

Prairie Roots Farm



Louise Zaffiro , Priarie Roots Farm

Read Abby Zalcborg's Prairie Roots Farm offering for the weekly Pella Farmers' Market. Descriptions of the Farm's production create an appetite you will enjoy satisfying. "Burbank potatoes— just dug today. Sunburst squash (brilliant yellow color, crunchy texture, buttery flavor, scallop type)." Who could possibly resist?

Just exactly the way veteran gardener, Louise Zaffiro felt when Abby's youthful enthusiasm reignited Louise's dream of a commercial organic garden at the farm she and her husband, Jim purchased twenty years ago in Otley. .

Based on their commitment to produce not only healthy food, but a healthy range of food, business partners Abby and Louise offer twenty different organic fruits and vegetables that include hard-to-find greens such as kale and swiss chard. Additional herbs and spices augment Prairie Roots' product offering to a growing public desire for farm-direct produce.

Their high tunnel increases production and adds 3-4 weeks to the growing season.

As organic gardeners they work with nature to achieve a healthy ecosystem and balance in their garden. Row covers for young plants, rotating plant locations each year and intermingling different vegetables like lettuce and cabbage, and surrounding tomato plants with basil create ecosystem synergy.

Hand weeding their certified organic crops illustrates Abby and Louise's passion for holistic food production. Some crops grow in raised beds to minimize the need for stoop labor.

Teaching a course in world hunger typifies Louise's interest in the connection between health and wholesome food. She shares her expertise through workshops and teaching interested customers at the produce booth at the Farmers Market . The Zaffiros' were key staff members in launching an environmental science major at Central College in Pella.

Prairie Roots Farm markets to a growing email contact list.

Their newsletter provides tips and hints to encourage use of local and new products. Louise adds available produce to the buy/sell list on the Central College campus and delivers produce to the college offices after the Farmers Market closes.



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