

Living Energy Farm  
March 2011 Newsletter

March has seen a lot of progress at the Living Energy Farm. In addition to the grants and donations we received earlier this year, we recently received an \$8500 earmarked donation to help with establishing roads on the land! We are very grateful for all the hard work and resources that have been invested in this project by people who care about our future.

We have an open house and two workshops coming up soon. We will have an open house and oxen demonstration Friday May 13, 10 AM to 5 PM. We are pleased to have the help of a local friend, Luke Conner, who has a pair of adult oxen named Calvin and Hobbes. Luke will bring Calvin and Hobbes and show folks how oxen can till land and do other work. We will also bring out the young LEF oxen, Lojki and Fiddle, so they can meet the folks as well.



Our fruit grafting and propagation workshop is also coming up soon. It will be on Saturday April 23rd, from 9 AM until 5 PM. There are still a few open spots, so let us know if you are interested.

We've been busy planting and planning. We have tilled our seeds fields, and begun tilling in organic soil improvements, compost and other materials that will feed our seed growing plants this summer. We will be growing more than a dozen different kinds of seeds this summer. We have started some of the warm weather crops in a nearby greenhouse, where they are growing and anxiously awaiting frost-free weather. Our interns will learn not only organic growing methods, but also how to properly ripen and

process seed crops for storage.

We have also been planting our orchards. We have collected dozens of varieties of fruiting plants that grow without chemicals. We have planted an orchard of blight resistant pears, cold-hardy pomegranates, muscadines, jujubes, and an assortment of hundreds of berry bushes. Our new trees have small leaves now -- the first sign of spring. These fruiting crops will provide food for folks living at LEF, as well as fruit we can sell and make into cider at our farm stand in years to come.

Our pole barn has a roof! At last we have some dry storage under which we can put materials. In the near term, this barn will be a multi-function site where we can come in out of the rain, cook food, store tools, and do some short-term camping.

In the next month we will be planting our seeds fields, planting some garden crops for food this summer, tending our new orchard, finishing up on the barn siding, working on improving the roads, and starting on our first greenhouse. We have a few people interested in working with us as interns this summer, but we always welcome new faces, and we would love to see yours. Come by and see us sometime. We have workdays every Saturday.

We are still seeking donations of building materials, farm tools, and funds. For more information regarding our workshops, or to join our mailing list, see our website at [livingenergyfarm.org](http://livingenergyfarm.org), contact Living Energy Farm at [livingenergyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:livingenergyfarm@gmail.com) or 434 409 6006.