

A NETWORK OF ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES

An Exploratory Study on *World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms* (WWOOF) Hosts in the
Continental USA and Upstate New York

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Abstract: This study explores the 1,650 hosts of *World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms* (WWOOF) in the continental USA. Analyzing the spatial patterns of WWOOF hosts, on two levels, provided insight into why hosts are located where they are. First, using Geographical Information Systems (GIS), variables, such as unemployment rate, natural amenity index and racial diversity index, were statistically tested in relation to the number of WWOOF hosts on the county scale. Two variables consistently positively correlate with WWOOF host locations: Bohemian index and number of organic farms. WWOOF hosts are more likely to live in counties with higher levels of topography, unemployment rate, percentage of female and minority farm operators, percentage of farms with Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares and high value goods, such as jams or beef jerky. They are not in counties with high farming populations and full-time farmers. Secondly, twelve interviews with WWOOF hosts in New York State provided a means of ‘ground truthing’ the GIS findings. Interviews revealed that hosts choose to live in New York because they are familiar with the area, the land is cheap, they have more space or there is a social connection, either eco-community or family and friends. This study reveals there are patterns regarding the locations of hosts in the USA because hosts are looking for places where they have social support and community for organic growing. WWOOF has great potential for spreading more sustainable farming and tourism methods; therefore, it is necessary to know where these initiatives are occurring.

Key terms: WWOOF, Organic Movement, Farm Stays, Volunteer Labor

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Acknowledgments

I am an advocate for the WWOOF organization and believe that hosts are doing amazing things to promote and advocate organic growing and living. Given that I am in support of what hosts are doing, I believe that it is important to be critical of the shortcomings and weaknesses of the organization and hosts. Furthermore, I am approaching and analyzing the geography of WWOOF through an abstract, philosophical, and geographical perspective. Therefore, I would like to thank the hosts who are on the ground living their lives in line with their values and morals. I appreciate the time and energy that they are putting into saving the world one acre at a time.

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There is a time and place in the ceaseless human endeavor to change the world, when alternative visions, no matter how fantastic, provide the grist for shaping powerful political forces for change (Harvey 2000; 195)

Introduction

1.1. Introduction

There is growing recognition that current industrial agriculture is an unsustainable system for its social, economic and environmental consequences. Industrial agriculture depletes the soil, diminishes fertility, pollutes water sources, and largely relies on petroleum—a very limited and increasingly expensive resource. Though industrial farming has allowed labor and capital to move off of farms into other sectors of the economy, it also accompanies a growing disconnect between food and consumers (Bell 2004). The current agricultural system and chains of production create a culture that has little connection to the processes and people who grow food. *World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms* (WWOOF) represents one of many social movements by individuals and communities worldwide that reject or challenge the dominant agricultural system. Organic farming is the primary activity hosts perform, however there are variations of organic growing.¹ The prerequisites and requirements for hosts range dramatically, with some countries emphasizing organic methods, such as the United Kingdom, and others focusing more on the cultural exchange and bridging “city and country,” like Japan.

More specifically, WWOOF in the United States attempts to “build a global community conscious of ecological farming practices” (WWOOF-USA 2011). In the United States alone, there are more than 1,650 WWOOF farms and gardens that provide meal and board in exchange for labor. In the process, participants learn about sustainable living through managing gardens, building natural structures, keeping bees, working with livestock

¹ “In an effort to provide access to a greater diversity of experience, where it is possible to learn and experience what might be called a sustainable ethos of ecological, social and economic responsibility some WWOOF groups have hosts that are for example, places like health and healing centers, pottery and arts, building and restoring buildings, organic cafes and restaurants, dealing with animals, eco villages, brewing and production of foods, nature guide centre, centers for the environment” (WWOOF 2011)

and making cheese, among hundreds of other tasks. Hosts and volunteers dedicate their time in the fields towards creating a more direct food supply chain—from their organically grown gardens to their tables. They aim to spread and provide opportunities for those interested, often the youth or college-aged individuals, to participate and learn about organic farming methods (Figure 1). As a global organization, the WWOOF organization aims to create greater awareness and value for food around the world; however, little is known about the background, motivations and aspirations of these organic hosts, especially in the USA.



Figure 1. An advertisement for WWOOF in the UK.

1.2. World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF)

WWOOF, which currently stands for *World-Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms*, was started in the 1970s by Sue Coppard in the United Kingdom. Originally known as *Working Weekends on Organic Farms* and then *Willing Worker on Organic Farms*², the organization was created to allow city folk the opportunity to get to the countryside and connect with food and rural areas. The establishment of the WWOOF organization corresponded with the “Back to the Land Movement” of the 1970s. The mid 1970s experienced a surge in rural re-location, as well as an increase in experimentation with co-ops, communes and collectives (Case 1979). In

² The confusion caused by the word ‘work’ compelled the changed the name to ‘World Wide Opportunities’.

hopes of a more simple and self-sufficient lifestyle, urban individuals and families felt compelled to return to the ‘countryside’ landscape in order to return to the land and their food. WWOOF offered, and still does, a more temporary, short-term solution to the desire of experiencing a greater connection with rural life and organic farming. The WWOOF organization has grown quickly over the last decade around the world, especially in the United States. There are few organizations that provide an exchange of labor for food and accommodation on the scale that the WWOOF organization does.

Today, the WWOOF organization connects wandering souls, prospective farmers and curious adventurers to farmers that are in need of workers. WWOOF is a loose network of individuals, families and/or communities around the world that share a common philosophy to promote the organic movement: “a movement [that tries to] transcend nationality, age, sex, religion and social group, and unites those individuals who care for the earth as if they were members of one large family” (WWOOF International 2011). Though these hosts vary significantly in regards to their lifestyles and growing methods, it is assumed that they share the aims of teaching and learning practical farming skills and of being a part of the organic agriculture movement. The organization expanded to fifty countries

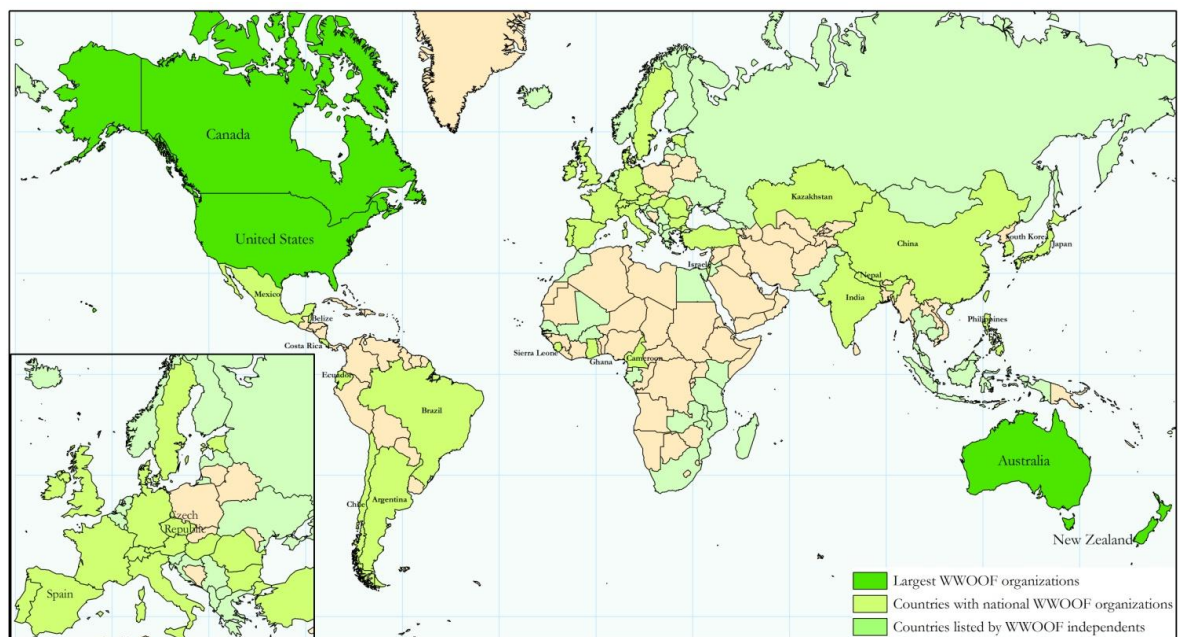


Figure 2. The organization is distributed world-wide, with varying degrees of involvement and number of hosts in each country. The light orange indicates no formal WWOOF organization.

worldwide in the 1990s and today it contains over 6,000 hosts in 100 countries (Ord 2010). New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and Canada are considered the largest and most versatile WWOOF organizations with over 900 hosts in each county (Figure 2).

Generally, the main tenets of the WWOOF organization are to enable people to get firsthand experience of organic growing techniques; to have an enriching experience living on a farm; to help make organic production a viable alternative; and to improve communications within the organic movement (WWOOF Independents 2011). The WWOOF organization aims to connect visitors interested in gaining hands-on experience in sustainable living to organic farms, communities and garden projects. Unlike many commercial tourist farms, the aim of WWOOF is to promote sustainability and rural culture, arguably a form of community economies, through volunteer traveling. Depending on the county, some branches have more of an emphasis on the rural living and cultural exchange, while others highlight the education of the organic methods.

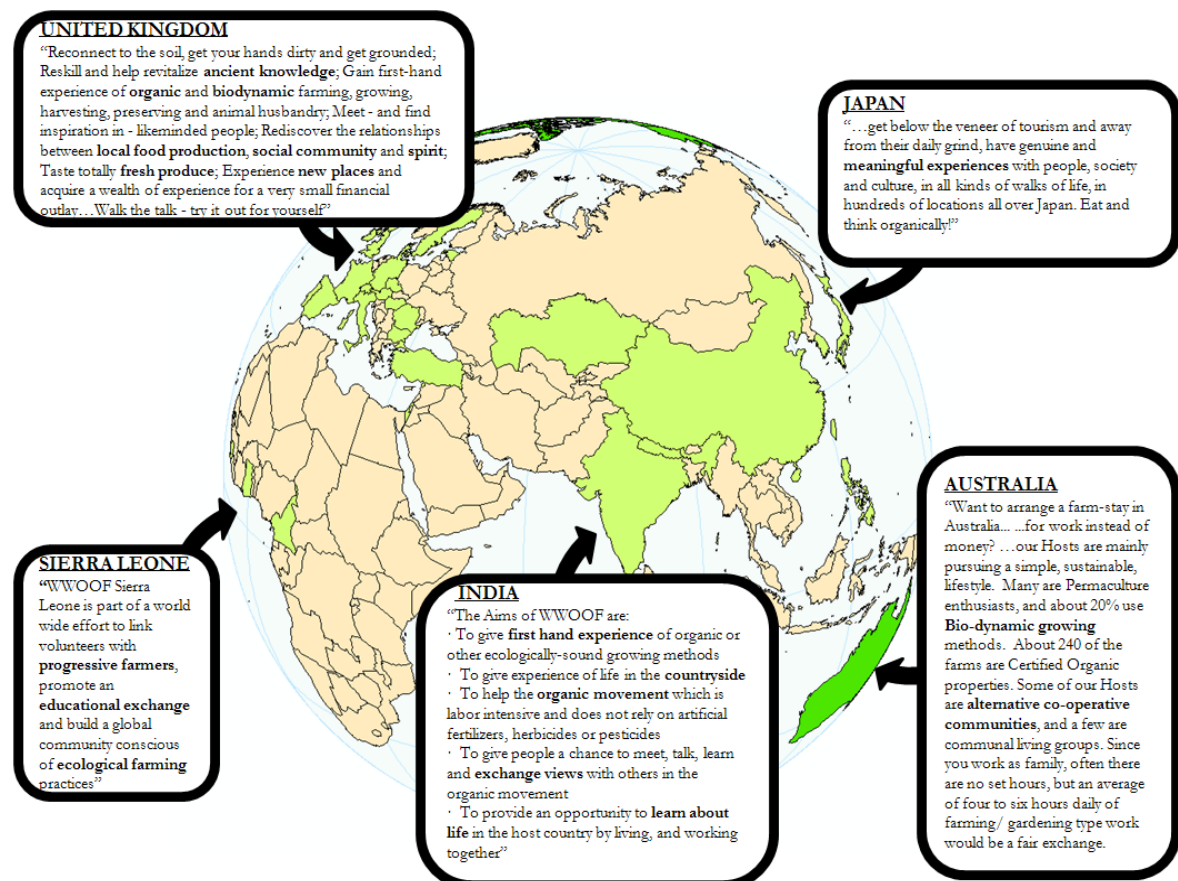


Figure 3. The missions of the WWOOF organization vary across the world. While some organizations emphasize the cultural exchange and traveling aspects, others advocate organic practices and learning farming methods.

For example, Australia specifically mentions that you can learn about Australia through the WWOOF cultural exchange: “leave the tourist trail and see the real Australia” (WWOOF Australia, 2011). In this sense, WWOOF caters towards tourists. Yet, some organizations are trying to separate from WWOOF as merely being a farms stay. The organization emphasizes a ‘bottom up’ approach to spread the organic movement and rural community development (Figure 3).

1.2.1. How it Works

The organization in each country provides a “Host Farm Directory” for a small fee, usually \$20 to \$30. Once participants have received the list, either by snail mail, e-mail, or through an online directory, they have access to contact information of hosts and can independently contact the host of their choice. WWOOF does not screen every WWOOFer or host farm and therefore they recommend clear and open conversations about expectations between both the hosts and volunteers. Hosts have the ability to screen WWOOFers and decline requests. Once an agreement is arranged between the WWOOF host and WWOOFer, the participant is responsible for finding a way to get to the host location. Sometimes, hosts will pick them up from train or bus stations.

Once at the host site, which can range from being a United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic farm to a family homestead, WWOOF has fairly strict guidelines that require the participant to work around four to six hours a day in exchange for food and board. The duration and intensity of work hours are determined by the host and the host also decides whether or not he or she would like to work with side-by-side with the WWOOFer. There is no requirement for working alongside WWOOFers, but some hosts and participants argue that in order to teach the organic farming skills and techniques that the organization emphasizes it is necessary for the host to work with volunteers for some hours. Since hosts can be non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational centers, intentional or eco-communities, small holdings, county estates, hostels, Buddhist meditation centers, B & Bs, commercial farms and orchards, etc, the type of ‘work’ or activities that WWOOFers are involved in vary from weeding³ to working at farmer’s markets to cleaning hostel rooms (Greenman 2009). The organization is merely a network and does not inspect hosts, and so the living arrangements and food quantity and quality can range significantly.

³ Some hosts and volunteers jokingly argue that the organization should be changed to “Willing Weeder on Organic Farms” due to the abundance of weeding in which WWOOFers tend to get assigned. Hosts view weeding as a low-risk, fairly easy task that does not cause too much damage if done poorly (Farmer 3).

Coppard (2011), the founder of WWOOF, believes that the organic movement should be open to all and so “there is no qualifying criteria for hosts other than being organic and even that is a matter of interpretation, as a host with an organic veggie garden would qualify as being able to provide education in organic growing techniques” (Mosedale 2010). Similarly, USA WWOOF does not limit hosts. The founder of the organization states that:

Our organic criteria are that a host is not using synthetic or chemical inputs. This seems adequate for us, and specific enough. We do not require USDA certification because, as a former certified organic farmer, I know how invasive, expensive, and inadequate it can be. We are very satisfied with our program and we all appreciate how low-key and self-regulating it is. We rely on member feedback and comments on host profiles to know where inappropriate farms are on our site. We certainly do highlight the cultural as well as educational exchange throughout our organization (R. L. Goldsmith, personal communication, 18 April 2011)

Part of the attraction of WWOOF is that it is simple and unbureaucratic. It is inclusive to all who desire to spread the organic movement. The diversity of WWOOF hosts and the inclusivity of the organization are attractive features of WWOOF.

On the other hand, several common problems have been identified. First, some volunteers may simply take advantage of the free food and lodging, and use the program as a way to see the county, live cheaply, or vacation. The volunteers often stay for short durations, even though training may take a few days. The constant turn-over can be draining to hosts, who often, especially in the USA, become inclined to housing longer-term workers and interns (Figure 4). The resources, time and energy that go into hosting a WWOOF can be astronomical, especially if they are very needy (e.g., requesting a ride to different places, and particular kinds of meals). In turn, some hosts exploit the free labor through assigning tedious tasks or longer-than-expected hours. Both hosts and volunteers can be exploited in this atypical exchange.

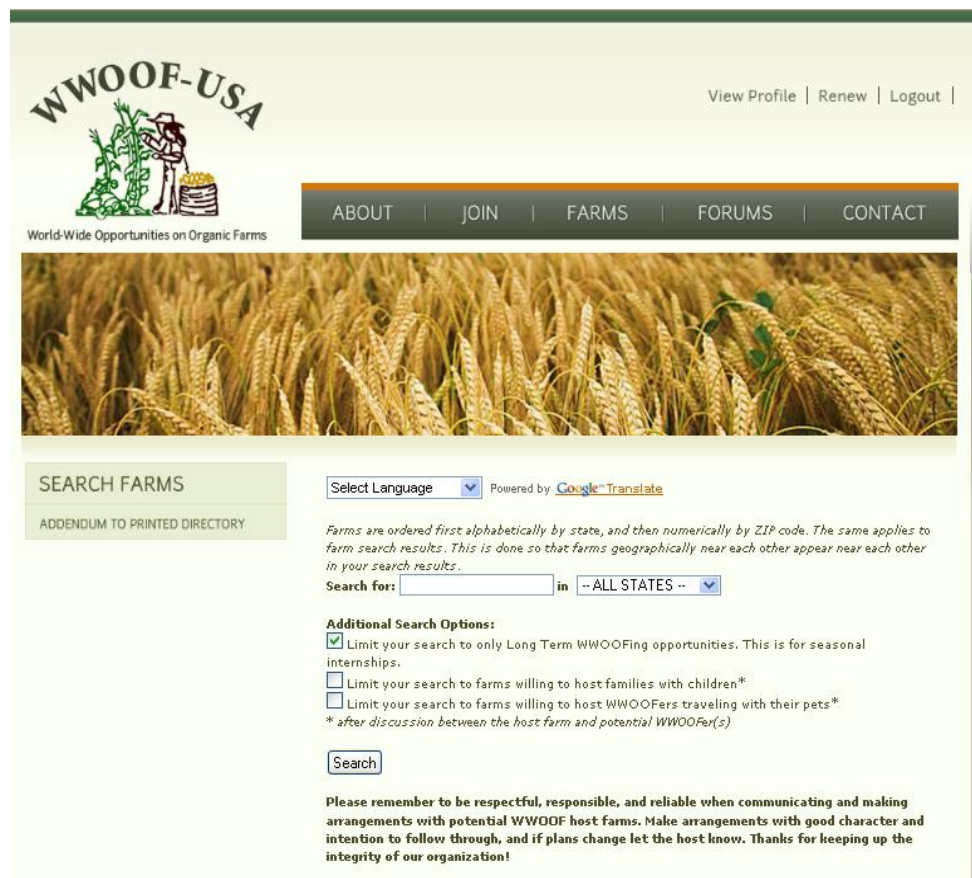


Figure 4. USA WWOOF offers more opportunities for longer term work and internships in comparison to other national WWOOF organizations.

1.3. Background of Study

1.3.1 Industrial agriculture and contemporary capitalism

The current agricultural system, also called “conventional farming,” “modern agriculture”, or “industrial farming,” has provided tremendous gains in productivity and efficiency. Though conventional farming systems vary across nations and farms, industrial agriculture often involves rapid technology innovation (machinery, etc), large capital investments, large-scale farms, monoculture, uniform high-yielding hybrid crops, extensive use of pesticides, fertilizers, and external energy outputs, high labor efficiency, and dependency on agribusiness (Gold 1999). Many believe that these characteristics of farming have permitted a rise in modern economic development by freeing up agricultural labor to engage with other productive activities, as well as by creating an abundant and inexpensive supply of food.

Nevertheless, environmental and health-related problems associated with this current industrial agricultural system are well documented (Bell 2004; Cook & Crane 1996/1999;

DuPuis 2006; Evans et al 2002; Goodman & DuPuis 2002; Guthman 2004; Holmgren 2002; Hines 2000; Kovel 2007; Maxey 2006; Schloegel 2007). The use of chemicals, monocropping techniques and genetically modified seeds, among other conventional farming methods, deplete soil and water resources, pollute groundwater, reduce genetic diversity, put stress on pollinators and other beneficial species, and alter landscapes (i.e. eutrophication, desertification, loss of wetlands and wildlife habitats, climate change, etc.) (Gold 1999). The high-input agriculture often leads to salination, which diminishes soil life and structure, as well as its range of minerals and trace elements, resulting in soil erosion, less robust animals and crops, and eventually decreasing harvests (Coppard 2010). The use of pesticides and nitrogen fertilizers, as well as antibiotics in animal production, contaminates the water and food that we consume.

While these ecological and human health- related problems are undoubtedly important, some believe that they are problems of, and therefore can be eliminated by the enhancement of, technology. However, others argue that the problems of industrial agriculture are arguably deeper and more systemic. These challenges are rooted in the historical geography of global capitalism (Harvey 2000). In this historical process, agriculture becomes another arena in which maximizing profitability through commodity production is the chief driving force (just as “organic” farming is also increasingly subsumed under the capitalist logic). Kovel (2007) views industrial agriculture as a system based on domination and therefore the disintegration of the planetary ecosystem. Generally, the assumptions on which industrial agriculture rests upon includes: (i) nature is something to overcome and dominate (ii) development requires a continuation of larger farms, and eventually a depopulation of rural communities (iii) progress can be measured by increased material consumption (iv) that efficiency is measured by profit and (v) science is the best way to measure natural forces and produce social good (Gold 1999).

As a consequence, consumerism and materialism promote livelihoods that view rural areas and farming as a realm that has been left behind, physically and culturally. For the average American, agriculture is something that she or he does not encounter in daily activities (Bell 2004). Increasingly, the use of farms as spaces of agritourism promote an idea that agriculture is a space one can enter, or escape, when one wants to leave the chaotic city. Critiques of industrial agriculture, and the values it instills, agree that it exploits the Earth’s precious resources and that the continuation of these current activities will destroy humanity.

1.3.2. Social transformation and the role of utopia⁴

In the intellectual discourse where market-oriented capitalism is advocated as “the only way,” Harvey (2000) argues that liberals are failing to promote an alternative social order based on equality and justice. For this reason, authors such as Kovel (2007) advocate for creating a new society based on “ecocentric production” or “ecosocialist” ideals:

‘ecosocialism’ refers to a society that is recognizably socialist, in that the producers have been reunited with the means of production in a robust efflorescence of democracy; and also recognizably ecological, in that the ‘limits to growth’ are finally respected, and nature is recognized as having intrinsic value, and thereby allowed to resume its inherently formative path (Kovel 2007:8).

Kovel’s call for a complete restructuring of economic system, rejecting the current global capitalism, may be seen as a utopian thinking. Indeed, the idea of sustainability, or preserving resources for future generations while accommodating the basic needs of present inhabitants, is a deeply utopian concept (Baeten 2002; Blomley 2007). Utopian thinking is often regarded with a great deal of suspicion these days (for example, communism as a failed utopian project), but some authors argue that that optimistic visions of hope are precisely what mobilizes resources for social transformation (Harvey 2000, Wright 2006). The challenge lies, according to Harvey (2000), in the negotiation between idealized, utopian visions (which are often static and exclusionary of both spatial and temporal elements), and the spatiality and temporality of existing places.

Wright (2006; 2010) approaches this problem by arguing that alternatives to capitalism are credible and can exist within the framework of our institutions. Wright declares that alternatives are not given and must be imagined and constructed, especially since neoliberal hegemony has destroyed the imagination of the movement. It is important to “envision real utopias rather than fantasies because of the attempt to formulate workable designs for viable institutions” (Wright 2010). Wright’s devotion to “the Real Utopia Project,” which is a project designed to rid the tension between dreams and practice, places his work as an example of an existing alternatives.

⁴ *Utopia*: a vision of hope, “social dreaming,” “exploring the possibilities of a future which could afford as creative and fulfilling a life as possible” (Turner 1972:1)

The *Real Utopias Project* is an attempt at countering this cynicism by sustaining and deepening serious discussion of radical alternatives to existing institutions. The objective is to focus on specific proposals for the fundamental redesign of basic social institutions rather than on either general, abstract formulations of grand designs, or on small reforms of existing practices. This is a tricky kind of discussion to pursue rigorously. It is much easier to talk about concrete ways of tinkering with existing arrangements than it is to formulate plausible radical reconstructions (Wright 2010).

Though there are significant challenges in creating radical alternatives to the existing world system, Wright believes that transformations of social institutions of the current system is within the grasp of human beings, and that utopian thinking plays an important role in collectively and effectively fostering change and creating alternatives.

1.2.3. Alternative economies and ‘Actually Existing Sustainability’

In a similar vein to Harvey and Wright, but focusing more strongly on existing practices, Gibson-Graham (2006) and Krueger and Agyeman (2005) argue that elements of alternative society are present here and now. For them, sustainability, or alternatives to the current capitalist system, does not necessarily involve a paradigm shift, but rather a continuation and extension of existing policies and institutions. Gibson-Graham (2006), for example, points to the growing number of community-scale projects as evidence of alternative economies within the larger structure of capitalism (Blomley 2007; Hines 2000; Jessop 2002; Leyshon et al 2003; Mosedale 2006; Paasi 2005; Pinder 2002; Samer 2006; Sayer & Walker 1992 Watts 2001). They caution us that the economy is not simply an abstract notion, but rather as something that people live out in their everyday life, and that “capitalnormativity” blinds us from seeing the multiplicity of economic relationships that are present around us (Gibson-Graham 1996).

Similarly, Krueger and Agyeman (2005) call for a greater focus on “actual practices rather than broad initiatives or agendas, or even guiding principles,” which were about sustainable development (411). Following Altavater’s (1993) “actually existing socialism,” the societies of East European socialism during the Cold War, they adopt the term “actually existing sustainability” which is “a social process with the resultant tensions emerging from enormous differences in social, institutional, and discursive practices that often seem irrational at best and schizophrenic at worst” (416), and try to “conceptualize sustainability from the

ground up, as it actually exists in local places, as a set of evolving practices” (416). In examining a set of practices, rather than the ideological struggle between capitalism and sustainability, people can be held more accountable to their actions. Accordingly, rather than examining sustainability discourse and practice at the national or international scale, they believe that the city-region is the appropriate scale for the exploration of political engagement with sustainability.

1.3.4. Rural Areas as Potential Sites of Sustainability Initiatives

A large number of studies on utopian possibilities and alternative economies have typically focused on the urban settings (Friedmann 2002; Gunder & Hillier 2007; Harvey 2002; Krueger & Agyeman 2005; MacLeod 2002; Pinder 2002). Given that the majority of the world population lives in urban settings today, the argument that “we must make urban areas sustainable” is quite persuasive. Indeed, cities have been the main arena of environmental policies and politics, socio-spatial justice, urban regeneration and alternative life style movements (Blomley 2007; Krueger and Agyeman 2005; Pinder 2002; Webster 2001), even though cities continue to be patchwork-quilts of utopia and dystopia (MacLeod 2002).

In this intellectual climate, rural areas are often excluded from the contemporary utopian discourse. Rural areas, at least in the United States, are often portrayed and approached as places of despair, distress, population loss, environmental degradation and competitive disadvantage (Isserman 2009). In this rural discourse, the focus turns to alternative economies and small-scale approaches to sustainability, as manifested in agro-food networks, localism and environmental conservation (Allen *et al* 2003; Belasco 1993; Bell & Valentine 1997; DuPuis 2006). Although various initiatives for community development and environmental sustainability are recorded (e.g., Weber (2003) on grassroots ecosystem management (GREM) projects)⁵, relatively few scholars approach rural areas as sites of innovative sustainability practices. Yet, rural areas may be more appropriate sites for alternatives to capitalism as evident by the Back-to-the-Land movement and diverse array of communitarian and utopian experiments:

⁵ He describes rural communities in the western United States, such as Willapa Bay, Washington; Henry’s Fork watershed, Idaho; Applegate Valley, Oregon, that have integrated environmental sustainability while also building institutional capacity to ensure a future desired by local residents.

Many of the characteristics often cited as making economies and commodities ‘alternative’ overlap with those frequently cited as defining ‘rural’ places and products; more face-to-face interactions, less physical and social distance between production and consumption, a thorough embedding of the economic in a social context and more (McCarthy 2006: 804).

Rural settings house many communities that emphasize self-sufficiency, cooperation, community participation and mutual dependence. McCarthy (2006) notes that rural spaces, products and identities, which are all heavily associated with the local, coincide with the imagination and creation of alternative economies. These alternative economies support Gibson-Graham’s call to recognize and enact alternatives to the dominant capitalist formations.

1.3.5. Existing studies on WWOOF

To date, virtually no studies have examined WWOOF within the framework of alternative economies and actually existing sustainabilities. The WWOOF organization and ideas have been covered in blogs, magazines, and newspapers amply, but there has been surprisingly minimal academic, or peer reviewed, investigation.



Figure 5. Japan WWOOF emphasizes cultural exchange and touristic pursuits, as well as organic farming and living.

WWOOF is often used as a model organization for sustainable traveling and tourism organizations. Schloegel (2007) highlights WWOOF in Panama as a “well-established international volunteer program” with the “potential for volunteers to share new ideas with local farmers, and vice versa” (247). In Japan and South Korea, WWOOF is increasingly

viewed as a form of tourism that can contribute to local development, well-being and learning, as well as socio-cultural environmental conversation (Choo and Jamal, 2008) (Figure 5). The organization can be characterized as “a potentially new form of ecotourism (eco-organic farm tourism)” (Choo and Jamal, 2008:431). Similarly, Moscardo (2008) views tourists, such as WWOOFers, as contributors to regional development through their low-cost labor. Access to human resources and low cost labor is an important tool for agriculturally dominated regions. Ooi and Laing (2010) cite WWOOF as a form of volunteer tourism that can benefit backpacker tourism. They describe WWOOF as a low-cost network that has the potential to assist local farmers and communities around the world through the dedication, promotion, and sharing of sustainable living. Many authors focus on the volunteer nature of WWOOF to provide a value-added activity for international backpackers, or those who seek new, exciting and different adventures.

More specifically, information available on the USA WWOOF organization is mainly through blogs, radio clips, and newspaper and magazine articles. Many environmental magazines, such as *E-The Environmental* or *Mother Earth News*, focus on the organic educational and traveling opportunities that WWOOF USA provides. In these and other publications, WWOOF is illustrated as a ‘no pay’ working holiday adventure. Loftus (2011) describes the steady increase in the number of WWOOF participants and hosts in the USA: “Lodging can be basic and the work mundane, but for many—membership in the U.S. chapter doubled in the last year—the opportunity to travel and learn about organic farming is worth the elbow grease” (26). The rapid growth in the number of WWOOF participants stems from an increased interest in local, cheap vacation options that include good-feeling work outdoors.

On the other hand, Ryan Leo Goldsmith, the WWOOF USA administrator and founding board member, claims that some people are WWOOFing because they are serious about farming, but a majority of members simply want to “get more involved with the movement toward local and sustainable agriculture” (Chin 2008). The WWOOF experience provides opportunities for self-learning. WWOOF is depicted as a program for those who are interested in farming, but who have no farm experience or who want to experience something less formal than an internship (English 2007).

Academic research on the WWOOF organization in the USA, and internationally, is quite limited, especially from a geographic perspective. Only four peer-reviewed papers focus specifically on WWOOF. New Zealand is known for its size and well-established reputation as a WWOOF destination and its organization has been explored the most. McIntosh and

Campbell (2001) investigated New Zealand host farms, the motivations and ecological values of the hosts and how they fit in to farm tourism. These hosts were more “environmentally minded, possessed environmentally-based values, displayed environmental concern and reported following sound environmental practices” (111). WWOOF hosts provided visitors with greater self-development, care and concern about the natural environment, and support for the organic movement. McIntosh and Bonnemann (2006) conducted a complimentary study that explored the volunteer perspective of WWOOF in New Zealand. On a personal level, volunteers seek authentic experiences, express an interest in travel, and a desire for personal growth. Interpersonally, WWOOFers show a desire to help, to interact with locals and cultures, and to meet new people. Ord (2010) analyzed Canadian WWOOF data in hopes of identifying where WWOOF fits in the conversations on tourism. She argues that “tourism, organic farming, and environmental sustainability can all be linked through organizations such as WWOOF that facilitate market synergies and symbiotic relationships” (Ord 2010, 19). Thus, WWOOF has chiefly been studied from a tourism lens and in how it can contribute to rural development and tourism.

Most recently, Mosedale (2010) explored the alternative economies of the WWOOF New Zealand organization. He argues that there is a gap in literature regarding community and alternative economic development as it relates to labor mobility. Since people are becoming increasingly mobile and globally connected it is important to study how mobile individuals interact with multiple economies and experiences.

The aim [of studying WWOOF] is to move forward in our understanding of the cultural and socio-economic construction of alternative economic practices focusing primarily on the determination of value of the exchange relationship. It is important to emphasize that much of the attraction and popularity of WWOOFing lies in the complex interplay of unpredictability, alternative experiences, embeddedness in local culture, cheapness and the flexible and transient nature of the alternative system (Mosedale 2011)

While Mosedale understands that there are other factors that contribute to the popularity of WWOOF, namely the adventure and flexibility, he views WWOOF as a useful organization to study labor mobility in alternative economies. WWOOF is a beneficial way to increasing awareness of alternative solutions to industrial agriculture, as well as transfer knowledge within

and outside the organic movement. The organization provides a network of multifaceted, flexible and open-ended economic practices that can be transferred through the traveling participants.

1.4. Objectives of the study

WWOOF is recognized as a growing organization that celebrates sustainability, or hope for the future, on the grass-roots level. The purpose of this thesis is to explore geographical patterns of WWOOF USA from a supplier (host) perspective. This will be done through a county-level analysis of hosts in the continental USA and with a particular focus on the WWOOF farms in the Upstate New York region. By combining quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, I wish to provide much needed empirical evidence to support the emerging literature of actually existing sustainabilities and alternative economies. The central research question is: what do the locations of WWOOF hosts reveal about the cultural and structural settings of alternative economies, which give emphasize on other forms of capital beside economic ones?

Based on the central research question, two key questions are addressed:

Where are WWOOF hosts located? What does this reveal about alternative economies?

Spatially uneven development is a hallmark of capitalism (Harvey 2000), and has been subject to numerous studies in geography, economics, and other social science fields. If WWOOF can be seen as a radical challenge to the capitalist mode of production and its associated problems (e.g., wage labor, industrial agriculture, and uneven growth), are WWOOF farms located in places where such problems are felt particularly acutely? Or, alternatively, do WWOOF hosts tend to choose locations that do not mitigate, or even reinforce, uneven development? What are the actual rationales behind the WWOOF hosts' locational decision making?

How do they represent alternative economies? What do hosts in New York value?

WWOOF hosts participate in a diverse array of activities which classify as alternative economies. In fact, the nature of this organization and hosts are based upon exchange relationships and alternative lifestyles. Although WWOOF is generally conceived as a form of

alternative economies, it is not necessarily obvious what is ‘alternative’ and how much these alternative communities impact their surrounding environments. Recent regional development and tourism literature suggest a critical importance of different forms of “capital,” as opposed to narrow economic capital based on monetary profits, for sustainable development. How are different forms of capital (social, intellectual, natural) “accumulated” by WWOOF farms? What can this reveal about uneven “economic-capital” development?

