



# SOUTH BERKSHIRE FARM BULLETIN

## SHAREcroppers

When an interested citizen's group began to organize a community loan collateralization service in South Berkshire County last winter, they realized that some sort of advisory board would be required to evaluate loan applications. The collateralizing organization, called SHARE (Self-Help Association for a Regional Economy), contacted several farmers to form an agricultural advisory group. By word of mouth and advertising, that group grew in number and in scope, and has now developed into far more than a loan committee. The original members recognized the need for agricultural producers to promote local production, the need for public education about farm products, and the need to bring producers and consumers into direct contact.

Initial meetings were largely devoted to hearing peoples' ideas for what the organization could do, and naturally the list of suggestions was pages long and ranged from practical to theoretical, possible to impossible. However, there was a common commitment to tackling the problems facing agriculture in our region, and the SHAREcroppers (reflecting our connection with SHARE) was on its feet.

The first agricultural loan requesting collateralization by SHARE -- an application for funds to complete a goat dairy for commercial cheese production -- has been approved and will shortly be effected. Meanwhile, the group has found the meetings about marketing and cooperative possibilities stimulating. As a result of the connections between SHAREcroppers and local food buying clubs, contracts for locally grown root crops are being drawn up for Pumpkin Hollow Coop, which has access to a large root cellar. We hope that this newsletter will be valuable to farmers in South Berkshire County (and surrounding areas), and that it will expand. There are other ideas on the back burner, too, such as a directory (with map) of farms and related services, and a regular column on farming.

SHAREcroppers holds meetings the first Tuesday of each month. Anyone wishing to attend a meeting is welcome to do so and should contact Hugh Chapman (528-4637) to find out where the meetings are held. The August 3rd meeting will be at Rawson Brook Farm in Monterey at 7:00 PM and will begin with a tour of a commercial goat dairy.

## SOUTH BERKSHIRE FARM BULLETIN

This is the first issue of the South Berkshire Farm Bulletin, a newsletter and advertising sheet for farm related issues which will be published six times a year by SHAREcroppers. The Bulletin will serve South Berkshire County, and copies of the first two issues will be available at local farm stores and coops. We will also mail about 200 copies to interested people in this area and, of course, to subscribers.

A subscription costs \$5 per year and entitles the subscriber to one free advertisement per issue. Ads must be mailed in by the 15th of the month prior to publication (by August 15th for the September issue). Any subscriber wishing to run more than one ad may do so for \$1 more per extra ad. Checks for ads and subscriptions should be made to SHAREcroppers, P.O. Box 345, Monterey, MA 01245.

We are grateful to the following groups for their assistance: The Rising Paper Co., the E.F. Schumacher Society, the New England Farm Bulletin, and the Flying Cloud Institute. Thanks also to Marthe Hess.

SHAREcroppers is a non-profit organization. The South Berkshire Farm Bulletin is published by members of SHAREcroppers.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted: 1,500 lbs onions, organically grown for winter storage. 10% advance payment. We will harvest. Contract written at next SHAREcroppers meeting. Call 528-1737.

Wanted: Cutter bar mower for Ford 601 tractor. Call 229-2697.

Monterey Maple, 1982 syrup for sale, \$20 per gallon. Smaller amounts available. Hunger Mountain Farm, Monterey. 528-1988.

Quality colored fleeces and lambs. Rose Sheep Farm, P.O. Box 298, Great Barrington. 528-0656.

Custom wool carding. Rose Carding Company. 528-9385.

Experienced orchardist will prune and manage fruit trees, mow fields and brush, set and repair fencing, cut trees and clear. Has tractor and can generally advise and implement work on your garden, orchard or fields. John Ingersoll, 528-2749.

Herbs and our own herb products. Country Herbs, Stockbridge. 298-3884.

Farm fresh produce, doll houses, dolls, doll repair, bakery and take out. CORN CRIB, Rte 7, Sheffield.

A full line of natural foods is complemented by fresh local fruits, herbs and vegetables at BERKSHIRE CO-OP MARKET, Rosseter St, Great Barrington. Call 528-9697 to sell your produce.

Registered American Alpine dairy goat kids for sale. Deborah McCurdy, Easter Farm, Great Barrington. 528-2749.

Tractor-mounted rototilling, plowing and firewood skidding. Vincent Scutellaro, 528-9244.

For Sale: Ferguson two bottom plow, excellent condition, \$250. John Deere ground driven manure spreader, wood box, excellent condition, \$350. Call 229-7924.



**E. F. Schumacher Society**  
Box 76, RD 3 Great Barrington, MA 01230 413-528-1737



Workshop on perennial agriculture, Permaculture techniques, led by John Quinney of New Alchemy Institute. October 2nd at Flying Cloud Institute, New Marlborough. \$12 non members, \$7 members. Call 229-2593 for information.

Stark Brothers fruit and nut trees. Ward's Nursery, Rte 7, Great Barrington. Open every day 9:00-5:00.

Pure maple syrup and hay for sale. The Ripleys, Maple Corner Farm, Beech Hill Rd., Blandford. 357-8829.

Whole milk-fed veal. Willowcreek farm, New Marlborough. 229-8421.

Duck eggs and baby muscovies for sale. Monterey. 528-1988.

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