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->Greetings from the folks at [Hundredfold Farm](#) and [Seven Springs Tree Farm](#)!<-

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Hundredfold Farm is an old-fashioned neighborhood with a green future - a rural, ecologically sustainable cohousing community located just west of Gettysburg PA.

Seven Springs Tree Farm is an organic choose & cut Christmas tree farm that specializes in growing holiday traditions and creating lasting memories.

Winter Greenhouse Gardening

Does your new year's resolution include improving your diet and incorporating more healthy choices, like fresh salads, topped with a light vinaigrette dressing, or protein-rich scrambled eggs with sauteéd spinach? Most people would need to clean out their pantries and change their grocery lists, but for Hundredfold Farm residents, fresh greens are just steps away from our homes!



We already have a large greenhouse, the back portion of which contains the artificial wetlands that powers our community's wastewater treatment system - read our [September 2011 newsletter](#) for more information.

Two years ago, our gardeners decided to use the front portion of the greenhouse to extend the growing season and raise delicious winter greens and other veggies.

This garden is not about growing tomatoes in January. It is about giving cold-hardy crops that extra edge of protection so their harvest can continue right through the chill and dark of winter. The greenhouse temperature ranges between 35-40 degrees, and never gets below freezing. On sunny days, if the temperature gets warm enough, vents in the greenhouse will open automatically for ventilation to keep the greenhouse from overheating.



In the beginning of October, four 4' x 10' raised beds were built; the soil was prepared with a mixture of mushroom soil, sifted topsoil, compost, and a layer of potting soil to help start the seeds. Garden committee member Sandy Hartzell surveyed the residents to find out what plants they would like to grow in the greenhouse this year.

Bed one contains chard and other greens. Bed two contains spinach, beets and kale. Bed three contains cilantro, arugula, mustard greens, broccoli rabé, romaine, purslane, butterhead and tropicana lettuce. Because of the slow winter growth, we harvest the greens by taking individual leaves from the outside of the plant, so the center of each plant will continue to grow.

Bed four is Linda Miller's experiment with square foot gardening, which was planted 4-6 weeks after the other three beds. It contains lettuce, spinach, arugula, basil, kale, carrots, beets, and sugar snap peas. Linda says that the key with square foot gardening is to keep planting and rotating crops, in order to have a continuous production of vegetables. [Click here for a more in-depth article about home gardening crop rotation.](#)



The beds have been watered every day, although we can water less now that the temperature is cooler. In the future, we will use a drip irrigation system for watering. Pests such as aphids and white flies may not show up until March, and will then be treated with organic pesticides such as Neem oil.

Many of the greens are tender and delicate enough for an abundance of salads and other healthy dishes!

Below is an easy recipe that you can make with Swiss chard or any other winter green.

Gnocchi with Sautéed Swiss Chard

Source: *Woman's Day*, 10/17/11

- 1 lb. potato gnocchi, refrigerated or shelf-stable (if you prefer, use cheese-stuffed tortellini)
- 1 TBSP olive oil
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch Swiss chard, cut into 1-inch strips
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan (1 oz.)



Cook the gnocchi or tortellini according to package directions.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the Swiss chard, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper, and cook, tossing occasionally, until tender, 3 to 5 minutes.

Toss the pasta with the chard mixture and sprinkle with the Parmesan.

Wishing you a Happy New Year from Seven Springs!

As always, Christmas season goes by so fast. It's our favorite time of the year - time to meet our customers, hear about their families, and revel in the holidays! The weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas were a whirlwind, but alas, all good things must come to an end. Mild weather and sunny weekends made Seven Springs Tree Farm the best place for making Christmas memories and choosing this year's tree.



The season is over, but preparation for next year has already begun. The Christmas shop and café have been thoroughly cleaned and put to bed. The Christmas lights have all been turned off, and now the hard work begins. We don't mind though, because we want everything to be perfect for you and yours next season!



