

FORGOTTEN FARMS

**Dairy farmers remain the backbone of the region's agriculture,
but fight for survival in an age of artisan cheese and kale.**

Forgotten Farms examines class divides in our farm and food communities. Most people buy their food in supermarkets and don't have a chance to "know your farmer," as the bumper sticker recommends. In more affluent communities, farm-to-table restaurants, farmer's markets and CSAs are booming and the new farmers are celebrated.

But there is another farmer who is left out of the local food celebration.

New England has lost over 10,000 dairy farms in the past 50 years; about 2,000 farms remain. Collectively, they tend 1.2 million acres of farmland and produce almost all of the milk consumed in New England. In our enthusiasm for the new food movement, we often overlook the farmers at the foundation of the regional agricultural economy. Only 100 years ago, New England produced most of its own food (on 16 million acres of farmland). Climate change will

require more of our food to be grown closer to where we live. As we strive to revive local production, we have much to learn from dairy farmers who have been managing most of the farmland and sustaining the farm economy all along. Through conversations with farmers and policy experts, the film reconsiders the role of these vital but forgotten farmers, who will be essential players in an expanded agricultural economy.

Forgotten Farms gives us a glimpse into the past and a vision for a future regional food system. The documentary shows the cultural divide between the new food movement and traditional farming, highlighting the need to examine differences, develop mutual understanding, and find common ground. A truly sustainable local food system that benefits everyone will rely on all of our farmers.



FORGOTTEN FARMS A SWEET CORN PRODUCTION

WITH LINWOOD RHODES, DAVID TOWNE, WALLY CHENAIL, CHRIS CHENAIL, NICK CHENAIL, WINTHROP CHENAIL, LOUIS ESCOBAR, JANE ESCOBAR, KRISTEN HERRICK, SAM HERRICK, KATHY HERRICK, KELLY HERRICK, BILL HERRICK, VICTOR ZIEMBA, LORRAINE STUART MERRILL, GREG WATSON, CAROL CHENAIL, HEATHER DARBY, CRIS COFFIN, BOB WELLINGTON, DARRYL WILLIAMS, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, JACKSON WILLIAMS, JIM LARKIN, JIMMY LARKIN, STEPHEN KULIK, LEON CORSE, HENRY ART, BRIAN DONAHUE, SUZY KONECKY, NICOLE WARREN, TOPHER SABOT, BARBARA ZHEUTLIN, DONALD CAMPBELL, ANDY WHITMAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HANS MORRIS, BETSY SHIVERICK, PAUL SHIVERICK

PRODUCED BY SARAH GARDNER

DIRECTED BY DAVE SIMONDS

THE FILMMAKERS

Dave Simonds (director) is an actor, writer and filmmaker. He directed *Cherry Cottage: the Story of an American House*, which premiered at the Berkshire International Film Festival, and screened at festivals around the country. He directs Simonds Films, which is a full service boutique production house. He continues work on his ongoing series of short episodic films and the upcoming *Free Advice from an Old Guy* with Jay Tarses. As an actor, Simonds worked extensively in New York, and regionally at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Long Wharf Theatre, and The Portland Stage Company. He was a familiar face in the indie-film renaissance of the late 80s and early 90s and his screen credits include *Amateur*, *The Book of Life*, *Signs and Wonders*, *The Fish in a Bathtub*, *Henry Fool*, *B Movie*, among many others. He appeared in music videos for Everything But the Girl, Beth Orton and others. He was the co-founder of the award winning Cucaracha Theatre, which was housed in a warehouse in Tribeca before anyone knew where Tribeca was. The New York Times proclaimed, "Cucaracha Theatre has become a center for some of the most interesting experimental theatre in New York." He is currently working on a documentary called *The Hoy Boys*.



Sarah Gardner (producer) teaches planning and policy at Williams College and is the Associate Director of the Center for Environmental Studies. Her areas of research and teaching include land use, urban planning, local politics, agriculture and food systems, renewable energy and climate change. She has led many research projects about agriculture both in New England and Eleuthera, Bahamas. Sarah is a co-chair of the Williamstown Agricultural Commission and a board member of Berkshire Grown. Sarah was instrumental in proposing and passing the Williamstown Right to Farm bylaw. She was the leader of the North Berkshire Keep Farming project, a three-year research initiative. Sarah is a graduate of Smith College, she holds a Masters in Public Policy from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the City University of New York. She has made two short films about tourism and farming in Eleuthera.

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LINKS

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Some Press: <http://forgottenfarms.org/news-press/>

Nick and Winthrop Chenail - Chenail Bros. Dairy

