



Canuel Farm Somerset, MA



Current Crops:
Red Onions
Produce being grown
this year
White Corn
Butter Corn
Green Beans
Yellow Beans
Brussel Sprouts
Kale
Broccoli
Husk Tomatoes
Grape Tomatoes
Big Beef Tomatoes
Zima Tomatoes
Ornamental Peppers
Basil
Parsley
Oregano
Cilantro

The Farm

Driving down a quiet suburban street in Somerset you ease around a bend and arrive at the 20 acre Canuel Farm. The farm is a family run farm that has been owned and worked by the family for over 100 years, currently by brothers Fabien and Leo. Initially a dairy farm, the farm was purchased by the Canuel's grandfather in 1903 who shifted the production to produce.

Their grandfather emigrated from Canada and was working in the mills in Fall River when he bought the farm. He ran the farm as best he could, as a part time farmer. Leo tells the story of his grandfather working all day and then coming home to move a house from Buffington St. over to the farm on Wood St, piece by piece. "That's when they worked for a living" Leo stated while discussing the logistics moving the house's boards on a tip cart his grandfather used.

The farm hosts about 2 acres of various vegetables and a green house. The remainder of the farm is used for growing hay and a portion of land is rented out to another farmer that grows corn. Fabien and Leo are only part time farmers, much like their grandfather before them, yet are still able to grow an impressive variety of vegetables. The brothers take pride in their farm in what little time they have between their full-time jobs, expressing their concern for some weeds growing here and there. With little time, they are still engage and passionate for the farm making sure they stay up to date on current trends in the industry. They plant and sell based on what people in this area choose to buy, whether or not they agree with their choices. Leo can name you all the dishes people choose to make with kale, such as kale chips, and also why they grow big beef tomatoes even though they feel their other varieties are tastier. "Big tomatoes sell," and so the Canuel's will keep growing their products to please local tastes.

The products of Canuel Farm can be found at the Westport Farmer's Market, local stores, and just recently at the Downtown Fall River Farmer's Market.

The Products

The produce from Canuel Farm is grown in a mostly organic style, but not certified. The issue with organic production for this farm is with their location in regard to the neighboring homes. If a neighbor were to use the wrong fertilizer on their lawn, it would make the farm lose their organic status. There are also some crops that are just too difficult to grow organically with the two brothers being only available part time. Leo explained how organic corn would require each ear to be brushed with oil by hand to prevent corn borers, and questions how large crops of corn can be grown "organically". "It's fine if you have a six foot row of corn in your backyard, but I'm skeptical about larger operations" he states.

Canuel Farm is continually works to expand their sales base. They are trying to sell to more stores so they can expand the amount and variety of crops they produce. Next year the operation to prepare produce for sale in stores will have a new home in a packing barn that is being built next to their green house. The barn is Fabien's pet project, and he has high hopes for the increased productivity it will provide. The floor has radiant heating that he installed



Canuel Farm
Fabien and Leo Canuel
Wood Rd.
Somerset, MAI

Produce available at:
Fall River Downtown Farmers
Market
Westport Farmers Market

himself, which will allow the barn to be used year round. There will be an area to wash produce before it is packed into a truck for transport or stored in the refrigeration unit. They have also allowed space for a small greenhouse that will be used to start new seedlings and grow some plants over the winter.

In the future Canuel Farm will be expanding their production, which means hopefully you will see a lot more of them. Next year their production will increase and you will see a larger variety of products because of their new packing barn. If you were ever curious about different produce and the use of it, the Canuel brothers are very knowledgeable about what they grow. Stop by and see them at the Westport or Downtown Fall River Farmer's Market to see what is new with them.