While it is cold and inhospitable, a lot of our work revolves around what we can do indoors, like repairing and maintaining equipment. Soon, we will be ordering new trees to plant this spring. The 3,000 or so trees that we order will come bundled up together, and will range in size from about 6 to 12 inches above the root. It's a group effort with so many rewards. We will keep you posted on our progress to make 2012 your best Christmas ever!

Hundredfold Farm celebrated our 12th year of running the tree business, although some of our loyal customers have been coming here for over 35 years!

We trust that you had a wonderful Christmas - we did, and we look forward to seeing your smiling faces again next year. Thank you for making Christmas 2011 our best season ever! Until we meet again, thank you from all the partners at Seven Springs Tree Farm.



Visiting Hundredfold Farm

You don't need to wait for an event to visit us! Tours are available by appointment. Please call Bill at 717-337-2212 to arrange a visit.

Speakers Bureau

We are pleased to announce that Hundredfold Farm now has a speakers bureau! If you would like to have a representative come and speak to your group about a particular topic related to cohousing or sustainability, please leave a message at 717-334-9426 or email info@hundredfoldfarm.org.

Classifieds

Solar home for sale at Hundredfold Farm

Built in 2007, this beautiful home is located in Pennsylvania's first ecologically sustainable rural community, just 8 miles west of Gettysburg. The kitchen, dining room, and living room feature an open floor plan with south-facing windows and panoramic views. There is a large master suite, with two additional generously sized bedrooms and two full baths. Ceramic tile and hardwood floors throughout. Bonus 600 sq.ft. unfinished walk-up cape cod-style attic that can be used for storage or a workshop, studio, playroom, etc. Solar electric and solar hot water systems, combined with renewable energy credits, result in no net utility bills. Enjoy 80 acres of private secluded property with scenic mountain vistas, organic vegetable gardens, and over one mile of walking trails. Read more details here: [1134 Evergreen Way](#) or look up [MLS #21105782 on Realtor.com](#). Contact Prudential realtor David Sites at 717-337-1188 to arrange a showing.



Building Lots for Sale

Build your green dream home at Hundredfold Farm – five building lots are still available. Cohousing balances the traditional advantages of home ownership with the benefits of shared common facilities and involvement in community governance. Individual homes are arranged to preserve privacy while, at the same time, encouraging neighborly interaction. If you are interested in a pastoral, secluded location that can provide food and energy security, while sharing your living experience with a group of like-minded neighbors, you should come and take a closer look!

Community members enjoy shared meals, social events, and gardening together. Our eco-friendly designs include solar hot water and solar electric systems on each home plus an innovative living machine wastewater treatment and recycling system. Call 717-334-9426 for more information.



Overnight packages

Get a taste of the small, friendly village that is Hundredfold Farm ~ tour our ecologically sustainable homes, wastewater recycling facility, and Christmas tree farm, plus enjoy a community meal.

Hundredfold Farm is a peaceful, relaxing oasis, located 10 minutes from the historic Gettysburg Battlefield. You can also enjoy wine tasting at local wineries, a day trip to Washington DC, and hiking the Appalachian Trail. Schedule your visit to take advantage of seasonal activities and events, including the reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg and various local festivals such as the National Apple Harvest Festival, the PA Lavender Festival, and the Gettysburg Festival

celebrating American art, music, and cuisine. December visitors will have the opportunity to experience a working choose & cut Christmas Tree farm. Skiing and snowboarding are also available locally at Ski Liberty and other nearby resorts.

A great getaway for individuals, couples, families and groups. Stay for a weekend or a week ~ contact us at 717-334-9426 for pricing.

Please let us know if you are interested in staying on our list and/or take the opportunity to update the information in our records. Following the "subscribe" link at the bottom will take you to a form where you can enter updated information (and there's an "unsubscribe" link at the bottom if you decide to opt out). You can also forward this message to someone who may be interested in being added to our contact list and receiving this newsletter.



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