

# Isaac Gregson

SOIL-LOVING AGRARIAN

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## Strengths

- Clear and proactive communication
- Hard working and critically thinking
- Envisioning and implementing processes and site-design elements
- Envisioning and implementing vertically-integrated farm-income opportunities
- Dedication to best practices – growing food in the best possible ways
- Systems thinking (where food production is the natural result)
- Methodologies that minimize and perhaps eliminate the need for off-site inputs

## Know-how

- Small-scale diversified organic vegetable cultivation (and the array of skills that such entails, such as planning, germinating, planting, harvesting, etc)
- Methodologies that build soil
- Initial-site preparation
- Soil amending via organic inputs
- Drip irrigation installation and management
- Living-mulch systems
- Growing techniques that minimize and potentially eliminate the need to irrigate
- Cover cropping
- Duck and Chicken management (and harnessing their services)
- Basic goat management
- 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 several young fruit trees (that were otherwise in danger of dying due to undergrowth competition)
- Implementing several permaculture-based design changes to the property that have helped increase 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.

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## Natural Farm of Edessa

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

### SUMMARY

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

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## 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 particular growing challenges of arid climates
  - Learning ways to minimize (and perhaps eliminate) needs to irrigate
  - Learning the ins and outs of 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 is on 18 acres and consists of orchards, berries patches, and around 2 acres in vegetable cultivation.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Working and co-managing in all aspects of small-scale cultivation.

- Organizing and selling at weekly markets.
  - 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

- Taught soil science classes
  - Lead educational activities
  - Lead nature excursions
  - Mentored and guided 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

A summer of living and volunteering with the Orthodox Christian community of Kodiak and Spruce Island, Alaska. Included valuable northern gardening and appropriate technology experience.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped maintain the monastery vegetable garden.
  - Taught several environmental education classes to students
  - Oversaw and implemented a root-cellar design and construction
  - Created 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 and often implementing 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 language 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.

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## Education

### Warren Wilson College (2005 - 2009)

Asheville/Swannanoa, NC ([\*website\*](#))

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies  
focused on Sustainable Agriculture & Environmental Education