hard to explain the feeling that I had the day that these 4 bins of Cantaloupes came in.

We love Cantaloupes and who wouldn't, especially on the hot days that we have been having. Sweet juicy and cool, they are the perfect antidote to hot and humid weather.

We have never harvested this quantity of Cantaloupes in the history of our farm. And to see these large bins of large fruit come in was quite something for me, who started this business 15 years ago on 2 rented acres.

The small scale that was our beginnings is no longer. We have 7 employees who come here from Guatemala through the H2-A guest worker program. We have housing for those employees and we keep them busy...for as many hours as they would like to work.



Our 200 acre farm had only 25 acres in vegetable production when we moved here in 2000. We now have 65 or so acres dedicated to vegetables in a rotation with grains, forages and cover crops. Our herd of cows has topped out at 35 animals..and we are in the process of putting up permanent fences around the acreage not suitable for vegetables.

From such humble beginnings we have grown and changed a lot.

I was a single young woman of 24 when this all started. Now married and four children later it is hard to believe I used to spend all my days on tractors and in the fields. I certainly would never have foreseen trailer loads of cantaloupes!



My how things change—who knows where we'll be in 15 more years!

CSA has always been a part of our marketing. Yet it is only in the last 3 years that we have dramatically increased our Community Supported Agriculture component beyond our home town and into NYC. This shift has allowed us to grow a more diverse range of vegetables; vegetables that we could not have found a market for in our previous lives as a wholesale vegetable operation. Cantaloupes are one of those crops!

By having a CSA and growing larger acreage of more diverse crops we are better able to rotate those crops to prevent disease and manage fertility. By having a reliable work force here on the farm it allows Chris to focus on the details that keep things running smoothly and has allowed me the time to spend with our four children. We are grateful for these changes.

Thank you for all of your support, Katie