In examining the spatial patterns of WWOOF individuals, couples, families and communities, insight can be provided into the geography of organically-minded farmers, gardeners and educators. Locations of WWOOF hosts are chosen not on their basis of access to markets, or relative locations, but rather, I hypothesize, because of the differences in local conditions—in this case, land costs, taxes, organic market, organic networks. These choices are increasingly dependent on the dynamics of social collective, or organic and more open communities. I argue that WWOOF hosts arrange themselves in specific patterns of living due to the natural, economic, and social conditions in those areas. This thesis explores if WWOOF hosts attempt to balance out uneven geographical fixes, which are products of imbalances formed between social needs, economic imperatives and environmental concerns (Whitehead 2010). WWOOF hosts tend to be arranged in areas that exhibit cultural and structural characteristics of “alternative” economies, which emphasize non-monetary capital and exchanges.

1.5. Outline of Thesis

In the following chapter, the quantitative (GIS) and qualitative methods (interviews) are explained in greater detail. Through GIS analysis and interviews, the location and aspirations of hosts are more clearly fit into alternative economy conversations. Chapter 3 discusses the geography of WWOOF USA hosts and the statistical relationship between 35 variables tested at the county level. This investigation gives clarity into where hosts are located and what type of counties they live in. Chapter 4 is devoted to the values and belief systems that WWOOF hosts share as evident by the twelve interviews and six completed questionnaires conducted in upstate New York. As a method of ground-truthing, these interviews acted as a supplement to GIS analysis and provided insight into what truly motivates WWOOF host locations and lifestyles. Chapter 5 sums up the study and highlights

ways in which WWOOF hosts represent alternative economies. Lastly, Chapter 6 suggests possibilities for future research on this organization and its organic movement.

Methods and Data

This study is conducted on two levels, a mixed methodology of quantitative and qualitative research. The two components are: (1) geographic analysis of WWOOF hosts in the continental USA and (2) interviews with New York state farmers.

2.1. Locations and distributions of WWOOF hosts

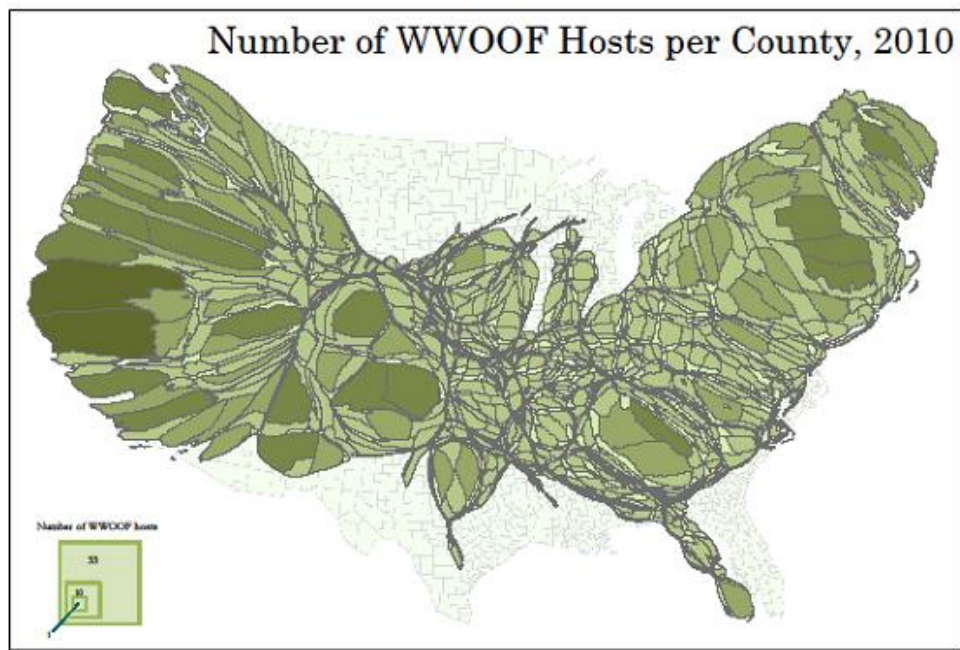
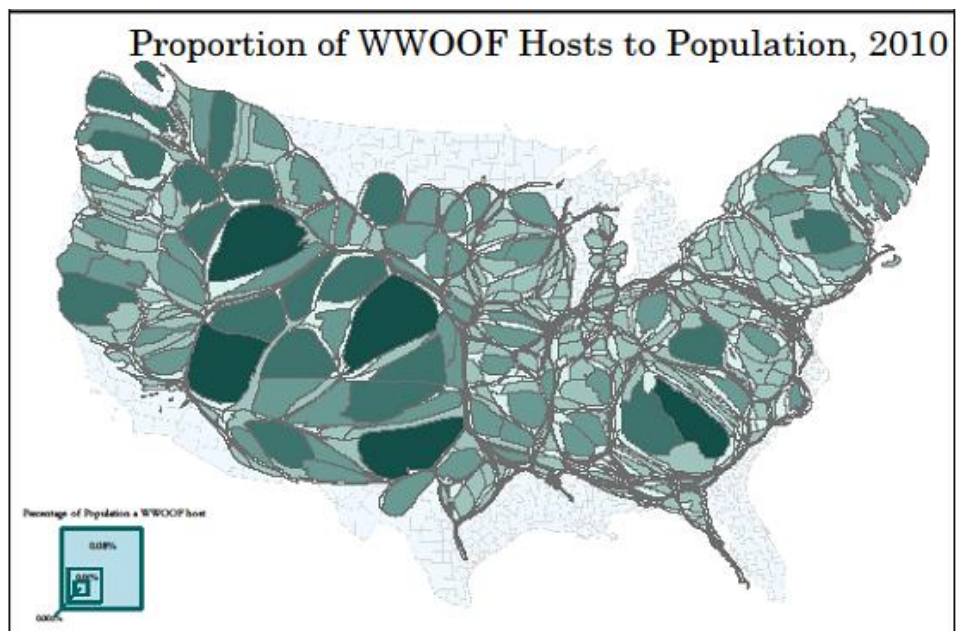
In 2001, WWOOF USA was founded in Santa Cruz, CA by Ryan “Leo” Goldsmith and friends. Initially, the organization provided a host list for only California, but it quickly expanded “to accommodate the need of a cohesive nationwide WWOOF-USA” (Goldsmith 2011). Currently, the organization has hosts in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is listed as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that is “part of a world-wide effort to link volunteers with organic farmers in order to promote an educational exchange and to build a global community conscious of ecologically sustainable farming practices” (Goldsmith 2011). As of March 2011, the WWOOF USA directory lists about 1,650 hosts and about 11,200 active one-year memberships. Unfortunately, the USA organization does not collect demographic data from participants, but studies and data available from Canada and New Zealand indicate that the average participant is typically a single, young (18-24 years old) student coming from the United States, Canada, or Europe (McIntosh 2006; Ord 2010). Anecdotal evidence indicates that U.S. hosts receive a large number of domestic WWOOFers.

The continental USA contains 3,108 counties, including Virginia’s independent cities, and 2,532 of these counties do not have any WWOOF hosts (Appendix A). 304 counties have one WWOOF host, 105 have two hosts, 54 have three hosts, 20 counties have four hosts, 18 counties have five hosts, ten counties have six hosts, and six counties have seven hosts. Jackson and Lane (Oregon) house 26 and 16 hosts, while Sonoma and Mendocino (California) contain 26 and 33 hosts, respectively.

A map of WWOOF host locations ($n=1,232$) by county shows two obvious concentrations of hosts along the West coast and Appalachia (Map 1), but a closer look at the map indicates other clusters of hosts around specific cities, such as Austin, Texas; Santa Fe and Albuquerque, Ashville, and Tuscan.⁶

The locations of WWOOF hosts are further tested in Local Moran's I to determine which counties have similar concentrations of WWOOF hosts (Map 2). The index values measure the strength of the spatial correlation, while the Z scores reveal the statistical significance of the test (Map 3). Since this test creates scores based on areas of similar values, two types of clusters materialize. Areas, such as the West coast, the four corner States, Western Tennessee, New York, New England, as well as the city areas of Austin, TX; Madison, MN; Washington D.C., have high index and Z scores, which indicate that they have statistically significant WWOOF host clusters. The counties in the central USA also have high scores because they are clusters of areas that do not have any WWOOF hosts. The negative Z scores show counties with dissimilar numbers of WWOOF hosts. For example, southern counties in Colorado have a negative value, even though they have WWOOF hosts, because they do not have similar numbers of WWOOF hosts with their neighboring counties. The 'pioneer' hosts can be seen clearly in the central of the country as black or purple counties surrounded by green. These counties have hosts while the surrounding areas do not.

⁶ To create this map and analyze statistical patterns, I needed to create a database. To do so, I extracted the WWOOF hosts' addresses from the USA WWOOF list online (<http://www.woofusa.org/>) and then created a database of the 1,232 hosts whose zip codes were available out of 1,650 total hosts. After the data were reviewed and corrected, the addresses and zip codes were 'Geocoded' as coordinates on Arc Map. Due to the lack of clarity of the specific addresses of many hosts, the zip code locations are considered the most appropriate representations of the host locations. Though this means that many locations were generalized and randomly assorted in each zip code, it enables an understanding of the general spatial trends. This means that dots, showing the locations of WWOOF hosts, are randomly scattered in a county in which hosts are located (i.e., not actual point locations). All of the continental U.S. maps are all projected in USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic with GCS North American 1983 datum.



Map 3. A cartogram of the distribution of WWOOF hosts by absolute number of hosts per county as well as the ratio of hosts to population in county.

The cartograms interestingly illustrate where hosts are densely populated by the absolute number of hosts and the proportion of hosts to population (Map 4).

To further identify the degree of a given county’s “specialization” in WWOOF, location quotients are applied. The location quotient (LQ) is a common technique in economic base analysis, and measures the relative significance of a focal industry (or any

activity) in a given region relative to the national average. Here the number of WWOOF hosts per the number of (a) organic farms or (b) conventional farms in a given agricultural district is compared with the respective national averages. Unlike the other maps and analysis, the location quotients are analyzed in an agricultural district, rather than county, scale.⁷ The two location quotients are calculated as follows:

$$LQ_{\text{WWOOF (organic)}} = \frac{(\text{Number of WWOOF hosts in district}) / (\text{Number of organic farms in district})}{(\text{Total WWOOF hosts in USA}) / (\text{Total organic farms in USA})}$$

$$LQ_{\text{WWOOF (farms)}} = \frac{(\text{Number of WWOOF hosts in district}) / (\text{Number of farms in district})}{(\text{Total WWOOF hosts in USA}) / (\text{Total farms in USA})}$$

A LQ larger than 1 indicates that WWOOF hosts are over represented (specialization in WWOOF), and LQ smaller than 1 indicates that they are underrepresented, in comparison to the national average. The West coast, Four Corner states, and Northeast have greater quantities of hosts than the national average and, as Local Moran indicates, tend to cluster (Map 3). Areas such as Florida, Wisconsin, and the southern Appalachia states are “mildly strong WWOOF regions,” meaning that these regions are slightly more “specialized” in WWOOF than the nation as a whole.⁸ Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Northern California, Southern Appalachia, Austin (TX), Missouri, Tennessee, southern New York, among a few others have more WWOOF influence in correspondence all reveal stronger concentrations of WWOOF in relation to organic farm production in comparison to the national average.

2.2. Regression Analysis

The goal of this analysis is to explore the relationship between the number of WWOOF hosts per county with various county-level variables. Typically, the Poisson regression model is used for count data. However, the inspection of the dependent variable

⁷ The district scale in these maps is used instead of the counties because at the county level there was not enough variation due to the low number of hosts.

⁸ To clarify, counties that have the same number of WWOOFs hosts have different values of location quotients due to the strength of the denominator, or number of farms, in portion to the rest of the country. For example, northern Texas has counties with a couple of hosts just like Southern Utah; however, southern Utah has a stronger location quotient because there are fewer farms in those counties. Therefore, those counties have a greater ‘specialization’ of WWOOF.

(count of WWOOF hosts) indicates that the data do not have a Poisson distribution. The count of WWOOF hosts by county ($n=3109$) has a mean of 0.413 and variance of 2.177, about five times larger than the mean. This is a sign that the distribution is over dispersed and we cannot assume a Poisson distribution (Figure 6). In this case, it is more appropriate to assume that the WWOOF variable has a negative binomial distribution, and conduct the negative binomial regression.

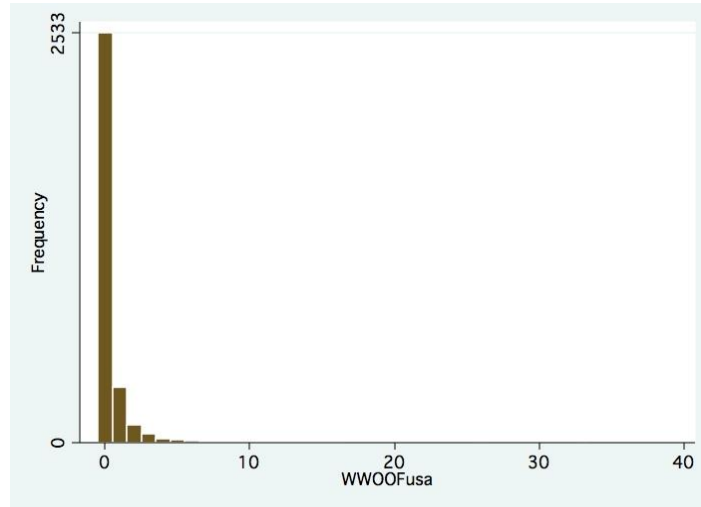


Figure 6. The number of counties with no WWOOF hosts is considerable high and therefore it is useful to use negative binomial distributions to conduct statistical analysis on this heavily skewed data distribution.

Furthermore, the histogram of the frequency of the WWOOF host variable shows that there is an extremely large number of counties with no WWOOF host at all ($n=2,533$; 81% of all counties). Under this circumstance, we can think of two distinct reasons that could lead to the WWOOF host value of zero. First, a county simply may be unsuitable for agriculture for physical environmental reasons (e.g., too urban, too mountainous, too dry, etc.). Second, a county may not have a WWOOF host even if it has a suitable physical condition due to other, perhaps socio-economic or cultural reasons (this is considered a “certain zero”). In this case, the number of zeros may be considered “inflated.” This also means that we need to account for two separate processes for the zero values for the dependent variable, but not for the non-zero values. For this reason, zero-inflated negative binomial regression is adopted in this analysis, and its results are compared with those from the (conventional) negative binomial regression.

In essence, the zero-inflated negative binomial regression is a combination of two models: a logit model predicting whether a county is the “certain zero” group and a negative binomial model predicting the counts of WWOOF hosts for counties outside the “certain zero” group. In this analysis, we predict the “certain zeros” with the number of farms because the presence of (any) farms indicate that the county is suitable for at least some farm operations. In the negative binomial model component, we use the following thirty variables (Table 6).

2.2.4.1. Dependent Variable

After much deliberation, the number of WWOOF hosts per county was deemed the best representative of the independent variable for WWOOF influence in USA. There was some discussion on using location quotients of either population, number of farms, etc, but in the end it seemed that the absolute number of WWOOF hosts would suffice.

Originally, I had intended to use a standardized number of WWOOF hosts over organic farms, but after a few interviews it became apparent that many hosts do not define themselves as solely, full-time organic farmers. While some hosts do devote their livelihoods to organic farming, many other hosts consider farming or gardening as merely one aspect of their lives.

2.1.4.2. Independent Variables

Thirty one social, agricultural and economic variables were tested to determine their relationships with county location of WWOOF hosts (Appendix B). The Pearson correlation test is used to examine multi-collinearity.

Basic Characteristics

The basic characteristic variables were chosen to provide a sense of the county. Natural amenity and prosperity give general feel for the physical and social amenities of the county, while population density addresses the urban- rural classification.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics for basic characteristics of counties in the continental USA.

Variable	Units	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Std Dev
WWOOF Hosts	Hosts per county	0	33	0.41	0	1.48
Natural Amenity	1-7 score (based on topography, sunlight, temperature, humidity; 7 is the “best” amenity)	0	7	3.49	3	1.04
Topography	1-21 ranking (1=flat, 21=open high mountains)	0	21	8.88	5	6.59
Prosperity Score, 2007	1-4 score (based on poverty, unemployment, school drop-out, housing ownership; 4 is the highest prosperity)	0	4	2.53	3	1.24
Population Density, 2009	People per square mile	0.07	71,505.39	262.15	45.08	1,771.56

Natural Amenity (McGranahan 2004) and Topography (USDA 2004)

Recent studies on regional development indicate natural amenity as an important attraction of people and jobs (Vias, 1999; McGranahan 2004, 2010). Such a factor may be also associated with the locations of WWOOF hosts because both hosts and volunteers (quasi-tourists) may prefer areas with high amenities. The natural amenity index, developed by McGranahan (2004), ranks U.S. counties that are endowed with natural amenity, such as temperate climate, ponds and lakes, and hills and mountains. This composite index combines six variables: average January temperature, January days of sun, temperate summer, low July humidity, percent of county that is surface water, and topological variation—which ranged from flat (1) to mountainous (21) (USDA 2004). Using this index, McGranahan (2004) shows that natural amenity is highly associated with a county’s change in population and employment over the last 25 years.

While examining the map of hosts there seems to be a correlation with topography. Many of the hosts follow the Appalachian mountain range and are dispersed throughout the Rockies, Coastal Range, and Sierra Nevadas. The land surface topography codes range from 1 to 21. They are divided into five categories: Plains (1-4), Tablelands (5-8), Plains with Hills or Mountains (9-12), Open Hills and Mountains (13-17) and Hills and Mountains (18-21).

Prosperity Score (Isserman 2009)

Isserman (2009) has recently explored the where and why of “prosperous” rural counties in the United States. Refusing to define rural “prosperity” with only income-related variables, his prosperity index instead is a composite of poverty rates, unemployment rates, high school dropout rates and housing conditions. My intuition is that WWOOF hosts may prefer to operate in “prosperous” areas, which may not be necessarily high-income regions, because the nature of WWOOF-style exchange (free labor and meal/board) is thought to imply a preference for high quality of life without necessarily having a strong monetary focus.

Population Density (USDA 2009)

Population density of a county (people per square miles) is used as a simple measurement of rurality, although there are other, somewhat more complex, indices such as the urban influence index (USDA 2004) and the urban-rural continuum index (USDA 2004) (See Appendix D for more information). Since the WWOOF organization emphasizes ‘organicness’ and not merely organic farming, population density is useful to decipher how remote versus accessible these hosts are⁹. On one hand, agriculture by definition requires sizable areas of land. On the other hand, WWOOF hosts, which tend to be small-scale farmers, may consider proximity to urban market, or even urban amenities, as an important factor. Therefore, the direction of influence of this factor is uncertain.

Farm Characteristics

These variables capture county-level, general agricultural farm characteristics (Table 2). They reveal how significant the agricultural system is in the county’s social and economic structure. Some variables reveal the progressiveness of the county, through the number of organic farms and the number of female and minority operators.

⁹ Most WWOOFing volunteers come from non-country settings, and usually fly into or are from nearby cities (Ord 2010).

Table 2. Descriptive statistics regarding agricultural characteristics of counties in continental USA.

Variable	Units	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Std Dev
Number of Farms	Farms	0	6,687	706.52	585	562.35
Number of USDA Recognized Organic Farms	Farms	0	444	6.37	2	16.61
Percentage of County Land in Farms	Percentage	0	113 ¹⁰	50.59	47.6	31.53
Average Farm Size	Average Acre of Farm	0	47,421	613.10	243	1,567.93
Total Farm Sales Less than \$10,000	Percentage	0	100	58.03	61.63	19.15
Average Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold by Farm Operators	Dollars	0	2,896,342	138,642.24	84,430	202,816.27
Average Value of Land and Buildings	Dollars	0	457,143	3,459.05	2,507	9,774
Average Government Payments (received by farm operators divided by the number of farm operations)	Dollars	0	123,303	8,753.40	6,380	9,202.82
Farm with High Speed Internet	Percentage	0	100	33.05	32.73	11.74
Farms with Direct Sale for Human consumption	Percentage	0	100	6.22	4.51	5.97
Farms with Marketed CSA	Percentage	0	9.52	0.59	0.39	0.77
Farms with Value Added Commodities	Percentage	0	100	3.59	3.19	3.05
Farms with Income from Agritourism	Percentage	0	30.77	1.43	0.76	2.32
Percent Women Operators	Number of principal farm operators that are female	0	100	13.99	12.85	6.82
Percent Minority Operators	Number of operators that are of minority	0	100	6.01	2.44	10.22
Principal Operators over 65 years old	Percentage	0	57.14	29.47	29.47	7.18
Principal Operators working off farm 200 days in row	Percentage	0	100	38.53	39.38	7.74

Number of Farms (USDA 2007)

This variable represents the number of farms, defined as any establishment that produces and sells \$1,000 of agricultural products during the census year, in the county. In 2007, the number totaled over 2.2 million farms in the United States, but this number is deceptive because nearly two-thirds of all farms sold less than \$10,000 of a year, but they add up to only three percent of the nation's farm output (USDA 2007). In fact, the top 125,000 farms account for roughly 75% of all farm products. In short, this variable aims to capture the dominance of agriculture in a county, but tends to underestimate the presence of small farms.

Number of USDA Recognized Organic Farms (USDA 2007)

There are roughly 4.1 million acres of land and about 14,540 organic farms and ranches in the United States. Of those farms, 10,903 were USDA certified and 3,637 were exempt from certification.¹⁰ The sums of these numbers still underestimate the actual number of farms that use organic methods, because many organic farmers do not register or certify themselves with the USDA, and this may be especially true for WWOOF hosts. Nevertheless, I still expect that counties with many 'formal' organic farmers are also homes of WWOOF hosts because they may share a similar 'culture' and life-style orientations.

Percentage of County Land in Farms (USDA 2007)¹¹

Farm land is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated, as well as land rented from others (USDA 2007). Land rented or assigned to a tenant was considered part of the tenant's farm and not part of the owner's (USDA 2007). In this case, "land in farms" consists primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pastures, or grazing, as well as some woodlands and wasteland that are part of the farm and used for pastures or grazing, but not necessarily under cultivation.¹² Land in farms also includes acres set aside under annual commodity acreage programs and Conservation Reserve Programs. It is useful to know if there is a relationship between WWOOF location and counties with large areas of farmland

¹⁰ USDA clarifies exempt from certification as farms that adhere to National Organic Program (NOP) standards, but have less than \$5,000 in annual sales. These farms may use the term organic but are not eligible to use the USDA Organic seal (USDA 2007). Many WWOOF farms are not included in this category because they either do not sell their produce or do not desire to follow certain certification protocols, such as the paperwork.

¹¹ The proportion of land area in farms may exceed 100-percent because some operations have land in two or more counties. Fortunately, all acres are tabulated in the principal county of operation (USDA 2007).

¹² To get a sense of the coverage, in 2009, farmers and ranchers in the USA own more than 900 million acres, or about 60 percent of the nation's privately held land (USDA 2009). The nation's farmland acreage has been declining steadily for more than half a century.

because it may reveal a little bit of whether “organically” minded people are living in agricultural dominated counties.

Average Size of Farms (USDA 2007)

The USDA classifies all farms into size groups according to the total land of the farm. This variable was calculated by totaling the farmland by number of farms in the county. This measurement¹³, along with percent of farms with sales under \$10,000, attempts to determine where the smaller farms¹⁴ are located in relation to WWOOF hosts.

Total Farm Sales Less than \$10,000 (USDA 2007)

As another measure for small farms, or a more sustainable scale of production, this variable measures the distribution of farms that sell less than \$10,000 of agricultural commodities during the year.¹⁵ This variable indicates whether WWOOF hosts are surrounded by small farms and possibly a larger network of support.

Average Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (USDA 2007)

This category represents the gross market value of all agricultural products before taxes and production expenses. It includes sales by the operator, as well as the value of any shares received by partners, landlords, or others associated with the operation. It does not include payments from Federal Farm Programs or income from the sales of forest products, income from non-farm sources, nor income from farm-related sources, such as custom work and other agricultural services. Knowing if WWOOF host live in areas of high or low average market values provides greater insight into what type of farm communities WWOOF hosts are surrounded. Are they in areas where there are high value goods, such as vegetables or other non-staple products?

¹³ This variable does not take into account the range, or standard deviation, of the farms in the county. There are some cases where counties have the same averages but one could have a number of small farms, while the other has a few large ones and few small ones.

¹⁴ While there are many different technical definitions of a “small farm”, which all generally pertain to size and sales, the most common one is a privately owned farm that is not associated with a large corporation, and that has few if any employees. The term small farm is somewhat interchangeable with “family farm” but can also mean “hobby farm” or a farm that does not provide the main source of income for the owner.

¹⁵ The small farms account for 91 % of all farms and 23% of national agricultural production. Most small-farm production occurs on small commercial farms with gross cash farm income(GCFI) of at least \$10,000. Most places counted as small farms, however, are much smaller than that—60% of small farms have GCFI of less than \$10,000, and 22% have less than \$1,000 (USDA 2010).

Average Value of Land and Buildings (USDA 2007)

The value of land and building refers to the amount that the land and building would sell for under current market conditions. This average is the estimated current market value of land and buildings owned, rented, leased from others and rented or leased from others. Since WWOOFers are a form of cheap or free labor it is useful to measure if there is a correlation between financial resources, i.e. price of land. Though this measurement does not reveal the standard deviation or distribution, it alludes to the relative cheapness, or expensiveness, of the land.

Average Government Payments (USDA 2007)

The average government payment of a county is calculated by the amount of government payments received by the farm divided by the number of farm operations. These government payments include a number of programs, such as Conservation Reserve Program, as well as federal, state and local government programs. This variable tests how financially strapped farmers are in the county.

Farm with High Speed Internet (USDA 2007)

In the United States, 58% of farmers report having a high-speed connection (USDA 2010). The relatively low use of high speed Internet hints at the age of the farming population and the county's farmer's connection to technology, or innovation. Internet is a powerful means of communicating and obtaining knowledge. In fact, most WWOOF hosts are quite reliant on the Internet for gathering data on how to do certain tasks, especially those who are new to farming and homesteading, and for communicating with WWOOF participants. There are some hosts who can only be contacted through phone, nevertheless. In fact, while some WWOOF organizations send out a list of hosts via snail mail or email, the USA WWOOF list serve is mainly organized through an online database. Furthermore, the Internet provides a way for hosts to follow their past or future WWOOFers through blogs, Facebook, or websites they have created. A few hosts discussed following their WWOOFers bike trips across the country through their pictures and blogs.

Farms with Marketed CSA and Direct Sale for Human Consumption (USDA 2007)

These two variables reveal the amount of support and community that a WWOOF host may have in the county. If there are many farms that have Community Supported

Agriculture (CSAs)¹⁶ and sell directly, then one might be able to deduce that there is strong support for local products. Since many hosts are involved in the local market, such as through CSAs or participation in farmer's markets, it is beneficial to measure the relationship between location of hosts and counties with many CSAs and direct human consumption. Also, organic produce has a strong relationship with direct sale to consumers, farmer's markets, and community supported agriculture arrangements. According to the USDA, about 6.8 % of 2008 organic sales were direct to consumers, including 2.4 % on-site (e.g. farm stands and you-pick operations), 1.9 % via farmers' markets and 1 % via community-supported agriculture arrangements.

Farms with Value Added Commodities

This variable is the percent of farms in the county that report making and selling value added products, such as beef jerky, fruit jams, jelly, preserves or floral arrangements. Since WWOOF hosts often produce their own food an attempt to be healthy and self-sufficient it is useful to determine if they are surrounded by other farms that produce and sell value added crops, livestock and products. Do they have community support, or other knowledge centers that can help them with these methods and techniques?

Farms with Income from Agritourism

Agritourism is newly sold way to diversify the farm and create more income. This variable indicates the percentage of farm operations that receive income from agritourism or recreational services, such as farm or winery tours, hay rides, hunting or fishing. Mansury & Hara (2007) argue that "agritourism promotion benefits the lowest-income group proportionately more" according to the results of a social accounting matrix (SAM) model they used on the Liberty Trade Area of New York. It is useful to understand if WWOOF hosts are located in areas that have taken on agritourism as a method of development. WWOOF is often cited in the literature as being a form of tourism and so by figuring out the relationship the hosts have with areas of agritourism maybe more clarity can be provided on whether WWOOF is a form of it.

¹⁶ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which involves customers buying a regular box of in-season fruits, vegetables, eggs, etc. from one or more local producers, provides farms with a secure income and the ability to diversify the types of produce they provide.

Type of Operator (Age, Gender, Race, Number of Work Days on farm) (USDA 2007)

The USDA "operator" corresponds to a person who operates a farm.¹⁷ These operators either work on the farm or make the day-to-day decisions, such as decisions based on planting, harvesting, feeding, and marketing. The operator may be the owner, a member of the owner's household, a salaried manager, or a tenant. For partnerships, only one partner is counted as an operator. If there is no clear-cut partner in charge, the senior or oldest active partner is considered to be the operator.

According to the USDA Census 2007, the average age of farmland owners is 57 year old and in 2007 less than 22% of farm operators were under the age of 45. The number of 65 years or older operators outnumbered the number of 25 year old farmers by three to one. The majority of farm operators are between 45 and 64, but the fastest growing group of farm operators is those 65 years and older—aka retirees. It is useful to get an understanding of WWOOF hosts and how they relate to the aging populations of farmers. Do they follow the norm or all they located in areas that have younger farmers?

Other useful indicators of farm operators include the percentage of minority, which is defined as all people of color and white Latinos, and female farm operators in a county. Higher percentages of minority and female farm operators support the notion the county is open to diversity. According to Florida (2000), diversity is often associated with low barriers of entry and openness. These categories represent that. Many female and minority principal operators are on the rise¹⁸ and it is interesting to evaluate if they WWOOF hosts have a relationship with these indicators of diversity. Lastly, the number of days an operator works on the farm represents how full time and involved the surrounding farmers are. It gives clarity as to whether farmers in the area are full-time, retired, or hobby farmers.

Exploring the characteristics of operators engaged in farming gives some insight into the expectations and attitudes of those engaged in farming near the WWOOF hosts. It also provides information regarding who hosts are not surrounded by. Understanding what type of farmers WWOOF hosts are neighbors with reveals a little bit about the larger community and possibly why WWOOF hosts decided to live in that location.

¹⁷ The USDA keeps the number of operators consistent with the number of farms.

¹⁸ According to the 2007 Census, there was about a 30% increase in female principal farm operators as compared to 2002. The count of Hispanic operators grew by 10%, and the counts of American Indian, Asian and Black farm operators increased as well (USDA 2007).

Economic Characteristics

The economic status of the county is revealed through poverty, unemployment and wealth indicators of per capita income and household GINI. These economic measures provide insight into the patterns and possibly priorities of WWOOF hosts. Are hosts generally found in prosperous areas or do they mainly live in areas of high poverty and unemployment?

Table 3. Descriptive statistics regarding economic characteristics of counties in continental USA.

Variable	Units	Min	Max	Mean	Medium	Std Dev
Poverty Rate, 2009	Percentage	3.1	62	16.35	15.4	6.45
Per Capita Income, average of 2005-2009	Dollars	0	62,544	22,106.75	21,480	5,278.46
Household GINI, 2008	0 (total equality) to 1 (maximal inequality)	0	0.60	0.43	0.43	0.04
Unemployment Rate, 2009	Percentage	2.4	28.2	8.98	8.7	3.21

Poverty Rate (Census 2009) and Per Capita Income (Census 2009)

Poverty represents the ultimate measure of the uneven distribution of capital. In the realm of capitalism in which standard of living is based on how much you can afford, poverty is a good measure of where hosts may be using the organization more as a means of cheap, or free, labor. Similarly, per capita income is a useful economic indicator for counties because it is the amount of income each individual of a population would receive if the county's total income were divided equally among all members of the population. The county's PCI hints at how wealthy the county is in which WWOOF host live.

Household GINI (Census 2000)

As a measurement of wealth distribution, this variable reveals how evenly spread financial capital is in county population. Counties that have a more equal spread of wealth are closer to zero, while counties with an uneven distribution of financial capital are closer to one. Mansury & Hara (2007) argue that organic agriculture can be used as a sustainable development strategy because of its contributions to a more egalitarian distribution of income. Since WWOOF hosts emphasize taking care of the land and people of the earth, one would expect hosts to live in areas of lower GINI values; however, since the GINI is on a county-

level and hosts impact at the smaller scale, I am not expecting there to be much correlation. Therefore, on a larger scale it is expected that WWOOF hosts will be found in counties that are more egalitarian, or have a lower household GINI.

Unemployment Rate, 2009

The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force. Unemployment, according to the International Labor Organization, occurs when individuals are without jobs and they have been actively looking for work in the last four weeks. Though the unemployment rate includes those who are voluntary and involuntary without work, it is a good measure of the type of socio-economic environment of the county. It provides information on the market structure, government intervention and level of aggregate demand through the percentage of individuals involuntarily unemployed. Although WWOOF hosts are not expected to mediate the problem of unemployment in any significant way, a positive correlation would indicate that it may at least function to absorb some of unemployed workers.

Social Characteristics

These variables relate to the demographics of the population in the county.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics regarding demographic characteristics of counties in continental USA.

Variable	Units	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Std Dev
Percent Bohemian	Percentage of art-related employees per total employed, 2000.	0	6.67	0.70	0.63	0.46
Diversity Index	0 (homogeneous) to 1 (heterogeneous)	0	0.76	0.25	0.19	0.18
Percent Foreign Born	Percentage	0	49.45	4.19	2.28	5.32
Population Change Rate	Percentage	-39.53	92.11	3.38	1.49	12.86
Percent with college degree or higher, 2005-2009	Percentage	7.46	72.73	26.01	24.55	9.21
Population over the age of 65	Percentage	0	36.51	15.36	14.9	4.21
Percentage of Population Farmer	Percentage	0	0.48	0.07	0.05	0.07

Bohemian Index (Florida 2000; USDA 2000)

This index was originally advocated by Richard Florida as a means to measure “sub cultural capital.” The county-level index was created by McGranahan and Wojan (USDA 2000a), and measures the percent of “bohemians” (working artists, musicians, writers, designers, and entertainers) among total employment. Florida (2000) associates the concentration of Bohemians with progressiveness and openness, and ultimately with economic growth. Florida’s recent works on the creative class, and bohemians, has been both influential and criticized in the regional development literature (Markusen 2006; Montgomery 2005; Peck 2005).¹⁹ Here, I expect that WWOOF hosts and bohemian populations to have a tendency to co-locate. In fact, some WWOOF hosts are working artists themselves and others live in intentional communities with “bohemian-type” lifestyles and work. Florida stipulated that the presence and concentration of bohemians in an area creates environments that attract other types of talented or high human capital individuals, which I argue in this case as the WWOOF hosts.

Racial Diversity Index (Census 2008) and Percent Foreign Born (Census 2008)

Also known as the Index of Variability, the diversity index is commonly used in demographic data to determine variation based on race in a population. A perfectly homogeneous population will have a score of 0, while a perfectly heterogeneous population will have a diversity index score of 1. Using Simpson’s diversity equation by Gibbs and Martin (2000), the index is created based on U.S. Census (2008) data of seven racial categories (white, black, Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, two or more, and other). Similarly, the percentage foreign born of county population. Also known as the Melting Pot Index, this variable represents openness and diversity of the county. Florida (2000) argues that the number of foreign born in a population relates to Bohemian index because they are both indicators of openness and low barrier entries into a community. The sharing of different languages, cultures and cuisines is something that the WWOOF organization tries to provide; therefore, I expect positive relations between WWOOF locations and these indices.

Population Change Rate (Census 2008)

¹⁹ Critics question his methodology and data. Some argue that he is elitist and biased towards certain cities.

