

Isaac Gregson

SOIL-LOVING AGRARIAN

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Strengths

- Clearly and proactively communicating
- Working hard and critically thinking
- Envisioning and implementing processes and site elements
- Envisioning and implementing vertically-integrated farm-income opportunities
- Being dedicated to best practices – growing food in the best possible ways
- Using systems thinking (with nature as model and food production as the natural result)

Know-how

- Small-scale diversified organic vegetable cultivation (and the array of related skills, such as planning, germinating, planting, harvesting, etc)
- Methodologies that build soil
- Initial-site preparation
- Drip irrigation installation and management
- Living-mulch systems
- Methodologies that minimize (even eliminate) the need for off-site inputs and irrigation
- Cover cropping
- Soil amending via organic inputs
- Duck and Chicken management (and harnessing their services)
- Basic goat management (and harnessing their services)
- Basic tractor operation (and an ability to quickly learn other large-machinery operation)
- Orchard/berry-establishment and management techniques (that harness the services of poultry, barrier plants, and a blend of carbon and nitrogen-based ground covers)

Experience

Russian Village Farmsteading

Russia

Happy Volunteer (2013-2016)

SUMMARY

After meeting my to-be wife and coming to Russia to marry, I've spent the last three years living and working in a city but spending as much time as possible in the countryside helping on the family homestead.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Implementing the permaculture technique of "comfrey rings" and deep mulching around young fruit trees (that were otherwise in danger of dying due to undergrowth competition)
 - Implementing permaculture-based design changes that have increased the quality and quantity of productive growing space
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Teach and Learn with Georgia

Republic of Georgia
Happy Volunteer (2012)

SUMMARY

One year of living and working as an English teacher in rural villages of the Republic of Georgia, where I spent after-school time working with villagers in their gardens and fields. A valuable experience that taught me much about the importance of appropriate technologies and ecologically-sound growing methodologies.

Natural Farm of Edessa

Edessa, Greece ([website](#))
Natural Farming Conference/Workshop (Summer 2012)

SUMMARY

Participated in a natural farming conference and workshop led by Panagiotis Manikis, who lived and learned from Masanobu Fukuoka, the late Japanese farmer whose life and work are of incredible significance to natural farming.

Cloudview EcoFarms

Columbia Basin, WA ([website](#))
Happy Volunteer (2011)

SUMMARY

Volunteered in all aspects of vegetable growing and assisted in selling at weekly markets.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Learning the challenges of growing in arid climates
 - Learning ways to minimize (and perhaps eliminate) needs to irrigate
 - Learning and working with multiple irrigation methods
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Pacific Crest Farm

Vashon Island, WA ([website](#))
Assistant Farm Manager (June 2010 - November 2010)

SUMMARY

An incredibly memorable and valuable season of hard yet rewarding work that yielded valuable knowledge on the ins and outs of running a successful organic-vegetable farm. The farm sits on 18 acres and consists of orchards, berry patches, and about 2 acres of vegetable cultivation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Working and co-managing in all aspects of small-scale diversified cultivation.
- Organizing and selling at weekly markets.

- Learning rare and valuable vegetable species and varieties.
 - Establishing new farm/business sales relationships.
 - Coordinating, training, and supervising volunteers.
 - Planning and implementing new farm processes and design elements
 - Preparing and managing the ins and outs of the farm's weekly CSA (community supported agriculture).
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MESD Outdoor School

Portland, OR
Field Program Instructor (*Spring 2010*)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Teaching soil science classes
 - Leading educational activities
 - Leading nature excursions
 - Mentoring high schoolers in their work with 6th-grade campers.
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Kodiak Alaska Community Volunteer

Kodiak & Spruce Island, Alaska
Happy Volunteer (*Summer 2009*)

SUMMARY

Lived and worked with the Orthodox Christian community of Kodiak and Spruce Island, Alaska. Included valuable northern gardening and appropriate technology experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Helping maintain the monastery's vegetable garden.
 - Teaching several environmental education classes to students
 - Overseeing and implementing a root-cellar design and construction
 - Creating an educational portfolio of the root-cellar creation process
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Warren Wilson College Garden

Asheville/Swannanoah NC (website)
Crew Member (*2008 - 2009*)

SUMMARY

Worked in all aspects of small-scale vegetable growing and selling, maintained established orchards, and maintained established berry groves.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Learning the John Jeavons' bio-intensive bed-preparation method "double digging"
 - Managing a section of the garden, learning under the guidance of the lead manager
 - Selling at weekly markets
 - Giving garden tours
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Hijos Del Maiz (village and Spanish school)

Nicaragua (Esteli Region) ([*website*](#))
Student, Happy Volunteer (*Spring 2007*)

SUMMARY

Several months of living, studying Spanish, riding horses, and being first exposed to permaculture with Nicaraguans in a rural, arid, and agrarian-based village.

Education

Warren Wilson College (2005 - 2009)

Asheville/Swannanoa, NC ([*website*](#))
Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies
focused on Sustainable Agriculture & Environmental Education