



Hughes Hill Farms

Flavour First . . . Nutrition Naturally

Gary and Kelly Hughes and their family are realizing a dream that many believe is unattainable. For starters, they are a 1st generation dairy farm, they have an organic market garden and they both work full-time on the farm! While the road has certainly had its share of bumps, Gary and Kelly have found plenty of rewards in their dairy farm and market garden.

When it came to transitioning their market garden to certified organic agriculture, Gary and Kelly had four great reasons to give it serious consideration: “Grace, Jamie, Katie, and their older brother Mathew”. The children all play a part in the farm too – helping Gary and Kelly plant, weed, and harvest in the garden and care for the animals. They seem to enjoy the farm life, “One of our things that we stress is that we’re a family farm and everybody plays a little part.”

Although their dairy is not yet certified organic, their strawberry u-pick and mixed vegetable gardens are all certified.

It was a big challenge to make the transition, but Gary doesn’t seem to be the type to shy away from challenges. A good challenge strengthens his resolve to overcome an obstacle. “Organics is challenging. It’s a different way of thinking, but it keeps me involved and interested in everything that’s happening on the farm.”

Gary studied agriculture at the University of Guelph and immediately started working for a vegetable

farmer in Ontario. After a few intense years of learning the ropes of running a vegetable farm, Gary was presented with the opportunity to purchase a part of his family’s original Prince Edward Island homestead. He didn’t hesitate. In 1986 he purchased 25 acres of land that used to belong to his great, great grandparents. Ten years later, he was able to buy another 50 acres beside the home farm. In 2006, Gary and Kelly purchased a neighbouring farm of 53 acres – bringing their total organic land to 128 acres.

Hughes Hill Farms’ specialties include strawberries, free-range eggs, homemade pickles and jams, pastured poultry (available in the fall), ground beef (from animals fed a minimum of 80% organically), and a wide variety of certified organic veggies – all of which can be found at the Hughes Hill Farms stall at the Charlottetown Farmer’s Market.

Gary and Kelly hope to erect a greenhouse on their land for the expanding vegetable business and also hope to build their own farm stand on their property in order to encourage farm visits.

With a farm motto of “Flavour First...Nutrition Naturally”, Gary and Kelly surely have developed the true farming dream where they have both been able to make their living from being full-time farmers! It’s clear that whatever challenges and adventures in farming the future holds for Gary and Kelly, we can be certain they will make it work!



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