It would be useful to understand if WWOOF hosts live in places that have been gaining or losing populations, such as the case of certain rural areas. While some hosts may be moving into areas that are losing populations, and have cheaper land, others may be setting up organic production in places that are gaining residents, and an organic market in which to sell. The population change in relation to WWOOF hosts is expected to occur at both ends of the spectrum and therefore it is difficult to predict what the exact correlation may be.

College Education (Census 2008)

Consumers of all ages, races, and ethnic groups who have higher levels of education are more likely to buy organic products than less-educated consumers (USDA 2010b). Some hosts are retiring or rejecting the mainstream lifestyles after they have experienced a college education. Yet, WWOOF hosts offer alternative forms of education through experiential learning opportunities, such as working in the fields, learning about canning or drying, etc. Since anyone is able to host participates there is no strong prediction for this variable. Therefore, it provides more clarifying information on the type of populations by which WWOOF hosts are surrounded.

Percentage of Population Farmers (Census Table P2 and GCT-P1)

Using data retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau (2008), the ratio of farmers to total population was calculated. This variable reveals how agriculturally dominated the county is, and in some ways how rural a county's identity may be. Since the number of farmers is normalized by population, this variable gives an accurate account of how the population is influenced by farming lifestyles. Are WWOOF hosts located in areas where farming more a part of the lifestyle?

2.3. Interviews

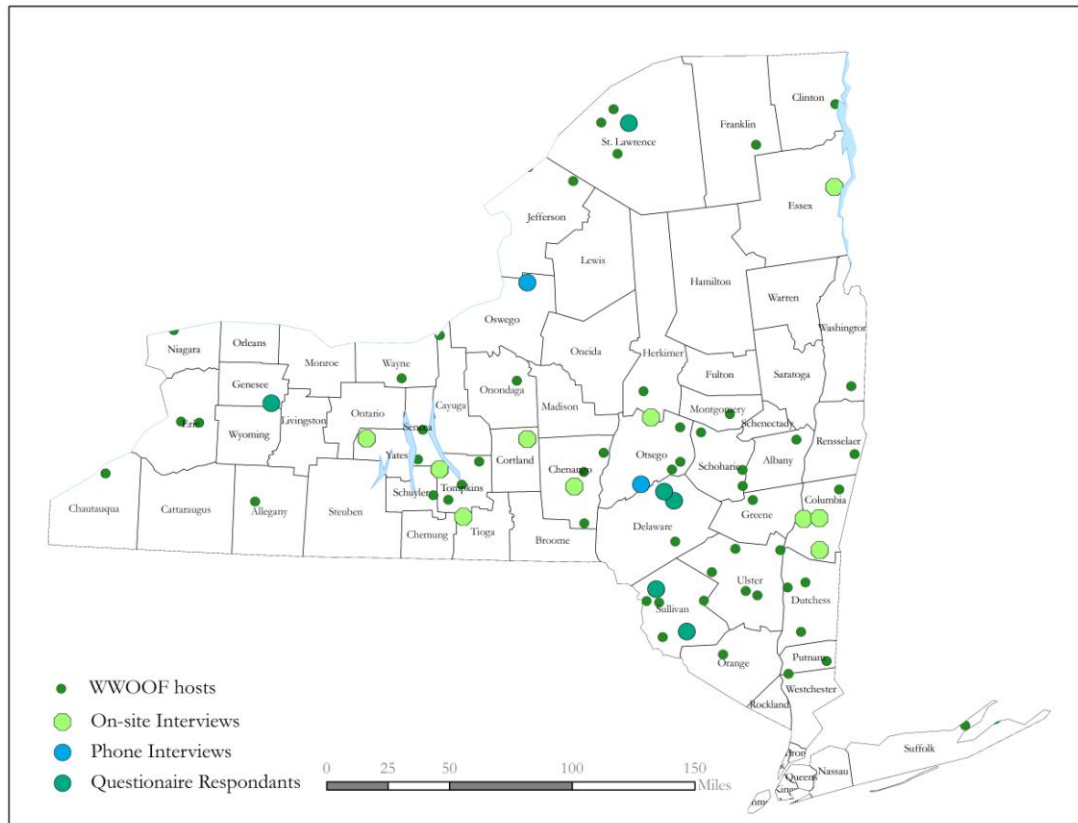
2.3.1. Interview Process

To schedule interviews, I contacted 70 hosts in New York State via e-mail using the contact information on the WWOOF USA website.²⁰ More than 30 hosts responded to my interview plea; therefore, I scheduled interviews based on reasonable routes and dates to meet. Driving length and date availability were the only two factors that I considered for the

²⁰ Though there are 78 hosts in NY State, eight of them do not have email addresses. Phones numbers are the only listed contact information.

interviews. In fact, two of the host couples that I interviewed had not hosted WWOOF participants yet.

I interviewed ten hosts at their homes, two through the phone, as well as receive seven responses to my interview questions by email. The interviews were all conducted in 2011 from 27 January to 5 March. The hosts that I interviewed were dispersed centrally in Upstate New York, ranging from one farmer up north in the Adirondacks to three West in the Finger Lake region to four south in the Catskills (Map 5). The on-site interviews ranged in length from 75 to 110 minutes. The two phone interviews both lasted around 45 minutes. They were all recorded with a Live Scribe Pulse Smart Pen (except for the first host due to technical difficulties). Questions covered a variety of topics, beginning with a background on their lives and reasons for living where they do. I asked them about their farming techniques, use of machinery and what type of organic enterprise they were involved in. I also inquired about their involvement with the WWOOF organization and what their experiences with volunteers have been like. The conversation wrapped up with what they believe their strengths and weaknesses are as organic growers and what they envision for the future of small, organic farms (See Appendix E for the main interview questions). Through the interview and questionnaires, I was able to get a feel for the goals and aspirations of these WWOOF hosts.



Map 5. These hosts are dispersed throughout the state with a greater portion of them in the Southern counties. There are a few clusters of hosts in the St. Lawrence in the North and amongst the Southern part of the state, such as Hudson Valley and the Finger Lakes.

After transcribing the recorded interviews, I created general categories in MAXQDA, a qualitative data analysis software, and coded the texts according to three general themes: (1) costs and benefits of WWOOF, (2) ways in which WWOOF addresses environmental, social, intellectual, and financial concerns, and (3) the ‘sustainability’ initiatives that hosts were involved in (improving soil, closed cycle of energy) (Appendix G). Because it was my first time to use qualitative data analysis software, I over-coded the transcripts. Later, I narrowed down these codes once I understood which direction I wanted to take the paper. Though there were only nineteen responses to code, MAXQDA was useful because it helped organize and decipher through the material in one workspace.

2.3.2. Host Characteristics

The hosts ranged from ages 24 to 68, with a majority of hosts in their late fifties and sixties (Table 5). Since two respondents were couples, there were a total of seven women and seven men interviewed. Four hosts classified as intentional communities, with 501 c(3) status;

three hosts identified as commercial organic farms; two host couples were ‘lifestyle’ farmers and were in the beginning stages of creating homesteads; one host family owned an eco-friendly bed and breakfast; one couple sold organic meats and ran an educational equestrian center; and one young host was in the process of starting his own farm. Six hosts were involved in the local farmers markets and/or held CSA shares. Two hosts were currently USDA certified organic.

Table 5. Descriptors of the New York WWOOF hosts that were interviewed by (a) age, (b) number of acres cultivated, (c) description of property and (d) type of organic enterprise.

(a) WWOOF host ages*		(b) Number of cultivated acres		(c) Self-Identified Description #		(d) Type of Organic Enterprise	
20-30	4	0-10	4	Family Home and Garden	4	Educational Opportunities and workshops	3
30-40	5	10-20	5	Commercial Organic Farm	2	Lodging	1
40-50	2	20-30	2	Non-commercial Organic Farm	7	Restaurant	1
50-60	6	30-40	0	Educational center	1	Guided Tours	1
60-70	7	40-50	0	Agritourism Destination	1	Other	2
Mean	48	50+	1	EcoCommunity	4	None	4
Number	24	Mean	15	Other	24		

*Includes some of the community members that I talked to but did not interview

#Some hosts described themselves in more than one option

Six hosts had been WWOOF hosts for roughly a year, three for two years, two for three years and one for more than eight years. The number of years that hosts had been living on their farms or in their communities differed dramatically. Two hosts were transitioning into farming and had their land for less than a year, while two hosts had been on their properties for about three years. Four hosts had been living on their land for approximately twelve years and four hosts had farmed and gardening the land they were on for more than twenty years. One host community that allowed WWOOFers had been on their land of 350 acres for more than fifty years. The size of land that the hosts owned ranged significantly from two²¹ to 500 acres, but the number of acres cultivated was usually around ten acres. One farm grew certified organic grains and hay had over 350 acres of tillable land.

Most hosts did not have full time outside workers, but a few were able to afford a couple part-time workers. Some hosts also had volunteers, either through CSA requirements or through specific networks, such as Catholic workers or international exchanges that helped out on the land.

²¹Unfortunately, I did not interview any urban hosts or hosts with smaller gardens.

Lastly, I did not focus on the participants in this study, but most of the WWOOF hosts described their participants as being from suburban USA, students in their early 20s who were in school or had just graduated. There were a few WWOOFers in their teens or in their 50s and 60s who were “life drop outs” or “seeking something” (Host 3 & 6).²² Overall, their experiences with WWOOF volunteers were quite pleasant and they were all enthusiastic to have more volunteers.

²² Due to the large number of host quotations I have omitted the year in the citations.

Uneven Geography of WWOOF Hosts in USA

3.1. Regression Results

Two specifications of zero-inflated negative binomial regression are conducted.²³ The first model includes the original 31 independent variables. In this model, the p-value for the Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square test is smaller than 0.01, indicating that at least one of the regression coefficients is not equal to zero. In addition, the Vuong test result (z-value is smaller than 0.01) indicates that the zero-inflated negative binomial model is better than the standard negative binomial model. The second model is constructed by checking the robustness of the coefficients in the first model. Based on the robust standard errors, following variables fail to exhibit $p < 0.05$: natural amenity score, prosperity index, diversity index, population density, household GINI, poverty rate, average value of acre, average farm size, percent of land as farm land, average government payments, percent of farms with less than \$10,000 in sales, percent of farms with high speed internet, percent of farm operators older than 65, and percent of farms with CSAs²⁴.

The second model is re-estimated with those 17 independent variables that are statistically significant at the $p = 0.05$ level. In both models, the number of farms is used for the logit model component. The results from the two models are presented in Table 6. For both models, the predictors of excess zeros, the number of farms, is statistically significant.

²³ The standard negative binomial regression was also conducted, but I will focus on the results of the zero-inflated tests.

²⁴ The percent of farms with CSAs variable showed a positive correlation with location of WWOOF hosts in all tests except for this last zero inflated model. For the purpose of argument, I will argue that they are positively connected.

Dependent Variable: WWOOF Hosts						
Zero- Inflated Negative Binomial Regression	Model 1		Model 2		Negative Binomial Regression	
Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.
Natural Amenity, 2000	-0.105	(-0.059)			-0.150*	(0.059)
Topography, 2000	0.066***	(-0.009)	0.060***	(-0.007)	0.069***	(0.009)
Prosperity Score, 2007	-0.002	(-0.055)			0.003	(0.056)
Bohemian Index, 2000	0.567***	(-0.139)	0.575***	(-0.123)	0.402**	(0.126)
Percentage of Population Farmer	-3.393*	(-1.317)	-3.760***	(-1.114)	-3.238*	(1.330)
Diversity Index	0.135	(-0.408)			0.072	(0.411)
Population Change Rate	0.013**	(-0.004)	0.013***	(-0.004)	0.013**	(0.004)
Population over the age of 65	0.048**	(-0.015)	0.042***	(-0.012)	0.053***	(0.014)
Percent Foreign Born	0.029*	(-0.011)	0.018*	(-0.008)	0.031**	(0.012)
Percent with College Degree or Higher, 2005-09	0.027**	(-0.009)	0.031***	(-0.009)	0.033***	(0.009)
Population Density, 2000-2009	0.000	(0.000)			-0.000*	(0.000)
Household GINI, 2008	-0.612	(-2.036)			-0.058	(1.953)
Per Capita Income, 2005-2009	-0.000*	(0.000)	-0.000***	(0.000)	-0.000**	(0.000)
Unemployment Rate, 2009	0.038*	(-0.019)	0.035*	(-0.016)	0.037*	(0.018)
Poverty Rate, 2009	0.000	(-0.017)			-0.006	(0.016)
Number of Organic Farms	0.016***	(-0.003)	0.015***	(-0.003)	0.021***	(0.003)
Average Acre Value	0.000	(0.000)			-0.000	(0.000)
Average Farm Size	0.000	(0.000)			0.000	(0.000)
Percent of County Land in Farms	-0.004	(-0.003)			-0.002	(0.003)
Average Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold by Farms	-0.000*	(0.000)			-0.000*	(0.000)
Average Government Payments	0.000	(0.000)			-0.000	(0.000)
Principal Operators working off farm 200 days in row	-0.029**	(-0.009)	-0.031**	(-0.010)	-0.015	(0.008)
Total Farm Sales Less than \$10,000	-0.005	(-0.005)			0.001	(0.004)
Farm with High Speed Internet	0.007	(-0.005)			0.011*	(0.005)
Percent Minority Operators	0.011*	(-0.005)	0.007*	(-0.004)	0.012**	(0.005)
Percent Women Operators	0.018*	(-0.009)	0.018**	(-0.007)	0.019*	(0.008)
Principal Operators over 65 years old	-0.005	(-0.009)			0.007	(0.008)
Farms with Direct Sale for Human consumption	0.035**	(-0.013)	0.049***	(-0.011)	0.030**	(0.011)
Farms with Income from Agritourism	-0.067	(-0.036)	-0.075*	(-0.032)	-0.083**	(0.032)
Farms with Value Added Commodities	0.073**	(-0.027)	0.091***	(-0.021)	0.057**	(0.020)
Farms with Marketed CSA	0.080	(-0.061)			0.134*	(0.054)
Cons	-2.001*	(-1.010)	-2.934***	(-0.571)	-3.728***	(0.932)
Farm number	-0.010***		-0.010***	(-0.002)	0.000***	(0.000)

Table 6. The binomial negative regression, inflated with farm numbers, revealed consistently a positive relationship with WWOOF host locations and high concentrations of Bohemia and organic farms. * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

3.1.1. Coefficient estimates

Following Long (1997), factor changes of the second model can be interpreted as follows: If a county increases its topographic scale by 1 unit, the expected number of WWOOF hosts in the county would increase by a factor of $\exp(0.06) = 1.06$ while holding other variables in the model constant. Similarly, if a county increases its bohemian worker share by 1%, then WWOOF hosts would increase by a factor of $\exp(0.575) = 1.78$. Other variables that the number of WWOOF hosts are positively associated include: population over the age of 65 (0.042***), farms with direct sale for human consumption (0.049***), percent of population with college degrees or higher (0.031***), number of organic farms (0.015***), population change rate (0.013***), percent female operators (0.018**), unemployment rate (0.035*), percent foreign born (0.018*) and percent minority operators (0.007*). Conversely, the number of WWOOF hosts decrease with higher percentages of the population as farmers (-3.760***), farms with income from agritourism (-0.075*), and principal operators working off the farm more than 200 days in a row (-0.031**).

In the standard negative binomial regression, Natural Amenity Score (-0.150*) and percent farms with marketed CSAs (0.134*) appear to be connected with number of WWOOF hosts.

3.2. Ground-Truthing Results

The aim of this section is to relate the information gathered during interviews with the results of county-level tests. The GIS analysis provided a rough framework for discovering what type of counties WWOOF hosts are located in and the interviews supplemented, as well as revealed the limitations, of the GIS analysis.

The statistical tests are quite limited in their ability to reveal patterns regarding locations of hosts. There is inherent difficulty in examining trends regarding WWOOF hosts because they constitute a range of activities, locations, and situations. Though they all share the common principles of chemical-free planting and growing, hosts have a range of interpretations for these notions. The New York interviews and nation-wide, county-level variables only provided a limited scope of this international organization. Since WWOOF hosts and reasons for being in a certain area are complex and dependent on a multitude of different factors, most of which I could not measure, such as relationships or specific communities, these statistics are merely descriptive and explorative.

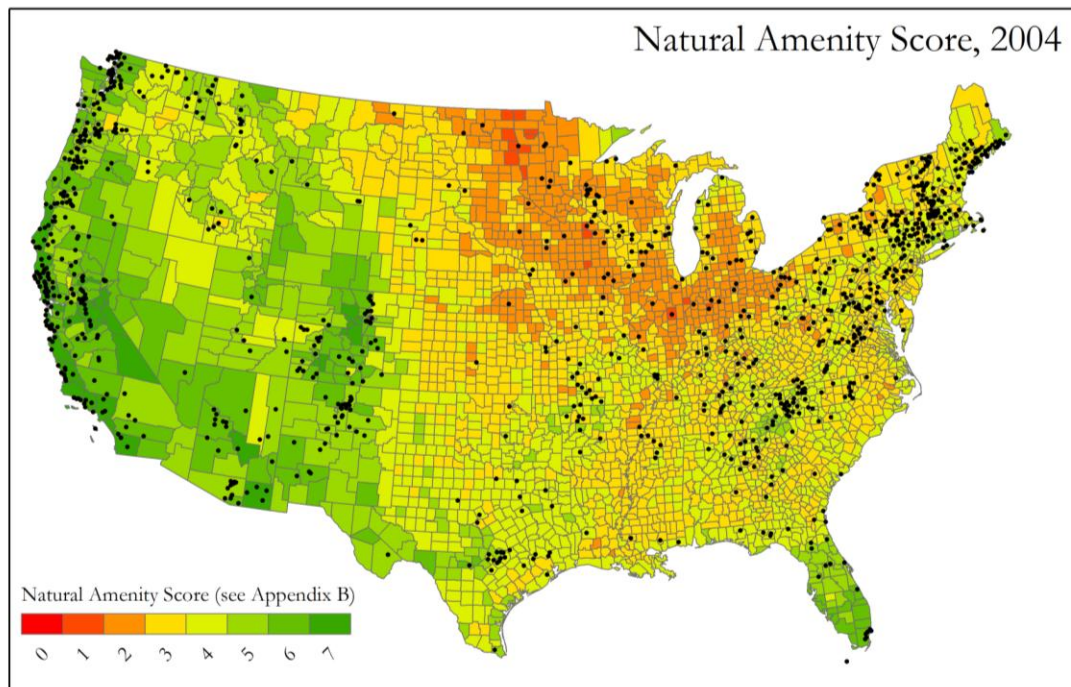
Furthermore, though results provided insight the interviews helped reveal the importance of scale. As with all generalizations, even the disaggregated analysis that follows cannot capture every detail and individual difference. Still, it yields useful information for understanding the complexity of rural America's conditions, trends, needs, and prospects. I will try to theorize specific reasons for why I think certain correlations occur, but they are only speculations.

Natural Amenity and Topography

While natural amenity score differed in relational direction depending on tests, topography was consistently positively correlated with WWOOF hosts (Map 6). I believe that the negative correlation of natural amenity with WWOOF hosts may relate to the affordability of land, land being handed down, or the urban and suburban settings of some hosts. Hosts are located in areas of high amenity value out west, but they also live in areas of low value. Areas of high amenity index are found primarily in the West (down the coast through most of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and western Texas), Southern Florida, and bits of the South and Northeast. These WWOOF hosts are probably retiring or returning to the land and can afford to live in more expensive, beautiful areas or have been handed down land in high amenity areas, such as in the Adirondacks. One farmer who had grown up in the area claimed that he made most of his income from tourists in the summertime and so he was dependent on his area being a tourist destination. Places with low amenities are generally found around the Great Lake states, the Great Plain states and parts of the Northeast, with a majority of Upstate New York considered low. Another host exclaimed that her farm was “not like the coast of Maine, drop dead gorgeous... [her farm] is not a tourist destination... can't imagine what would attract people here... it is not a destination” (Host 9). Therefore, though host locations are affiliated with low amenity scores, many hosts believe that they live in beautiful areas on a larger scale.

In New York state, hosts lived in counties that were categorized as low on the natural amenity score, they believed that they were living on beautiful pieces of land, “it's one of the most beautiful places that you can ever imagine” (Host 8), “there is history, there is beauty” (Host 3), “the farm is beautiful if you want to get away” (Host 9). Similarly, part of the reason that one couple got into farming was for the landscape. They described their land as attractive since it is not open and windy, nor deeply wooded, but rolling hills. They believed that their land was high in natural amenities on a more local scale (Host 7). In fact, most hosts

mentioned that they chose to live on their land because of its beauty and remoteness (Host 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12). Therefore, the scale at which natural amenity score was tested limited the results between WWOOF host locations.

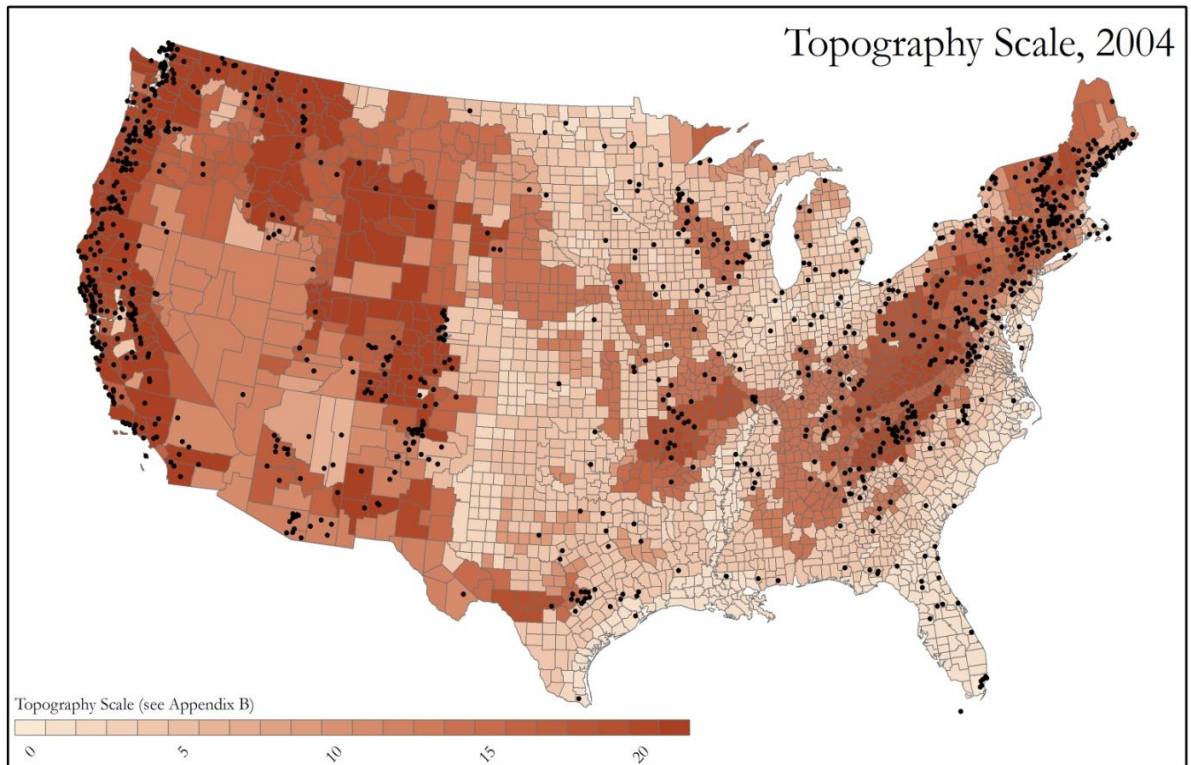


Map 6.

(Source: USDA 2004)

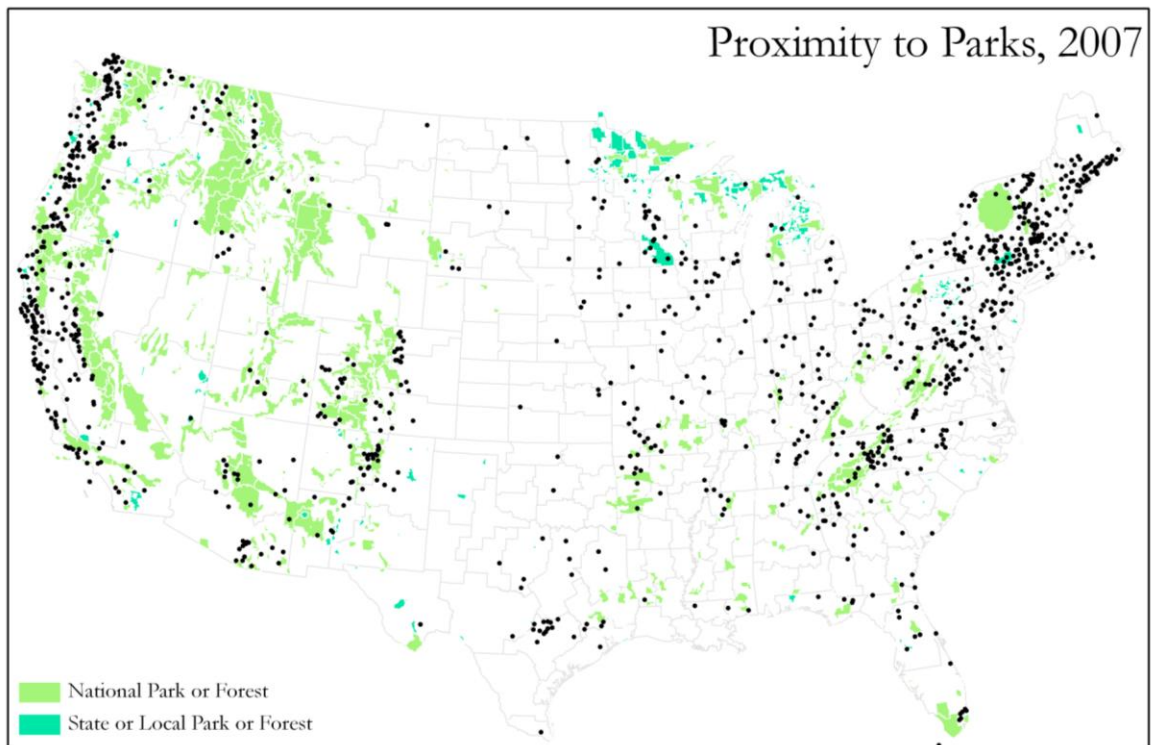
Furthermore, WWOOF hosts can be found in areas of greater topography, which often lends itself to greater physical beauty (McGranahan, 1999). The Rocky Mountains, which form a large portion of the Western US Pacific Coast, and Appalachia Mountains are all hilly and mountainous areas scattered with hosts (Map 7). The positive correlation with topography may hint at similarities between WWOOF hosts and the rural creative class.

Florida claims that the creative class is characterized by an attraction to outdoors, adventures and natural beauty (Map 8). WWOOF hosts are attracted to areas with diverse topography, just like the rural creative class.



Map 7.

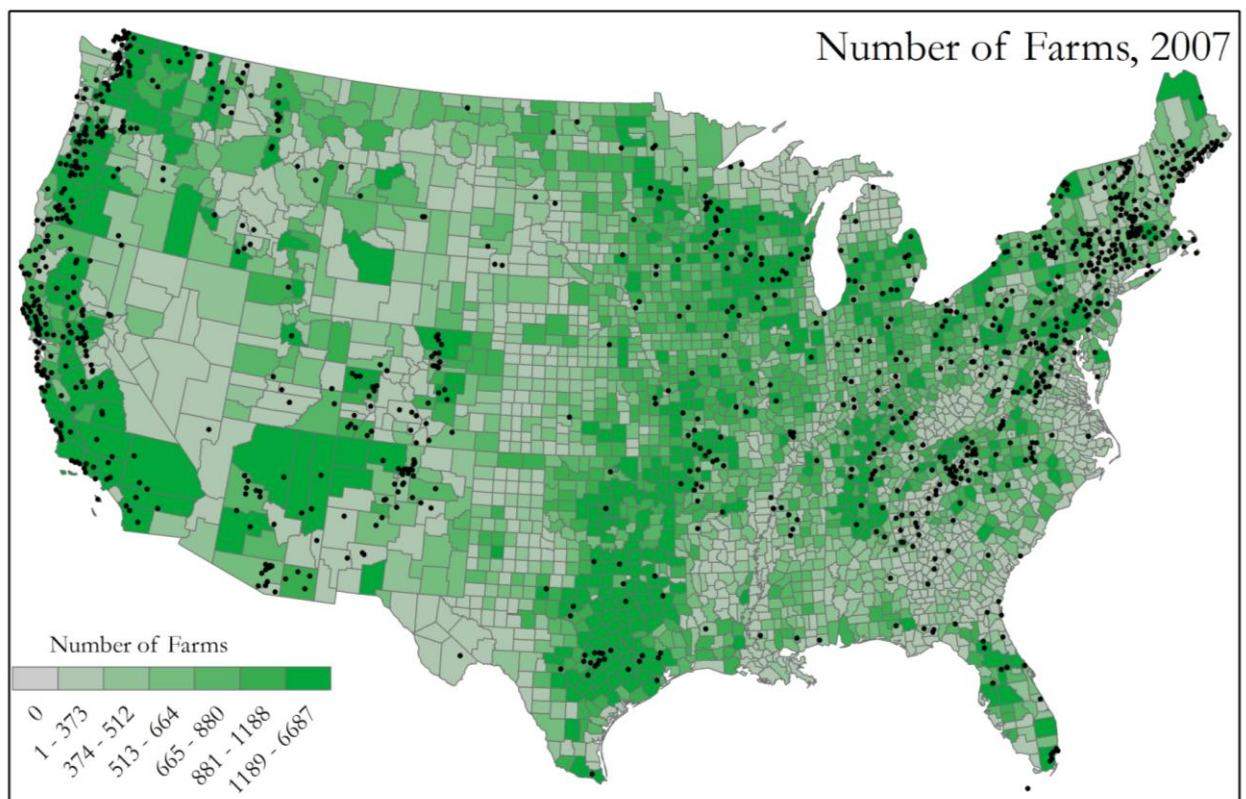
(Source: USDA 2004)



Map 8. WWOOF hosts share many qualities of the creative class and may possibly reveal a connection between areas of outdoor and recreation, such as national parks. (Source: ESRI 2007)

Number of Farms, Percent Land in Farms and Percent Population Farmers

The map of total farms spreads densely over many regions, breaking only for the Rockies and Western deserts (Map 9). The counties with the highest number of farms can be found along the West coast, Northeast Arizona, the Midwest, Florida, and pockets of the Northeast. Besides Iowa, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas, WWOOF hosts generally live in non-farming counties. For many, these hosts are not necessarily looking for a farm, but rather for a place to farm and to grow fresh food (Host 12). This can be explained by the goals of most WWOOF hosts, which is a desire to live off the land and provide local produce. Making profit and growing mass amounts of produce is not on the agenda of many of the WWOOF hosts and therefore they do not need to live in areas that are predominantly agricultural.

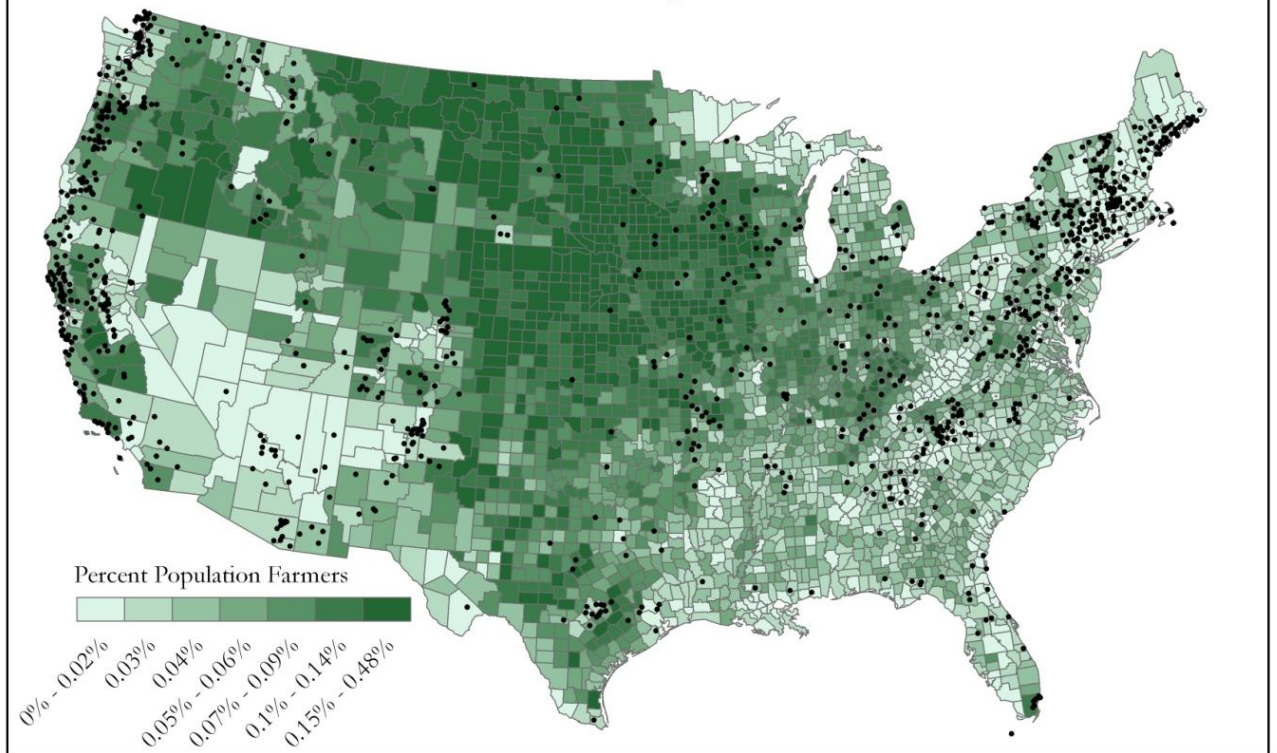


Map 9.

(Source: USDA 2007)

In fact, most hosts are repelled by the idea of living in traditionally agricultural areas because this would mean that they are surrounded by conventional, chemical using farmers (Map 10). Part of the challenges of some hosts locations are that they are neighboring farmers that do not approve or support their organic methods.

