



Plowing Forward Spring 2022

Education Center Fire



During the early morning of Tuesday, February 22, the Education Center became engulfed in flames. Sadly, the building could not be saved. Thankfully, there were no animals inside the Education Center and no one was hurt while battling the blaze. The fire was ruled an accident.

To experience such a loss was shocking and heartbreaking. Yet, we remain deeply

grateful to our area's First Responders who worked for hours to extinguish the roaring flames. These remarkable volunteers came from all over to answer the call to help. We want to again express our thanks and appreciation to members of Jackson Township, Shavertown, Trucksville, Mount Zion from Exeter Township, Dallas, and Dallas Township – all volunteer fire companies. We thank Jackson Township Police, Kingston Township Police, and Pennsylvania State Police as well as the Back Mountain Regional EMS.

We were also reminded of the wonderful people who live in and around our region. It's not an exaggeration to say that we've received hundreds of calls and messages to express concern and offer support. So many have asked, "How can I help?" There are many ways to help.

The building is insured and we will rebuild as soon as possible. The total cost of content replacement – things like pencils, markers, tablets, paint, books, chairs, tables, bookshelves, microscopes, refrigerator, freezer, projector, etc., is significant and will not completely be covered by insurance. And, there are things that simply cannot be replaced such as years of children's artwork, handwritten notes, painted rocks from our stream, and of course, the floor to ceiling bottle cap cow created by students from Waycallis Elementary School.

If you would like to make a financial donation, please visit:

<http://hillsidefarms.org/donate.php>. No amount is too small. We will also need the collective time and talents of our community. In the coming months there will be numerous opportunities to volunteer in and around the new building.

Our commitment to our community and our community's children remains. Our summer camp will continue, Children's Grief Camp will continue, 4-H will continue, as will all scheduled educational events. We look forward to seeing you here at the farm.

Easier Access For All: ADA Sidewalk Expansion Update:

We expect to begin our ADA walkway expansion in by early Summer. The ADA sidewalks will provide improved access near Hillside's Dairy Store/Mercantile, Greenhouse, Alpaca/Sheep area, Administration Building, Crosswalk, old Dairy Barn, and Coach barn.

Soon, all students, customers, and visitors, regardless of physical disability or limitation, will have equal and unobstructed access to key locations throughout the farm. The ADA walkway expansion is made possible through the Luzerne County Local Shared Account grant. Pictured below is Hillside's Executive Director, Chet



On The Newness of Spring, and the Timelessness of Tradition..



While we warm our shoulders with rays of spring sunshine and the hopes and certainty that brighter days lie ahead, we are reawakened and ready to start anew. The Hillside Mercantile is themed for spring with rejuvenation, including wonderful self-care, beautiful handmade signs, lath wood farm prints, unique clothing, and so much more.

But why choose us? The word "mercantile" has become more commonplace these days, and farmhouse style is like a current top 10 single - played on every circuit.

Well, to start, we LOVE what we do here. And we are so much more than a passing trend. Our steadfast mission is part of a much greater picture. Hillside is historic to our community and though we have changed some, we have done it

with utmost care and respect for our history. Our little shop is newly built from an old sheep barn, authentic to this very farm, with much of our wood dating back more than two centuries.

The beauty of this place is just timeless. Add to it, our offerings are consistently changing, but we do our best to maintain that rustic charm, be it in or out of trend - so we are staying the course. By shopping here, you are supporting an ideology. You are helping us believe that small farms matter to a community, that animal care matters, that in person retail shopping and relationships and slowing down to talk and take things in - that all those wonderful things still matter, and mostly, you are preserving all of these ideals and this precious landmark for our future.



So this spring, when you are looking to refresh your home, yourself, or shopping for a gift for someone, think of Hillside Mercantile. Because this place is not just about offerings - it's about preservation. It is about nostalgia. It's about the farm. And it's about keeping these traditions alive for us, for our children, and for many springs to come.



Check Out Plowing Forward, Hillside's Podcast Hosted by Chet Mozloom.

Last December we launched a new podcast, Plowing

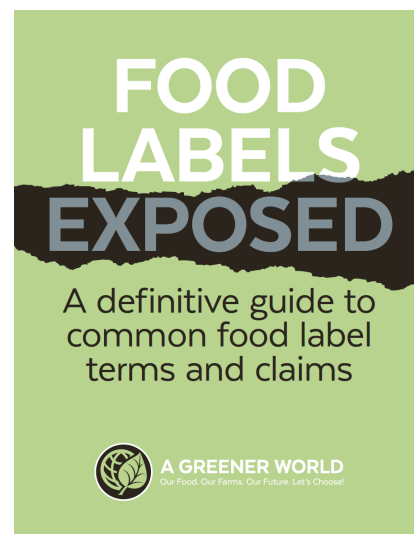


Forward, and it is awesome! Hosted by Chet Mozloom, Plowing Forward explores numerous branches on the Tree of Sustainability. We've often talked about how sustainability means far more than water quality, recycling, and better farming practices. Sustainability is like a trunk of a tree with numerous branches representing areas critical to a balanced and common good. To be sustainable, we must consider education, finances, physical health, emotional health, spiritual health, animal welfare, food security, families, neighborhoods, and much more.

Plowing Forward connects with local and regional "boots on the ground" experts who share practical and logical ways to live a more sustainable life.

Listen to Plowing Forward on your desktop, laptop, or phone by clicking here:
<http://www.thelandsathillsidefarms.org/podcast.php>

Food Label Lingo: Making Sense of the Claims



In 2020, The Lands at Hillside Farms was awarded a top environmental and animal welfare certification from A Greener World. Animal Welfare Approved for Dairy Cattle is deemed the most reputable certification in the industry. We are proud to hold this certification today as it shows our ongoing commitment to transparent, high-welfare farming practices.

We want to share with you a terrific resource provided by A Greener World. Food Labels Exposed is a practical and powerful publication created to help you better understand common food label terms and claims. This guide has over 100 clear, factual definitions related to meat, dairy, eggs, the environment and more.

What's the Scoop? While the Ice Cream Trail of Course!

Longer days, sunnier skies, and warmer temperatures signal the beginning of all things fresh and new. Budding trees, crocus, dandelions, and hints of green slowly replace the months of subdued brown landscapes and grey skies. Who isn't ready to wake and stretch up from this seemingly forever winter's nap?



Warmer days also means the 2022 Pursue Your Scoops Ice Cream Trail is open. Pennsylvania dairies and ice cream shops from throughout the Commonwealth are excited to dig down and scoop up happiness for YOU. Click on the link below for a full list of stops on the Pennsylvania's Ice Cream Trail. Shops and parlors in the northern, southern, eastern, and western parts of Pennsylvania want you to visit and taste the richest, creamiest, flavor-packed ice cream ever. Time to hit the trail!

<https://www.visitpa.com/trip/scooped-ice-cream-trail>

The Lands at Hillside Farms is a non profit 501(c)(3) EIN: 20-2975553



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