



Maryland
Green Registry
MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

The Goode Farm, LLC



P.O. Box 21
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Family-run goat dairy and lavender farm
Member since August 2019

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

In every aspect of The Goode Farm operation, we strive to be environmentally conscientious and good stewards of our natural resources while deploying tools to enable us to be self-sufficient and profitable.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

The Goode Farm relies solely on goats for rich dairy milk, not cows. Surprisingly, there are environmental and sustainable farming advantages to using goats instead of cows for milk.

- 1. A dairy cow (regardless of breed) is going to need significantly more acreage than a goat. While you can feed 5 or more goats on 1 acre of good pasture, the rule of thumb is 1 cow per acre.*
- 2. Goats can thrive on grass, weeds, or brush, a cow needs a pasture growing high quality grass. They won't touch the weeds. If pasture is poor quality, there are economical ways to improve it over time, such as using goats to clear brush. For the best dairy results, we never feed our milkers any weeds or brush.*
- 3. A cow will consume roughly a bale of hay daily, where that same bale will last an adult goat for a week.*

In 2021, our first lavender was harvested. Lavender flowers attract beneficial pollinators and are used to make multiple products. Our gardens use natural means to manage pests while our compost material plays a key role in a healthy soil. Nearly every part of the lavender plant and stalks are used and recycled (i.e., essential oil, sachets, scented fire starters, composting, etc.).

Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects

The Goode Farm is an environmentally sensitive company that employs a member business of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Manure removed from our property is organically recycled under an audited manure management plan.

Waste

Recycling

All product packaging is recycled (plastic containers and paper packaging average several dozen pounds per week).

Composting

Through our manure management program, our manure and hay are removed from the property to be organically recycled by a manure management business. Currently, a seven cubic yard dumpster of waste is removed from our dairy every week.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

All lighting has been converted to LED. All buildings and fixtures now exclusively use LED lighting. An average LED bulb's lifespan ranges from 10 to 20 years (not to mention attracting fewer insects). Our newly constructed winter plant room relies exclusively on LED grow lights with very little expense.

Renewable Energy

In 2022, the farm invested in a new solar photovoltaic system. We now silently generate clean green energy to satisfy half of all our electrical energy requirements. Also, we are now selling Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC) shares through an authorized broker.

Transportation

Efficient Fleet Vehicles

Another goat vs. cow advantage has emerged in goat transportation. While transporting cows requires a large trailer, goats can fit in the back of a truck, SUV, or van. Using a trailer consumes more gas while producing more carbon than one fuel efficient vehicle (so, our goats travel without trailers).

Water



Water Conservation

Instead of drilling a second water well (that could hasten the depletion of our existing aquifer) or installing a rainwater harvesting cistern, we have successfully deployed a series of drip irrigation systems to curtail the farm's water demand. This single change has eliminated the need for additional water sources.

Even with expanding our lavender and vegetable plantings, we continue to rely exclusively on the original water well. Timers and drip irrigation deliver efficient volumes of water when and where it's needed without waste. Modern drip irrigation tools are our standard.

Profile Updated January 2023



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Learn more at green.maryland.gov