Percent of Population Who Are Farmers, 2008

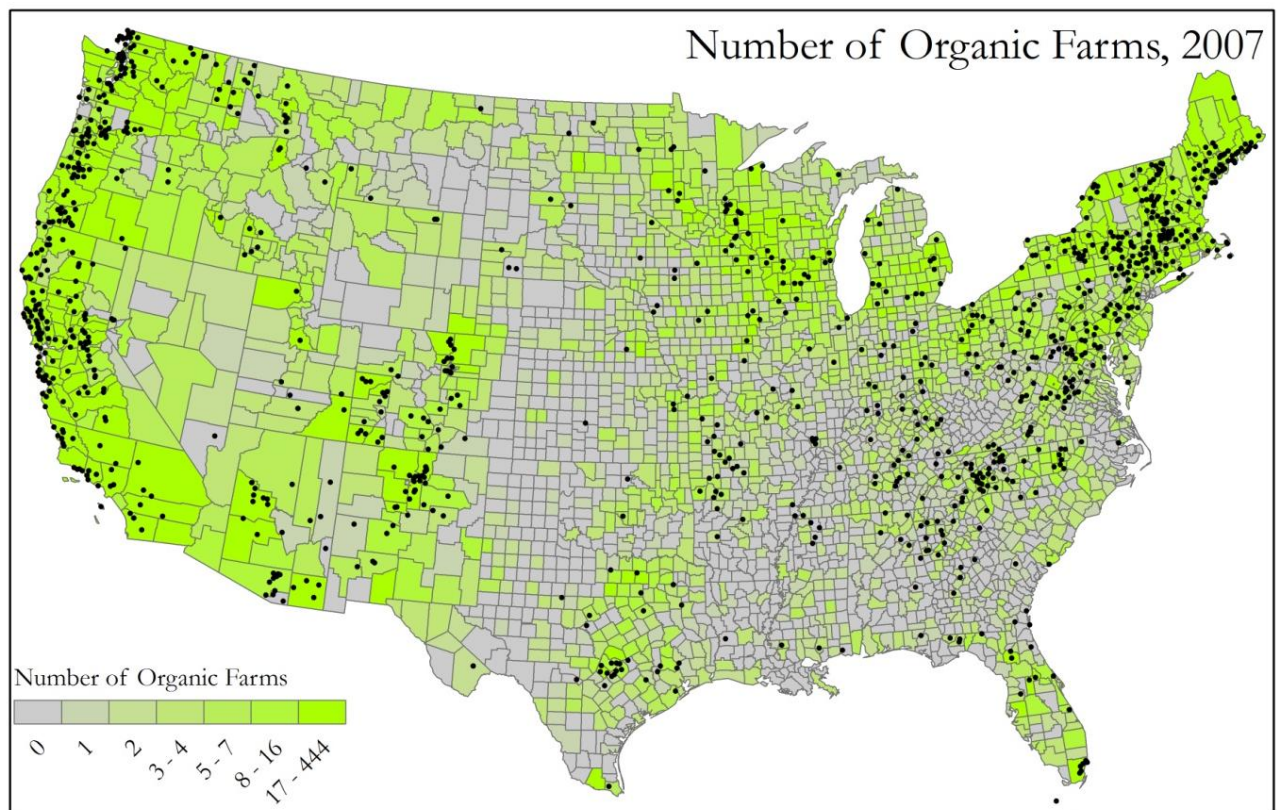


Map 10.

(Source: USDA 2008)

Though hosts all agree that farmers are usually great people, the way in which hosts described chemical using farmers are mainly negative: “they spray the hell out of everything” (11), “milk factory” (11), “idiotic” (7), “not open to change”(2), “do not think out of the box” (2), “do not value food” (1), and “pesticide laden” (12). Hosts that are among the few organic producers in the area believe that, though it is difficult living in conventional farming territory, they are exposing organic produce and methods to the people who need to be exposed in order to create the most change in the current agricultural system.²⁵ Their experiences at farmers markets and with neighbors revealed slow progression in opening their eyes to more sustainable techniques (Host 1,7).

²⁵ “This isn’t an area that has a lot of organic farms... they’ve been farming for two generations... it’s partially because this land is more suited for dairy and you know the dairy farmers have done their thing a certain way... dairies here tend to shut down rather than get taken over by the kids... so who is going to switch to organic... very few actually do this... so, there are very few organic farms... the thing is that if you go into an area and you start an organic farm the problem is that... you have to be careful not to present this as an accusation to everybody else who is not doing an organic... if you go to a market where everybody grows conventional and this is how they do things there might be a negative reaction to this... the first season it was a lot like who are these people and it looks fancy so it must be fancy costs... and eventually you know... you have enough people who come by and they become regular and they tell other people and there is an acceptance and appreciation, but defiantly in the beginning it was a little bit...” (Host 7)



Map 11.

(Source: USDA 2007)

Number of Organic Farms

The distribution of organic farms in the United States is clustered into a few geographic centers, a strikingly different pattern than the map of all farms. While this measurement for organic farms does have its limitations in that it does not account for many organic lifestyle farmers or homesteaders, it is a useful proximate for organic hubs. Also, large organic farms, which some call organic agribusinesses, have only mainly flourished in California (Map 11).

For this study, the number of organic farms equates to the amount of guidance and encouragement of sustainable agriculture in the county. It makes sense that WWOOF hosts can be found in counties where there are more organic farms because the WWOOF organization is built for the organic farmer. Usually, as in the case with clusters of New York hosts one host will hear of the organization through word of mouth or travels and will sign up as a host. Other organic farmers who are friends and/or acquaintances of the host or who encounter a WWOOF at the farmer's markets or out in the community will take an interest in the organization and sign up as well. WWOOF was created for organic growers and farmers

and therefore it is sensible that there is a correlation with the number of organic farms in the nation.

Some hosts are USDA certified (Host 2,8), but most hosts are not keen on the paperwork, money and organization involved in getting certified. In fact, many hosts consider themselves “beyond organic,” implying that they use methods and prepare foods in a more sustainable way than the USDA organic certification requires (Host D). They do not want to “have a ceiling put over them” or be limited by the “corporatist USDA” (Host 6, D). One host claimed that having been previously certified organic, he “found record keeping too cumbersome and expensive. The term organic has been bastardized by the USDA. If I followed USDA guidelines, I wouldn’t consider myself “organic” (Host C). Thus, most hosts that I encountered are not classified as organic by the USDA—even though they did practice organic methods.

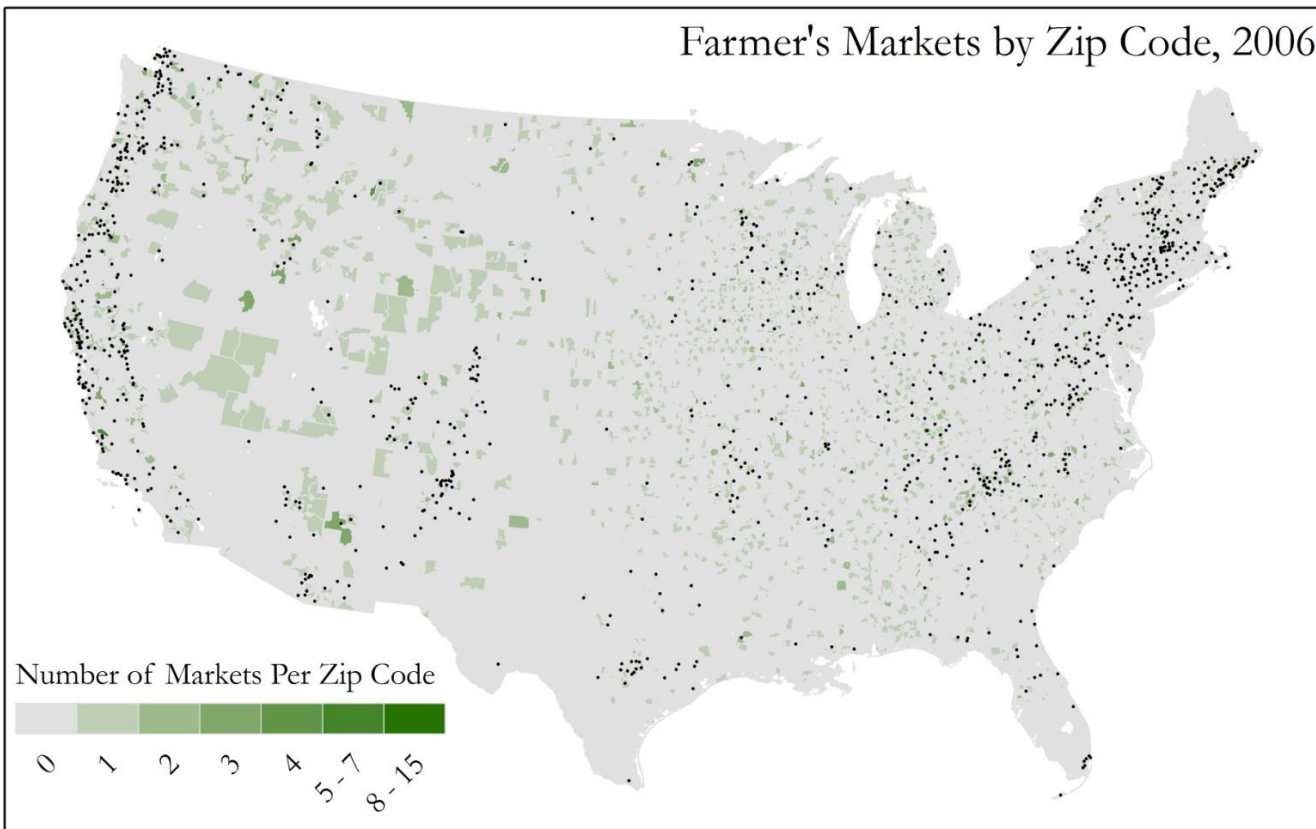
When asked about the neighbors, some hosts mentioned that there were not many ‘organically minded’ people, while others admitted to being surrounded by many similarly minded growers and activists. Two hosts noticed that in the past there were not many people interested in local, organic foods, but today there is a noticeable increase in the demand for organic food and those starting to grow their own foods (Host 11, 12). In recent years, “there are a lot more people living self-sufficiently, organically” in the area (Host 3). While five hosts mentioned moving to the area for the number of organically-minded community, four pointed out that only in the past few years was there a growth of organic farmers and consumers in the area.

Farmers Markets²⁶

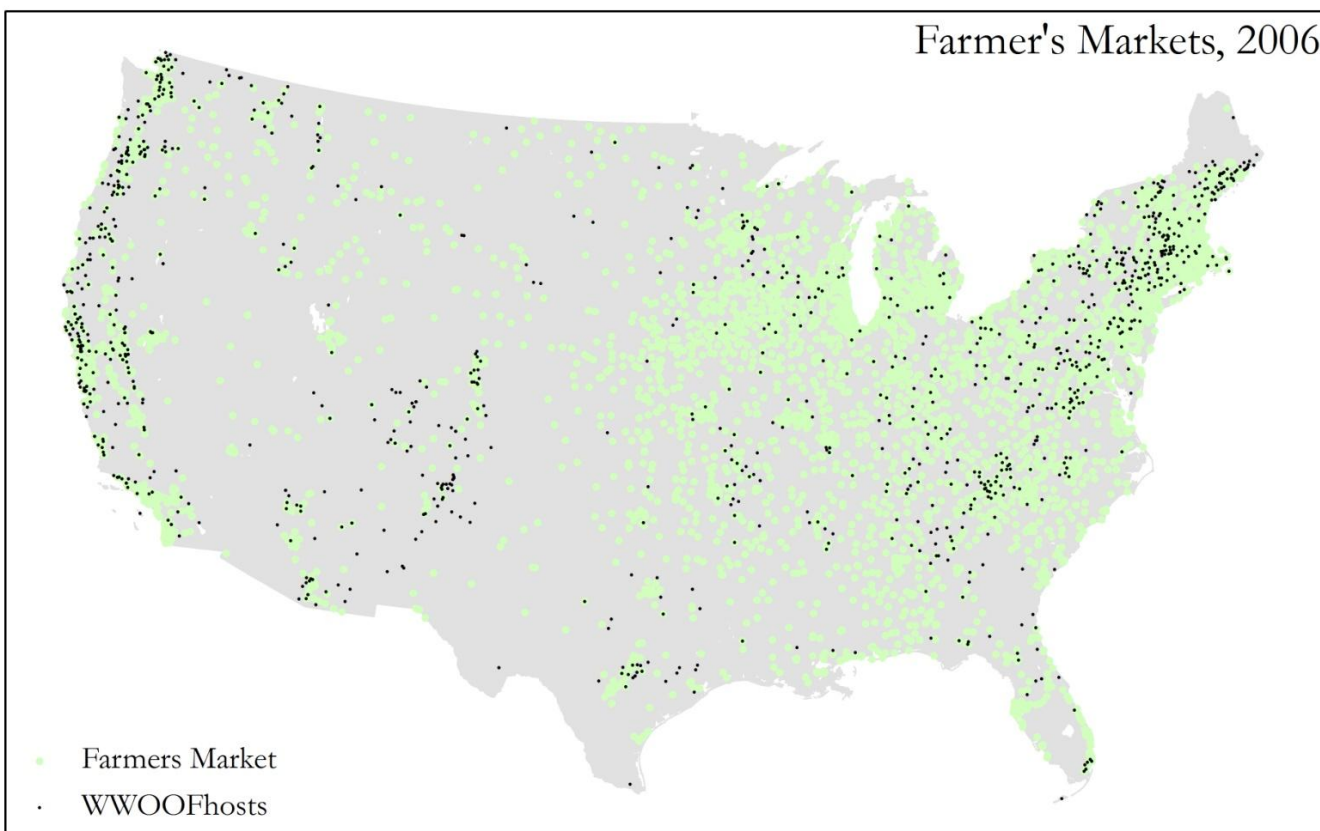
The location of farmer’s markets is useful to study because it provides a sense of how and where hosts overlap with areas that value fresh, local produce and public community spaces (Map 12). Though this variable was not tested for its statistical significance, the map of

²⁶ In order to get a visual account of where hosts are in relation to where many of the nation’s farmers markets are I gathered geo-coordinates of the nation’s farmer’s markets and geo-referenced them using ‘Geocode Addresses’ in ArcGIS. A challenge I continually ran into with Geocoding when transferring excel tables to GIS the zip codes with zeros in the beginning, such as in New England, were dropped and therefore unable to be referenced. Farmers markets in the New England area could not be located, so the solution for this problem is to create a new column, or ‘Add Field’, in Edit Mode and add a zero to a text version of the zip code column. After this, the farmers markets could successfully be geocoded and then Hawth’s Tools was used to count the number of markets per zip code.

Farmer's Markets by Zip Code, 2006



Farmer's Markets, 2006



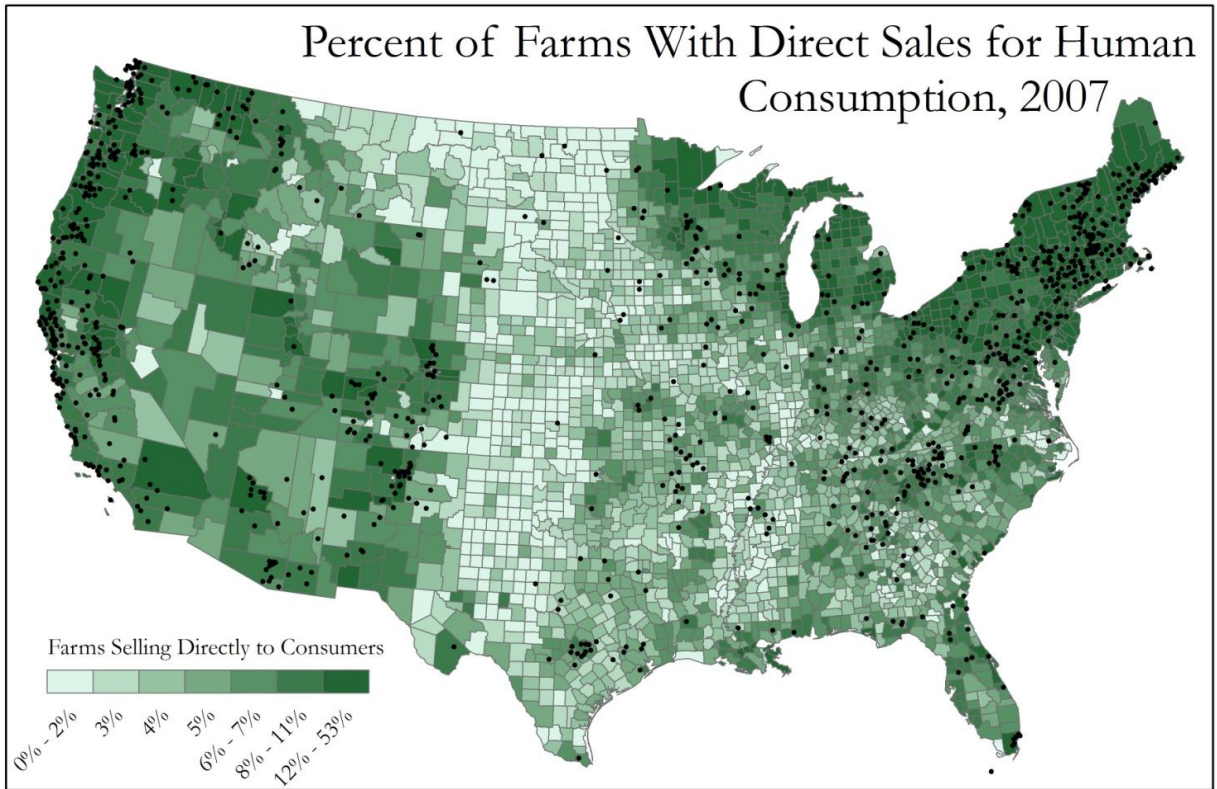
Map 12.

(Source: USDA 2006)

these sites gives a good impression of where hosts and farmer's markets overlap. California, New York, Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Kentucky are states with the most farmers markets in the country. In New York, interviewees who sell or participate at farmers markets mentioned that WWOOFers are beneficial to have at farmers markets because they are conversation starters. WWOOFers enjoy the process of selling and marketing local produce, as well as meeting more farmers in the area and observing what other farms are growing and producing in the area. Also, having volunteers at the markets, especially if they were international, broke down barriers with other farmers and allowed farmers to network, as well as expose people to their farm and the WWOOF organization (Host 8).

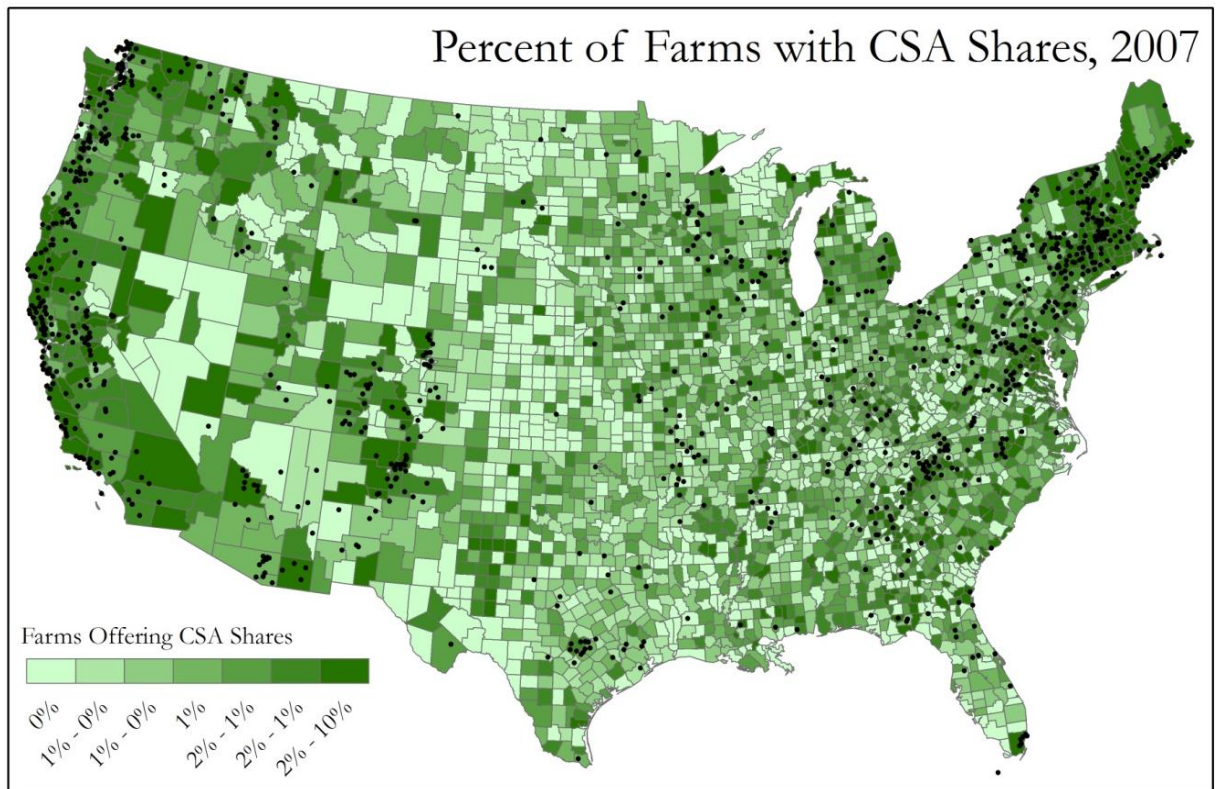
Farms with CSA Shares, Direct Sales, and Value Added Commodities

WWOOF provides opportunities to learn about a diverse variety of produce and high value goods, such as how to make cheese or wine (Host 7, 8). Areas in the Northeast and Northwest are known for their plethora of small organic farms that sell produce directly to consumers (Map 13). Lyson (2004) notes that it is not surprising that places such as "Massachusetts, New York and other states in the Northeast are in the vanguard of the relocalization efforts. Large scale, industrial farming has largely bypassed this region, and consumers there must rely on food produced elsewhere" (Lyson 2004: 6). This may explain why there are so many WWOOF hosts in these areas. Small farms are more likely to be involved in local initiatives and the community, such as CSAs and direct sale, partly because it is costly to sell goods far away and it is difficult to compete with larger farms. For example, hosts mentioned that they sometime would put up signs or have a farm stand on the road to sell extra eggs or produce, such as squash (Host 6,8,9). Produce for direct sale involves trust of the consumers to the farmers and WWOOF hosts living in areas that have farms that sell directly for human consumption shows that this trust exists in the area. Similarly, hosts were quick to note that in the past "if you wanted to join a CSA you would have to do a lot of calling around," but currently there are CSAs popping up everywhere, "on a logarithmic growth chain" (Host 11). They are involved in and surrounded by farms that participate with their community through CSAs (Map 14).



Map 13.

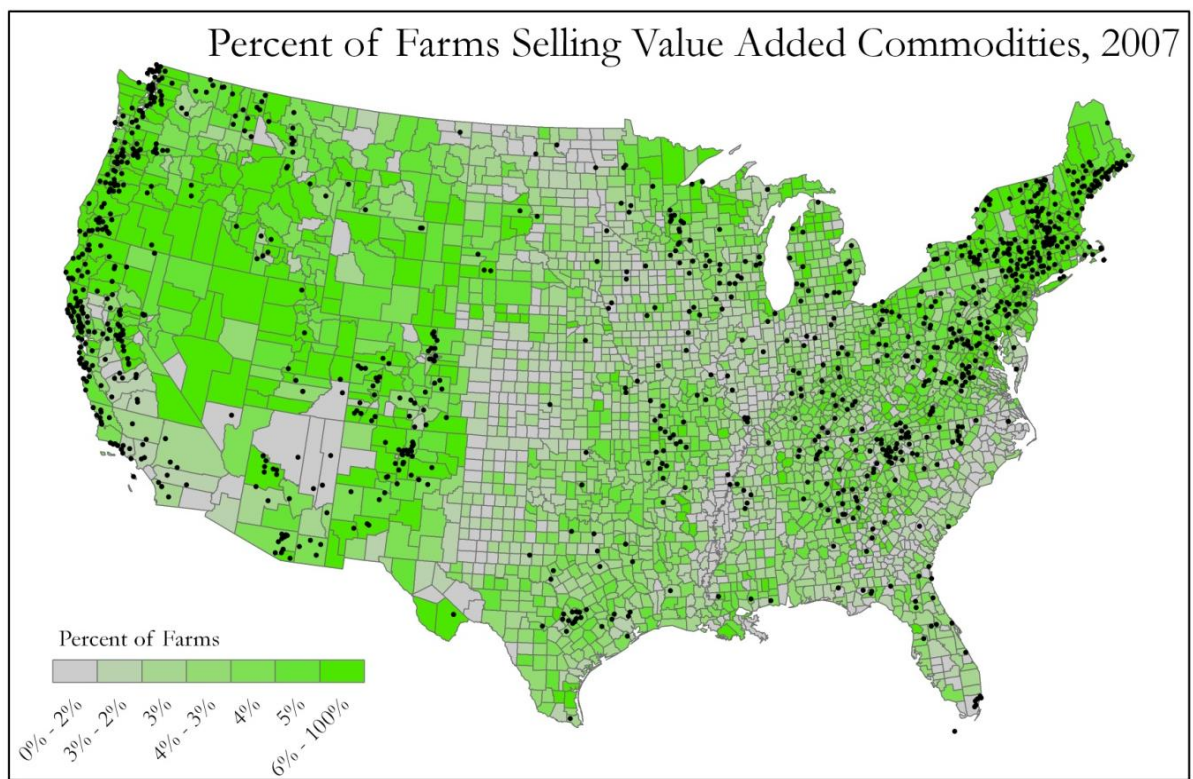
(Source: USDA 2007)



Map 14.

(Source: USDA 2007)

WWOOF hosts are involved in a number of food activities and have a desire to share techniques to create products: “an opportunity to share, pass along what we have learned... people who are interested in growing, preserving own food or how to make better compost, how to make cheese... anything that we do and somebody wants to know how to do, we are pleased to pass on” (Host 9). They learn and teach skills to eat and drink a diverse array of foods. WWOOF hosts enjoy creating organic value added products and are surrounded by other farmers who also sell these commodities. Thus, WWOOF hosts in the USA are surrounded by and participate in actions that support local initiatives and shorter food supply chains (Map 15).



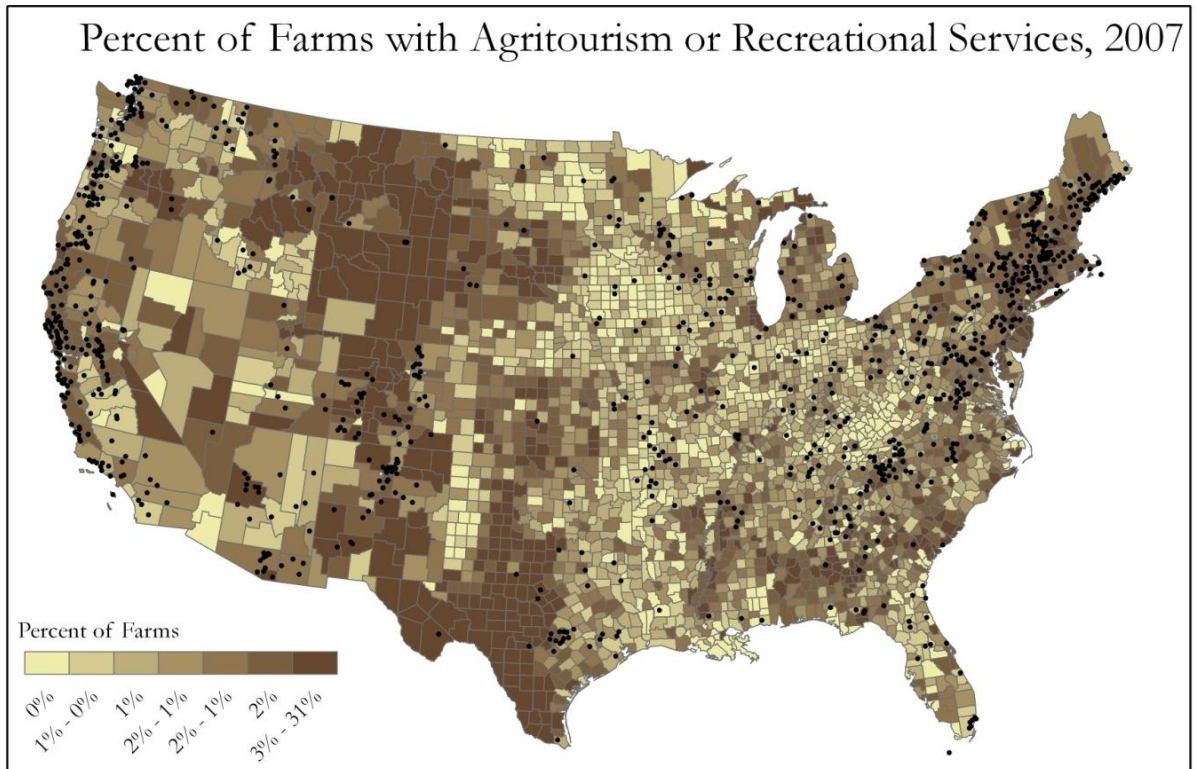
Map 15.

(Source: USDA 2007)

WWOOF hosts are involved in a number of activities and desire to share techniques and ways in which they create products: “an opportunity to share, pass along what we have learned... people who are interested in growing, preserving own food or how to make better compost, how to make cheese... anything that we do and somebody wants to know how to do, we are pleased to pass on” (Host 9). They learn and teach skills that allow them to eat and drink a diverse array of foods. Thus, WWOOF hosts in the USA are surrounded by and participate in actions that support local initiatives.

Farm with Income from Agritourism

Generally, farm tourism offers opportunities to diversify income for many agricultural dominated areas (Map 16). There exists heavy agritourism in areas in which WWOOF hosts are not: Western Texas, Wyoming and the Yellowstone areas, which can be accounted for by the large number of dude ranches. Farms create tourist destinations in themselves.



Map 16.

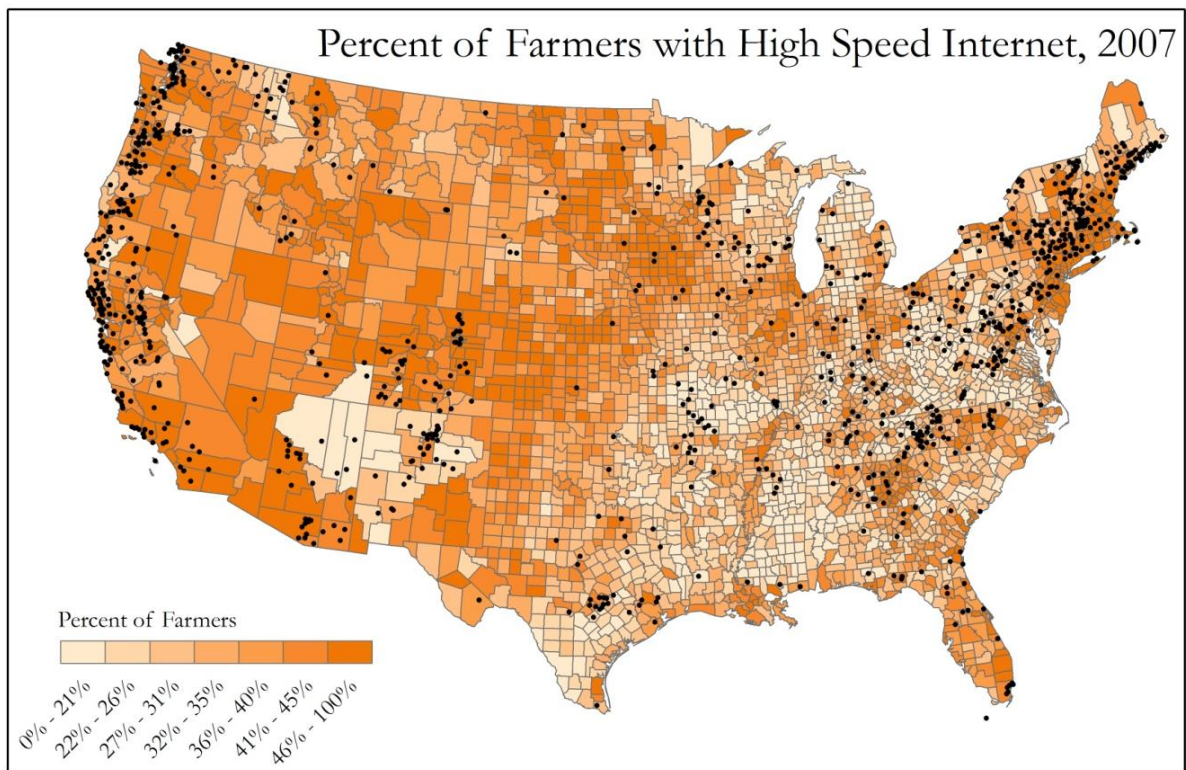
(Source: USDA 2007)

The relationship that the WWOOF organization has with agritourism is a complicated one. While some hosts believe that WWOOF is obviously a form of farm tourism, others are absolutely convinced that it is not. Furthermore, it is difficult to quantify where WWOOF fits in the tourism conversation because it is an exchange, not a vacation; however, it enables visitors to get to know the area and people like a home stay. Though WWOOF hosts differed significantly on their views of whether WWOOF is considered a form of farm tourism: “[WWOOF] is a very deep form [of farm tourism]” (Host C), “it certainly can be” (Host F), “cheap holiday” (Host 6), “not a great tourist destination” (Host 9), WWOOF offers a way in which urbanites can get to the country and be closer with their food sources. Though the surrounding area may not be attractive, especially in the Northeast with its low amenity score, farms and farming communities can attract and welcome visitors. Ultimately, it depends on the volunteers as whether or not WWOOF is considered a form of tourism. Some volunteers do use the network as a way to

travel, live cheaply and see the rural countryside, while others are more adamant about learning about the processes, techniques and ideas that these hosts are enacting. It is not the intention of the organization to use WWOOF as a form of pleasure travel, but rather a way of learning about the process of sustainability and being a mindful traveler.

Percentage of Farms with High-speed Internet

This variable was tested more for curiosity, but in some tests there was a positive relationship with WWOOF hosts and percentage of farmers with internet access. While some hosts emphasize a simple lifestyle and do not own a computer, other hosts who prioritize the same thing are very dependent on the internet as a means of communication and gateway to knowledge, especially for researching farming methods and solutions. Thus, WWOOF hosts are not against technology, in fact many of them use the internet actively to recruit workers, get information and advertise their farms; however, they do stand against the current technological, economic and political structures that are transforming the way in which we value food, community and the land (Map 17).



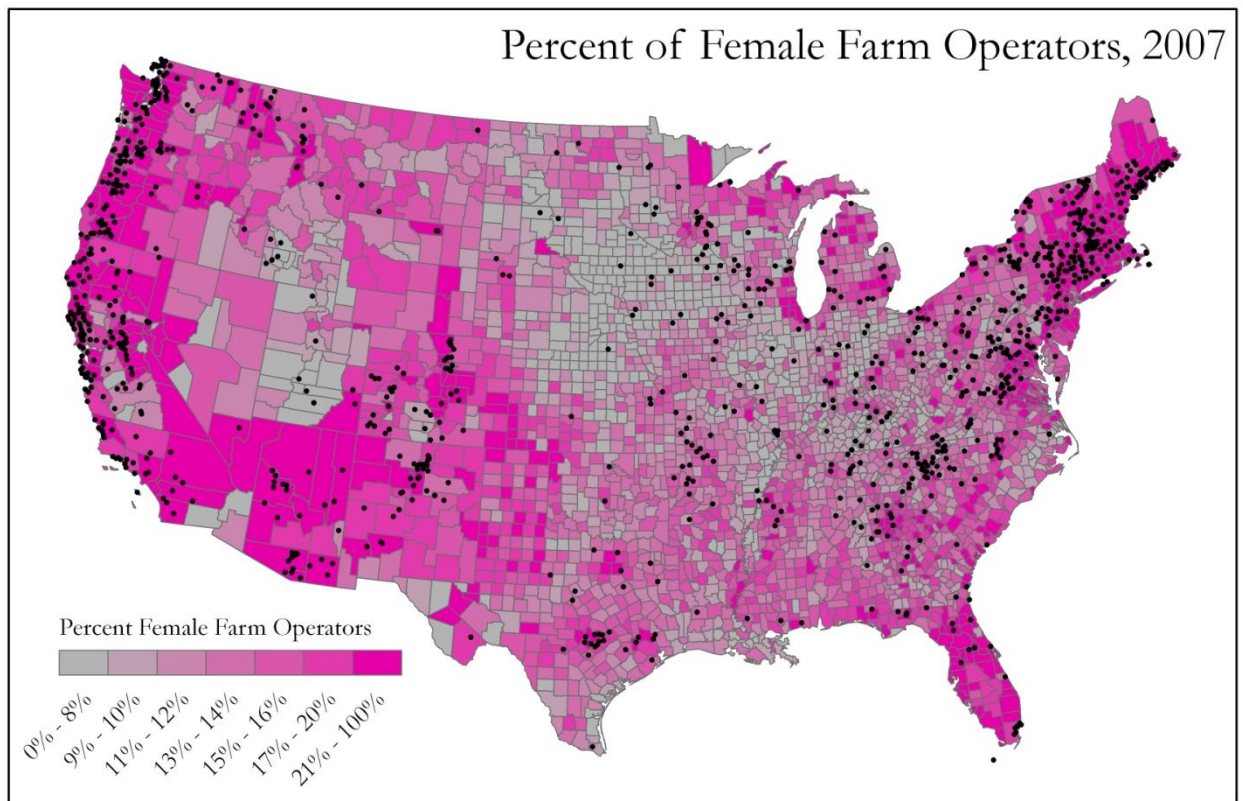
Map 17.

