

Background:

ANTHONY Bracco and his family live in Cedar Grove NJ. While running his graphic design business for over 40 years, thirteen years ago he and his wife bought a 25 acre farm in the BLACK DIRT region of Pine Island, NY. Anthony, who was an avid gardener most of his life, had intended to be a hobby farmer on just an acre growing his family the cleanest produce possible using Non-GMO seeds, hand cultivation of weeds, old fashioned farm equipment, picking only when ready, and without chemicals, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides, herbicides, glyphosate allowing the beautiful Black Dirt soil to naturally regenerate each season. These simple, obvious, time-honored sustainable farming techniques produced a shocking abundance of produce. Immediately that first season, Chefs began to come forward taking notice of the dramatic difference in taste.

So, after just one season, Bracco Farms was born out of that demanding momentum of the growing food movement. The following Spring, Bracco Farms bought a tractor and so our story begins.

While still operating as a small family farm using these same sustainable farming techniques producing wonderful, clean, pure produce, Bracco Farms continues to grow its wide variety of market basket produce types for individual customers, families and chefs. The farm also supplies farm2table eateries and country clubs primarily in New Jersey where the Bracco's live.

Bracco Farms continues to maintain upfront openness and invites any customer to come visit the farm and walk our fields with us while we pick your order.

NOW, IN THIS POST CORONAVIRUS WORLD, THE THREAT OF RECESSION, WAR, FOOD SAFETY, FOOD SECURITY AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN, THESE HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT CONCERNS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. MANY PEOPLE ARE NOW SEEKING TO START THEIR OWN VEGETABLE GARDENS TO SAFELY AND SECURELY PROVIDE THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH FRESH, NATURALLY GROWN VEGETABLES. MOST ARE NEW TO THIS ENDEAVOR AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. TO HELP THOSE INTERESTED IN SOME LEVEL OF SELF SUFFICIENCY VIA GARDENING, YEOMAN FARMER ANTHONY BRACCO HAS DEVELOPED A SELECTION OF 8 PROGRAMS THAT CAN SHOW HOW THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

Program 1

ADAPTING SMALL FARM METHODS TO A BACKYARD GARDEN

The thrust of our Adapting Small Farm Methods to a Backyard Garden talk/lecture is:

- 1 To raise awareness as to where our food comes from.
 - A. Factory Farm vs Family Farm
 - B. Local Grown vs. Distant Grown
 - C. Organic vs. Conventional growing
 - D. Pesticide, Herbicide, Fungicide, etc. usage
- 2 Share our growing methods with the public
 - A. Describe Naturally Grown and Sustainable methods
 - B. Describe the tools and implements used at the farm that can also be used in a backyard garden.
 - C. Explain about Safe Seed Sources (GMO vs Non-GMO, etc)
 - D. Cold Greenhouse growing
- 3 Demonstrate how small farm growing methods can be adapted to a backyard garden.
 - A. By sharing safe seed catalog sources.
 - B. By utilizing many of the tools and implements we use at the farm – we bring many of them with us and demonstrate their use.
 - C. By sharing information on fertilizers, compost, natural pesticide control, etc.
 - D. Building and preparing garden beds.
 - E. Building a small greenhouse
 - F. Provide list of useful books and periodicals on farming and gardening

(includes slideshow, demonstration of sustainable farm implements and hand-outs)



Program 2

“VICTORY” GARDEN

The thrust of our “Victory” Garden talk/lecture is:

- 1 To raise awareness as to where our food comes from.
 - A. Factory Farm vs Home/kitchen Garden, backyard garden
 - B. Home Grown vs. Distance Grown
 - C. Organic vs. Conventional growing
 - D. Pesticide, Herbicide, Fungicide, etc. usage
- 2 Share our growing methods with the public
 - A. Describe Naturally Grown and Sustainable methods
 - B. Describe the tools and implements used at the farm that can also be used in a backyard garden.
 - C. Explain about Safe Seed Sources (GMO vs Non-GMO, etc)
 - D. Spring Prep of the garden
 - E. Extending the gardening season
 - F. Clean up and Winterizing the garden
 - G. Creating a Compost Pile (Bin)
- 3 Demonstrate how small farm growing methods can be adapted to a backyard garden.
 - A. By sharing safe seed catalog sources.
 - B. By utilizing many of the tools and implements we use at the farm – we bring many of them with us and demonstrate their use.
 - C. By sharing information on fertilizers, compost, natural pesticide control, etc.
 - D. Building and preparing an enjoyable and fully functional garden.
 - E. Provide list of useful books and periodicals on farming and gardening.

