

# HARMONY HOMESTEAD

JP and Laurie Gartland moved to their farm in 2020, built a house and started developing their homestead with the idea of living off the land as much as possible and just enjoying their retirement years in a more relaxed setting. Relaxation doesn't happen very often, but they enjoy their work with the animals and garden so much they sometimes forget it's work.



*What is cuter than a baby goat? Quail-easy to raise for meat and eggs. Strawberries and Blueberries*

One thing that people comment on when they visit Harmony Homestead is that the animals are so friendly. That's because we take such a hand-on approach to managing our livestock. We love animals so much that spending time with them is an absolute pleasure. Feeding in the morning also involves inspecting and lots of petting. We raise goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, quail, guinea fowl, and potbelly pigs. Lexi is our wonderful livestock guardian dog who keeps everyone safe.

In addition to the animals, we also maintain fruit trees, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, grapes, figs, asparagus, chestnut trees and, of course, a vegetable garden. We also milk our goats for fresh milk daily and the pond has been stocked with fish.

## NIGERIAN DWARF GOATS:

We raise Nigerian Dwarf Goats primarily here at Harmony Homestead for a number of reasons: 1. Their coats come in such a beautiful combination of colors and patterns. 2. They are small and therefore easier to feed and manage than the larger breeds. 3. Their milk is very rich and has the highest butterfat content of all other breeds.



*Goats grazing in the field*



*Petting Penelope Pig*

## HAIR SHEEP

All of our sheep are a Katahdin/Dorper cross. Cross breeding results in the best of both breeds and also "hybrid vigor". Katahdin are hair sheep that are known for being hardy, adaptable, and low maintenance and the ewes have great mothering instincts. They are also known for great lamb vigor and parasite. Dorper, also hair sheep, tend to have a heavier carcass and a faster growth rate.



*Rabbits enjoy their snack*



*Barred Rock hens.*

## NEW ZEALAND RABBITS

We chose to raise New Zealand rabbits because they are docile and easy-going so they make great pets. They are also considered one of the best rabbit breeds for meat production. Ranging in average from 10-12 pounds, New Zealands have a high feed to meat ratio with fine bones. We have focused mainly on breeding black and white "brokens" which have random black spots on a white base coat.



*Baby Potbelly Pigs hang out with Dad.*



*Twin lambs*