(Source: USDA 2007)

Percentage of Female Operators

A notable theme that emerged was the role of the female in the WWOOF organization and as a farmer. Most hosts that I interviewed had significantly more female volunteers than males (Total Male Volunteers: 26 versus Total Female Volunteers: 68). One host described a theory that “most males apply to places where they get paid, where they receive a stipend” for their manual labor (Host 10). Males are less likely to WWOOF because they are more interested in more serious internships. Yet, there is also a trend on the rise of females more interested in farming and owning farms (USDA 2007).

A couple of hosts argued that females were more involved in local food initiatives and nurturing community in general. Four of the twelve interviewees were solo female farmers or were the chief operator of the farm. One host felt compelled to admit that “whatever the common conception in this county, female farmers aren’t stupid” (Host 9). Another host claimed that more women are taking on farms as a natural move from the kitchens and cooking (Host 6). “Partly through the whole emancipation act,” women now feel that they are able to be put on an equal pedestal in a male dominated agriculture industry (Host 6).



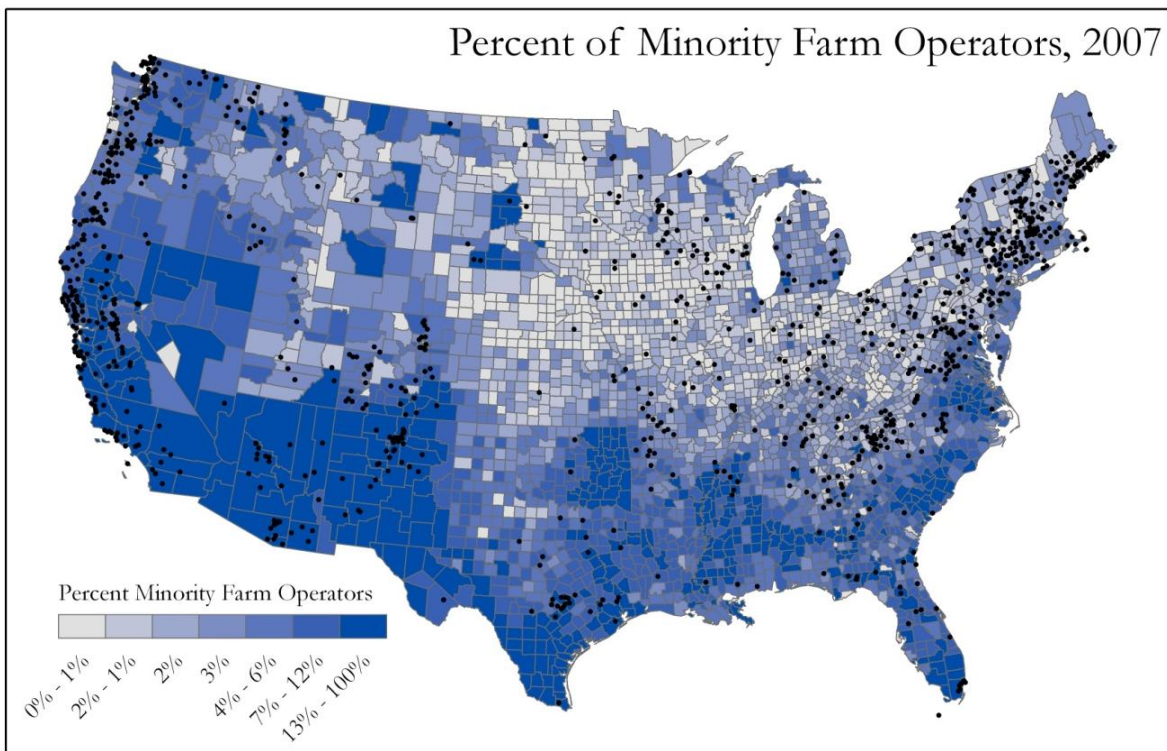
Map 18.

(Source: USDA 2007)

The percentage of women principal operators is highest in the West and in New England, which also corresponds to the locations of many WWOOF hosts. The states with the highest percentage of women principal operators are Arizona, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine (Map 18). The states with the lowest percentages of women principal operators are in the Midwest., which have 34, 12, 35 and 55 hosts respectively.²⁷ Women make up less than 10% percent of all farm operators in four Midwestern states: South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa (USDA 2007).

Percentage of Minority Operators

For every one percent increase in the number of minority operators, the expected number of WWOOF hosts would increase by a factor of 0.007. Since many WWOOF hosts are open to having strangers come into their homes and live with them it can be assumed that they have a high tolerance for diversity and openness (Map 19). Positive correlation with this variable confirms that WWOOF hosts live in areas that seem to be more open to diversity and people of all backgrounds. Also, according to USDA (2007), farms operated by minorities and women are often smaller in acreage and in sales than the national average. These qualities align with WWOOF hosts.



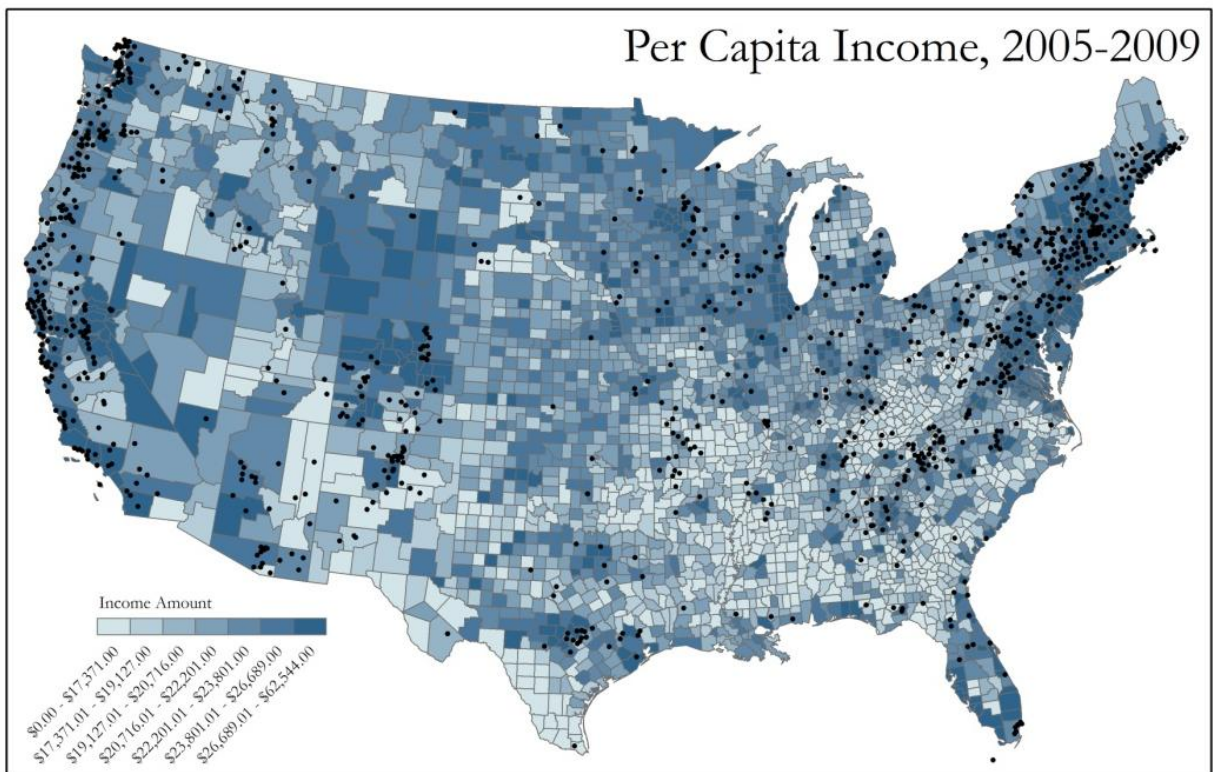
Map 19.

(Source: USDA 2007)

²⁷ The average number of WWOOF hosts in the continental USA is 26 hosts.

Per Capita Income, 2009

A measure of the economic situation of a county, the strength of the relationship between areas of high or low PCI and location with WWOOF hosts was negligible. States with high PCI are Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and areas surrounding New York City, as well as most counties in Midwest, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Florida. Areas that have low PCI are the southern Appalachia states, the South east, Southwestern Texas, and New Mexico (Map 20). These areas all have generally low concentrations of WWOOF hosts.



Map 20.

(Source: US Census 2005-09)

The interviews also revealed a mixed correlation to high income. While some hosts do not obtain high levels of income and in some cases do not have paying jobs, others have or have had high paying jobs and can now afford to live off of the land without an additional income.

We are all full-time volunteers, nobody is paid, but farming is not the only thing that we do... we have healthy food, work that we care about... just different... we can do a lot with very little money... we just can... and that's sustainability, to me (Host 9).

Ten hosts I interviewed prefer to live in a healthy, more ecologically friendly manner than one that allows them to make lots of money. Two mentioned that the stress associated with high-income jobs is not worth the more financially secure lifestyles. On another note, one host believed that WWOOF was valuable because it taught one how to ‘flat line’: “There is not enough ‘flat lining’ in our society. It seems that people respect making money and even losing money, but they do not appreciate as much being self-sustainable—staying in an area and not making money, but not losing it as well” (Host 1). Hosts are quick to discuss different ways of looking at money and income. They are not quick to jump into the worlds that emphasize high incomes. Thus, WWOOF hosts have different views on income attainment.

Unemployment Rate, 2009

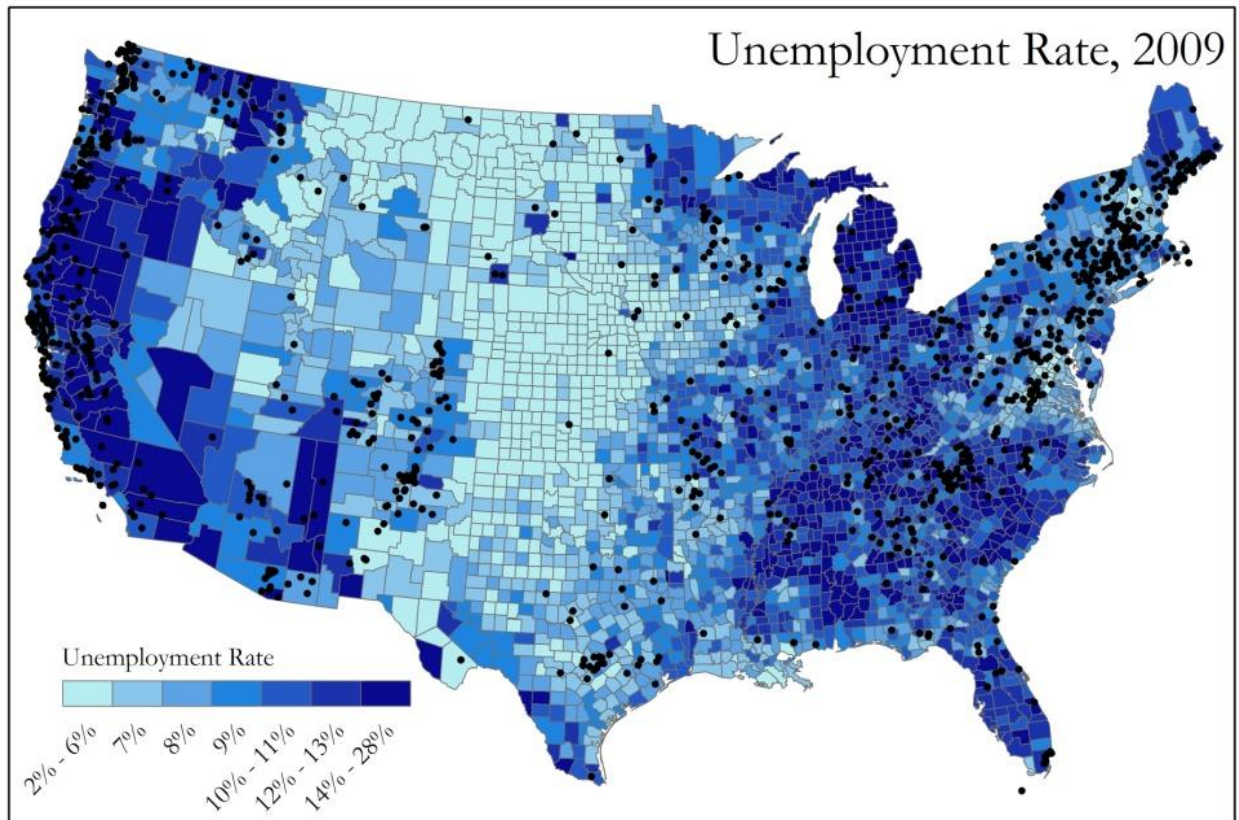
Unemployment rate was positively correlated with WWOOF hosts. Unemployment rates are highest along the West coast, especially in Oregon and California, as well as in the Midwest, especially Michigan, and the South, most notably Tennessee, the Carolinas and Alabama (Map 21). Ironically, the areas that have the lowest rates of unemployment, which are the Central and West states, Washington DC area, and New Hampshire and Vermont, all have a fair number of WWOOF hosts.

Related to poverty, the unemployment rate is an indicator of the job opportunity and infrastructure of a county. Many hosts try to be self-sufficient, work on-site, are self-employed or retired and/or do not have jobs. The tests reveal that they are surrounded by people who may be similar.

Some hosts claimed that some participants are WWOOFing because it is a financially viable way. They often receive unemployment benefits. One host admitted to a weakness of the WWOOF opportunity in that many people used it as a back-up for unemployment and not having a place to live:

There’s been a major change in the way that people think about living... housing... coexisting... and it’s the daring people or the desperate people that are going for it... if you don’t have unemployment insurance and you don’t have a job and you don’t have money to rent you don’t have too many choices... if you are a student visa person and your college just closed for a semester and you don’t have an option for staying in a dorm from June through September you have got to find a place to go...” (Host 3)

They cannot afford to pay rent and use WWOOF as a means to live cheaply.



Map 21.

(Source: US Census 2009)

One host, who was currently unemployed, and in the process of starting his own farm explained:

So there's those two models that takes place... on one hand, people can either work for economic reasons and have to take care of themselves... and not until an entire shift in our entire economy that values food in a totally different way and maybe doesn't value advertising as a valuable part of our economy... or insurance marketing... jobs that most people have in this country... talking about creating jobs... that doesn't take care of them... the most important thing is that people should get taken care of for what they do... not this model where everybody gets a tiny bit of money... not enough for anyone to live off of... it's not going to work... ever again... and I say ever again because it is not working right now (Host 5)

Employment does not rank high on this WWOOF host's agenda. He would rather live minimally and focus on plans for creating his own farm in the future than have a nine to five

job. Another host agrees that employment and income relate to the way in which you value money, and therefore life:

Money is a spiritual substance... if you work into your own pockets... it is so distorted nowadays... with the big CEOs with corporations just working half a year and they make bazillions... it's really a very truthful one... if you work into your own pocket, you go about it differently then when you actually employ someone else... you get your money and do your work, but there is this last little bit that you might not put into it... if you're responsible for your own financial livelihood" (Host 6)

She believes that working for a company and having a 'normal' job are aspects of society that we have been conditioned to believe that we need. Hence, hosts are more open to being unemployed for life style choices. Though this does not explain why there are higher rates of unemployment in areas that WWOOF hosts it paints a clearer picture of what the relationship between unemployment and WWOOF hosts may be sometimes.²⁸

Bohemian Index

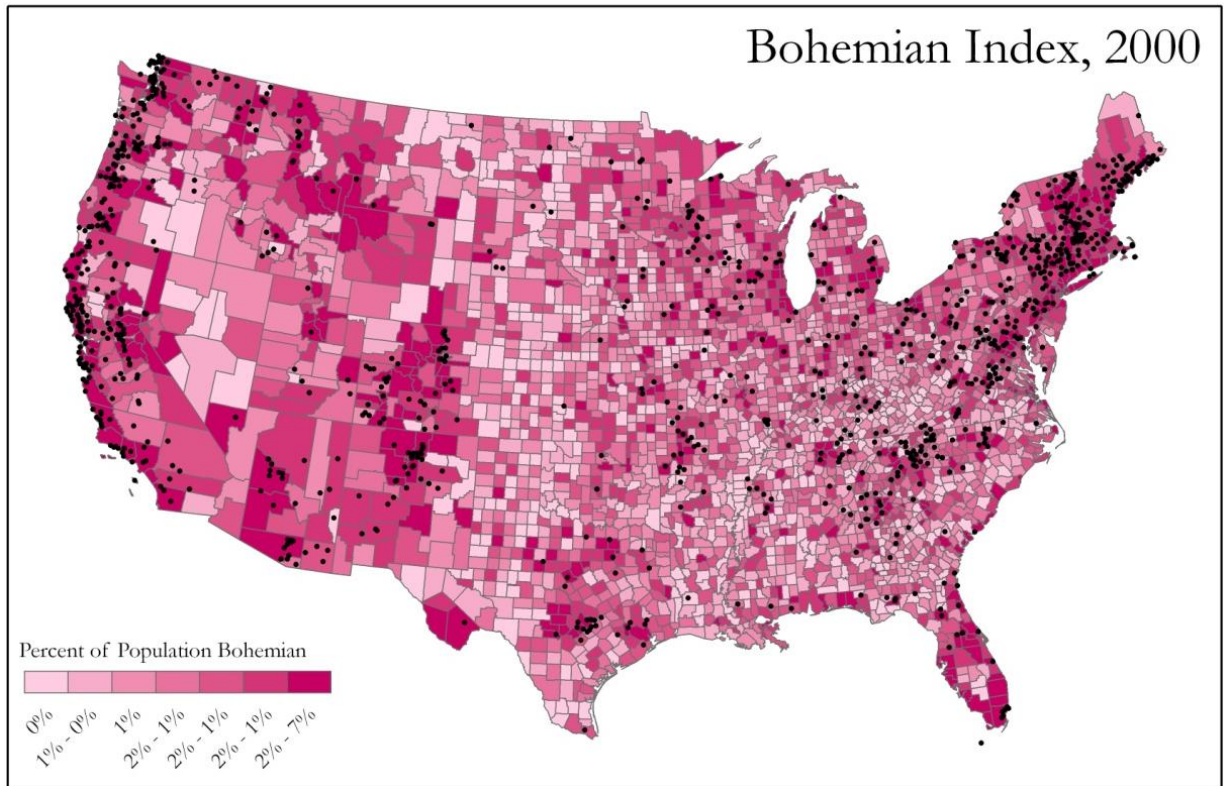
Bohemia is important to study in regards to WWOOF hosts because many hosts are involved in the arts in some manner. Whether through an art eco-community or art and music offerings, WWOOF hosts try to appreciate and create many different forms of energy. Host stated that "many [WWOOFers] came because of our focus on music and culture. They liked that it was more than just farming" (Host B) or "not just limited to farming... it is about food... and other aspects... people are attracted to music and art that is offered" (Host 10). WWOOF hosts fit the criteria of Bohemians, which can be defined as a person with artistic or literary interests who disregard conventional standards of behavior (Florida 2000).

Florida (2000) focuses on the urban aspect of Bohemia and therefore a large percentage of Bohemians can be found around Seattle, New York City, Los Angeles, Nashville, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Washington D.C., Minneapolis-St. Paul, Boston and Austin (Map 22).

Clusters of WWOOF hosts are found in all of these locations. Similarly, Bohemian index is lowest in regions around San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Albany and Baltimore. There are a minimal number of hosts in these areas with Buffalo having the

²⁸ Or does this say something about the infrastructure and resources of the WWOOF hosts' counties?

most with two. Florida (2000) argues that “the presence of a large concentration of bohemians may indicate an underlying openness to diversity” (64). Though Florida focused on urban Bohemian index, WWOOF hosts essentially bring the city to rural areas through the creation of musical, artistic, experimental, environmentally-conscious communities.



Map 22.

(Source: USDA 2000)

Social capital, such as community or being surrounded by like-minded people is important to WWOOF hosts. WWOOF hosts are located in areas of high Bohemian index and other organic farms because they need support and encouragement for continuing what they do. “We are highly imaginative, creative, and productive, but severely under-resourced while stand-offish towards the conventional society and economy” (Host D). They live lifestyles that are not the norm and therefore it takes a lot of energy to continually decide to live in a way that emphasizes self-sufficiency, hard manual labor and an ecologically sustainable future vision.²⁹ Having similar minded Bohemians, as well as WWOOFers, around contributes to sustaining the values that are present in these hosts: “What you are doing really has value.... I mean we live this way for our children and for the future and because we want to live this lifestyle... sometimes it is quite a grind... day in day out a lot of work... not much rest for six months...

²⁹ “We make some effort to be part of this community, but we are also creating our own with the interns and our friends coming and now maybe the workshops and things like that” (Host 7)

and so then to have people sit at your table to be really excited about everything that is on the table from the farm...” (Host 12). In this sense, they are usually in areas of high Bohemian-like concentrations.

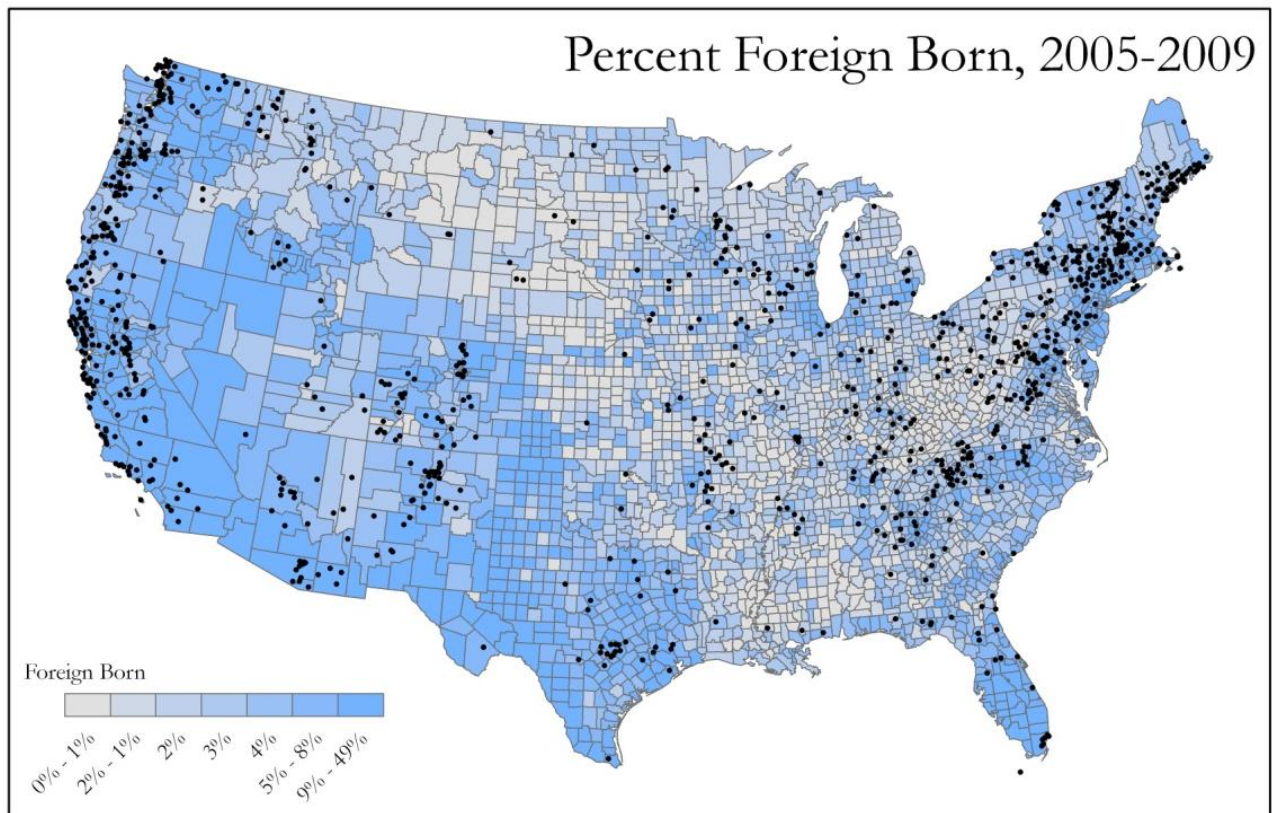
Yet, this is not to say that there are not pioneers in areas. Some hosts live in areas that are not necessarily progressive, but they have family relations or other ties to the area. In some ways, WWOOF hosts represent the ultimate Bohemians because they are artist communities or creative persons who desire to live off of the land. One couple epitomized the definition of Bohemian since they both have been involved in the art and publishing in the city and moved upstate to escape the city in pursuit of a healthier, more laid back lifestyle. The farm allowed the host to continue his art without being in the congestion of the city, where he “was losing his marbles” (Host 7).

Percent Foreign Born

Hosts generally enjoy being surrounded by different cultures, races, and ways of living. A handful of the interviewed hosts came from different countries, such as Germany, Australia, Ukraine, etc, and desired to be exposed to different cultures through WWOOF. Especially since many rural areas that these hosts live in are homogenous, as five hosts claim, WWOOFers allow host families to “expose [their] children to different people” (Host C) and “get a sense of different languages... for the kids to experience that... have the world in here in the house” (Host 6). For some hosts, WWOOFers are a great way to taste different cuisines: “what they bring to us, food, cooking, their stories, how it is living in China, living in Japan... and all of that... because otherwise when do you really hear that stuff...” (Host 6). “It showed us that it's possible to have a very harmonious relationship with people we might not have taken a shine to in any other situation and that a few people can get a lot done. It showed us that opening up our lives to outsiders can be very beneficial to getting work done and enriching our lives” (Host A). Most hosts comment on the cultural experience one can gain with WWOOF: “This is one of the most significant organizations/cultural phenomena in my life” (Host B).

“We haven't traveled all over the world” and so WWOOF allows them to do this while appreciating other culture, stories and ways of life (Host 2). One host equated WWOOFers to the old-fashioned minstrels who traveled around from house to house and brought stories. She claimed that since she is stuck on the farm she cannot afford to travel or be a part of many cultural things; therefore, she brings the culture and diversity to her through WWOOF. Therefore, it makes sense that WWOOF hosts are living in communities with higher diversity,

or openness indicators. One host even described his strength as “being inclusive” (Host B) and open to all types of people.



Map 23.

(Source: US Census 2005-09)

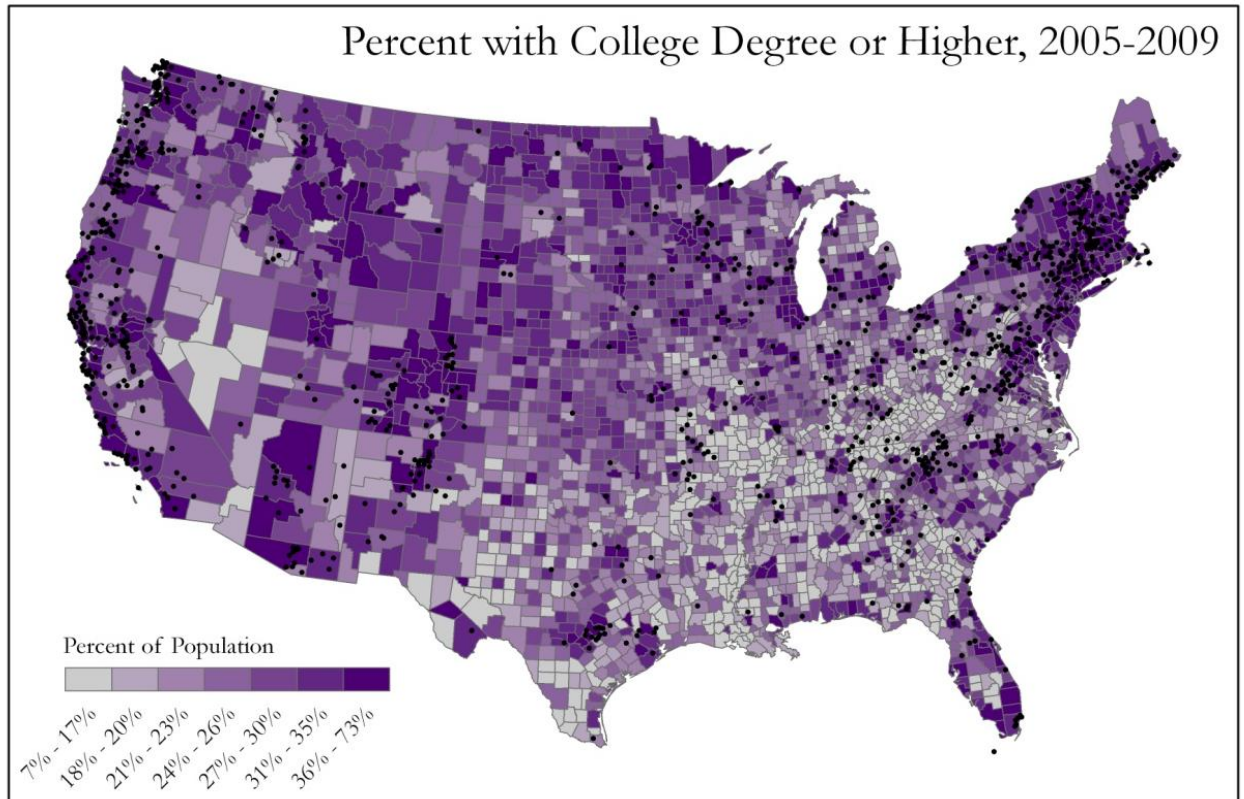
Percent with College Degree or Higher

This variable was used as a way to determine if WWOOF hosts were more likely to be surrounded by an overeducated, elitist crowd. It seems that the location of WWOOF hosts parallel areas that are have universities and college towns, or as one host described the small city that he lived near, “a hip town forever partly because of the large college dynamic” (Host 12).

Some hosts discover other ways of learning that does not involve a high school or college diploma.³⁰ “After high school I learned everything out of school... dropped out to do my own thing... used to make clothing... cover clothing, shelter...” (Host 12). Many hosts are involved in home school, or Steinhart schools (4,5,6). These forms of education, like WWOOF, often emphasize experiential learning and the philosophy that “true teaching and true learning

³⁰ Since a couple hosts admitted to dropping out of high school in pursuit of alternative means of education, it also would have been useful to look at the opposite spectrum, high school drop outs, but this variable was dropped due to multi-collinearity concerns.

comes from experience” (Host 12). Unconventional education attainment is a characteristics of both the hosts and volunteers since the farm experience provides a more hands on way of learning about world processes, from the social to the natural level: “they are student age but they are not necessarily at a conventional school... they are actually traveling around the county and communities to learn also it is a way of alternative learning” (Host 3). Therefore, though hosts may be surrounded by more college educated people or have college diplomas themselves, the WWOOF experience offers an alternative means of learning about life.



Map 24.

(Source: US Census 2005-09)

Age (Operators over 65 years old and Population over 65 years old)

The percentage of principal operators 65 years and over is highest in the South and Mid-West. The states with the highest percentage of older principal operators are New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Mississippi and Oklahoma. The states with youngest average age principal operators are Indiana, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Delaware (Map 25). Though there are some hosts in these states, the counties do not overlap with aging farm operators. This may indicate that hosts are located in areas where younger people are farming and getting their hands dirty.

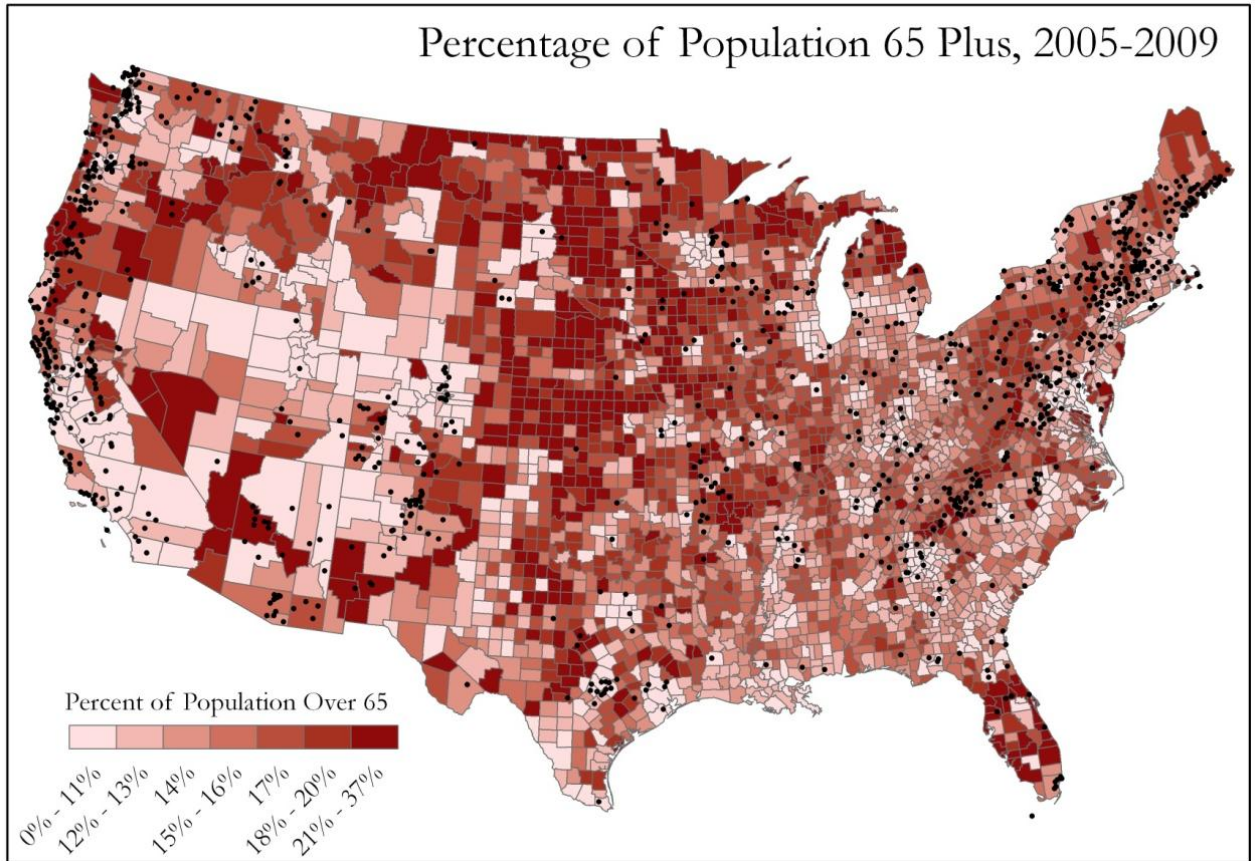
Similar to the demographic of farmers in the USA, WWOOF participants and hosts experience a significant generation gap. Generally, there are not many 40 year-olds the work on farms or participate in the WWOOF organization. The Back-to-the-Land movement and current environmental currents seems to have skipped a majority of the baby boomer populations. One host believed that her parents' generation was not raised to think about alternative or the environment like she was (Host 10).

