

Easton resident writes about farming on her new blog



Written by *Laura Modlin*

Friday, 12 February 2010 17:11

While filmmakers from around the world were premiering movies at last month's Sundance Film Festival, I was debuting my new blog...on farming.

The first stories for my blog had to do with the video art installation of a farmer and artist from Arizona. His project captures the life cycles of a variety of fruits and vegetables.

His intention with the project is to reconnect people to the way food grows.

The story seemed like the perfect way to "open" my blog. It ties together the 14 years I once spent in the film biz with my (relatively) new career as a farming journalist.

One of my favorite questions to be asked is, "How did a nice girl from the city get interested in farming?"

I'm a big fan of irony and I do understand the confusion of people who knew me from my days in New York City.

(Story continues below)



My response is generally to say that I got interested in farming in Easton.

It was back in the spring of 2008. I had been writing for the Easton Courier for nearly a year and my pursuit of a story (I don't remember which story) led me to Sport Hill Farm and one hard-working, enthusiastic farmer named Patti Popp.

<http://www.acorn-online.com/joomla15/eastoncourier/news/localnews/49461-easton-reside...> 2/23/2010

As I interviewed her for the story, my interest in what she does got sparked. I have always been a fan of organic food and even as a child enjoyed fruits and vegetables.

But come that summer — when I sampled the fruits (actually, vegetables) of Patti's harvest — I realized that I had forgotten what truly fresh food tastes like.

And this is where the story of the history of my interest in farming backtracks a bit. See, the summer of 2008 was not the first time that I experienced the taste of local, fresh food.

That actually happened during my summers growing up. My family would spend time in Connecticut and I remember getting food from farmers markets and farm stands.

Back then the summer months were filled with juicy, sweet fruit and vegetables with flavors that would explode in your mouth.

Once I started eating fresh food again it reminded my senses and triggered memories.

Back in my childhood, "organic" was not a big deal — or even something I remember — since food was just naturally grown in accordance with nature ("natural" means "normal," by the way).

I had never thought to appreciate the taste of food all those years ago. That was just what it tasted like back then.

Somehow, through the years, I had begun to accept tasteless produce.

As I learned more about the state of farming — and explored more of the town's farms and the history, which led us away from the plethora of family farms of our yesterday — I knew there was no more important topic I could be exploring today.

That was when I decided to specialize in writing about farming. And I studied and I learned and I wrote. The more I discovered, the more my passion for this topic was ignited.

With this blog, my writing breaks out of the borders of Connecticut. While I will be writing about what is going on locally, I also will explore stories in other states and, perhaps, other countries.

The more people I speak to, the more I see that fresh, healthy food grown on a farm instead of in a factory is more than a movement or a new fad. It is a preference and a part of our heritage.

In the short time that I have been writing the blog I have received tremendous feedback. People seem to want these stories told.

And my feeling is that through telling stories of the people who work to preserve — or perhaps reignite — our agrarian roots, it will be a reminder of what we have to gain.

I believe the shift in the way food is produced in this country runs parallel to a number of cultural and societal changes that have taken place. I am exploring these issues in my blog as well.

It is very exciting for me to be telling these stories. And maybe it will mean that others will be inspired, too.

My blog can be found at thefarmingjournalist.com, and look for The Farming Journalist on Facebook.

[< Prev](#)

[Next >](#)

ShareThis