

Innisfree

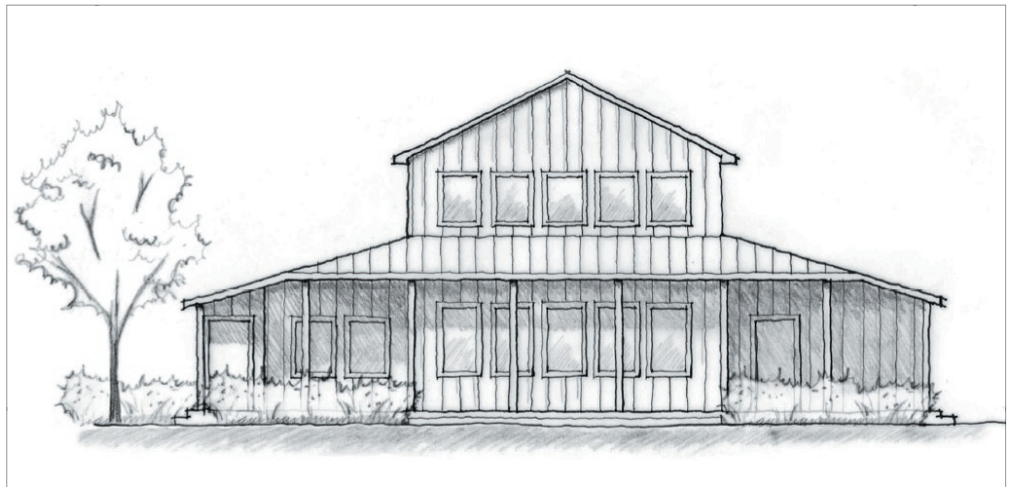
VILLAGE VOICE
WINTER 2016

Help us rise to the challenge!

We were thrilled last November to be approved for a challenge grant of \$105,500 from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation for the construction of our new farm workstation building. This means the foundation will award us the money only if we can raise the matching funds. This building will provide a climate-controlled workspace that will serve as the farm workstation's hub throughout the year. It will include improved egg washing facilities, a new spinners, and offices for our farmers. Now, the hard work begins!



We have already received generous donations from the Lewis and Darby families to jumpstart fundraising for this project. However, we need to show the Parsons foundation that we have



a wide base of support and that we can rise to the challenge they have set. Please help us by directing a gift to the farm workstation project. Remember that each dollar you give counts double as it will help us to reach the foundation's challenge. Checks can be made out to Innisfree with farm workstation listed in the memo line. Look inside for a timeline of some of what keeps our farmers busy all year!

*Architectural renderings by
Zoe Edgecomb*



Growing as a Farm Intern

From summer afternoons hammering fencing nails in 90 degree weather, to getting covered in mud and having your only work pants soaked on cold fall mornings, to stepping in poop all the time: I assure you, there is nothing more fun than working on the farm. I mean, it has to be, or else who would ever do all those things willingly? But there's other stuff that makes it really worth it, like making friends with — and feeling a responsibility for

— the cows, sheep, and chickens; like not having to wear dress clothes to work; like slowly unlocking the intricate personalities of Innisfree's coworkers until you're talking farm vehicles with Kevin, collecting eggs with James, and playing air guitar (a vital part of farming) with Katie B. There's something humbling about caring for animals, and there's something even more humbling about working through the nervousness of working with adults with disabilities just by the simple act of getting to know the Innisfree coworkers. This position on the farm has certainly taught me more than I expected, and given me friendships that I hope to hold on to for many years to come.

— Emily Salle, Farm Intern 2015

Farm Timeline

No matter the season or the weather, there is always something new to look forward to on the farm. Here's a general timeline of what our year can look like.



Daily

Collect, wash and package eggs
Process wool
Feed and water animals
Tidy barns

January

Bring sheep into the barn and feed hay

February

Vaccines for the sheep

March

Lambs! We name each one!
Shearing rams and unbred ewes

April

Move lambs and mothers out of the barn

May

Shear ewes
Finished skeins of yarn go to Mayfair

June

Cut hay
Wean calves





**Thank You,
Trisha, Cabell,
and Lucy**



**Welcome to our
new gardeners**



*Above: New gardener Kyle
with girlfriend Meagan
and their daughter Sage
Left: New garden
workstation head Susanna*

July

*Wean lambs
Fence and tool
maintenance*

August

*Calving starts!
Collect natural
dye plants for
dyeing finished
skeins (goldenrod,
onion skins, black
walnuts, etc.)*

September

*Cut 2nd batch
of hay
Buy new
chickens*

October

*Begin
breeding
sheep*

November

*Begin
breeding cattle
Finished skeins
of yarn go to
Family Day*

December

*Winterize
small engines
Plan grazing for
coming year*



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a newsletter of
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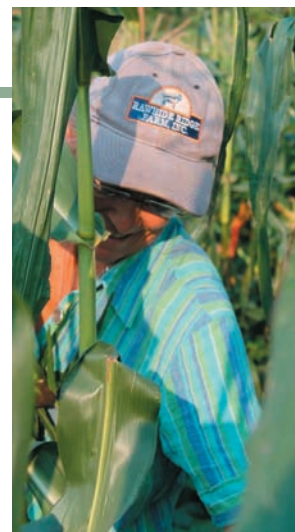
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Please see our web site at www.innisfreevillage.org

Work hard. Play hard. Eat well.

These three things are the foundation for Trisha and Cabell's contributions to the Innisfree vegetable garden for their combined 40-some years. Both have always held a love for gardening and since first meeting at the Crozet farmer's market they have shown that love by compassionately guiding hundreds of volunteers and coworkers not only by teaching new skills, but in sharing their appreciation for the rhythms and traditions of Innisfree's gardens.

Innisfree will miss Cabell's humor and veggie-wisdom tremendously but we are so thankful for his years of kind and gentle leadership. We are so grateful that Trisha will continue with us in a new role, coordinating our day coworker program and providing support to all workstations. We now welcome head gardener Kyle Crawford and garden workstation head Susanna Byrd, who we know will carry on much of what Trisha and Cabell have built as well as adding their own flavor to our vegetable garden.



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We would like to recognize the many generous benefactors who supported us over the past year and for many years prior. Innisfree is strong and flourishing because of the generous support of our wider community. Thank you.

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