

MAY GREETINGS FROM CROSS ISLAND FARMS



WHEN IS CALVING TIME



May is the ideal time for calving as the grass is greening up, the weather has settled down and there are months of grazing time ahead. to provide good nutrition for mothers and babies. The gestation period for cows is 9 months just like people, so Dave puts the bull with the cows in August hoping they are all bred by month's end. Here is the first calf born this season at one day old.

HOW DO MUSHROOMS GROW



A shitake mushroom "totem" inculcated with mushroom spawn several years ago began fruiting again after a good rain early this month. Once harvested the fruits became a steaming cream of mushroom soup.

WHAT PROTECTS THE TULIPS



Do you have problems with rodents devouring your tulip bulbs? We certainly do. However, if the tulips are interplanted with daffodils (which are poisonous) the rodents avoid them, and the tulips survive for years.

WHO'S VOLUNTEERING



Mother and daughter Jaimie (left) and Amara (right) visited for a weekend to help install a row of asparagus. First Jaimie and Dani created a 6-inch-deep trench. Then Amara deposited 2 inches of goat manure along its length. Next Jaimie spread crusher run (ground up limestone to raise the PH - asparagus likes soil with a PH of between 6.5 and 7.5) Then Amara laid in the "crowns" (asparagus roots) 14 inches apart. Dani finished the job by covering them with 2 inches of soil. As the plants grow, the trench will be gradually filled in. By the third year the asparagus can begin to be harvested from May through early June.

HOW DO WE PRUNE THE GRAPES



Grapes are prodigious growers that need to be tamed each spring for best production. A well-pruned, mature vine can yield 40 pounds of grapes. Above is the result of one season's tangled growth. Below the same vine has been reigned in.



WHERE IS DANI SCHEDULED TO SPEAK



**In Person: Minna Anthony Nature Center
Wellesley Island State Park
Friday, May 16, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Food-Producing Trees**

In Person: Macsherry Library, Alexandria Bay
Saturday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Perennial Vegetables That Sustain Themselves
Call the library at 315-482-2241 to preregister

In Person: Tour of the Enchanted Edible Forest
Cross Island Farms, Wellesley Island
Sunday, June 15 2 p.m.
'To Register contact Local Living Venture
LocalLivingVenture@gmail.com or (315) 347-4223

In Person: Ramble On Farm, Trumansburg, NY
Perennial Vegetables for Your Plot
Saturday, June 21, 11 a.m.
RSVP by email: Harry Greene <harry@propagateag.com>

In Person: Tour of the Enchanted Edible Forest,
Cross Island Farms, Wellesley Island, NY
Sunday, June 22, 1 p.m.
Sponsored by Tug Hill Tomorrow and Ontario Bay Initiative Land Trusts
RSVP [Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust · Enchanted Edible Forest Tour at Cross
Island Farms](#)
or email info@obiklandtrust.org or call 315-649-6045-



SAVOR THE SIGHTS AND SCENTS OF MAY

Dani Baker

Owner [Cross Island Farms](#) | Creator [The Enchanted Edible Forest](#) | Author [The Home-Scale Forest Garden: How to Plan, Plant and Tend a Resilient Edible Landscape](#)

44301 Cross Island Road
Wellesley Island, NY 13640
danibaker@crossislandfarms.com
315-482-3663



*Copyright © *2022* *[Cross Island Farms]*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

The Enchanted Edible Forest at Cross Island Farms
44301 Cross Island Rd
Wellesley Island, NY 13640-4157

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

