



## Red Tomato Farm Quarterly Newsletter



# Summer 2020

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## Farm Life During a Pandemic

by Deborah Shaffer

***"The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings." - Masanobu Fukuoka***

Covid-19 put a pause on everything in March. That included the day and pre-vocational programs at Red Tomato Farm & Inn, which were shut down for three months. During that time our farm staff continued to come to the farm (while social distancing) to care for our animals, gardens and grounds because farm work doesn't stop even during a pandemic. There are always animals to care for, gardens to be maintained and grass that needs



trimmed. During that time, our participants were greatly missed.

*(Check out the videos our staff made during the shut down on our Facebook page.)*

We were so happy to welcome everyone back to the farm in June, but things do look different now. Our program has two sessions: 9 am—12 pm and 12:30-3:30 pm and lunch is at home. Everyone at the farm must have a temperature check upon arrival and answer a Covid-19 questionnaire before starting their day. Masks are required at the farm. Our Arts Live program had to be reconfigured to be video based.

But, some things have NOT changed during the pandemic. Our friendly staff at the farm continues to lend a helping hand to our participants. Our participants continue to join us at the farm to love our animals, care for our gardens, keep our Inn looking great for guests, and to maintain their friendships that have been grown over the last five years.

We are so grateful to have left our footprint in the community for the past five years and look forward to continued growth in the future. We strive to make a positive change each day for our participants, staff and the greater community. While we are growing crops, we are indeed cultivating better human beings.

## HAPPENINGS AT THE FARM

### Three New Sheep Join the Red Tomato Farm Family

Tara Kiley-Rothwell, Arts Live Weaver, selected three new sheep to bring to Red Tomato Farm for the purpose of using their wool. She would like to involve farm participants in the PA Farm Show's Sheep -to-Shawl competition.

We happily welcome Tiana, Delaware Blue Sheep, and Mazel and Maggie, Coopworth Sheep, to our farm.



*Mazel and Tiana during their first moments in the pasture at RTF.*



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