I think that [my parents] are just more conservative and they would want to live in their own house and have a normal job... my mom especially wouldn't have considered this as option for herself... it is not a natural conclusion, option... I think that it is just scary... I mean you don't make a lot of money here... it's a really good lifestyle, but you are not going to get rich living here and you are not going to save up a whole bunch of money living here and for someone who spent their whole life working really hard to specifically make money for their kids... I think it is hard to just say to them 'you didn't have to do that... you could have just lived in a community and had a really fulfilling and rich community'... and to say 'well I didn't need to work at this job I lived even though it wasn't really what I wanted to do'... It's hard after they have been spending their whole lives doing that... it's hard for them to want to understand that they didn't have to... it's really hard to realize that... and not be resentful... I think most suburban parents probably don't consider moving to a community and growing food their own food as a viable option... most people [at home] are not thinking about this (Host 10)

Though this host's family is supportive of her WWOOFing and living in community, they would not feel comfortable living in a way that does not provide a stable income. Her parents' generation was raised to succeed through making money for their family; however, in reaction to this mentality this host has "gone back to the land" and tried to reconnect with food and a "fulfilling and rich community" (Host 10). Similarly, another host explained that his grandparents had been involved in farming and his parents had moved away from working the land, and in a sense, appreciating food as it should be appreciated (Host 1).

The next few decades will bring uncertainty in regards to the situations of farmers and agricultural industry. The majority of farmers in the USA are nearing retirement age and the younger generations are not replacing them at an adequate rate. WWOOF offers a solution to this dilemma in providing avenues for younger generations to be exposed to and learn about

farming. The WWOOF organization provides a “great way to stay in touch with today’s youth and pass on what we believe to be really important values regarding planet/food/nutrition to the next generation” (Host G), as well as “bring youthful” and “fresh energy” to the farm (Host 8, C). One of the main goals of the WWOOF host is to engage and educate young people about food.³¹



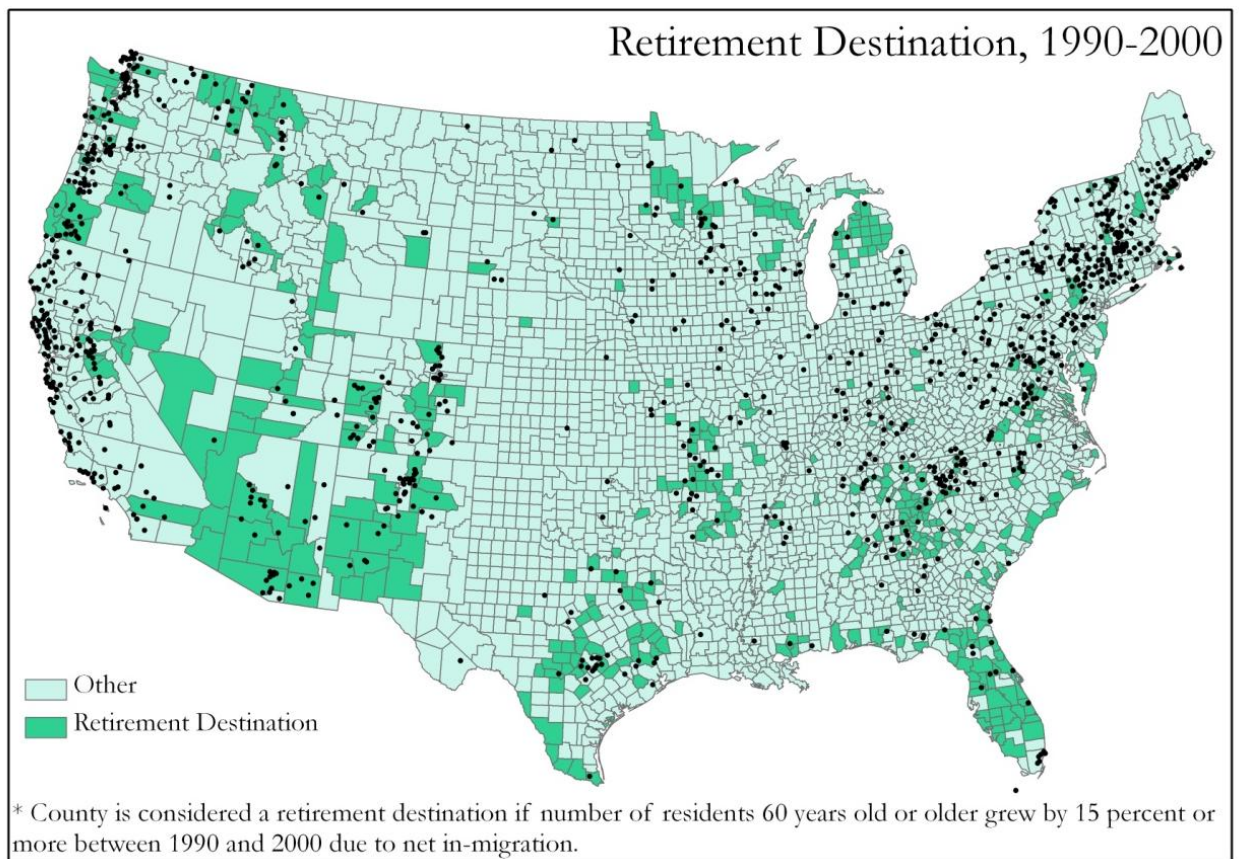
Map 25.

(Source: US Census 2005-09)

Whether it be simply understanding how certain vegetables grow or be eating a raw diet, some older hosts want “a way to wind down and pass our skills along to a young farmer” (Host C) or “want to teach and facilitate the spreading of knowledge and skills” (Host C). Many hosts cited their main goal of being a WWOOF host as being able to hand down knowledge to younger generations. These hosts usually are in retiring to the land and are willing to share what they know. Visually, there is a slight correlation with hosts and retirement destinations (Map

³¹ The *New York Times* ran an article on March 6th, 2011 that mentioned the difficulties young people are having in starting farms: “finding mentors has been difficult. There is a knowledge gap that has been referred to as ‘the lost generation’— people their parents’ age may farm but do not know how to grow food. The grandparent generation is no longer around to teach them” (Raftery, 2011).

26). This is especially important for those interested in starting a farm without access to knowledge bases or people from which to learn techniques.



Map 26.

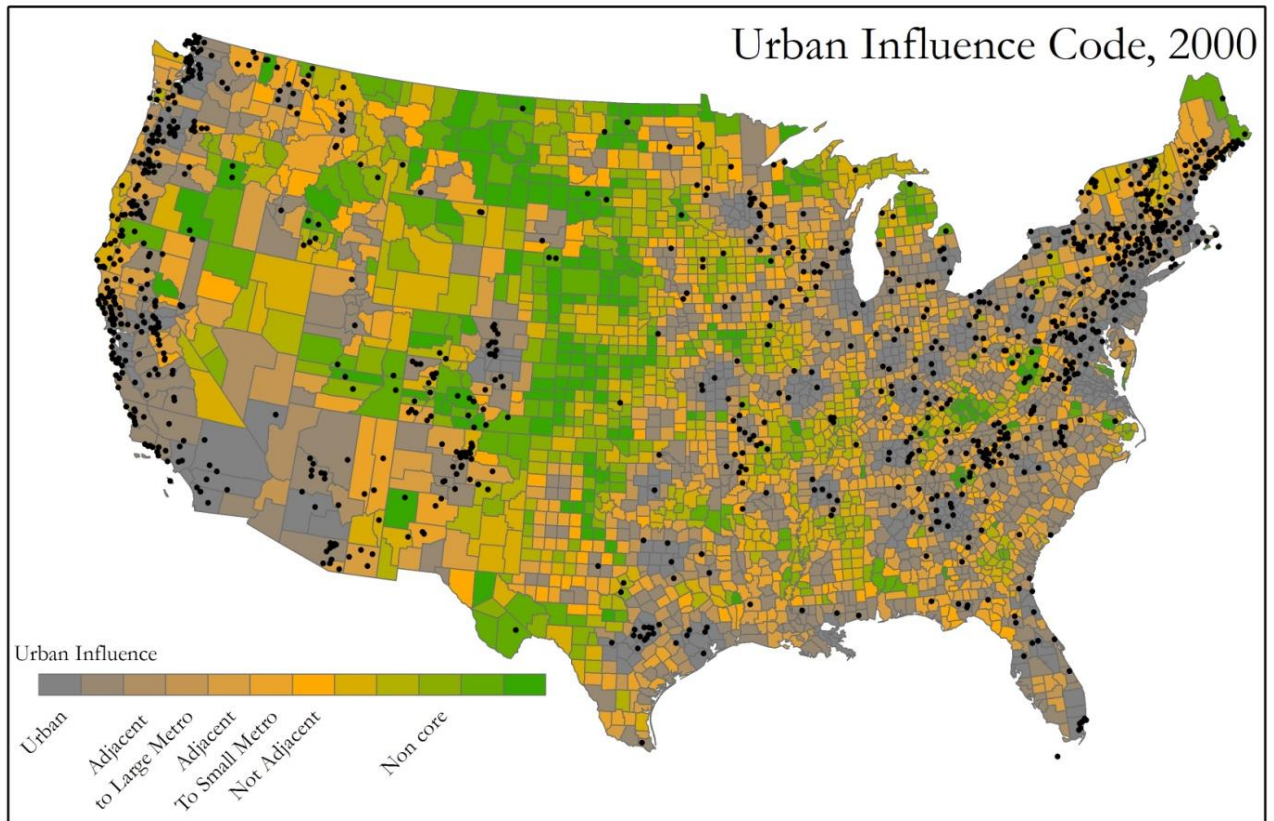
(Source: USDA 1990-2000)

3.2.1. Significant Variables Worth Noting

Due to the county level scale and the measurement limitations of variables used, it is worth mentioning a few of the variables that the hosts indirectly mentioned in the interviews.

Urban Influence

Unfortunately, the population density had no clear relationship with WWOOF host locations. A quick glance at the maps seems to show that many hosts live in more urbanized counties (Map 27).



Map 27.

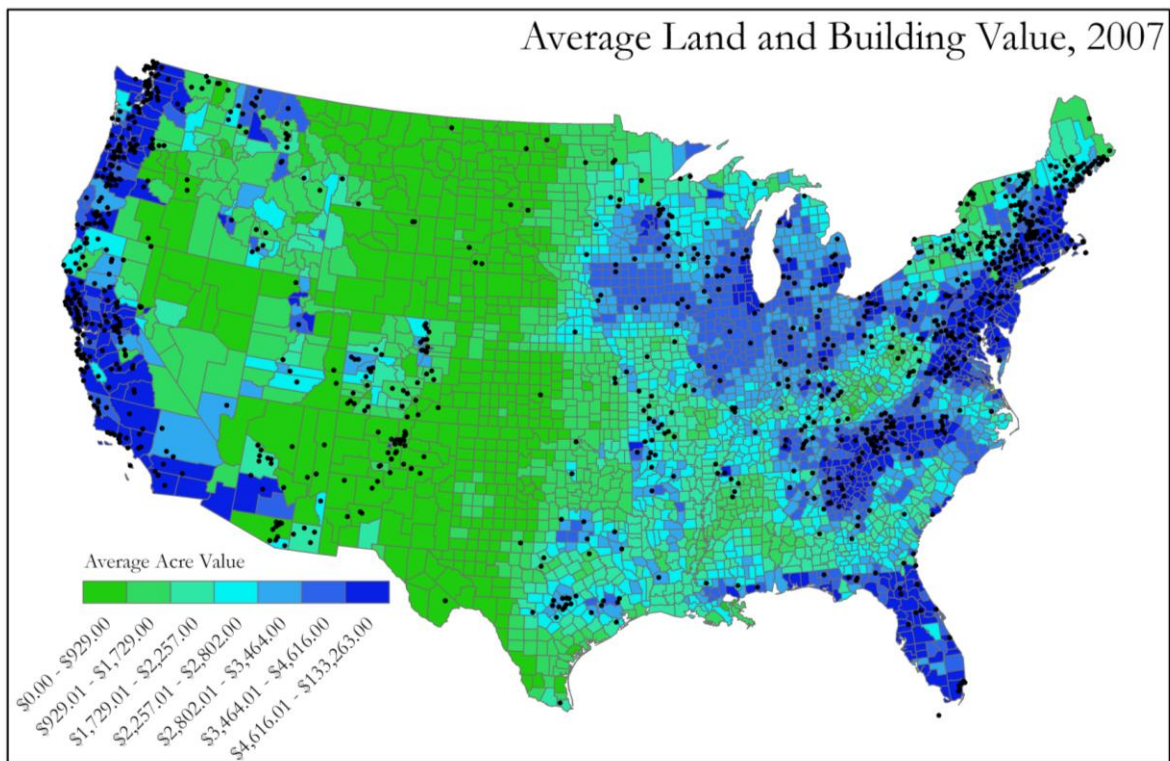
(Source: USDA 2000)

Farm economic indicators

Since there is not a strong relationship between farms economic indicators (i.e. Average Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, Average Value of Land and Buildings, Average Government Payments and Total Farm Sales Less than \$10,000) in the USA and WWOOF hosts locations it is difficult to gain an understanding on the farm economies of WWOOF hosts and their surroundings.

Average Value of Land and Buildings

Visually, there seemed to be a consistency with WWOOF hosts locations and higher priced land. However, these results did not yield statistical relationships (Map 28). This would be a useful indicator to research in the future at a different scale.



Map 28.

(Source: USDA 2007)

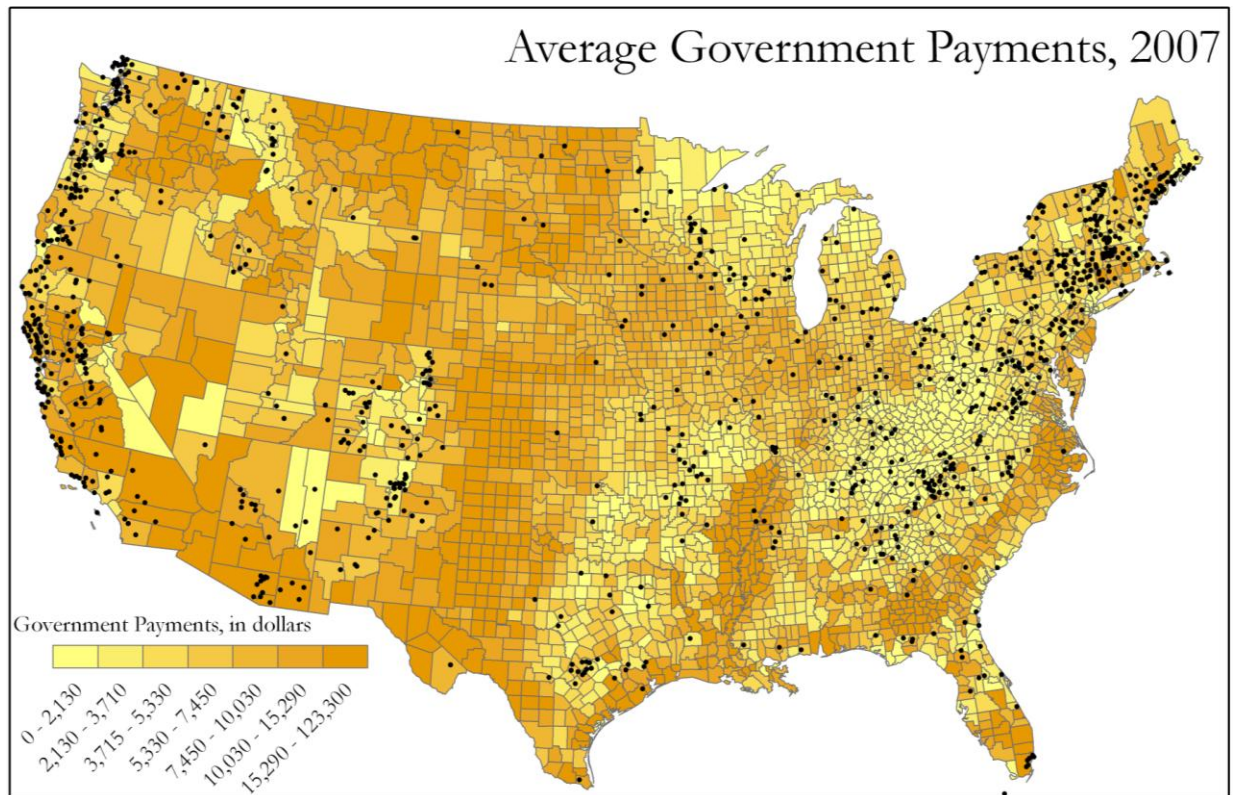
Average Government Payments

The relationship that WWOOF hosts have with government payments is a complex one. In some ways, because hosts are more often found in areas that do not have many of the nation's large farms it is expected that host locations would be negatively correlated with counties whose farms receive large government payments; yet, this is not the case on the nationwide county levels (Map 28). Hosts were against the current system of government payments and subsidies because, as most of the argued, "we're the ones who are not getting any subsidies, so if the true costs were out there on the produce sets in the supermarket, we'd be at least equally as cheap" (Host 6). Other hosts had similar thoughts on the distribution of subsidies in the nation and the low value Americans put into food.³² Unlike Europeans, as mentioned by Host 1, Americans put a valued emphasis on cheap food, which is guaranteed mainly through the government subsidies to large industrial farms.³³ The WWOOF organization works in

³² "what we value like food or something really nourishing is on the same level as what we value electronics or... it's cheaper we'll do it that way..." (Host 5)

³³ The uneven geography of subsidies and domination of large scale farmers does not occur solely in the USA. It occurs worldwide and that is where WWOOF aims to make aware and slowly change this concentration of agro

reaction to the unfair distribution of financial assistance that large farms receive through providing volunteers.



Map 29.

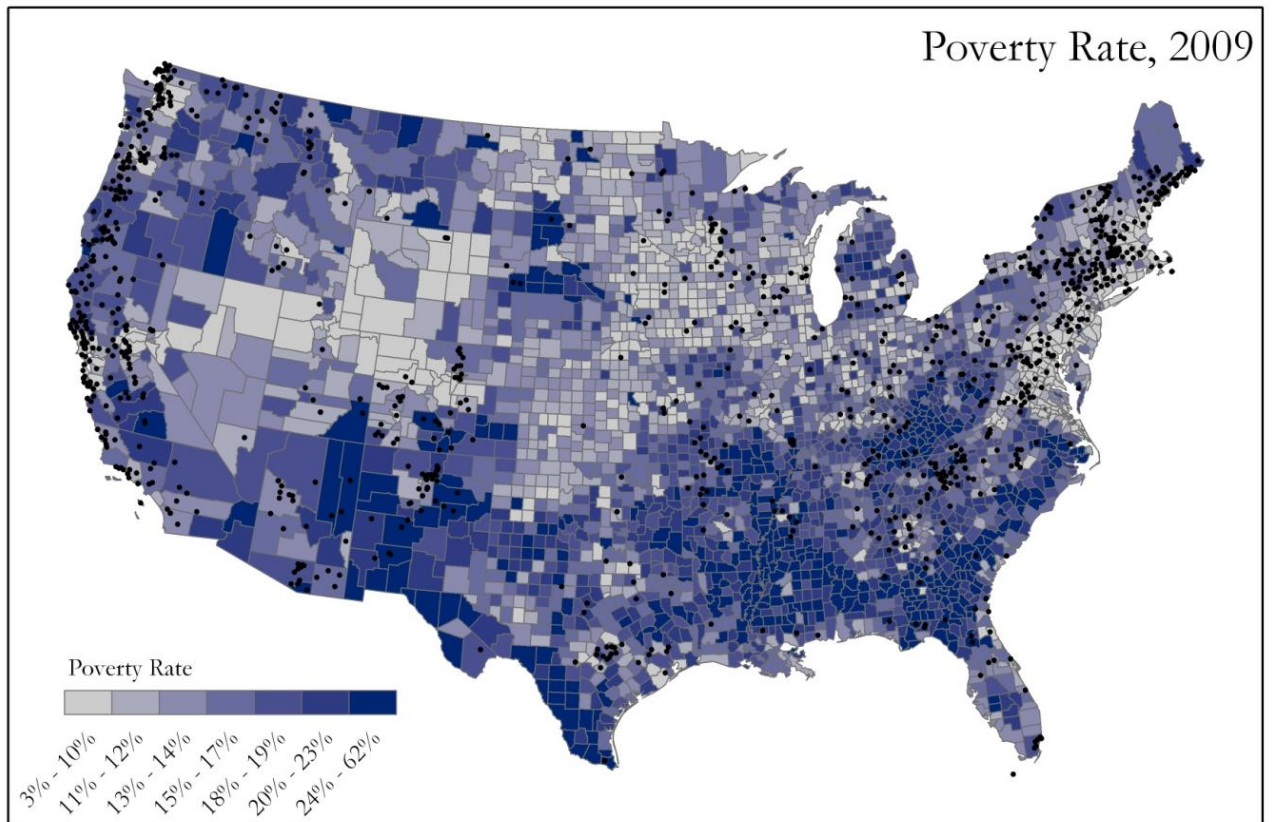
(Source: US Census 2009)

Poverty Rate

At the county level poverty rate and number of WWOOF hosts did not have a significant relationship to each other (Map 30). Many hosts described their areas as “not affluent” or one of the “poorer, rural counties in the state” (Host 1, 9, 10). One host stated that “most of our neighbors are farmers also and they are no organic farmers. I drove down the road the other day and I saw a sign on the barn that said “Gone Broke Farm and Moving to Mexico” (Host 10). Some hosts live in areas of high poverty, partly because the land is cheaper: “I think that the Amish³⁴ are buying farms because land values are low, low property value” (Host 9). Similarly, one host stated that “families working together can succeed but they may be living at or below poverty. Farming is one of, if not the most, difficult professions” (Host C).

power: “WWOOF does help farmers... if we had more money we could just hire somebody, but that’s obvious... you know... it’s all over the world, where farmers don’t have economics to have employees... even small companies struggle to have employees and to pay to the state... it’s tough”(Host 2).

³⁴ This host mentioned the Amish because they were her neighbors.



Map 30.

(Source: US Census 2009)

Hosts find that counties with higher poverty can be difficult because high poverty reduces the market demand for a CSA or goods at the farmer's market; however, it is also an opportunity for some hosts to donate their produce, time and energy into contributing to the communities in need. Three hosts are very involved in volunteer efforts, such as donating to food shelters and families in need, or creating toys for refugees.

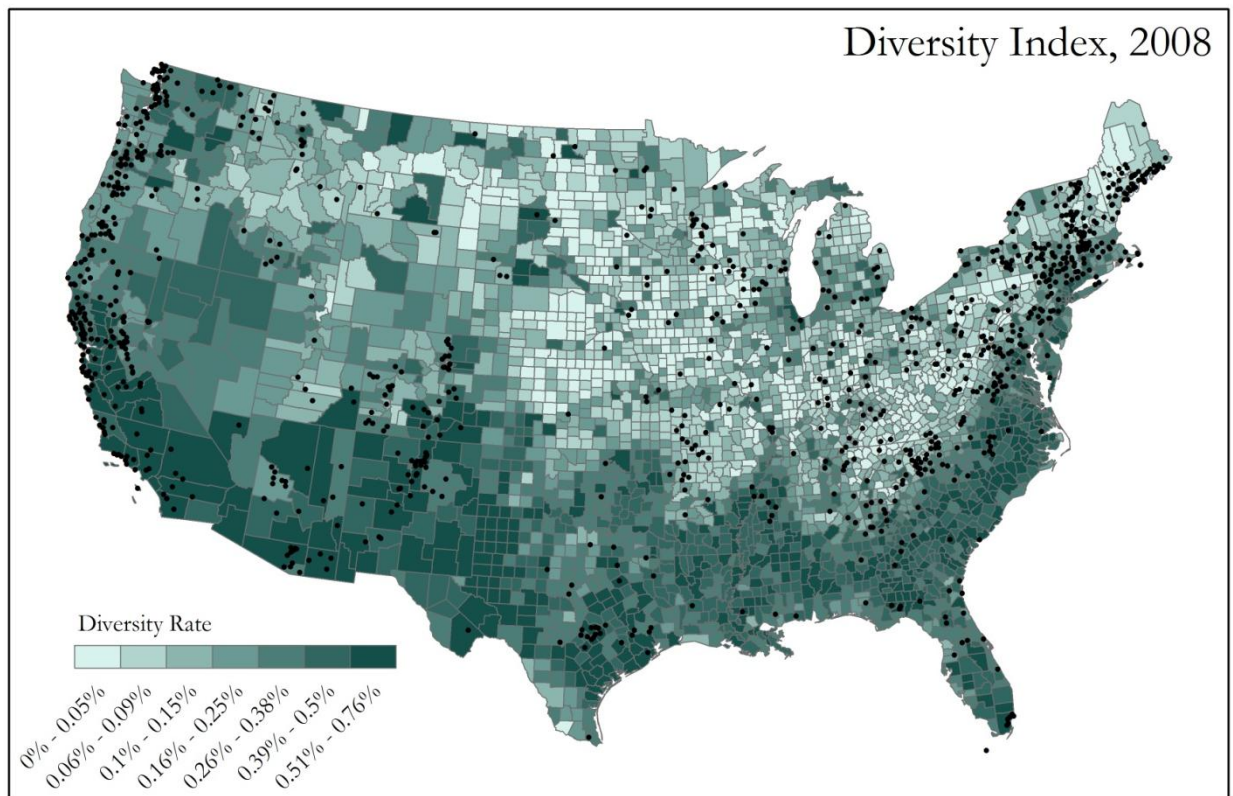
They have different views on poverty.³⁵ "We are a farm, but no part of it has ever intended to earn income, that's just not what we are doing "because "we do not sell food, we make syrup, grow shitake mushroom, raise pigs, make our own cheese to feed us and whoever is visiting us at any given time" (Host 9). Hosts try to live healthy and fulfilling lives with minimal material and money. Poverty and WWOOF hosts have a complicated relationship in that some are in poverty because they do not value money like the average consumer does, while another

³⁵ I am sitting here with no money... but I am never really worried... I have lived off \$40 in the last couple of weeks... if you dedicate yourself to being really good at what you are doing and do it really well... and you care about your community, money will come naturally... the nature of money is that it will naturally flow between people who have good ideas... to people who know how to do what they do because they love to do it... and I find that that's absolutely true... (Host 5)

group of hosts are lifestyle farmers and have resources from past careers to invest in hobbies and farming.

Racial Diversity Index

Members of the creative class want their children to grow up in communities characterized by tolerance and diversity (Map 31). Diversity can arguably equate to a measure of tolerance and cultural variation. Hosts living in these areas appreciate the cultural exchange and knowledge that they gain from hosting WWOOFs around the world and county. One host mentioned that having an African American WWOOFer working at the farmer's market started a lot of conversations about the organization and farm in the "pretty white" town that she lives in (Host 8). Though there was not a statistical relationship to host locations and diversity, interview revealed that WWOOFers themselves expose hosts to people of diverse backgrounds. Though the WWOOF organization emphasizes exchanges and diversity, four hosts mentioned that they screen participants and thus illustrate a hesitation in enabling anyone to enter their homes and gardens.



Map 31.

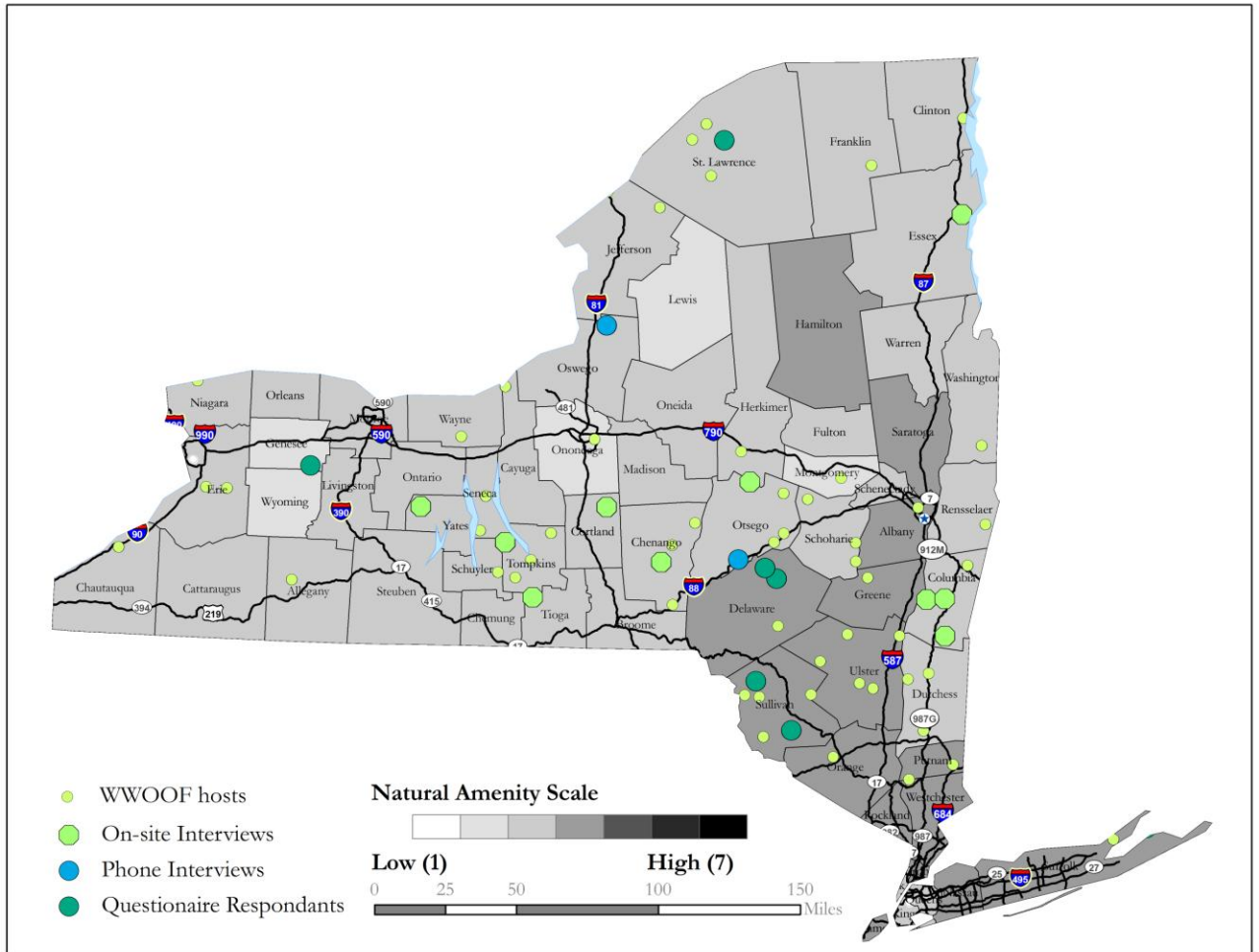
(Source: US Census 2008)

3.3. Locational Decision Making: a Case of Upstate New York Hosts

Agriculture, especially dairy farming, is important to New York State as the farm sector contributes over \$5 billion in revenues (USDA 2007). About 25% of the state's land is used to produce a diverse array of vegetables, fruit, livestock, and field crops. New York is predominantly known for its dairy production, which occurs across the entire state. As the nation's 3rd leading producer, New York produced 12.4 billion pounds, which equates to over \$2.2 billion and over one half of total agriculture receipts, of milk (USDA 2007). Though New York is heavily involved in industrial agriculture, "recently, in many areas of New York State, and throughout the northeast, the growth of farmers markets has attracted many backyard gardeners, 'hobby' farmers, and other growers who do not have agricultural roots and are new to farmers markets" (Grifen *et al* 2003: 202). The state is developing alternative markets to the industrialized farming.

According to the 2008 Organic Production Survey, New York State ranks number four in the nation on number of certified and exempt organic farms. New York houses about 827 organic farms that sell about \$105,133,000 in sales, which equates to roughly 3.3% of total organic sales in the nation (USDA 2010). Upstate New York houses 78 hosts of 243 WWOOF hosts in the Northeast.³⁶ Though the area ranks relatively low for its natural amenity score, these individuals and families still find a desire to live and attract people to their farms. This section explores the specific reasons why hosts are living where they do in Upstate New York.

³⁶ The Northeast includes Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York.



Map 32. New York is now known for its natural amenity score, not its prosperity score, therefore it is useful to gauge reasons why hosts decide to locate here.

3.3.1. Spatial Clusters and Outliers

Many locational themes emerged through interviews with a wide variety of hosts in rural New York (Map 32). Though I interviewed clusters of hosts, such as in the Catskills and Finger Lakes regions, it became evident that a few WWOOF hosts are not as well connected as this small network of organic growing organization would imply. Though the organization aims to bring together people interested in connecting with food and organic living, ten out of eighteen hosts, even if they live in a few towns over, are unaware of other projects, farms and businesses occurring. Indeed, there are clusters of hosts and three hosts mentioned that they interact and cooperate with other WWOOF hosts, but a majority of hosts interviewed do not know of or work with other hosts on a regular basis.

3.3.2. Motivations for living in Upstate New York

There are a myriad of reasons for why these New York hosts decided to live in the locations that they do (Table 7). Three hosts came to the area because of the specific intentional community, or group of people living together with a common vision, that was there. Two had grown up in the area and stayed because they were familiar with the community and region.

Two hosts had moved to the area for a specific connection, such as a biodynamic network or Handourf school. Five explained that the main reason they moved to their specific location was due to the greater amount of space. One host mentioned the importance of good, clean water, as well as remoteness to raise his family and farm.

Some hosts did mention that they “were not looking particularly for this geographic location” or “to be honest, I wasn’t focusing on geographical location, it could have been anywhere” (Host 9, 12). While others listed land, such as spaciousness and landscape, and/or community, either family, friends, or intentional community, as important considerations for where they decided to live. When searching for more space, which was the most common reason for why hosts decided to live where they do, qualities, such as price, remoteness, fertile soil and land history, were important. For simplicity sake, I divided up the reasons into two main categories: economic and non-economic.

1. *Economic*

(A) Cheap Land

Farm land has been considered a hot commodity for the last few years, especially in regions of high population, such as the Northeast and the West coast. This is important to discuss because land was a factor in where WWOOF hosts were located. Farm land, especially closer to the city, in Upstate NY can be quite expensive and so many WWOOF hosts, especially in the Hudson Valley, discussed renting land and not owning it.

Among the causes for why hosts decided to live and farm in their current location, price of land was a top economic factor. Though only three hosts discussed the thought process that went into purchasing the land, these three hosts emphasized the need for a reasonable price. For others, the community and familial connections allowed for discounted financial capital that would have gone into the land. Since the infrastructure, such as sheds or greenhouses, was already present in many of these plots, moving or remaining in the location that the community or their family lived saved them from the enormous initial costs of starting anew.

