

Halcomb's Knob Farm
Deborah Messenger

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 639, Berea, KY 40403-0639
Farm Address: 430 Wallacetown Road, Paint Lick, KY 40461
859-619-0334
halcombsknob@windstream.net
<http://www.fieldtoforkfestival.com>

After fourteen years in the corporate world, the Deborah relocated from Indianapolis, Indiana to Paint Lick, Kentucky to launch Halcomb's Knob Farm in 2004. Recognized as a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation, the Knob is a natural sanctuary where sustainable farm management is guided by a Christian theology of earth keeping. Relying on twenty-one years of event management and leadership development skills, in 2009, Deborah developed plans to expand the farm into an outdoor learning center through the presentation of community-based environmental education programs. On July 16, 2011, we will host central Kentucky's first Field to Fork Festival in conjunction with the Festival of Learnshops through Berea Tourist & Conventions Commission.

Bringing together the Commonwealth's Appalachian communities to highlight the efficiency of home sustainability was the initiative for Halcomb's Knob Farm to host the Field to Fork Festival. Designed to educate participants on the diversity and availability of home-produced foods, the Field to Fork Festival has evolved into a rural-urban partnership across county lines and into rural communities, working in cooperation with Garrard County Chamber of Commerce, Garrard County Farmers' Market, Madison County Farmers' Market as well as Berea Tourist & Conventions Commission.

Working with these community-based organizations, Halcomb's Knob Farm has collectively highlighted the individual offerings of multiple groups into a one-day unified program of sustainable agriculture. Providing 24 active training sessions for urban and rural gardeners and a broader approach for small-scale farmers at the Field to Fork Festival, Halcomb's Knob Farm and its partners are working together to expand the resilient community-based local food systems of the region.

While 2011 will mark the first year of the Field to Fork Festival on Halcomb's Knob Farm, plans are to continue the expansion of this one-day event in 2012 and subsequent years, building upon the accomplishments of 2011 and the emphasis of our tomorrows.