

AMERICAN Small Farm

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Farms Must Be Profitable To Be Sustainable 6

"At Aspen Hill Farms, we practice sustainable agriculture," says Steve Edwards, "for a farm to be sustainable, it must be profitable."

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Next issue

Cutting firewood
Deer control fence ideas
Direct selling to restaurants
Ways to extend farm equipment life
Outdoor Enthusiast Special Section

About the cover

In conventional dairy operations, forage is harvested, chopped, put in storage bins, and brought to the confined cows. The manure is then collected and hauled out to pasture. Francis Thicke does the opposite. "All we do is open the gate and let the cows go out to pasture where they eat and spread their manure, which enriches the soil," he says. "We save labor and energy with a well-designed pasture system." This system enhances cows' health by giving them exercise outdoors. His younger animals are also on pasture. Thicke's milk is only sold locally at supermarkets and restaurants in Fairfield, Iowa. Remaining local demonstrates his commitment to community supported agriculture (CSA), which aims to reestablish the connection between consumers and farmers that has been severed by modern agriculture. Photo by Dorothy Photography

