



Miraculous Abundance

One Quarter Acre, Two French Farmers, and
Enough Food to Feed the World

Perrine and Charles Hervé-Gruyer

Foreword by Eliot Coleman

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“ **A society can't survive with only 2 to 3 percent of the population farming. May this book awaken the creativity and desire for new farmers to put hands in the dirt!** ”
—From the Introduction

When Perrine and Charles Hervé-Gruyer created their organic farm in a historic French village, they had no idea it would someday attract chefs, farmers, and scientists from around the world. In fact, they had never even farmed before. Charles had spent years circumnavigating the globe by sail. Perrine had been an international lawyer. Their goal at first was just to live a simpler life.

But as they researched how to transform their marginal land into the oasis they imagined, their endless experiments birthed a commercial farm employing the very best of permaculture, bio-intensive, four-season, and natural farming techniques—as well as techniques gleaned from indigenous cultures in the Amazon and elsewhere.

Today, the couple, their family, and their farm workers enjoy a paradise complete with buildings crafted by hand from natural materials; fields plowed with animal power; and trees, waterways, and permanent beds that blend into a lush, edible landscape. That landscape produces fruit and vegetables of such quality and abundance that researchers from Europe's food-security organizations have taken note. La Ferme du Bec Hellouin is now home to a school teaching its method and is the focus of a long-term scientific study asking this question: using the Bec Hellouin approach, how much can a farmer earn working full-time on a 1,000-square-meter plot of land, and how much food can he or she produce?

The results to date have stunned even the most optimistic. In *Miraculous Abundance*, readers meet two people who are farming the future as much as they are farming their land. They—and the scientists studying their bounty—envision farms like theirs multiplying, healing the earth, lessening the impacts of climate change, creating jobs, and anchoring communities in a post-carbon future where oil is no longer moving goods and services, energy is scarcer, and localization is a must.



Perrine Hervé-Gruyer has worked as an international lawyer and head of the legal department of a major company in Asia, and has volunteered with the High Commissioner for Refugees. When she turned thirty, Perrine radically changed lanes, and began taking courses in psychotherapy, specifically in relaxation therapy, publishing a book titled *La Relaxation en Famille*. Perrine also serves as a Green Party representative with the Regional Parliament of Haute-Normandie, where she oversees a committee focusing on agriculture.

Charles Hervé-Gruyer has been passionate about the relationship between humans and nature since childhood. He circumnavigated the globe for 22 years while operating a floating school focusing on ecology and indigenous cultures, the subject of many of his books and documentaries. Anxious to explore environmentally friendly farming practices, Charles created Le Ferme du Bec Hellouin with his wife, Perrine, in 2003. The farm also operates a permaculture school.

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