

We are taking this opportunity to communicate to our valued community and concerned citizens regarding what is planned at Union Grove Farm. Since we have noted some discrepancies and misconceptions in recent communications regarding our operation, we would like to provide background and accurate information about our farm operation and future plans.

Union Grove Farm (UGF) is the first **certified regenerative** table grape vineyard in the U.S. The foundation of regenerative agriculture is a sustainable approach to farming that focuses on restoring and enhancing the health and biodiversity of soil, water, and ecosystems. By using practices like cover cropping, crop rotation, and reduced tillage, it helps to sequester carbon, improve soil fertility, and increase resilience to climate change. Our goal is to always avoid the use of herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers. This approach not only supports long-term food security but also contributes to the overall well-being of the planet, making it a crucial solution for addressing environmental challenges.

Since the outset of planning our vineyard, we have been diligent stewards of the land. At substantial cost, we have built a [vermicompost lab and comprehensive composting program](#), where we work with the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro to gather the leaves and tree ramial to create compost to feed our vines. Our [livestock program](#) includes over 400 Katahdin sheep to graze and fertilize our vineyards and pastures. We employ over 20+ people to support the overall farm operation.

We feel so passionate about regenerative agriculture and how we farm our grapes, we established the [Center for Regenerative Agriculture](#) to help educate and evangelize the importance of regenerative farming and be an example for how this can successfully support the future of sustainable farming. This center is located on our farm (previously known as Maple View Farm Agriculture Center), and we've partnered with many sustainable agriculture organizations to host regenerative farming conferences. Also for the past two years, we've provided [weekly tours](#) of our farm to educate the public on the value of regenerative agriculture.

As part of the overall site plan, we proposed and were approved by the Orange County Planning Commission and Triangle Land Conservancy to build a distillery, restaurant and five casitas for short term stay. The entertainment venue was approved by Orange County. This project's approval falls under North Carolina's Agritourism exemptions. The county deemed all activities permissible, except for the short-term stay facility. Since the initial approvals, **only the entertainment venue has now been challenged** by Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) and a few community members.

These facilities are designed to support our mission, ensuring the continued operation of our regenerative vineyard, while also advancing our goal of educating the public on the value of regenerative agriculture.

Union Grove Farm has been and continues to be committed to green energy. The solar farm on our Dairyland property was owned by Duke Energy. And after multiple requests

from our farm and agricultural center to work with them to keep them on the farm property and maintain the solar power, they were removed by Duke Energy. Our preference was to upgrade and keep the leased solar panels, but our repeated requests were denied. We recognize the value of green energy as part of our overall mission for sustainable energy and agriculture. Union Grove Farm currently has solar panels on one farm site with planned solar panels for the Dairyland property at the expense of our farm.

Farm owner Greg Bohlen has and continues to be a good steward of the land and citizen of Orange County. As a fifth-generation farmer, Greg has worked tirelessly to preserve land for agricultural use. He has also been serving our community by serving as a volunteer fire fighter for more than five years. His efforts, along with his fellow firefighters, have helped scores of families in fighting fires and is a certified rescue worker, helping to extricate people trapped in cars. He donated major equipment to our local Orange Grove Fire Department (OGFD) to upgrade their capabilities for fighting fires and saving people's lives and serves on the OGFD Board of Directors.

With our 70 acres of vineyard, Union Grove Farm continues to preserve our beautiful Orange County landscape for regenerative greenspace. We appreciate all those folks who have shown support for our regenerative farm, and we welcome all feedback.

We would like to **invite you to come to tour the farm on Saturday, March 8, at 10:30am**, at the **Center for Regenerative Agriculture, located at 3501 Dairyland Road**. Please join us to see and hear for yourselves about the value of regenerative agriculture, and how we are working to change the world with sustainable farming practices, sequestering carbon and maintaining a strong agricultural presence in Orange County.