



PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT: TOGETHER FARMS

There are a lot of reasons to buy a sausage, steak or pork chops from Together Farms. Stephanie and Andy Schneider are developing a resilient and sustainable food system on their farm in Mondovi. Their herd of British White Park Cattle, heritage hogs, flock of Tule, sheep and assorted poultry are all raised on perennial crops in a way that respects the animals and the land.

The way they farm is improving the land they steward.

They've designed a network of ponds, berms and swales that capture water, and are planting perennial food crops like wild hazelnuts, elderberries, mulberries, apples and plums. "Seems crazy to cut down this 3-D food forest that is already trying to grow here in order to plant something like soybeans that would never grow without a lot of inputs and is the opposite of resilient," Stephanie said.

Small farms are the backbone of a strong local economy and culture, but Wisconsin continues to lose its small farms. It's hard work raising two daughters, working off-farm jobs as well as developing a profitable and sustainable farm, and it takes determination and vision. When you eat Stephanie and Andy's meat, you're supporting that vision.

Of course, the very best reason to eat something grown on Together Farms is that it tastes really, really good.



Menomonie Market's Meat Buyer, Heath Kampa, seeks out producers to bring high-quality, delicious meat to our coolers and freezers. He gets to know vendors and their products and he's passionate about good food. (Heath volunteered at Together Farms' annual Pig Roast, and says it was a great event. The 2016 Pig Roast is on the last Saturday in September--see you there!) Our commitment to both our shoppers and our local economy allow us the flexibility to support small and beginning farmers.

Our P6 program is one way that we give you the information you need to make purchases that line up with your values. Products labeled P6 are from small, local, cooperative businesses, and by supporting them you're contributing to an equitable and vibrant local economy. To learn more about P6, visit www.p6.coop. *Happy eating!*

- small
- local
- CO-OP

