

Beyond the Farm



**Growing Grains and
Establishing Creative
Partnerships**



Noreen Thomas

Doubting Thomas Farms

- Organic farmer since 1997
- Fifth-generation family farm north of Moorhead, Minnesota
- Raise 1,200 acres of certified-organic grains, feed and beans for domestic as well as foreign markets.
- One of select few growers of rare and indigenous seeds for Native Harvest.



Our mission: “We are your farmers, providing good food for a healthier people, community and world.”

7 businesses on 1 farm. Why?



All the kids are doing it!

Six months. And I've already added an air B'nB and a mushroom farm!

"You been farming long?"





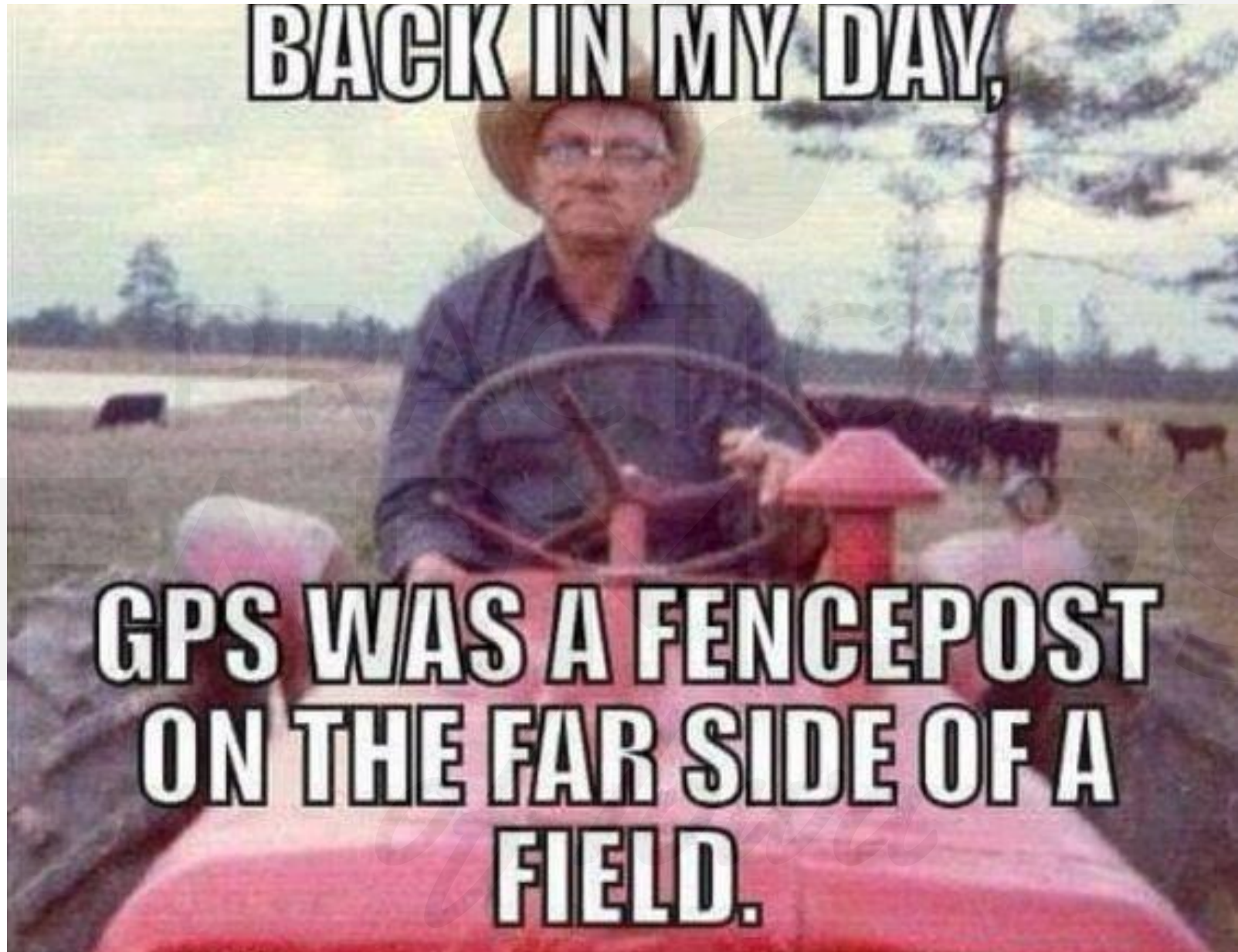
**GOVERNMENT: SELF ISOLATE
AND SOCIALLY DISTANCE
YOURSELF**

**FARMERS: BUSINESS
AS USUAL THEN**

We get it.

