

Open for Business

Rusty Plough Farm

You may have noticed the one vendor at this year's *Blueberry/Huckleberry Festival* actually selling our local wild blueberries, to go, by the container. Well, in case you didn't get their card, *Rusty Plough Farm* is the name. As we hear these days about farmers struggling to make ends meet, often folding up in the face of economic and/or development pressures, our area is blessed with a number of successful farms. One of the newest is *Rusty Plough*.

Oleh and Nadia Maczaj, along with Danylo (11), Paul (8), and Julianna (2½), have reclaimed a piece of Ulster Heights from neglect and weeds to grow healthy, organic vegetables and fruits. They also grow cut flowers – food for the soul – and this summer they added some chickens to the mix. Oleh is realizing his dream of living the outdoor life after years behind a desk in New York City. Nadia is on her third “career,” after working as an editor in Manhattan, then as an archaeologist in New Jersey. The children enjoy the outdoors, the space to run and explore, the woods and pond, the home-schooled life. They even pitch in with the farm work! The farm business allows mom, dad, and the kids to work at something they love, to share their talents with others, to be together as a family.

Rusty Plough Farm products are all certified organic by NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC (Northeast Organic Farming Association). The farm grows a wide mix of vegetables – from peas, radishes, garlic scapes, and sorrel early in the season – to various lettuces, spinach, garlic greens, kale, chard, green and yellow beans, zucchini, and Japanese turnips in the summer – to tomatoes, garlic, carrots, winter squash, and beets later in the season.

The farm also produces a selection of herbs: chives, thyme, basil, oregano, garlic chives, and sage. Strawberries and, of course, the famous local wild blueberries, round out the food groups. Casual country bouquets are also available to add charm and color to every room of the home. *Rusty Plough* produce can be found, in season, at the Liberty Farmers' Market and the Suffern Farmers' Market in Rockland County. In addition, local customers can join a weekly order service.

The Maczajs are constantly improving their farm business: introducing new crops or varieties; extending the growing season; reaching out to new marketing venues. They are excited to be able to share their skills and love of the earth by providing fresh, organic, seasonal produce to area residents. Oleh and Nadia invite you to call and join their mailing list. Or visit them at the farmers' markets! Although their growing season is finished for this year, they welcome folks to call and sign up for next season! *Rusty Plough Farm* can be reached at 647-6911, or email rustyplough@aol.com.

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