

Farm plan offers shares of produce

By **TED LaBORDE**

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WESTFIELD - Yellow Stonehouse Farm is opening its 55 acres of gardens to the public under the Community Supported Agriculture program, the first of its kind in the city.

The farm, located on Root Road, will provide fresh vegetables and flowers to shareholders who purchase shares in the gardens by April 15.

Farm owners Constance L. Adams and John K. Keilch are now organizing for the planting season. They have been growing vegetables, herbs and flowers at the former dairy farm since 2009.

Adams and Keilch are not "looking to be retailers" and have no plans for a vegetable stand at the farm. But they are looking for 100 to 150 residents to purchase shares for this year's harvest.

"We are not looking to become huge," said Keilch. "We will offer the freshest of fresh because people want home-grown food but don't have the time to do it themselves."

"Connie is the farmer," Keilch said of his wife. "I am the worker."

Adams and Keilch opted for the Community Supported Agriculture program because it directly brings farmers and consumers together, he said. They are also members of Community Involvement in Sustaining Agriculture and the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Several types of shares for this year's harvest are available, ranging in price from \$325 to \$575.

A full farm share provides weekly pickup of vegetables and flowers by the owner. A half vegetable share allows the holder to pick up vegetables every two weeks. Share holders will also have pick-up privileges.

Pick-up days will be Tuesdays and Fridays from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

A list of the different share programs available can be found at the farm's website: www.yellowstonehouse.com

or by calling the farm at (413) 562-2164.

Yellow Stonehouse Farm is one of about 95 Community Supported Agriculture farms in Western Massachusetts.

Produce will include a full variety of vegetables from arugula to zucchini, herbs ranging from basil to sage and flowers ranging from cleome to zinnias.

"We will also try to introduce strawberries to the menu," said Keilch.

All surplus vegetables will be donated to the Westfield Food Bank, he said.



Yellow Stonehouse Farm owners John K. Keilch and Constance L. Adams are selling shares in a Community Supported Agriculture program at their farm on Westfield's Root Road.

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