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GARDENS/MINI-FARMS NETWORK

USA: TX, MS, FL, CA, AR, NM, WA; Mexico, Rep. Dominicana, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Haiti, England, India, Uzbekistan
minifarms@gmail.com

**Workshops in organic, no-till, permanent-bed gardening, mini-farming, mini-ranching
using bucket drip irrigation,
worldwide in English & Español**

Farm Village An Idea Whose Time Has Come

A large tract of farm land would be acquired near a city or between two nearby cities and on or very near a major highway. Each farm is owned and operated by a family. The business buildings are owned by the Village. The businesses are privately owned. The Village is a cooperative? Corporation?

Off the highway would be a large parking lot. At the back of the parking lot would be: restaurant[s], bakery, farmer's market, craft store, coffee/sandwich shop, etc. These would be the market for production from the farms. The rear of these would open to a large plaza.

**On one side of the plaza would be: bank, barber shop, beauty salon, grocery store,
On one side would be: public or private school or homeschoolers facilities, church building, library,**

On one side would be: village offices, Education Center,

Recreational: horse back riding, farm tours, hay rides, swimming lake, farm petting zoo, RV Park, etc.

Educational Center would offer workshops in organic garden and farming as practiced in the Farm Village as well as its related businesses. I believe that people would come from all over the world.

Divide the land up into farms/ranches: dairy, goat dairy, vegetables, nuts, grapes, fruits, horses, pigs, sheep, meat goats, beef, turkeys, ducks, chickens, hens, orchards, colored cotton, hemp fiber, gourds and other farm craft plants, flowers, fish ponds and anything else that there is a market for and can be grown.

Value-added plants: raw cheese making, raw milk bottling, jelly making, freezing, canning, meat plant and other value-added processing to sell in the stores and serve in the restaurant. Who knows what else?

Farmers would probably live on their farms. There should have homes, apartments, etc for people working in the Village.

Bicycling would be encouraged. Vehicles are restricted to the parking lot and farm roads. Processing plants would be along highway to keep traffic out of The Village.

The grassroots movement in this country to "**buy local, buy fresh, buy organic**" would support this and I think we would see many of these built across the country. Today, I read a report that Wal-Mart will begin buying locally. Fuel cost is the real reason, I think.

Since my main interest is organic farming, I will only mention: solar electricity, wind power, solar heating, solar water heating, soil-cement bricks. Someone else can direct these.

Ken Hargesheimer
minifarms@gmail.com
806-744-8517
Box 1901
Lubbock TX 79408-191

Feel free to email ideas.