



Emmerdale Eden Farm

The heritage breed & heirloom seed farm!

“We’ve always been interested in preserving heritage varieties of fruit, vegetables and livestock,” says Tina Davies, of Emmerdale Eden Farm. Active members of both Rare Breeds Canada and Seeds of Diversity, Tina and Arthur Davies strive to have only heritage breeds and heirloom vegetables in order to preserve endangered species of livestock and plants. “It’s a great way of promoting the importance of genetic diversity as well,” claims Tina, “you never know when we’ll need these breeds in the future.”

Charmed by the quieter pace and rural atmosphere, Tina and her husband, Reverend Doctor Arthur Davies migrated east in 2004. Before making the move, they had been living in Eastern Ontario where they longed to “get away from the hectic lifestyle and congestion”. Slowly they began to realize their dreams by researching a possible move to the Maritimes to start an organic farm. For Tina and Arthur, this meant researching organic agriculture techniques in order to extend their home garden (which Tina had always kept for fresh non-certified organic food to feed the family) into a full market garden. Tina spent two years researching various crops and livestock techniques and became interested in Seeds of Diversity, where she discovered a passion for the unique, heritage and heirloom seed varieties. It was also at this time that they became interested in Rare Breeds Canada and were very excited to raise their own rare breeds.

Their dreams became reality when they found an old Victorian farmhouse on 70 acres with 35-acres of cleared farmland in Linkletter PEI, now known as Emmerdale Eden Farm. Emmerdale Eden Farm is a completely mixed farm with Large Black pigs, Dorset Horn sheep, Narragansett turkeys, Saxony and Silver Appleyard ducks, along with many varieties of heritage chickens. Their market garden offers a wide selection of heritage vegetables in a multitude of colours and flavours. It is evident that their careful selection and research of

organics and heritage and heirloom varieties has led them to collect a special array of farm treats for their customers. In fact, Tina usually only uses heirloom seed varieties in her vegetable garden, relying on the cultivars of the past. Additionally, all of their livestock are considered rare breeds! “Preserving endangered species and supporting genetic diversity for a sustainable future is incredibly important to us,” says Rev. Arthur Davies.

Having been a dairy farmer in Eastern Ontario in the 1970’s and 80’s, Rev. Arthur was all too happy to continue their farming venture after making the move to the Maritimes. Ordained in the United Church Ministry in 1989, Rev. Arthur continues to work both full-time positions, happy to be both a sustainable family farm providing nourishing, chemical-free local produce to the community, and a part of the ministerial team at Trinity United Church in Summerside, PEI as a full-time Reverend.

Their son Alex, has also taken up the family business. In addition to helping out on the farm, he applies his skills and training to the creation and maintenance of website and other marketing tools for the farm.

When asked why they chose to pursue certified organic agriculture, Tina and Arthur respond with heavy hearts, “In the ministry, we see so much sickness all the time, and we’re sure that much of it is caused from food and the chemical ways in which we produce food.” They think that healthy food is a part of the solution to bringing back a state of health to their community, both environmentally and socially. “We want to leave the land in better shape than when we came and we believe that following organic standards of agriculture is a concrete way of showing that we’re doing our best.”

Tina and Arthur are rare breeds themselves, and PEI is fortunate to have them.



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