



modern farmer



THE REAL COST OF THE JUICING FAD (hint: our planet pays)

A BETTER WAY TO PRODUCE PORK



HOW TO KEEP HONEY BEES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THESE FASCINATING BEES



the best farm stays, craft gins, and... miniature milk cows!

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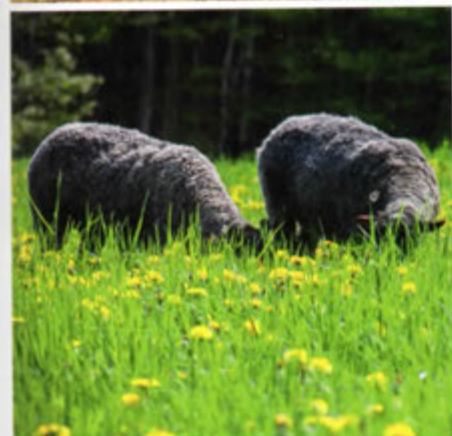
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AUTO**ORIGIN MIXED ADC 220



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT CALIFORNIA'S BAR SZ RANCH OFFERS DAILY HAYRIDES. AT CRIPPEN CREEK FARM IN WASHINGTON STATE, SIMON FAZIO, GRANDSON OF THE OWNERS, SAMPLES A STRAWBERRY. LUXE TENTS DOT THE LAND AT KINNIKINNICK IN ILLINOIS. VERMONT'S GRAND VIEW FARM RAISES GOTLAND SHEEP FOR ITS WOOL CSA.



Four great back-40 getaways

Not that long ago, the idea of spending precious vacation time feeding pigs or caring for a stranger's vegetable plot—much less paying for the honor—would have raised eyebrows. In the last six years, however, the number of farms and ranches offering overnight adventures jumped from 300 to more than 800, says Scottie Jones, executive director of the U.S. Farm Stay Association. With so many choices, we've narrowed in on a few exceptional experiences. **Vermont Grand View Farm, Washington, Vermont** Kim and Chuck Goodling run a fiber CSA on their 1794 farmstead overlooking the Green Mountains. In addition to helping tend the couple's flock of European Gotland sheep, you can learn how to weave, spin, or dye wool. (From \$170 per double, breakfast included; grandviewfarmvt.net) **The Inn at Crippen Creek Farm, Skamokawa, Washington** Many farm stays feed you goods grown out back, but Don and Kitty Speranza encourage visitors to use the 15-acre spread's organic produce, free-range eggs, and pastured meats in cooking classes, such as Artisan Bread Baking and Pasta Perfection. (From \$135 per double, breakfast included; crippencreek.com) **Kinnikinnick Farm, Caledonia, Illinois** Part of the Feather Down farm-stay network, this organic vegetable operation in northern Illinois puts guests up in tents. Don't confuse that with "roughing it." Each stand-alone structure sleeps up to five adults (in real beds) and boasts fully outfitted kitchens. As for where to get groceries? Kinnikinnick's owners, David and Susan Cleverdon, stock an "honesty shop" with treats and staples from other area producers. Simply grab what looks good and leave the payment in the box. (From \$650 per tent per weekend; kinnikinnickfarm.com) **Bar SZ Ranch, Palmdale, California** At Tim and Michelle Borland's ranch, wannabe cowboys can rustle cattle on horseback and shoot skeet. After nightfall, bring your s'mores supplies down to the community campfire—then look up and marvel at the Milky Way. (From \$400 a night for a fully equipped cabin, which sleeps up to 10; barszranch.com) —Lynn Freehill-Maye

/ SAVE THE DATE /
SEPTEMBER 11
MONTANA BALE
TRAIL

Hobson, MT

This adorably kooky self-guided driving tour wends its way along a 22-mile loop of Highways 239 and 541, where local ranchers erect cheeky straw sculptures. Among the 50-plus installations, you may find a guitar-strumming "Will-Hay" Nelson or the Red Baron's nemesis himself, "SnoopHay." Visitors can cast ballots for their favorites only during the official one-day event, but the works of art remain in the fields for a few weeks afterward. (montanabailetrail.com)