Table 7. This table highlights the qualities that hosts mentioned when they discussed how they got to their present location.³⁷

	Price of land	Market/Proximity to City	Community	Family ties	Remote Location, Spacious Land	Personal Health (space, serenity, water)	Appropriate Growing Conditions (Soil, Climate)	Alternative Form of Living
Host #1	X			X	X		X	X
Host #2	X				X		X	
Host #3				X	X	X		X
Host #4					X	X		X
Host #5			X	X				X
Host #6	X	X			X		X	
Host #7	X	X			X	X	X	X
Host #8								X
Host #9			X	X	X	X		
Host #10			X					X
Host #11			X					X
Host #12	X	X			X	X		
Host A			X					X
Host B				X				
Host C				X				X
Host D								
Host E								
Host F						X		X
Host G			X					

(B) Market/Proximity to City

A couple of hosts mentioned that the organic market attracted them to the places that they were. These hosts had been looking for places where they could sell their organic products for a good price (Host 5, 12). Another host mentioned the need to be near the city, and in a sense urban influence.³⁸ He wanted to be far enough away from any urban outskirts/suburbs,

³⁷ Proximity to cities indicates a certain distance to urban areas in order to gain the economic or social benefits. Community, such as intentional ones, and family ties indicate relational aspects. Remote Location and Personal Health correlate to the type of setting hosts pursued when looking for land. Appropriate growing conditions are aspects of the land that relate to farming, more specifically, soil, aspect, slope and climate. Alternative form of living corresponds to multiple previously mentioned reasons (personal health, spacious land, community, space, and serenity). Many hosts discussed a desire to live a more healthier and fulfilling life in a more rural and remote setting.

³⁸ “We were in Manhattan for 15 years or something like that... I had to get out of there and so we moved to Hudson because that was easy to reach by train... and so we just rented a place... and then we started thinking about where to go... we actually did a cross country trip for six months looking at all kinds of properties all around the

but close enough so that he could get into the city in a few hours if he so needed. As exhibited by the USA map, cities seem to be an influential factor for where hosts are located or which homes and farms become hosts. As gathered by the interviews, urban areas provide greater venues to sell at, as well as provide greater chances of bohemian and alternative transaction occurrences. Also, hosts who grew up or came from the city feel comfortable being near the physical and cultural infrastructure that the cities have.

On the other hand, because some hosts chose to farm in their locations due to relational reasons, they suffered from not having a strong local market to sell their goods. One host claimed that he was not living in a “hip” area, which made it difficult to make income from selling local produce. His location made it difficult to make great profits. He mentioned that other cities, such as Syracuse, are severely underserved in terms of CSAs and fresh produce and so if he farmed there he would be able “to make buck” (Host 1). However, he did not feel compelled to leave his current location because doing so would involve finding and buying the right kind of land for vegetables, “lots of initial start up funds” and he would not have “the community or family in the area” (Host 1).

2. Non-economic Reasons

(A) Relationships (Family or Intentional Community)

The most popular reason for why hosts decided to live in their locations in upstate New York related to specific relationships and communities. Family ties keep many hosts in the area (Host C, 1, 5). One host had grown up in the area and decided to move back in order to start an organic farm with the large amount of acres that his family was not cultivating: “Would I have

country... thinking could we move to California, Arizona... basically we came back thinking, naw that’s not going to happen... because you know professionally we needed to be close to the city... and it was also at the height of the real estate boom... and it was also when Bush got re-elected to second term and being out West, like Arizona, that wasn’t so much fun... and like, you know we would go all the way out to some dusty micro town in Arizona and to some farm... and whatever we thought about buying would still be \$500,000... well that we could go out to Brooklyn... that doesn’t make any sense... so in Hudson we start looking around the area... and very quickly just realized that it was too... well the parcels were too small...you really couldn’t get enough land in Hudson valley and so then we started looking out in the Catskills... kind of the same problem when you go into Delaware county... as long as you are in this same three hours radius of NY city you are competing with weekenders, which generally means that properties are split up within five ways... we spent a year looking at farms and what we determined was that there is a triangle between Binghamton, Syracuse and Albany, roughly... that was the main area... that is where we were looking... we didn’t want to go to the Adirondacks because it is too cold for farming and it’s just a different culture there... So, the only place we can go is North... but going North is once you get into the Adirondacks, you have sandy soil and growing conditions are really bad... we didn’t want to go too close to the city... we didn’t want to go too far West... too far away from the city, so this was the triangle...” (Host 7)

started a farm if I had not had this land? No” (Host 1).³⁹ Among the factors for why he preferred the area it that it is a place that he is comfortable (he knows who can fix the car, have relatives that can get anything he needs for fraction of the cost) and he has assets (it takes a while to take down capital expenses and the existing infrastructure, such as buildings and soil, saves money and time). Similarly, another host described her land as a “testament to the generations, and continues to be an important central location for many family members” (Host B).

A specific community, or in this case ones with certain spiritual qualities, was a huge reason for why hosts lived in the spaces that they do (Host G, 4, 8, 9, 10). Some hosts were attracted to their locations for the pre-existing alternative communities that were there (Hosts 4, 8, 9, 11). These communities, mostly intentional ones, had been found through social networks or online sources. One host mentioned that she had come to the community in order to WWOOF and ended up staying there for the year and running the WWOOF program for the 30+ member community.

(B) Remote Location/Space

Another important reason for the location of WWOOF hosts was remoteness. Some hosts wanted to escape the city environments they had been living in and so they sought a place that was less crowded and more spacious (Host 2, 5). Other places, such as Connecticut or Massachusetts would be difficult to live in due to the lack of farmland, as well as living costs. Host 2 describes these areas as too overcrowded and congested (Host 2).

Hosts enjoyed discussing about the amount of land they owned because for eight hosts that was part of the reason why they moved out to their location. The average amount of cultivated land was about two to three acres, but some hosts grew vegetables on over 11 acres. The acreage of land hosts owned ranged from 37 acres to over 500 acres. Though many hosts have small enterprises, though they still needed larger amounts of land in comparison to the average household, and cultivated the few acres they had quite intensively.

³⁹ When asked why his family decided to move to that area he answered, “born, raised, and didn't know any better is the only reason he lived up here. I wish anyone in my family could answer this but it is where we are from. his father lived in the surrounding area, as did his grandfather, and so goes the timeline” (Host 1)

(C) Health

Health, or a “healthy way to live” (9), was a large reason for why they emphasized a lifestyle based on organic farming and self-sufficiency, as well as where hosts decided to live. In connection with more space, some hosts decided to buy their land for the fresher air, cleaner drinking water and less risk of environmental pollution.

The region has some appropriate soils for crop production but it is mostly either developed, controlled by large non-organic farms, or too expensive. Affordable choices with the attributes for success are few and after 5 or 6 years of searching we purchased our farm which has fertile, tillable soil with no pesticide/chemical history. Our farm also has ample clean water, sunlight, and no weird incumbencies (Host E).

The health of the soil, as well as growing climate, was a large aspect of deciding where to reside. They aim to create an environment in which they can produce healthy foods and lifestyles for themselves and their children.

A host mentioned that the slightest change in location would easily affect what you would be able to grow. More specifically, if she was closer to the mountains, where it is a little colder, she would be unable to grow organic peaches with a great success rate (Host 6). In order to “grow vegetables at maximum production you need to find ideal land, that has decent soil (which you will need to build up anyways) and good water sources” (Host 1). Open space, good soil, clean water sources and non-chemical history of the land were all ways to be healthy and “to be healthy you need to farm...” (Host 12).

Another host claimed that in an “effort to provide healthy food for our children, we realized other families were looking for healthy meat, milk and eggs raised on a small farm” (Host D). Thus, many hosts ended up where they were and become WWOOF hosts because they were looking for a healthier, “an alternative way of living” (Host 9, A, F). Simply wanting fresh, healthy produce is a huge incentive for WWOOF hosts, as well as WWOOFers (Host 9).

(D) Other

a. Weekend home

For two hosts, their farm locations had been their weekend/vacation homes and when the children were of the right age they decided to move to the farm full time.

b. Proximity to Past Location

One couple moved to a house for a variety of reasons, like employment, urban influence, community, and then later decided to buy a farm: “We found our farm only 8 miles from where we currently live and work, so we can make a gradual transition to sustainable, self-sufficiency” (Host 12)

Overall, Upstate NY offers vast spaces of land for relatively cheap prices, especially in comparison to other parts of the nation. For its proximity to urban markets, it offers land and space. New York’s climate and soil, as well as growing organic community make it a decent location for hosts. The reasons for why these hosts decided to live in their locations are important in the context of WWOOF because they partly reveal why hosts desired to sign up as a host, or participate in alternative transactions.

3.4. Scale

A topic that surfaced in the GIS analysis and interviews was the idea of scale. Scale is defined as a ratio of distance on a map to the earth. The county level and national scale in which the GIS data was analyzed was originally going to be masked with through using Geographically Weighted Regression, which is a test that provides insight into local patterns of the independent variables in relation to the location of the WWOOF hosts. However, these tests were unable to be run given the negatively skewed distribution of the data.

Yet, in the sustainability context scale can also be defined as the physical size of the economic subsystem relative to the ecosystem that contains and sustains it. The interviews addressed the notion of scale through revealing the shortcomings of economic and community indicators at this tested level. In terms of alternative economies and production, scale is important for how much they participated in alternative activities. Hosts were enthusiastic to talk about sustainability on the individual level and what they were doing to achieve it (although, a few acknowledged that they were not sustainable). A couple of hosts mentioned the complexity of involved in capitalist markets as it pertains to multiple scales:

Scale is a very hard one to figure out... when you do all these different things there is always this sweet spot where you know you get a lot out of it and it's a good experience... but you are constantly trying to find that spot (Host 7)⁴⁰

scale is a big thing... if you add, make the community bigger then you need to make everything else bigger to feed and support that community... and then you need a bigger community to support—it's a loop... you just have to be aware of it... like which direction you wanna grow...(Host 7)

Depending on what scale the farm was viewed altered the way in which it did or did not attain sustainability or participation in the global market. In some ways, scale deterred hosts from being truly self-sufficient and not having to rely on market transactions. At the local scale, hosts try to minimize their waste and carbon footprint; however, they still participate in the global markets when they purchase goods, such as a computer. A few hosts mentioned that they were working on too large of a scale to be considered sustainable. They insisted on cutting back some of their production, especially animals, in order to be more self-sufficient (Host 6, 7).⁴¹ The scale of their enterprises is a burden and a blessing to their alternativeness.

3.5. Chapter Summary

Given the county level scale these tests explored the spatial arrangements of WWOOF hosts and the interviews in New York provided a more narrow look at WWOOF host location

⁴⁰ "Like chickens you have this idea of... having 6 chickens or 12 chickens same amount of work.. next year you have this idea well 12 or 40 chickens, same amount of work... but it isn't 6 and 12 is actually closer than 12 and 40... so there's this...you know, well if you do twice... if you double the number, does it get to a point where maybe because financially interesting... so eggs right now are very easy to sell, um, but then again we are buying organic feed, which now we are talking two and a half hours away... because no one sells organic feed at a reasonable price... you are constantly trying to find the scale that makes sense, where you get to do the things that you want to do... and you don't become sort of... Same thing with the interns... there is a sweet spot... if you have two great interns that are probably perfect... if you have three, that's great... but if you four... your job is a different one... I feel like it is that way with a lot of stuff in terms of scale..." (Host 7)

⁴¹ They talk in 'ifs' and 'us': "if it were just the two of us in a cabin in the woods... we could do things... we would have a very small house... we would have very few things and you would do what is necessary... that's possible, people do it and have done it forever... what we do it... we are kind of moving up in some areas... which means that we have more equipment, we have more people, which means that we need a bigger house... it's kind of... things can also grow to a point where you have to take a step back... well, is that what we wanted... at least in my head... that is a bit of a... something I am thinking about...why is this house so big.. We could get away with a lot less... you just fill it up with stuff...I mean we just got a bigger pickup truck because I mean we are doing so many things that transportation is always an issue and you got to get to the saw mill to get things... so I am trying to keep something small on this end, but what it means is that something will balloon over here... it's great to have a big farm, but it's also we're not very responsible for a big farm... a lot of stuff is about smart design... you know, but you can only design it smartly if you really know what the job is..." (Host 7)

decisions. The GIS analysis on WWOOF hosts locations by the county level revealed correlations with alternative economy characteristics, such as a consistency with higher concentrations of organic farms and Bohemians. The maps of WWOOF hosts in relation to alternative cultural and structural characteristics reveal that there are places in the USA primed for WWOOF hosts. These places, such as the West Coast, Appalachia, Austin, St. Louis etc, have hubs of WWOOF hosts and therefore pursuits of more sustainable and connected methods of growing food. The results hint at the fact that most hosts are surrounded by communities that support diversity, creativeness, and bohemian lifestyles.

Furthermore, given the farming nature of the organization, it would make sense for hosts to be located in agriculturally dominated areas, or the center of country; however, this is not the case. In fact, it is quite the opposite. WWOOF hosts do not reveal a direct correlation with agriculture dominated areas.

The increasingly globalized food system of today encourages a sense of placeless food. Most consumers do not know where their food comes from anymore. WWOOFing involves putting people in new situations, new landscapes, and in new duties. Given the disconnect between consumers and the value of food, WWOOF hosts try to put location back into the equation. Understanding where these hosts live provide an idea of where individuals and communities are working hard to create dialogue and connections back to the land and with our food. It is about learning how food is grown, and becoming connected to food-production in a way that most people in the USA are not. WWOOF hosts create a sense of place for where our food comes from, as well as try to put back the value of food into the system.

Upstate New York: Forms of Capital and Values

4.1. Introduction to New York

All hosts are involved in the labor exchange that WWOOF promotes and some are involved in other alternative activities and transactions as well. A way in which to interpret the location of hosts and the tendency for them to be in areas of high Bohemian, minority and female farm operator concentrations, as well as a large percentage of farms with organic produce, CSA shares and high value commodities is through what activities they prioritize in their lives. The different forms of capital that hosts value potentially explain the reasons for location and correlation to community and cultural indicators.



Figure 7. Photos of the WWOOF hosts interviewed taken from the WWOOF USA website.

4.2. Forms of Capital that Motivate WWOOF hosts

A theme that emerged throughout the interviews was an emphasis on many different forms of capital. In this case, capital can be defined as ‘expanding social value’ (Peet 1998). It is important to examine the many variations of capital because “success and sustainability ultimately depend on the ability of a community to appreciate, access and utilize many forms of capital” (Beeton 2006:2). While financial capital is a significant reason for why some hosts become involved in WWOOF, other non-economic benefits, such as cultural exchanges, teaching and learning organic practices, networking and spreading the organic movement also contribute to the desire to host volunteers. WWOOF hosts are quick to highlight the non-financial aspects, either because they are broke or because they have higher aspirations about viewing the world. WWOOF hosts discuss various forms of capital as a means of investing in the future of the planet (Table 9).

Table 8. WWOOF enables hosts to increase capital in a variety of different forms.

Financial/ Monetary Capital	“Free” or Cheap labor (More resilient management) Greater income/ work force Exposure/Buyers/ advertising (often unintentional)
Social Capital	Cultural exchange/global interaction Bringing together community (markets) Connecting WWOOF hosts/farms through experiences Networks of organically minded people
Intellectual/Human Capital	Learning and teaching organic principles Learning and teaching nutrition and good cooking Spreading local and indigenous knowledge Connecting rural and urban

4.2.1. Financial Capital (i.e. Labor)⁴²

Despite growing social, as well as human and intellectual capital, some WWOOF hosts, like many small farms in the USA, struggle to survive financially. Aligning with Harvey’s

⁴² In classical economics, capital usually refers to a factor of production or more simply as ‘money’. In this orthodox form, capital is the goods and services necessary to operate and expand businesses, or in this case farm (Peet 1998).

depiction of uneven capitalism, these hosts cannot survive without cheapened labor. For hosts, who desire to run a profitable small-scale organic farm, the initial and running costs of their farms or gardens are proportionally high for the amount of money earned.⁴³ These WWOOF hosts need inexpensive labor to offset the heavy initial and production costs. Rather than pay cash wages, it makes more sense for these farmers to use the resources at hand to pay workers: existing infrastructure and food that is already being grown.⁴⁴ In this sense, some WWOOF hosts are attempting to succeed in the current conditions of the agricultural system and, because the American system does not value food, they need cheap labor to do so. For these few hosts, the emphasis of the exchange lies on the volunteer labor. The WWOOF organization facilitates this labor without the bureaucratic involvement.

A majority of hosts described their weaknesses as “capital” or “debt” “financial stresses” (Host 1, 5). “Where is there a lot of money to be made in organic...?” (Host 2). They cited their economic situation as a limitation to the project they are pursuing. “We could never offer any payment because we barely make any income ourselves, we are severely under-resourced” (Host D). Throughout the interviews, many hosts emphasized a need to have help⁴⁵ or extra hands. In fact, many hosts are quick to mention that WWOOF volunteers provided “free labor” (Host 5). In simple terms: “it gets us labor when we need it” (Host B).⁴⁶ Farmers cite being “burnt out” or “overworked” during the summer growing season (Host D). WWOOF hosts claim that they need help, or “back up”, in order to get all the work done on the farm, or homestead, or business.

To some extent, the WWOOF organization exists in reaction to the inequalities of industrial agriculture. The uneven nature of capitalism forces farmers to reach out to cheaper forms of labor, such as migrant workers or WWOOFers, in order to survive, let alone show a

⁴³ Especially if they did not have previous infrastructure or careers in which they could have saved up some funds or infrastructure.

⁴⁴ A majority of WWOOF hosts desire to provide fresh, local produce grown on the farm to their participants, but sometimes this is either not available (due to timing of the season or quantity of food). One host mentioned that because he was working he would be unable to cook: “the food part... that can be hard...at a certain points people provide cash to go buy rice and beans... and that is our plan... is to provide WWOOFers a food allowance, \$50 a week, it’s not that much but what we get is someone willing to work on our place... cooking, that’s not something for us, I am working” (Host 11).

⁴⁵ “We are just looking for a little bit extra help to do chores in the summer time” (Host 2).

⁴⁶ Though it should be noted that a few hosts mentioned that a weakness of the WWOOF organization is the sporadic volunteers and lack of consistency in labor.

profit.⁴⁷ WWOOF hosts are unable or do not want to invest in labor and therefore use the organization as a means to gain free workers. Hosts use these volunteers as a means to survive in a system that does not value small scale sustainable agriculture. It is a means of getting or staying out of debt or making more of a profit. Therefore, WWOOF hosts are still immersed in the mainstream capitalist system⁴⁸, but they are using an alternative means of gathering work to survive in an economic and social system that does not value small scale sustainable agriculture.

Some WWOOF hosts that have resources, and are not in need of labor for financial reasons, want the help in order to grow healthy food, experiment, and pursue passion projects of sustainability and self-sufficiency (Host 3, 9, 11).

It became a lot more about... healthy food... the most important thing... a lot of the value is not really seen in farming... and like I think that the problem with everything being economically based... meaning not economically because economics actually means how the human being acts, cultivates natures... but monetarily... so, how we allocate our debt, which is what money is... means that somebody owns us services because we did something... so everybody else is indebted to me because I have money... so that's like the way of looking at success... but if you think of the amount of people you are feeding... the amount of care that you are giving to the landscape... there is no way to quantify that financially... the number of years that that monetary system is going to be the driving force of food... I could probably count on both

⁴⁷ Their financial struggles are not unique in this agricultural system: “One large weakness of small farms is overcoming overhead (operating and capital expenses). Large farms have greater resources and cash flow to pay for the basics that small farms struggle to pay like insurance, taxes, equipment, etc. Don’t get me wrong though, even large farms struggle sometimes” (Host C).

⁴⁸ Though many hosts are involved in a wide array of ecological and social sustainable projects and lifestyle choices, there are still some ways in which they are unable to live out their full potential with the current system. One host mentioned that “people say they go to farms and grow great food, but they do not get to eat them... they eat a bowl of cereal and packets... they don’t get to eat what they grow” (Host 8). In fact, this is true for some hosts. Two hosts mentioned that WWOOFers should not have expectations that they will be eating freshly grown, organic food every day.

They expect to be drinking this man’s milk and he cannot be giving it to his kids... WWOOFers tend to have these high expectations and expect a high quality of life... and I said you better not come here because I have ketchup in the fridge that is not organic and you might freak out... or whatever... you know we try to use... we are really big on local food because of our B&B... but I understand how much it costs to be a farmer... and how much you get back: its zip... I went to the fair with my animals... farmers are people who work for nothing... and WWOOFers, I don’t know if they really get that... (Host 6)

hands... and that's where a lot of the value is... is in the way that a lot of things work...
(Host 5)

Generally our definition of profit is restoration and gains in health, productivity, resilience, self-reliance, and mutual support, and those are increasing rapidly (Host D)

WWOOF hosts value healthy, organic food over other forms of capital. Another host claimed that WWOOF volunteers are needed for the “physical work, not about the finances” (Host 9). In fact, some WWOOF hosts have retired to the land and have resources. They can afford to take risks and in some ways fail. They aim to put resources back into the earth and contribute to the community since they can afford to. These hosts are willing to start and experiment with different “mentally-stimulating” projects and they just need “labor which they do not have enough of” (Host 12). These hosts emphasize an aspect of WWOOF that equates to something more than financial capital. These hosts, as well as the hosts, that do not have financial resources, view capital in a different light.

4.2.2. Social Capital

Hosts desire to live in areas of high Bohemian concentrations and organically minded communities, as evidenced by the larger portion of organic farms and CSAs, because they need support in pursuing activities that go against the norms of society. Hosts claim that WWOOF provides them with social capital, such as community, cultural exchanges, networks, trust, and commitment to local well-being and shared values. In the literature, social capital “determines the ability of a community to absorb shocks, exploit opportunities and orient toward the future. Without social capital, a community lacks cohesion, cannot organize to maintain its environment or its economy and consequently is unattractive to outsiders” (Beeton 2004). These qualities contribute to why hosts invite volunteers to their homes and, in return, why they feel comfortable living in remote locations.

The preference for some WWOOF hosts to be in cheaper, more spacious locations creates a challenge of not having community support in that direct area. Two hosts mentioned that they are alone in the organic movement in their area and so WWOOFers allows them to feel a part of a community when they do not necessarily feel that way with the town community (Host 3, 7). Especially since it is difficult for many farmers to leave their land and make friends, WWOOFers provide a productive way of socializing on the farm. These volunteers contribute

to the alternative communities that WWOOF hosts create, through CSAs, farmers markets, or intentional communities. Thus, WWOOFers and interns provide a means of culture, community and support.

Many hosts also emphasized the “youthful energy” that WWOOFers bring to the community (Host 1):

Volunteers are like, like blood transfuses, a surge of new energy, so they play an important part... when you just live with a small group of friends who share a community... become what I call an ingrown toenail... you know everyone knows each other so well and um... you know you fall into happy patterns and sometimes they're painful, sometimes they're unconscious, sometimes they're ruts, and by keeping the energy flowing we maintain the vibe of our community” (Host 3)

WWOOFers are important for contributing positive energy to these farms and rural communities. WWOOF participants contribute to the energy and life of the host community, especially since they are young.⁴⁹

WWOOFers entertain these mainly rural households. In a way, they represent a method of bringing the city and culture to hosts. This is important because “inviting people into your life is an incredible way of enriching one’s existence” (Host B). WWOOFers are generally people who are not from the countryside and so the rural nature of the hosts provides an exchange of lifestyles, as well as culture. WWOOF creates “friends, help, music, culture, daughter in law, just having friends, having interesting people to connect with, food sharing great recipes we’ve eaten some amazingly good things... sharing stories” (Host 8). The diversity of skills and ideas that the WWOOFers bring create cultural experiences on the farm.

WWOOF is most important in its networks and ability to connect farms of similar mindsets and goals. WWOOF acts as a way for organic farmers to network and make lasting connections, such as housemates or in some cases a fiancée (Host 8). As a “tool for people to connect and network” (Host 12), WWOOF provides infrastructure for learning about a variety of ideas and ventures that are going on across the nation. Three hosts that I interviewed all described the same WWOOFer couple that had traveled to twenty-one different farms across

⁴⁹ This is especially important with the aging populations of farmers. The average farmer in the USA is 57. Many of the youth are leaving for cities and not returning back to the farms.

the country. The hosts knew about each other through these WWOOFers because they heard stories and read the blog of that couple (Host 1, 6, 8). Volunteers expose WWOOF hosts and their ideas and farms to other hosts and farms. Though many WWOOF hosts may not be in touch with other WWOOF hosts, the hosts are connected through their WWOOFers' experiences and ideas. Thus, the similar lifestyles that the WWOOF organization promotes connect people in a simple, unregimented way. Overall, hosts emphasize the importance of social capital, such as cultural exchanges, entertainment and community, through participating in WWOOF.

4.2.3. Intellectual/ Knowledge Capital

In this context, knowledge capital relates to the exchange of ideas, experiences, knowledge, and skills of organic farming and living.⁵⁰ WWOOFers allow hosts to refocus and revitalize their passions for green and organic projects. The desire “to teach and facilitate the spreading of knowledge and skills” (Host F) motivates many hosts. They aim to “engage and educate young people about food” and gain “fulfillment through teaching” (Host C). A large reason for why hosts choose to have WWOOFers instead of paid interns is this learning component.⁵¹

WWOOF hosts value food and desire to change the current system through growing their own food and educating others about it. They see a need to expose more people, especially city kids, to the country side to see where their food comes from and how it is grown.⁵² WWOOF does this as well as create avenues in which people who are interested in farming can learn more and have a starting point. One host pointed out that “the local food thing: it’s that you are able to produce it more if you have help... Also, meeting people that are really interested

⁵⁰ Beeton (2004) argues that if access to knowledge is eroded, distorted, inappropriately emphasized or never gained, community dysfunction and environmental decline follows.

⁵¹ Some farms only want people that they pay and not through volunteers or interns... that doesn't work for them... they need people that they can pay because once you pay them then you can expect harder work... when we have the interns I don't really expect them to work real, real hard or long hours... when you are paying someone then you can expect more out of them... so I think if you eliminate the money then it is going to eliminate some farms who do not want volunteers or interns who want paid positions... they would rather have hard work (Host 12)

⁵² “We do things in a very labor intensive way... we buy certain organic seeds, so you take that to the market and we've had people say... what? These beans are two dollars? I can get them cheaper at Wal-mart... there's a gap that is so fast... you can't even explain everything that is wrong with that statement... and that's... how would that change? Where would that come from? I mean NY State is completely broke... they are cutting education budget left and right... and what's going to go? It's the one program at the high school that might actually teach something about food, so... I am not as optimistic about... is that really?” (Host 7)

in the local food movement in their areas and helping them to go back in their towns and use the skills that they learned to go back to their local food movement, whether it is community plots, CSAs... raising their awareness a little bit” (Host 8). The organization provides a means of gathering information for “incubating farmers” (Host 12). These initial experiences on the farm have the potential to create lasting impressions that inspire some to be an active consumer or even choose farming as a vocation, or at least move on to the next step. Hosts desire to share what they have and help others on their path. Ultimately, hosts highlight the need to teach and make aware actions and decisions needed to support the health and future of agriculture.

Table 9. Hosts decided for WWOOF for a number of reasons. The labor exchange is part of the reason, but also the social, intellectual and environmental benefits also contribute to why they desire to host volunteers.⁵³

	Financial	Social		Intellectual	Values	
	Cheap Labor	Cultural Exchange	Creating Community	Teaching/Learning organic methods	Self-Sufficiency	Food/Health
Host #1	X		X	X		X
Host #2	(X)	X				X
Host #3	X			X		X
Host #4	X	X	X	X		X
Host #5	(X)	X	X	X		
Host #6	X		X	X		
Host #7			X	X	X	X
Host #8	X		X	X		X
Host #9	X		X	X		
Host #10	X		X	X		
Host #11	X			X	X	
Host #12	X			X		X
Host A	X					X
Host B	X			X	X	
Host C	X		X	X	X	X
Host D	X			X		
Host E	X			X	X	X
Host F					X	X

4.2.4. Limitations to Sustainable Pursuits

Two hosts experienced monetary weaknesses getting in the way of pursuing an alternative and food-based lifestyle: “In the late 90’s my dream was shattered and I was devastated when I

⁵³ Some hosts may fit into a category but they did not explicitly mention it in the interview or questionnaire.

had to leave farming for a job with a steady income in order to support my family” (Host C).

Thus, generally WWOOF hosts do not have strong financial capital; however, they make up for this by pursuing other means of capital. Furthermore, one couple mentioned that they had always been interested in ‘self-sufficiency’ and planned to have a farm and live off of the grid, but “life carried us into careers, kids, and conventional pursuits” and they were “afraid to jump into this life without a career (i.e. income) to sustain [them]. [They] are hoping that they can still make a go at it” (Host 11). Thus, financial expectations sometimes hinder hosts from participating in the WWOOF organization and spreading their organic messages.

Though WWOOF hosts try to offer inclusivity and open exchanges, six hosts mentioned that they screen their WWOOFers in order to ensure that they are not offering a place to stay and food for free for someone. These hosts believe in the opportunity to share a part of their lives with volunteers, but they are hesitant to share their lifestyles and spaces with just anyone. A couple hosts interview and require a completed questionnaire in order for people to be considered for volunteering at the farm. Much like an application for an internship, these hosts value teaching organic methods to those interested, but they want to make sure that the volunteers are genuinely interested in learning before they permit them to come into their organic spaces.

4.3 Organic Belief System

Hosts challenge the landscape of capital and power through alternative means of production and living. Hosts have huge aspirations and believe alternative and non-market transactions, such as directly growing, bartering, and donating food, create a better planet from the ground up. They aim to support themselves through what they produce on the land. Through their alternative activities and projects they desire to leave this world slightly better than they found it (Host D). Therefore, as revealed by GIS analysis, WWOOF hosts can be found in cultural environments that support their pursuit of non-market, non-monetary and informal actions.

4.3.1. Environmental Concerns

These hosts sign up for the WWOOF organization due to their belief in the organic movement.⁵⁴ They are “concerned about all of the ongoing devastation of our environment” (Host 6) and are tired of being “substantially negative contributors to the planet” (Host 11). Therefore, they use WWOOFers to help in their pursuit of “ecological sustainability” (Host A), “sustainable agriculture” (Host F), and “beyond organic”⁵⁵ (Host 6) lifestyles. In this case, WWOOF hosts emphasize sustaining or protecting natural resources through their use of non-chemical methods, conserving and managing forests, and improving soil, land, and water sources. “I love nature and through organic farming I can fulfill my deepest spirituality and contribute to the improvement of society” (Host F). WWOOF hosts value the environment and believe that they can reduce environmental costs through living a low impact, self-sufficient lifestyle.

For a few of these hosts, their parents were not involved in farming and so they feel compelled to go back to the land and begin growing food (Hosts 1,6,7,8,10, E,F). They felt separated to the processes and products that currently go into their diets in the American food system. Two hosts mentioned that Americans do not value food like other cultures do. Host 2 mentioned that Americans “don’t value food, [they] don’t pay for anything anymore. Even when I was a kid farmers can’t pay for health. [Today] everyone gets paid less, the farmers, the employees, it’s terrible...people are going to start to pay more for food...” (Host 2). One host declared that Europeans have done it properly because food is expensive and they spend a majority of their salary buying food (Host 1). Hosts try to work against this norm and create economies based around food. Partly for health and partly for the survival of the planet, they grow food to sustain their families and communities around them. Hosts participate in alternative activities through non-traditional worker-employer relationship and minimal participation in capitalist systems, such as through self-sufficient living.

⁵⁴ “What is there right now to sustain?... most of our soil is depleted through bad farming practices... most of the buildings are built inefficiency and are built to not last... so what we have done is exploit all our resources to the point where there isn’t anything to sustain anymore... what we actually have to do it rebuilt it... we have to regenerate it... we have to build it back up from... like sustainable farming now couldn’t save the food system in America... we have to figure out how to rebuild the millions of acres of depleted soil... chemically polluted soil... so I don’t really see sustainability as something that merits very much... same with housing... really, are going to sustain this way of life...? the whole infrastructure is not worth sustaining... we have to redesign and rebuild every single aspect of our lives... that is the task of our generation... is to actually rebuild this entire world...and it took centuries to build what it is now... we actually if we want to survive our entire lifetime we have to rebuild this” (Host 5).

⁵⁵ Implying that they are above the USDA organic certification requirements.

4.3.1.1. *Self-Sufficiency*

WWOOF hosts emphasize living self-sufficiently, or “experiencing simple”, “subsistence” and “primitive” living (Hosts 8, A,F). Hosts repeatedly mention that they try to feed and heat themselves with resources from their lands⁵⁶ (Host 7,8,10, A, F). In reaction to the materialism and consumerism that plagues America hosts try to live a minimalist and low consuming lifestyles. They try to buy only what they need.

Many WWOOF hosts worldwide are involved in permaculture education and awareness and/or biodynamic practices.⁵⁷ These two sets of principles are approaches to designing and living in environments that mimic natural landscapes, and complete the energy cycle. Developed in the 1970s by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren, permaculture is a mode of life that aims to create systems that are self-reliant in the long run. Permaculture methods are based on ecological and biological principles that emphasize three ethics: earth care, people care and resource share (or placing limits on consumption) (Mollison 1988; Holmgren 2002). This form of self-reliant living recognizes and increases the possibilities for unconventional spaces and relationships with food production through self-sufficiency. Biodynamics, which is based on eight lectures given by Rudolf Steiner in 1924, is another method of organic agriculture that views the earth as one giant, interconnected organism. With greater emphasis on the moon calendar and constellations of the zodiac, biodynamic farmers emphasize food quality and soil health through the fertility cycle and closed loop of energy. “The basic ecological principle of biodynamics is to conceive the farm as an organism, a self-contained entity. A farm is said to have its own individuality” (Diver 1999). Biodynamics, as well as permaculture, view the farm or homestead as an interdependent unit. These philosophies hint at the idea that “alternative” economies or communities can coexist with the current capitalist system.

⁵⁶ “At some point we figured if we actually bought everything that we generate for us and our friends... that’s ten thousand that we are generating for ourselves... so, our expenses are actually really low... because we cook... and we heat with our wood... and all of that sort of... so, there’s a big, part...we are not a farm that makes money from our product and then go to the store and bring in our sustenance... you know, we grow and consume a great portion of what we grow” (Host 7).

⁵⁷ WWOOF Australia and Ireland specifically mentions the use of permaculture and biodynamics in their mission statements. Australia’s site reads: “choose from over 2,200 properties using organic principles, offering to teach you aspects of: organic growing, bio-dynamics, permaculture” (WWOOF Australia 2011).

SELF SUFFICIENCY

Simple, Primitive Living, Subsistence (8, 10, 12, A, F)
Supporting self through the land, Growing Own Food (All)
Drying, Canning, Herbs (8, 9, 10, 12)
Raising own meats, chickens and eggs (7, 8)

ECONOMIC

Conserve and limit expenses, Flat-lining (1, 5, 7, A, F)
Reusing old parts (Building, machinery) (1, 7, 9)
Offer green alternatives, such as lodging (4)

ENVIRONMENT

Restoration and Conservation (Forestry, Soil) (1, 7, 9, A)
Nurturing the land (6, 7, A)
Seed Saving (1, 8, A)
Against GM Seeds (2, 5)
Use green products (3, 4, and 8)
Activists for the Environment (Conservation Groups) (11)
Designing Landscapes based on Ecological Principles, Edible Landscapes (1, 7, and 11)

ENERGY

Local Sources, Lower inputs (7, 8, 9, 10, 11)
Recycling, Reducing Waste (material and food) (All)
Soil: Management, compost, cover cropping (All)
Low or no till (E)
Reduction in Oil Dependency (Draft horses in place of tractors) (7, 8)
Use of Renewable Energy (F, 4)
Green Building (F, 9, 4)
Bike as main means of Transportation (9)
Vegan/Vegetarian/Local Meats (6, 4, 9, 12)

EDUCATION

Teaching and spreading of organic and sustainable skills (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, A, B, D, F)
Passing along knowledge (All, 2, 4, 9, 10, F)
Engaging and educate young people about food (1, 2, 6, 7, 10, A, C)

COMMUNITY

Providing healthy, fresh foods (1,4,5,7)
Volunteering, Nurturing family and community (3,5,7,D)
Activist for anti-war, truth justice (9,11,F)
Open to cultural Exchanges (2,5,6,8)
Involved in earthly spiritual groups (3, 4, 6, 10)
Initiated or involved in collective social centers (3, 5, 8, 9, 10)
Permaculture, Biodynamics, Designer (A, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12)

**these categories were what were mentioned in the interview, some hosts may be enacting activities that are not mentioned or they are not listed under but I did not discuss this with them*

Figure 8. The hosts that I interviewed are involved in a range of economic, environmental, and social activities that allow them to believe that they are making the world a better place, or at least not engaging in activities that are harming others.

