



Willow Bend Farm & Spring Hope Dairy

A PARTNERSHIP OF PEOPLE & NATURE.

Spring 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Some of you have been familiar with our farms, Willow Bend Farm and Spring Hope Dairy, and our families, for years. Some of you may have only heard our names for the first time this year. Regardless of the situation, we'd like to open our "doors" to all of you and either maintain, or work towards, the most positive relationship possible. To this end, we would like to give you a little more insight into the humble beginnings of our farms, and information regarding what we do on a daily basis today and why.



For example, did you know that George Mueller, a city kid, started his dairy farm by milking one Guernsey cow in 1957? Do you know what those big yellow hoses are in the fields? Also, do you know that Upstate's Intense Chocolate Milk is made from milk from our cows? We're hoping by sharing this kind of information with you through this newsletter and/or through our new website (look for the full website by fall 2015), we'll be able to better connect with, and serve, our community that has been so good to us over the years.



With fewer families living and working on farms, and more families concerned about where their food comes from, now seems like a perfect time for reaching out. While we are blessed with

first-hand experience with life on the farm, we realize not everyone has that privilege. We hope that after learning more about our farms that you will feel as good about our practices, our products and the dairy industry in general; as we do.

Thanks for reading this and taking the time to learn more about our farms. We are excited about sharing our "story" of yesterday, today and tomorrow with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any comments, concerns or questions. Or, better yet, just stop by and say hello to some of our hardworking crew or even our cute calves. If you'd like a tour, we'd be happy to oblige. Yet, it's best to contact us ahead of time for this. If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically or know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please send your request to info@willowbendfarms.com. Happy Spring!

-Our Farm Families

CONTACT US ANYTIME!

We want to hear from you! Please let us know if you have any questions about our farm, or if there is anything we can do to be better neighbors.

Business Office

George & Mary Lue Mueller

315-462-3414

Willow Bend Farm

John Mueller

315-462-3177

Spring Hope Dairy

Kevin & Barb Nedrow

585-526-5134

Want to know more about us?

Check us out online at

willowbendfarms.com

springhopedairy.com



Our tractors move slow. Our equipment is large. Please have patience and use caution when you see slow moving farm equipment on the road.

Willow Bend...Through the Years. Chapter One.

Hello! My name is George Budd Mueller, the founding partner of Willow Bend. I wanted to share with you some of the history of Willow Bend Farm.

It all started with my mother, Elizabeth Dubois Budd. My mother was the ninth generation of Budd and Dubois farmers in Dutchess County located in the beautiful Hudson River Valley. Hudson Valley farmers did well in the early years and were the breadbasket of the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

The Erie Canal opened our young nation to the more productive lands of Western New York, and we became a breadbasket for the Civil War. Ontario County farmers did very well during the Civil War because of the high price of wheat and meat. At long last they could afford big Italianate houses with a cupola on top. Each of their ten children now had their own bed.

My mother married an office supply retailer, named Otto, and raised her children in New Rochelle, NY. In 1941, my mother's brother, Norval Budd, who worked for GLF Farm Co-op, purchased an excellent gravel farm for \$11,000, in Clifton Springs. The Smith family had lost the farm in the Great Depression. Early on I had shown some interest in growing things and my mother encouraged my interest by sending me to Uncle Norval's to work, all summer, from age 12 to 18. My dad was a wonderful father but after I had a taste of farming, working in his store had lost its appeal. I owe my dad a lot for not insisting I work in his store. I disappointed him greatly by not taking over the family business. Once I tasted farming I never looked back.



The beautiful 1870 farmhouse with a cupola on Uncle Norval's farm, now serves as home base of Willow Bend Farm today.



Here I am at a very young age tending to my "Victory Garden" during World War II. I always had a keen interest in farming with my mother's encouragement.

To be continued...

We plan to share with you a little piece of our family's farm history in each issue of our newsletter. We hope you like what you've read so far. If you have any questions about our history, or wish to write George a note, please contact him at mmueller@fltg.net

Willow Bend Farm
Spring Hope Dairy
1378 King Road
Clifton Springs, NY 14432

June is Dairy Month!

Join us in celebrating our industry, our heritage and our passion by enjoying your favorite dairy products. Whether it's a container of Greek-style yogurt, a slice of extra sharp Cheddar cheese, a double-dipped ice cream cone or a tall glass of milk – every purchase helps support our business. Milk from our farm is pooled with other farms in the area and sold under the Upstate brand.

You can be sure you are supporting New York dairy farms like ours by looking for the plant code that typically appears near the top, on the lid or the backside of your dairy product container. The code will represent the state and plant in which the product was made. The first two numbers are the state; New York is number 36! The following numbers signify the processing plant in which the product was made. Our farm's milk goes to these processing plants, which are all Upstate Niagara Cooperative plants:

36-1731
36-1880
36-9865
36-4739
36-5056



Take a look on your lid or carton. You may be drinking milk from our farms!



Less than 2% of the U.S. population is involved in farming.
The average farmer in the U.S. feeds 154 people.