



## Farming on the Wild Side

The Evolution of a Regenerative Organic Farm and Nursery

Nancy J. Hayden and John P. Hayden

Sustainable Agriculture / Organic Farming  
\$29.95 USD • \$39.95 CAD • £22.99 GBP  
Paperback Original • 7 × 10 • 272 pages  
Full-color photos and illustrations throughout  
ISBN 978-1-60358-828-7

**On-Sale Date: September 19, 2019 (US/CAN)**

**On-Sale Date: October 10, 2019 (UK)**

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## The story of one farm's transformation by regenerative agriculture— and how these methods enhance biodiversity, pollinators, and soil health

Northern Vermont's Nancy and John Hayden have spent the last 25 years turning a “hayed out and played out” ex-conventional dairy farm into an agroecological, organic fruit farm, fruit nursery, and pollinator sanctuary. In *Farming on the Wild Side* they explain the philosophical and scientific principles that influenced them as they phased out sheep and potatoes and embraced apples, pears, stone fruits, and a wide variety of uncommon berry crops; turned much of their property into a semi-wild state; and adapted their marketing and sales strategies to reach new customers in innovative ways.

With practical tips and techniques, *Farming on the Wild Side* is both an expert guide and an inspiring story of land stewardship. In this book, you'll find:

- A real-life look at how a small farm can change over time—in its practices, crop mix, and goals.
- The benefits of pesticide-free perennial polyculture fruit plantings in dealing with climate change, emerging markets, and the aging farmer
- A balanced overview of all the influences that can shape one's farming philosophy, including organics, agroecology, permaculture, regenerative, agroforestry, and biodynamics—a timely discussion considering the current debate over labels and certification programs
- Information on working with and propagating uncommon berries like clove currants, beach plums, and honeyberries
- Regenerative no-till soil practices, grafting basics, *Hügelkultur* . . . and more

The Haydens' story is about their farming practices and how they built a relationship with the land and all its inhabitants by working to heal and restore as co-creators of nature. “We like to think of ourselves as a pocket of resistance and an alternative success story to modern agricultural systems,” The Haydens write. “We hope to encourage more land managers... to cultivate a renewed sense of purpose by reconnecting, rewilding, and regenerating the land and the life it supports.”

*Farming on the Wild Side* is available in the US and Canada September 19, and available from UK booksellers in October.

**To request a review copy or author interview, please contact: Christina Butt (802) 295-6300 ext. 127, or cbutt@chelseagreen.com**  
**Author Availability:** Vermont, or by phone or arrangement



**Nancy Hayden** has an MFA in creative writing and is a retired environmental engineering professor at the University of Vermont. **John Hayden** has served as a pest management researcher, extension agent, international consultant, and university educator. **The Haydens** have been owners of The Farm Between in Jeffersonville, Vermont, since 1992. They were awarded the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign's 2018 US Farmer-Rancher Award for their pollinator conservation work.

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