

ANNOUNCING the Publication of

THE REAL DIRT: Toward Food Sufficiency and
Farm Sustainability in New England

By John E. Carroll

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Agriculture in New England is dying. Quite true. Agriculture in New England is being born. Equally true. Two different agricultures.

The larger scale export commodity agriculture with its earlier heritage in sheep, poultry, potatoes and particularly dairy, governed by industrial principles of production and factory farm models and selling to a wholesale market, has been dying. But a whole new agriculture, smaller in scale, directly marketed, sometimes organic, increasingly grass-based, biodiverse, governed by biological and ecological principles and sustainable in theory and practice, is fast rising across all of New England. This is more than a New England agricultural renaissance, as it's been called. It is a fast-paced revolution involving every conceivable kind of plant and animal production and utilizing the best of modern green technology.

Based on the twin foundations of The Wisdom of Small Farms and Local Food (NHAES 2260) and Pastures of Plenty (NHAES 2340), this volume focuses on the support system of food sustainability in the six New England states, concluding the trilogy. The central themes of Part I of THE REAL DIRT encompass critical energy issues in agriculture in a post-petroleum era, the emerging role of town agricultural commissions, the power of gardens in food security, and what one New England city, Burlington, Vermont, the "Capital of the Localvores", has accomplished in food and farming. Part II focuses on the region's six land grant universities and on the potentials of their many university farms in supporting food security and sufficiency in New England. This volume further develops themes identified in the earlier volumes of the trilogy, including the importance of on-farm biodiversity and economic diversity; crop-livestock integration; holistic systems approaches; direct marketing; organic and grass-based production methods; and the value of de-centralized small-scale and local approaches to regional food production.

If you live in New England you'll want to get to know this book well. If you live elsewhere, you might want to apply this New England case study to the needs and circumstances of your own locale. Take advantage of your local circumstances, Carroll argues, and reconstruct your world around them. A starting point for many of us will be THE REAL DIRT: Toward Food Sufficiency and Farm Sustainability in New England.



JOHN E. CARROLL is Professor of Environmental Conservation at the University of New Hampshire. He is the author and editor of *The Wisdom of Small Farms and Local Food*, *Pastures of Plenty*, *Sustainability and Spirituality*, *The Greening of Faith, Ecology and Religion*, *Environmental Diplomacy*, and *International Environmental Diplomacy*. He is a Kellogg Foundation National Fellow.

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