(includes slideshow and showcasing the hand tools which we recommend and use and handouts)



Program 3

SMALL SPACE GARDENING (TERRACES, PATIOS AND DECKS)

The thrust of our Small Space Garden talk/lecture is:

- 1 To raise awareness as to where our food comes from.
 - A. Factory Farm vs Home/kitchen Garden, backyard garden, Small Space Garden
 - B. Home Grown vs. Distance Grown
 - C. Organic vs. Conventional growing
 - D. Pesticide, Herbicide, Fungicide, etc. usage
- 2 Share our growing methods with the public
 - A. Describe Naturally Grown and Sustainable methods
 - B. Describe and show the tools that can be used in a small space garden
 - C. Explain about Safe Seed Sources (GMO vs Non-GMO, etc)
 - D. Spring Prep of the small space garden
 - E. Showing the different types of small space gardens - tubs, pots, terraced bins, etc
 - G. Crop and variety selection best for small space gardening
- 3 Demonstrate how backyard growing methods can be adapted to a small space garden.
 - A. By sharing safe seed catalog sources.
 - B. By utilizing many of the tools and implements we use in our greenhouse at the farm
 - C. By sharing information on fertilizers, compost, natural pesticide control, etc.
 - D. Building and preparing a enjoyable and fully small space functional garden.
 - E. Provide list of useful books and periodicals on farming and gardening.

(includes slideshow and showcasing the hand tools which we recommend and use and handouts)



Program 4

RAISING AND MAINTAINING A SMALL LAYING HEN (CHICKEN) FLOCK

The thrust of our Small Laying Hen Flock talk/lecture is:

- 1 To raise awareness as to where our eggs come from.
 - A. Factory Farm Eggs vs home raised laying hen eggs
 - B. Home Grown vs. Distance Grown (fresh eggs vs store Eggs that could be weeks old)
 - C. Organic vs. Conventional feed
- 2 Types of Coops
 - A. Describe the different type of coops and nesting boxes
 - B. Where to site the coop
 - C. Making the coop predator proof
 - D. Sources for Coop Building Plans
 - E. Sources for Pre-Built Coops
- 3 Maintaining the Flock
 - A. Type of feed to use to maintain a healthy flock
 - B. Types of bedding to use
 - C. recognizing potential illness and parasites.
 - D. Egg collection and cleaning

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)



Program 5

SEED SAVING BASICS - SAVING SEEDS FROM YOUR GARDEN

The thrust of our Seed Saving Basics talk/lecture is:

1 To provide basic information to help get started with saving seeds.

- A. Getting Started
- B. Heirloom vs. Hybrid
- C. Crossbreeding
- D. Harvesting
- E. Drying and Storing

2 Why Save Seeds

- A. Saves Money
- B. Preserve Genetic Diversity
- C. Superior Flavor
- D. Connection to the Past
- E. Helps Build Community

3 Popular Varieties to Save

- A. Tomato Seeds
- B. Pepper Seeds
- C. Peas and Beans
- D. Summer and Winter Squash
- E. Lettuces

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)



Program 6

STARTING A SMALL FARM (SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE)

The thrust of our Small Farm talk/lecture is:

To provide basic information to help get started with starting a small farm.

- A. Sourcing land
- B. Develop a successful farming plan
- C. Acquiring funding (mortgage/lease)
- D. Acquiring farm equipment (buy/lease)
- E. Field preparation
- F. Choosing the right market crops to grow
- G. Acquiring markets/customers
- H. Harvesting and storage

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)



Program 7

STARTING A MARKET GARDENING BUSINESS

The thrust of our Market Garden talk/lecture is:

To provide basic information on starting a market garden business.

- A. Sourcing land (buy/lease)
- B. Develop a successful business plan
- C. Acquiring funding (mortgage/lease)
- D. Acquiring farm equipment (buy/lease)
- E. Field preparation
- F. Choosing high value market crops to grow
- G. Production and marketing techniques
- H. Harvesting and storage

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)



Program 8

AFTER THE HARVEST (PRESERVING YOUR BOUNTY FOR THE WINTER)

The thrust of our After the Harvest talk/lecture is:

To provide basic information on how to preserve your garden harvest.

- A. Canning, Jarring, Pickling and Dehydration
- B. Storage of root crops
- C. Freezing and cubing vegetables
- D. Making jams and jellies
- E. storing the your harvest in a dark pantry, basement, or root cellar

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)



Program 9

GRAINS - SOURCING, GROWING AND HOME MILLING

The thrust of our Grains talk/lecture is:

To provide basic information on how to source, grow and home-mill grain.

- A. Sourcing grains and supplies from safe reliable sources
- B. Types of grains and their properties
- C. How to home-mill various grains
- D. How to store raw and milled grains
- E. Types of grains to grow in your garden on a small scale

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)



Program 10

SEED STARTING

The thrust of our Seed Starting talk/lecture is:

To start seedlings at home for indoor or outdoor garden growing.

- A. Sourcing seeds and supplies from safe, reliable seed sources
- B. Varieties to start from seed
- C. How supply supplemental heat to germinate warm loving crops
- D. How to transplant the seedlings into your garden

(includes slideshow and hand-outs)

