



MINT CREEK FARM

Ford County, IL

SIZE

220 acres of certified organic farmland

FARMERS

Harry, Gwen Carr & Family



FARM VISION

Rejuvenate native prairie ecosystems by rotationally grazing sheep, cows, goats, pigs, chicken, ducks, and turkeys. Livestock cycle through the pasture, munching fresh grasses, returning fertility and biodiversity to the soil while fixing carbon.

ABOUT THE FARM

The Carr family has been using biodynamic farming techniques to raise livestock since they began in 1992. Mint Creek Farm offers an outreach program to engage with a community increasingly interested in food and the way it grows.

FARMING PRACTICES

Harry was originally guided by the question “what does a farmer benefit if he gains a crop but loses his soil?” Livestock help restore the prairie ecosystem, beginning with the soil. Harry considers it an ethical responsibility to bring native prairie land back, because “native prairie grasslands are one of the best carbon sequestering natural mechanisms.”

Harry’s motivation to leave his manufacturing job and begin farming came from a desire to be outside, and a desire to right the wrongs he observed on his bike rides to and from work past farms. “I kept getting sprayed with chemicals. Seeing how the land was being treated and abused left me with the feeling that complaining would get me nowhere, but by setting an example of a farm that could work with nature rather than against it, it might catch on. There is a meaning and purpose to this work that encourages and enlivens the spirit”.

HOW WE HELPED

Iroquois Valley financed the Carr’s purchase of Mint Creek Farm in 2016 – the company’s first financing endeavor. This financing allowed the Carrs to grow their herd and business to keep up with the high demand for their sustainably raised products at Chicago area farmers markets and restaurants.

