

A Message to Our Community: Understanding Union Grove Farm Together

Friends and Neighbors,

We understand that there have been questions and concerns raised about Union Grove Farm, and we want to take this opportunity to connect with you transparently and respectfully. Some of the information circulating does not factually reflect our intentions or the reality of our operations, and we sincerely want to clear up any misunderstandings.

At Union Grove Farm, we are deeply committed to regenerative agriculture. We are proud to be the first certified regenerative table grape vineyard in the U.S., a distinction that reflects our dedication to a sustainable, holistic approach to farming. This approach restores and enhances the health of our soil, water, and ecosystems without relying on herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers.

From the beginning, we have strived to be responsible stewards of this land and good, respectful neighbors. We have invested in a comprehensive composting program, partnering with the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro to transform leaves and tree trimmings into nutrient-rich compost for our table grape vines. Our livestock program, featuring over 400 Katahdin sheep, plays a crucial role in grazing and naturally fertilizing our vineyards and pastures. We are also proud to employ more than 20 neighbors who are essential to our farm's operations.

Our passion for regenerative agriculture led us to establish the Center for Regenerative Agriculture, formerly known as the Maple View Farm Agriculture Center. We want to share our knowledge and inspire others to embrace sustainable farming practices. We have partnered with numerous organizations to host educational conferences and have offered weekly farm tours for the past two years, welcoming the public to learn firsthand about the benefits of regenerative agriculture.

We are also deeply committed to sustainable energy farming. While we had hoped to upgrade the solar farm on our Dairyland property, which was previously owned by Duke Energy, our requests were unfortunately denied, and the panels were removed. We still believe in the importance of solar energy and are planning to install solar panels at our own expense on the Dairyland property.

Farm owner Greg Bohlen, a fifth-generation and lifetime farmer, has dedicated his life to preserving agricultural land and serving our community. He has been a volunteer firefighter in our community for over five years and donated fire equipment to the Orange Grove Fire Department where he serves on its Board of Directors.

We are deeply grateful for the support we have received and are committed to maintaining open and respectful dialogue with our community.

Many of you were looking forward to the regenerative farm tour planned on Saturday, March 8th but **we need to postpone to a date closer to the rescheduled public hearing**. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

We will notify you of the new date for the tour once it has been confirmed to show you firsthand what regenerative agriculture means to us and our community. We are here to listen, to learn, to live, and to work together.