**This does not
come easily to
most of us.**

But we adapt all the time.



Stacking makes sense.

- Reduce insecurity of relying on monoculture.
- Bring additional revenue streams into farm, while reducing some expenses in the process.
- Provide start-up opportunities for others. In cases of family members, may allow them to stay on the farm.
- Provide income during farm's 'off-season.'
- Form partnerships that can foster a powerful network of support down the line.
- Maximize land use while introducing beneficial crops, insects and animals which can fortify soil, water and environment.
- Use agritourism, etc., to educate public on farm life, where their food comes from and why family farms are important.

‘Stacking’ has helped support Doubting Thomas’s commitment to women farmers.



It has helped family members be entrepreneurs and stay on the farm.



Our agritourism events have promoted our products and local foods while teaching people about the importance of the farmer.



Let's Meet at the Farm!

AUGUST 13TH, 2023

SUNDAY 3 PM - 6 PM
DOUBTING THOMAS FARMS
12506 20TH ST N, MOORHEAD, MN 56560

Join us for a mini farmer's market. Activities include sessions on foraging, mushroom growing, backyard composting, demos on cooking with whole foods, activities for kids, and farm tours.

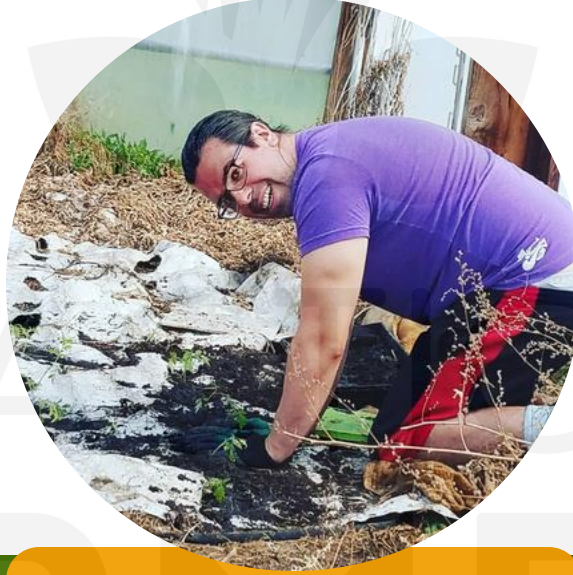
For more info, and to RSVP and get tickets, scan the QR code below

A vertical banner with a green background. It features several white illustrations of vegetables: a tomato, a carrot, a broccoli, an artichoke, a chili pepper, and a radish. The text is centered on the banner.

We've used the farm for promoting Native foods, helping new farmers and research.



Chef preparing meal for tribal chefs with indigenous foods from our farm.



Chef/new farmer growing herbs for herbal tea company on our land.



Flax research is one of many types of research partnerships conducted on farm.

What have I learned from stacking?



- **Ask: Does this enhance what we're already doing?**
- **Make an organized plan.**
- **Know your customer for the new enterprise.**
- **Consult an attorney; make a legal contract.**
- **Ask: Will more insurance be needed?**
- **Make expectations clear but also listen.**
- **Stay on the right side of the law.**
- **Realize you can't control everything. (You may need to move beyond 'parent role' and stay open-minded.)**
- **Start small, scaling up as needed.**
- **Revisit periodically to make sure it's working on both sides (ESPECIALLY for family).**
- **Create a sense of community with your marketing.**

Connect With Us



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<https://doubtingthomasfarms/>



22/04/2023

THANK YOU.