

SUSTAINABLE SMALL SCALE FARMING

By

Christine Tailer
Straight Creek Valley Farm
Georgetown, Ohio

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Straight Creek



Sustainable *Off Grid* Farming

- Farm ten acres using no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, all open pollinated crops, such as corn, clover, sunflower, beans, hay ...
- Bee Keeping
- Raise Rabbits
- Raise Goats
- Raise Chickens
- Raised Beds for asparagus, strawberries, and herbs

388 Square Foot off Grid Home



Raised Bed Gardening



Conventional Garden Rows



Conventional Fields



Total of Nine Tillable Acres



Float Beds to Start Seeds



Large Float Bed



Float Bed Construction



Antique Farm Show



Antique Farm Show Continued



Wonderful Multipurpose Tool



And More Old ...



Gleaner K Combine



Two Row Corn Head

Sunflowers too!



Bean Head



Farming!



Challenge? How to Avoid Chemicals!



!!!!!! Compost !!!!!!!

Compost

Animal Manure

- Worms
- Goats
- Rabbits
- Chickens

Vegetable Matter

- Kitchen Scraps
- Small Piles
- Large Piles

Worms are Wonderful!

- **Earth Worms:**
- Consume half their own weight in soil and organic matter each day (one pound of worms eats one half pound of waste and produces one half pound of compost daily)
- Worm castings contain up to ten times more NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash) than the soil eaten by the worms
- As soil passes through the worm the intestinal secretions and soil microorganisms work together to free plant nutrients

Red Wigglers

- The most common worm for vermicomposting, process large amounts of organic waste and tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions, approximately 1,000 worms per pound.
- Cannot survive northern winters, not indigenous to this area (for an outside bin dig a pit below the frost line)



Worm Bin



- Smell like earthy spring! If does get smelly add damp shredded newspaper to top of bin
- Tidy!
- Easy to care for ... Tier system of harvesting castings ...
- Worms do not escape ...
- And in the summer, can be moved outside to covered, shady porch (Do not leave in the rain as they will drown!)
- Preferred temperature between fifty and eighty degrees

Worms



Worm Food



Goat World



Goat Manure



Deep Bedding = Compost



Rabbit World



Rabbit Hutch



Rabbit Compost



Close Up of Rabbit Compost



More Rabbit Compost at Work



Rabbit Compost at Work



Rabbit Corral



Free Range Chickens ?



Chicken Tractor



Portable Chickens



Chicken Eggs





Egg Shells

Chicken Fertilizer



Deep Bedding and Tea

Kitchen Scraps



Clean and Easy



Coffee Grounds!



Wood Ash



Small Piles



Garden Waste and Kitchen Scraps



Large Piles



Large Pile Equipment



There is No Excuse Not to Compost

- Easy
- Feels Good ... nothing goes to waste
- Science ... but common sense is all you need

The Result!



Mmmmm...



More mmmm...



HONEY BEES!!

(sustainably)



WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE BEEKEEPING?

Bee Minimally Intrusive

(The Art of Zen-like Beekeeping)

- understand the bees
- use few if any drugs or chemicals and use natural ways to deal with pests and illness



THE IMPORTANCE OF SWARMING

Genetic diversity

Disruption of brood cycle – varroa grow on brood



Five year old swarmed colony living in an old black locust tree.

We try to “think” like a bee!



And maybe let the bees live more naturally!



Maple Sugaring in Southern Ohio



Our first year sugaring at Straight Creek, simple but effective!!!!!!

Second Year ... Still Hard at Work!



The SARE Evaporator



Drill and Bit



Milk Jug At Work



Milk Jug Collection System



Happy Farming!

My other secret identity?

