

The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables

More In-Depth Lean Techniques for Efficient Organic Production

Ben Hartman

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Full-color photographs and illustrations throughout

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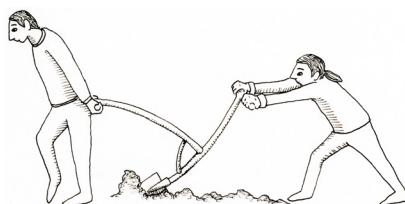
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“We need small farmers more than ever, but it’s a very tight marketplace. My mission is to give small farms the tools they need to be competitive.”

—BEN HARTMAN

In the United States, 40 percent of the food we produce is wasted. Ben Hartman is trying to put a dent in that dismal statistic and help small-scale market growers at the same time. Inspired by Toyota’s “lean” approach to manufacturing, a production strategy designed to minimize waste and maximize efficiency while increasing profits, Hartman has become the leading expert on lean farming.

After the publication of his award-winning book *The Lean Farm*, Hartman was named one of the fifty emerging green leaders in the United States by the nonprofit environmental news organization *Grist*. He has traveled across the country giving lectures on his techniques and has developed a following among small farmers. Building on this positive response, Hartman will release his second book in November, *The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables*—a field guide companion to his first book geared specifically toward market vegetable growers.

In this practical how-to manual, Hartman shows farmers in even greater detail how he has implemented lean thinking in every area of his work at Clay Bottom Farm in Northern Indiana. Using the lean system, Hartman is able to earn a comfortable living on just an acre of land, and this book shows exactly how he does it. *The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables* digs deeper into specific, tested methods for waste-free farming that not only helps farmers become more successful but also makes the work more enjoyable.



Ben Hartman grew up on a corn and soybean farm in Indiana and graduated college with degrees in English and philosophy. He and his wife, Rachel Hershberger, own and operate Clay Bottom Farm in Goshen, Indiana, where they make their living growing and selling specialty crops on less than one acre. Their food is sold locally to restaurants and cafeterias, at a farmers’ market, and through a community-supported-agriculture (CSA) program. The farm has twice won *Edible Michiana*’s Reader’s Choice Award, and *The Lean Farm*, Ben’s first book, won the Shingo Institute’s prestigious Research and Professional Publication Award.

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