

Vision 2030

Draft by Angelic Organics and
Angelic Organics Learning Center

Introduction

Angelic Organics is a vibrant Biodynamic and community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm that grows and delivers vegetables to more than 1300 member households (shareholders) each growing season. Angelic Organics (“the farm”) was founded by farmer John Peterson in 1990. Angelic Organics Learning Center (“the learning center”) is an educational nonprofit that helps urban and rural people build local food systems. Founded in 1998 as a partner to the farm, the Learning Center annually engages more than 4,000 farmers, shareholders and community members as stakeholders in the farm and the emerging local food system in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

This farm has sparked much more than an outstanding vegetable operation -- it is a place where diverse people work together to envision and build a better future. We bridge rural and urban, and bring together into common cause farmers (producers), shareholders and community members (consumers), and other stakeholders in the local food system (community based organizations, farmers markets, foundations, schools, farmer associations, local government, universities, restaurants, etc.).

We have a proven record of success -- from the 1370 member CSA farm and a multi-stakeholder land purchase to an educational nonprofit and an award-winning documentary film. Our accomplishments to date provide hope, inspiration, and practical tools for people to build a better future. We are on the front lines in the good food movement. Our work – on the land, in neighborhoods, and in bringing diverse people together -- is helping to shape new social, economic and cultural trends in our region, nationally, and worldwide.

Vision 2030

Over the next two decades before the year 2030, we envision a vibrant Biodynamic farm organism:

* A cluster of new farm enterprises is in place that builds upon and complements the successful vegetable operation, meets growing demand for healthy local foods, engages new stakeholders, and offers opportunities for education and training. We see:

- a dairy for milk, cheese, and yogurt
- pastured livestock for meat and eggs
- a bakery using grains from the farm
- a restaurant using farm-raised and other local produce
- a commercial kitchen for food preservation, processing, and other value-added production
- an on-farm store carrying farm products from the local food system

- * A cluster of expanding education and training programs builds upon and complements the successful initiatives of the Learning Center and engages thousands more farmers, shareholders, and community members as partners and stakeholders in the farm organism and the local food system:
 - the on-farm initiative adds a residential and year-round education program so that schools, community groups, families, and other visitors spend a week or longer at the farm for more in-depth learning and action
 - the farmer training initiative sparks up to ten new farms per year for the local food system, expands the farmer-to-farmer coalition dedicated to mentoring beginning farmers, adds a regional Biodynamic farmer training certificate program
 - the urban initiative engages shareholders and community members in urban and suburban neighborhoods (more than 5 communities per year) to partner with farmers and other stakeholders to build a healthy local food system

- * 400 acres of farmland, including the original 22-acres of Angelic Organics, is acquired in various forms of multi-stakeholder initiatives so that fertile farmland is taken out of the speculative market for development and placed into a trust for sustainable agriculture in perpetuity. (Angelic Organics and the Learning Center currently manage 155 acres).

- * The farm has a sufficient land base to generate its own fertility from within, one of the ideals of a Biodynamic farm, without having to import fertility from off the farm (in the form of manures, compost or other inputs). The farmers help shape the unique nature the farm organism, blending together vegetables, livestock, grains, hay and pasture that in turn draw their vitality from the living soils, wild spaces (woodlands, oak savannah and the Kinnikinnick river), the sun and the wider ecosystem.

- * New facilities and infrastructure for the farm and educational initiatives are financed and built – these are beautiful, ecological and functional, featuring hand-crafted and natural structures that nurture the community of humans and animals.

- * Diverse stakeholders (farmers, shareholders, and community members) form the dynamic social and cultural community within and around the farm organism and in turn have a broad and lasting impact on the local food system.

An Invitation

We invite you to consider if you, your family and friends, and your community can play a role in helping this Vision 2030 to unfold. Please contact Tom Spaulding, Angelic Organics Learning Center, for more information or to get involved. Office: 815-389-8455, Cell: 815-621-4340, and Email tom@learngrowconnect.org