Most notably, two hosts admit to having their own functional sub-economies. Both live in communities with shared expenses. One host described the system as: “the salary that we get come from the farm... the form shop of the community, the division of the community... So, we are actually paying ourselves... and then we pay the community a certain amount, which is a pretty complicated economy... we contribute money to the SEP (Shared Expense Pool) which goes into making the community run”(Host 10).⁵⁸ These hosts participate in the global economy but only for basic necessities. They mainly grow all their food, wood for buildings and heat, build their infrastructures and raise their animals for meat and dairy. They work and live at the communities that they are a part of, and do not have any outside employment, nor conventional income sources. One host stated that WWOOF was “her life”, in that she did not separate it from any other aspect of her life because she found the community she was living in through the network and was also devoted to fostering the continuation of WWOOF at that community (Host 10). Her participation at the community she lived in mimics an extended WWOOF exchange because she is paid in food, accommodation, heating and on-site activities, such as yoga, art, and other classes. In pursuing self-sufficiency, they reduce their participation in the global capitalist networks.⁵⁹

Being a WWOOF host motivates them to getting back to living in a more sufficient manner because they are held accountable for their actions. WWOOF hosts can be described as those who “reject conventional opportunities” (Host D) or “people who are interested in growing, preserving own food or how to make better compost, how to make cheese...” (Host

⁵⁸ She continues on to say that “... for the other [art] shops it is based on a percentage, it is half of what they make, but for the farm it is different because we are not using the same things as the other shops so it is a different system of figuring that out.. we have to pay taxes and each community member pays that... we are paying for that through living expenses, which is pass through what shop you work at... basically moves from one spreadsheet to another... it’s all in the same bank account” (Host 10).

⁵⁹ “Sustainability speaks to appropriate growth (not growing too slowly or too rapidly). Everything has its own scale by which to measure what is sustainable for itself. Another way to view this is that inputs and outputs are balanced and in theory, a sustainable system can continue perpetually as a closed system. On a planetary scale we humans are suffering from squandering our (overly) abundant inputs (natural resources, human capital) and from wasting and producing too much output causing pollution and inefficiency. Alternative societies and communities have co-opted “sustainability” to imply “getting off the grid” and practical things like that. Nothing wrong with that, and in fact, it’s good. For small organic and non-organic family farms, sustainability speaks to economics in a raw sense. Can I pay my bills this month? Can my kids go to college? Can my family afford health insurance? Etc. No family, no farm. We try conserve and to limit our expenses, capital improvements, and new purchases. We strive for efficiency and high quality and try to sell at the highest price the market will support. We are developing as much as possible alternative means and lifestyles to conserve and lower inputs and to achieve sustainability. Plans include but are not limited to water recycling, rain water collection, grey water use, drip irrigation, solar energy and heat generation, wind and water power, making our own compost, animal power and their products including manure” (Host C)

9). For many hosts sustainability means supporting themselves through what they produce on the land and therefore not participating in market transactions.

4.3.1.2. Energy Cycle

Another way in which they minimize their involvement in the mainstream economy is through recycling and reusing energy. Five hosts own tractors, but a majority of hosts were involved in alternative means of cultivating the land, either through track horses or Utility Tractor Vehicles or manual labor. Two WWOOF hosts were involved in training pack horses in order to escape the dependence on tractors. One host mentioned the use of cows for cutting her grass in replace of lawn mowers. From the soil to the kitchen, they try to keep nutrients and energy in a full loop. One host described his venture as using:

Walking water instead of running water, chop[ped] wood to burn, no LP or natural gas, solar electric only (which is plenty good), root cellar for refrigeration in winter, solar-powered small fridge in summer. Here, when it rains, you collect water. When the sun shines, you collect solar electric power. When the ground freezes, you fell trees. When you take a crap, you cover it with wood shavings and turn it into soil. When the snow goes away you hunt for spring greens poking out. Simple and joyful. When I'm not tied to the damn computer [I am] making the world a better place!
(Host F)

They plan for small scale, energy efficient, intensive systems rather than large scale, energy consuming extensive systems.

4.3.2.3. Spreading Equality and Justice

Another way in which they decrease their involvement in the “unjust social system” that the capitalistic policies have created is through the promotion of inclusive relationships and consumer conscious choices, such as supporting fair trade and donating to food shelters (Host 9). Though hosts do hire migrant workers and buys cheap goods based upon their inability to afford more expensive goods, and labor as evidenced by participation in WWOOF, they make an avid effort to reduce their impact on the environment, unjust social system and planet. They are advocates for the environment through how they live their lives, such as minimizing oil as a way to show their opposition for war: “minimal oil, activist for renewable

energy, sustainable agriculture, green building, simple/sustainable/primitive living, truth, justice and the American Way” (Host G). They value “treating workers, owners and consumers fairly. Engaging in joyful transformation of mundane life” (Host A). “Concerns about various social and justice issues” are what motivates some hosts to live alternative ways (Host 9). In opening their doors to strangers, they share a trust in humanity. The WWOOF organization offers inclusivity and openness since the only regulation for hosts is the use of organic methods and for volunteers is an interest in organics. At a minimum chemical free agriculture is the only necessity, which in itself tries to create harmonious relationships with natural resources. Hosts are invested in exposing and educating others to alternative lifestyles. The challenge is that this is not always met due to hosts screening participants. The spaces that WWOOF hosts create offer places where people can meet and work together on socially, environmentally and economically just projects, “which is what this world really needs right now and actually have a space where they can learn and integrate what they are learning... into realistic vision for themselves and their own communities or other people that want to work together can do that” (Host 5). They all agree that farming is more a lifestyle than a way to financial independence” and “through organic farming I can fulfill my deepest spirituality and contribute to the improvement of society” (Host C). It is “a direct way for people to experience something that we need a whole lot more people doing in this world” (Host A).

They envision themselves as global citizens in that aimed “to share what we have and help others on their path” (Host F). Many of them discussed the need to “leave this world slightly better” (Host A). Hosts have high hopes for the future of their enterprise and the future of humanity. WWOOF hosts are working hard to develop “as much as possible alternative means and lifestyles to conserve and lower inputs and to achieve sustainability” (Host F), they have vast plans to spread the organic movement.

4.4. Summary

WWOOF hosts’ values and views on financial, social and intellectual capital relate to their geographical surroundings because it reveals that economic variables only partially explain where these hosts live and why they decide to WWOOF. As the GIS analysis confirmed, cheap land and poverty are not necessarily good measures of the spatial patterns of WWOOF hosts. WWOOF hosts work beyond monetary exchanges and transcend typical employer-employee relationship.

Interviews with hosts hinted at the notion that these individuals may prioritize natural, social and intellectual capital over economic capital. WWOOF hosts and participants talk in different currency. Generally, all hosts value healthy, organic food much more than money. They are so devoted to healthy, organic food that they have devoted their lives to doing so, even if it involves an 'economically conventional' lower standard of life. WWOOF tries to bring back agriculture-based and communal economies back into the current frame of mind. They measure success not by the monetary value of their enterprise or community, but rather by the social, cultural and environmental aspects of their missions. Many hosts are convinced that it is possible to farm in economically and environmentally sound way as small farms that support community life. They aim to share their knowledge and experiences with others to spread a movement of sustainable development.

Some hosts are aggressively trying to break away from the capitalist system and are actively pursuing a socialist, non-monetarily based lifestyle, as revealed by Host 9 and 10. These hosts can no longer suffer through the decline, abandonment and environmental degradation that occur around them and try to improve the environment and built up social and intellectual capital in their immediate community. They act on the ground level in pursuit of living out their morals.

WWOOF hosts understand the disconnects that exist in current capitalism. Through exposing WWOOFers to their techniques and lifestyles, they bring together different energies and spread more holistic perspectives to promote the development of different forms of capital, often in rural areas. WWOOF hosts demonstrate that alternative economies and communities exist in theory as well as in action.

Conclusion

5.1. Summary of Findings

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) is a world-wide network of organizations that allow volunteers to live and learn on organic properties. The mission of WWOOF is to bring together hosts and volunteers (WWOOFers) to enliven, support and foster the social, cultural and economic opportunities within the organic volunteer movement. WWOOF tries to promote cultural understanding of people and cultures around the world through intercultural exchanges. The organization has not been studied significantly, especially on the supply side and in a geographical analysis. In this study, the geographical patterns of (WWOOF) hosts, who are individuals that participate in alternative transactions by exchanging food and accommodation for labor, in the continental USA were examined. Using GIS, as well as conducting twelve interviews in Upstate New York, I explored the spatial patterns of WWOOF hosts in relation to economic, social and agricultural indicators. I attempted to look into what host locations may reveal about the pursuits of uneven capital and alternative economies in the continental USA. Using Harvey (2000), White (2010), Gibson-Gibson (1996), and Krueger & Agyeman(2005) as theoretical foundations for exploring the uneven spatial distribution of alternative economies, it was expected that WWOOF hosts would be located in places based on specific economic and social indicators, such as large concentrations of organic farms and Bohemian index.

Results gathered through county-level GIS analysis reveal that there is a tendency for hosts to be located in areas with greater concentrations of art-related professionals and organic farms; however, it is much more complicated than this study reveals. They are more likely to be found in counties with higher percentage of female and minority farm operators. They also are surrounded by characteristics of 'short food supply chains', such as CSAs, farms

with direct sales and high value agriculture. Conversely, hosts are not found in areas that are typically known for industrial agriculture production, such as the Midwest or Great Plains.

The interviews reveal that hosts chose their land for its price and remote location. Social networks and relationships, which are difficult to measure geographically, also contribute to where these hosts live. Many hosts interviewed state that an ‘alternative form of living’, which emphasizes fresh water, air, and food, is a major reason for deciding what location in which to live. Hosts believe in building up their homes with natural, social and intellectual capital, as well as financial capital and infrastructure. WWOOF provides a means to live alternatively in more remote locations.

5.2. Discussion

WWOOF hosts come from diverse backgrounds, academic disciplines, and farming practices that try to work against the economic, social, and political problems currently at hand. In the interviews, many WWOOF hosts pointed to the shortcomings of the current agricultural system, such as environmental degradation, food safety and consumer trust, issues of economic justice, community decline, and threats to rural culture. Hosts believe that chemical farming has resulted in a list of side effects, including health risks, reduced quality and taste of crop, destruction of soil, degradation of rural areas once dependent on farming, etc. Organic produce has become an alternative solution that allows consumers and producers to diversify the land and rebuild the soil. These hosts reveal that visions of more evenly balanced geography are present. They live against the assumptions upon which industrial agriculture rests through working in the soil and making change on the ground level:

- (i) nature is something to overcome and dominate

Hosts work in harmony with nature because they do not rely on pollutants or chemicals but rather on healthy soil, crop rotations, complimentary planting, and biodiversity. WWOOF Turkey even mentions that the biggest contributor of their organization is nature: “with its endless contributions of air, water, soil, climates, habitats, plants, animals, different geographies, the whole balance of biodiversity, seeds and food, nature is the most important and essential sponsor of this project” (Yorymlar, 2011). Instead of believing that nature is an object to overcome, WWOOF hosts attempt to live in a way that preserves and supports nature and its resources. The organization and hosts spread the organic practices in order to

reconnect to the soil and “get grounded” in the natural environment. Rather than being a master of nature they advocate appreciating nature.

- (ii) development requires a continuation of larger farms, and eventually a depopulation of rural communities

The WWOOF organization measures progress by building community, in predominantly rural areas. Various hosts are involved in reskilling and helping to revitalize ancient knowledge, such as heirloom seeds or ancient tools. WWOOF hosts are also often linked to radical rural practices, such as self-sufficiency, low-impact building design and permaculture. In providing cultural exchanges for farmers at their location, WWOOF offers a way for rural areas to experience culture and entertainment without necessarily having the cultural resources that cities have.

WWOOF hosts are working towards to nurture local economic development, maintain diversity and quality in products, as well as provide spaces where producers and consumers can come together to solidify bonds of local identity and solidarity. In rebuilding the links between farmers and consumers, WWOOF hosts can begin to establish foundations for a more socially and environmentally integrated food system throughout the United States. They show and believe that large farms are not necessary to meet the demands of American consumers. Small, organic farms can succeed, but they need a greater support base and encouragement by the mainstream economy.

- (iii) progress can be measured by increased material consumption

WWOOF was established to help people get back to the root of food and to see a new side of the world. Though the WWOOF organization is a simple list serve that provides potential farmers, interns, and volunteer’s access to farms and homestead across the nation, and world, the message of the organization goes beyond that. It is a way to connect organically-minded people together to exchange ideas and learn from one another. It is a social network and movement that attempts to alter the consumerist and materialistic values that have been integrated into our culture. In living simple and self-sufficient lives host reveal an ability to live fulfilling lives without large amounts of material. The organization exposes volunteers to fulfilling lives that do not emphasize consumerism or materialism.

- (iv) that efficiency is measured by profit

WWOOF tries to advocate an exchange that is not based on money and profits. The WWOOF organization and hosts try to live in a way that measures efficiency through life fulfillment and healthy foods, rather than through profits. These individuals bring into fruition alternative economies through their emphasis on different forms of capital. In this organization, the commodity chain is simplified because the money is eliminated. Hosts put their energy into providing food, accommodation and education about organic techniques. They develop social and intellectual capital on their farms, and in their communities, through bringing volunteers of all backgrounds to their farms.

WWOOF is about cheap labor to some extent, but it is important to question why this is. It is because the current agricultural system is not providing sufficient amount of funding and support for small, organic farmers. There are hosts who are interested in making profits and pursuing financial well-being via WWOOF, but most of the hosts I interviewed hosted volunteers in order to live more in ecologically and socially just livelihoods. Especially in the USA, WWOOF goes beyond the economic incentive. It is a social movement. WWOOF reveals that the 'green', 'organic' movement is not just for those who can afford it, or the elitist. WWOOF allows those who cannot afford to live the more expensive, environmentally friendly lifestyle to survive. It also allows those who do have the resources to exchange knowledge or learn more about organic techniques. Or it exposes people to living a simpler, more sustainable life that is cheaper.

(v) science is the best way to measure natural forces and produce social good

Lastly, the WWOOF organization questions the paradigm of science as the "best way to produce social good" (Gold 1999). All hosts interviewed strongly rejected the use of artificial chemicals, while a handful were strongly against the use of genetically modified (GM) seeds, machinery, among other scientific technologies. This opposition for scientific tools come, not from wanted to live in the 'past', but because these few hosts believe that these technologies produce greater harm than good in the long run. They are not saying that their methods are the proper ways of farming, but they do believe that in order for humanity to survive into the future there needs to be more awareness on environmental problems that some of our technologies create.

These qualities of WWOOF hosts reveal that they are participating in alternative activities, and as evidenced by geographic analysis, they are surrounded by like-minded people.

Bohemians, organic farmers, and female and minority farm operators are all people going against traditional societal norms. They are advocates for openness and diversity.

In some ways, these hosts question Florida's characteristics for defining Bohemians and creative class, because they reveal that farmers can be a part of occupations that are artsy and creative. Though a traditionally conservative occupation, hosts show that hip and alternative people can get into farming and spread the organic movement and values. They revive the identity of rural areas as places of innovation and change.

5.3. Concluding Remarks

WWOOF hosts aims to bring about a more self-sufficient and holistic approach towards food in the current system. They have visions that this current capitalist society can survive, but it requires more people like WWOOF hosts. An upscale of certain actions, such as what WWOOF advocates, is necessary. When organic farms and lifestyles permeate on a larger scale then sustainability and a more holistic world can be experienced. The uneven geography of capitalism motivates hosts to use alternative economies in order to be able to afford labor and/or to spread non-monetary values. These non-monetary values emphasize a desire to live more ecologically sustainable in an alternative economy, 'actually existing sustainability'.

The cultural, intellectual and educational opportunities that WWOOF initiates endorses more conscious decisions and control, reduces inequalities and helps redistribute surplus capital. These hosts aim to create more direct control over their own space. They are in greater control over what is in their food because they actively grown it. This organization provides hope for the future because it offers an avenue for youth to learn more their food, or farming, as well as a model to mimic for other organizations in its WWOOF style exchange.⁶⁰ This decentralized, global organization is a network of projects, communities, farms, and homesteads that attempt to bring together and expose participants to different ways of living life, appreciating food and experiencing economics.

⁶⁰ Many other organizations are popping up that use this labor exchange, such as Work Away, Work Stay, or Help X.

Future Research

This research can act as a foundation for understanding the WWOOF organization in the USA, and internationally. Networks and relationships are a huge part of where and why hosts decide to live where they do; yet, due to difficulty in collecting community data, this study has little conception of social networks among WWOOF hosts. More communal variables, such as sense of place index and social network mapping between WWOOF hosts would help with conceptualizing reasons why WWOOF hosts locate where they do. Also, knowing how these households contribute to their area may give rise to sustainable development options. Hosts try to build up social and intellectual capital and so are they generally beneficial for their communities? Am I overestimating their contribution to the community? It is conceivable to argue that the presence of many WWOOF farms in a particular locality may contribute marginally to the local economy because of the absence of money involved in the WWOOF practice. In this way, the presence of WWOOF farms may not contribute much to the accumulation of money capital in the area. These questions may be useful to understand because they may reveal what type of lifestyles and current economic models sustainable agriculture can survive in.

6.1. Spatial Investigations

The GIS aspect of this project, while useful, was limited by the independent variables gathered and scale. Examining WWOOF hosts among different scales may contribute to more knowledge about the organization. On an international level, examining the differences in national organizations and their hosts may provide insight into cultural differences on sustainable farming methods. How do countries differ in their pursuits of sustainable agriculture? How do WWOOF projects differ in their aims of social sustainability across the

world? Also, what does the WWOOF organization in the USA represent in comparison to other farm schemes or even other national WWOOF organizations? Is it an ‘actually existing sustainability’ for the hosts and volunteers alike? Is it a form of farm tourism or more an internship network?

On the other hand, interviewing hosts in upstate New York provided much insight into the reasons why an individual or household decides to become a host and where they locate. It would be useful to continue gathering information on this topic in different areas.

Specifically, more interviews in specific regions, such as Colorado or Austin, TX, may reveal a more diverse array of geographic patterns. Or a focus on the urban WWOOF hosts could provide context on urban farming initiatives (Figure 9).

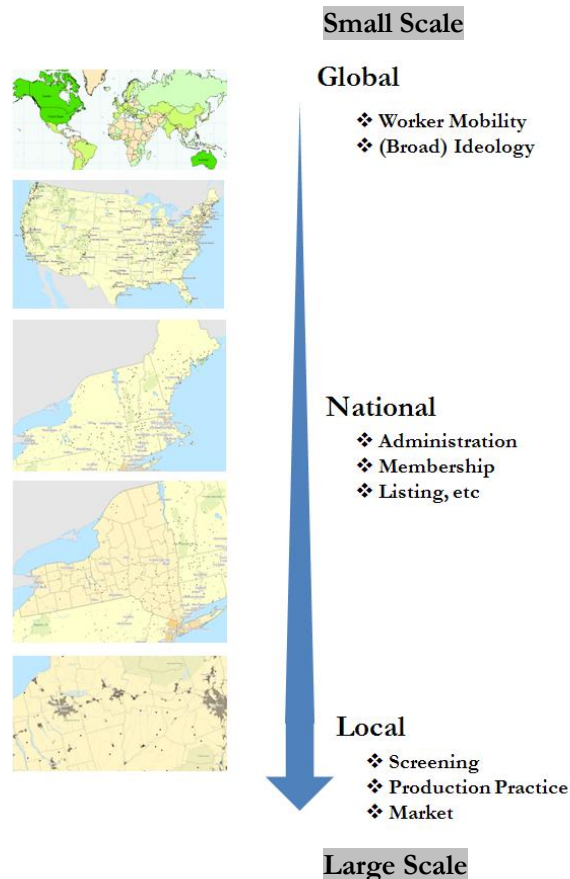


Figure 9. The scale at which one studies the WWOOF organization would provide useful information regarding the aspirations and function of the organization in local, as well as global, communities.

Due to the large of number of counties with no WWOOF hosts, this study used a negative binomial model (and its zero-inflated variant) for a regression analysis. This decision

made it infeasible to conduct a geographically weighted regression (GWR) using the existing GIS and statistical software. This statistical analysis tool would have focused on local conditions of geographical variables in relation to the geography of WWOOF hosts. For example, though statistically significant, Per Capita Income does not have a strong directional coefficient; therefore, GWR might be able to show more local variation and regional trends in correspondence with WWOOF host location. One alternative would be to run this test with only counties east of the Mississippi. Though running this test will not allow insight into the geographic patterns of the west coast, it would provide more information regarding local anomalies and patterns of WWOOF host locations in the east, especially New York State. Another option would involve using a location quotient of WWOOF hosts per population. Using population density in relation to WWOOF hosts may create a more normal distribution that could be run with GWR.

6.2. Temporal Investigations

Another emerging topic that is worthy of investigation is related to progression of WWOOFers and WWOOF hosts. In other words, some hosts, and volunteers, prefer short stays, while others require volunteers to stay longer. It emerged in the interviews the length of stay corresponds to the stage at which the WWOOF hosts' enterprises or projects are (Figure 10). WWOOF hosts seem to be aligned on a continuum of progress and growth. In the beginning, it is the manual labor, and reduced financial burden, that hosts welcome. These starting farmers need help building infrastructure, gaining ideas and getting a start on their gardens and farms.⁶¹ Manual labor is still needed as hosts develop and establish their community and farm; however, it is not as necessary as before. Possibly, though, new projects, such as building a barn or adding new varieties of crops, drives the need for physical labor. Once a farm and garden is well established, WWOOF hosts use WWOOFers as a way to gain youthful energy and to pass on the knowledge that they have obtained from their experiences. At this stage, WWOOFers are used as a vehicles for awareness and sustainability initiatives. Thus, while some hosts are settled and able to teach, others are still experimenting and learning how to set up their farm. This plays a role in the importance of the WWOOF

⁶¹ They are hoping for the “point where we will just... realize this is how we do it... and eventually, something will click and okay this makes sense...” (Host 7).

organization in the hosts' lives since they follow a pattern based on the establishment of the WWOOF host. This topic is new and will need further research to develop more.

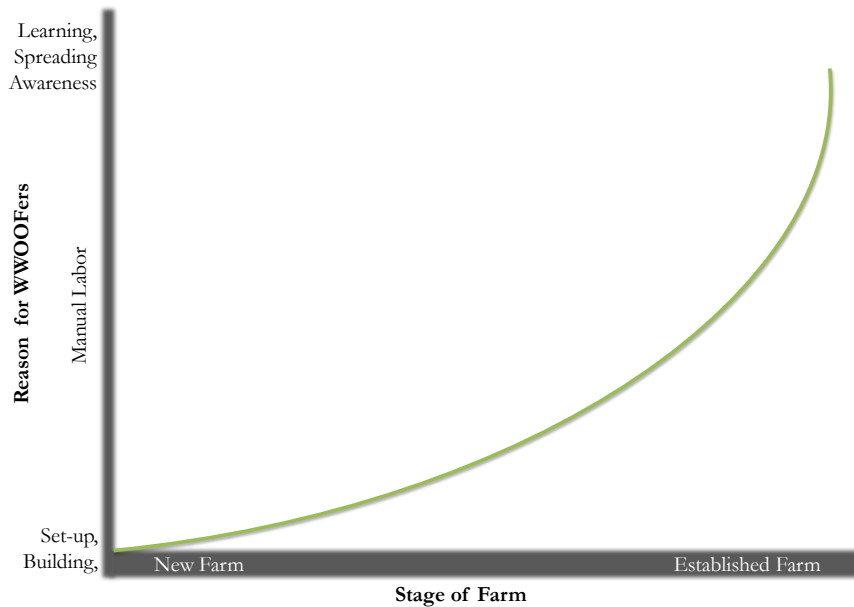


Figure 10. Hypothetic relationship between the evolutionary state of WWOOF farms and types of WWOOF works. The interviews hinted at differing reasons for why hosts are involved in WWOOF depending on how long they had been farming and on that land. The type of labor differed according to the stage of their farm.

6.3 Future and Beyond

Inquiries into how the WWOOF organization fuels a movement that is gaining momentum may help anticipating the future of the program. On the international level, WWOOF is a movement in itself and it is necessary to incorporate the different scales of initiatives that are occurring worldwide. Some hosts claim that the organization is becoming mainstream—what will that do for the future of WWOOF? Will WWOOF still be able to show people how to live a more environmentally, socially, and basic lifestyle at a larger scale? Or will hosts be too caught in the financial distress and anti-government beliefs propel the organic ideology?

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Appendix A. WWOOF Host Distribution in Continental USA

Table A 1. Number of Counties by number of WWOOF hosts

WWOOF hosts	Number of counties
0	2532
1	340
2	105
3	54
4	20
5	18
6	10
7	6
8	2
9	3
10	5
11	1
12	3
13	2
14	2
15	2
16	1
26	1
33	1

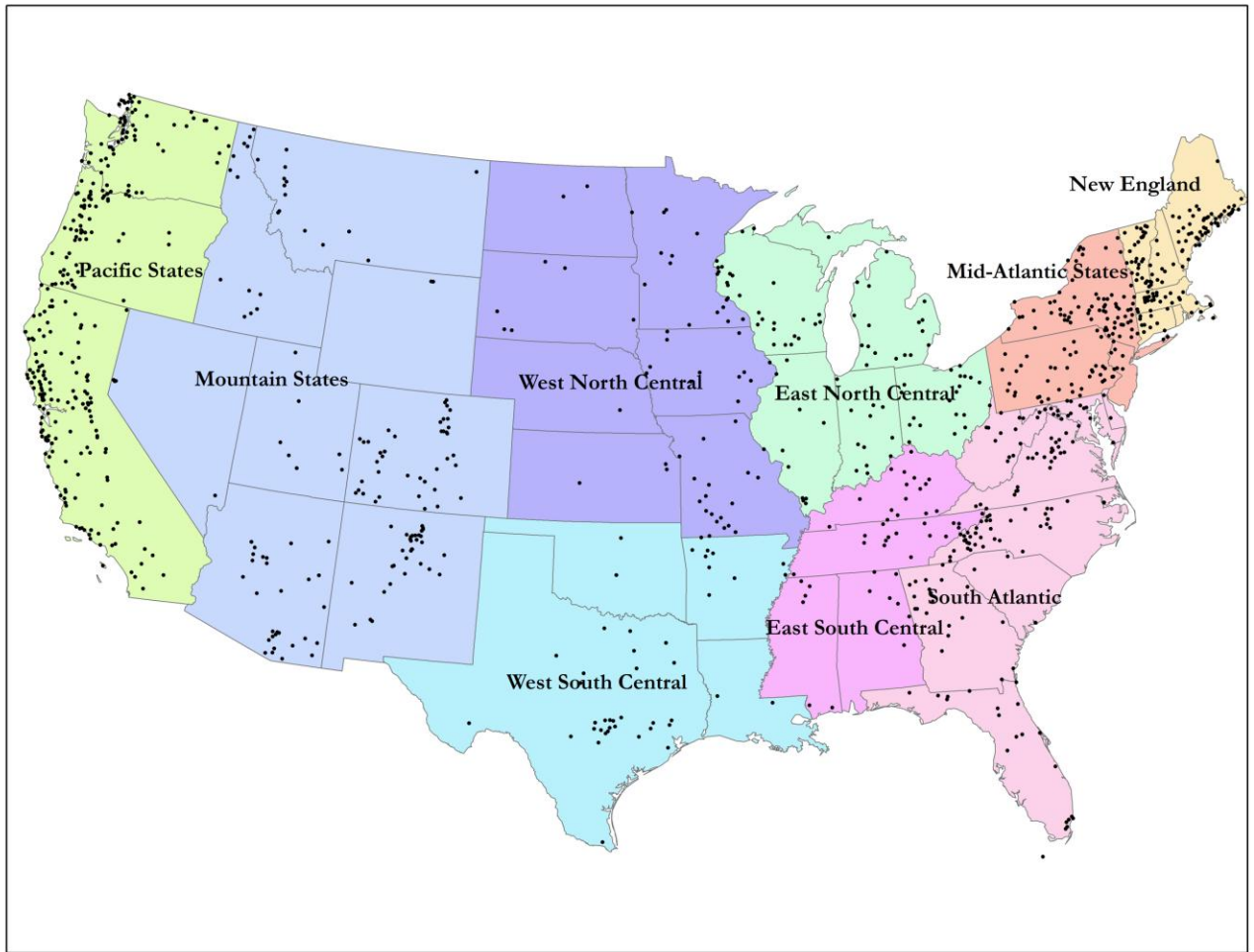
Table A 2. Counties with more than five WWOOF hosts

FIPS	County	State	WWOOF hosts (#)
06045	Mendocino	California	33
06097	Sonoma	California	26
41029	Jackson	Oregon	16
41039	Lane	Oregon	15
06023	Humboldt	California	15
50025	Windham	Vermont	14
06087	Santa Cruz	California	14
08029	Delta	Colorado	13
35055	Taos	New Mexico	13
41033	Josephine	Oregon	12
06017	El Dorado	California	12
37199	Yancey	North Carolina	12
53031	Jefferson	Washington	11
41071	Yamhill	Oregon	10
25011	Franklin	Massachusetts	10
35039	Rio Arriba	New Mexico	10
06079	San Luis Obispo	California	10
04025	Yavapai	Arizona	10
23027	Waldo	Maine	9
25015	Hampshire	Massachusetts	9
04019	Pima	Arizona	9
23009	Hancock	Maine	8
37021	Buncombe	North Carolina	8
53073	Whatcom	Washington	7
30047	Lake	Montana	7
50021	Rutland	Vermont	7
06033	Lake	California	7
37115	Madison	North Carolina	7
06111	Ventura	California	7
53047	Okanogan	Washington	6
53039	Klickitat	Washington	6
23029	Washington	Maine	6
50019	Orleans	Vermont	6
23023	Sagadahoc	Maine	6
36021	Columbia	New York	6
36105	Sullivan	New York	6
08109	Saguache	Colorado	6
06053	Monterey	California	6
35049	Santa Fe	New Mexico	6

53057	Skagit	Washington	5
53033	King	Washington	5
41005	Clackamas	Oregon	5
50027	Windsor	Vermont	5
41019	Douglas	Oregon	5
36077	Otsego	New York	5
36111	Ulster	New York	5
09005	Litchfield	Connecticut	5
42011	Berks	Pennsylvania	5
06055	Napa	California	5
06005	Amador	California	5
51003	Albemarle	Virginia	5
08083	Montezuma	Colorado	5
06073	San Diego	California	5
06037	Los Angeles	California	5
48021	Bastrop	Texas	5
36109	Tompkins	New York	5
12086	Dade	Florida	5

Table A 3. Number of WWOOF hosts per state.

State	WWOOF host
California	222
Oregon	91
Washington	80
New York	75
North Carolina	58
Colorado	57
Maine	55
Vermont	47
New Mexico	46
Pennsylvania	41
Texas	36
Massachusetts	35
Arizona	34
Wisconsin	32
Virginia	29
Tennessee	22
Georgia	21
Michigan	20
Missouri	20
Ohio	20
Florida	19
Montana	18
West Virginia	18
Kentucky	17
Idaho	15
Minnesota	15
Indiana	13
Iowa	13
Connecticut	12
Illinois	12
New Hampshire	12
Utah	11
Arkansas	10
Maryland	10
Alabama	7
Mississippi	6
New Jersey	6
South Dakota	6
Nevada	4
Kansas	3
Oklahoma	3
South Carolina	3
Delaware	2
Louisiana	2
North Dakota	2
Wyoming	2
Nebraska	1
D.C.	0
Rhode Island	0



Map A 1. Regions in USA

Table A 4. Number of WWOOF hosts per region.

Region	
Pacific States	555
Mountain States	187
New England	161
South Atlantic	160
East North Central	149
Mid-Atlantic States	122
West North Central	60
West South Central	51

Appendix B. Variables

A majority of the data comes from the USDA Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America. The documentation was extracted from <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruralatlas/documentation.htm>. Some variables were computed or gathered from other sources as indicated by an asterisk (*).

Kassel, K. Parket, T. Nulph, D. Reneman, B. “Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America”, Beltsville, MD: USDA Economic Research Service. February 18,2011. Accessed March 2011.

Isserman, Feser, and Warren. 2009. Why some rural places prosper and others do not. *International Regional Science Review* 32, 3: 300-42.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Amenity Score, 2004

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Economic Research Service](#)

Type of data: data on physical characteristics, mostly time invariant

Year(s): n/a

Definition: Classification of counties by physical attributes, where 1=high natural amenities county; 0=all other counties; a high natural amenities county falls in the top quartile of counties ranked by the ERS natural amenities scale; the scale combines six measures of climate, topography, and water area that reflect environmental qualities most people prefer.

Deviations from the mean

1 = Over -2 (Low)

2 = -1 to -2

3 = 0 to -1

4 = 0 to 1

5 = 1 to 2

6 = 2 to 3

7 = Over 3 (High)

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/RuralAmenities/> for more information regarding the limitations and conversions of the natural amenities.

Topography, 2000*

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Economic Research Service](#) (National Atlas of US Geological Survey)

Type of data: Data on topography, mostly time invariant

Year(s): n/a

Definition: Ranking of land surface form through values of 1 to 21.

Plains

1 = Flat plains

2 = Smooth plains

3 = Irregular plains, slight relief

4 = Irregular plains

Tablelands

5 = Tablelands, moderate relief

6 = Tablelands, considerable relief

7 = Tablelands, high relief

8 = Tablelands, very high relief

Plains with Hills or Mountains

9 = Plains with hills

10 = Plains with high hills

11 = Plains with low mountains

12 = Plains with high mountains

Open Hills and Mountains

13 = Open low hills

14 = Open hills

15 = Open high hills

16 = Open low mountains

17 = Open high mountains

Hills and Mountains

18 = Hills

19 = High hills

20 = Low mountains

21 = High mountains

Prosperity Score, 2007*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#) (Table P87, P43, P38, HCT28)

Type of data: Point-in-time estimate

Year(s): 2007

Definition: As characterized by Isselman, prosperity can be defined with a broader set of measurements than merely 'distress'. The prosperity score is comprised of poverty rate, unemployment rate, high school dropout rate, and housing problem.

Population density, 2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [Population Estimates Program](#)

Type of data: Point-in-time estimate

Year(s): July 1, 2009

Definition: Population per square mile: Estimated county population divided by size of county land area in square miles

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Bohemian Index, 2000*

Source: USDA, Richard Florida

Type of data: 1 year summary

Year(s): 2000

Definition: As a percentage, the Bohemian index charts the concentration of "bohemians", or working artists, musicians, writers, designers, and entertainers. Originally, it was measured as the ratio of the percentage of Bohemians in a county compared to the population in that county. An index value of one indicates that the population holds a number of Bohemians comparable to the population. A value greater than one means that the number of Bohemians is greater than the average concentration, while a value of less than one correlates to a population with less than average Bohemian concentration.

Diversity Index, 2008*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#) (Tract P4)

Type of data: 1 year summary

Year(s): 2008

Definition: Using Census Data from 2008, this index was calculated using Simpson's diversity index by Gibbs and Martin to gain a percentage of the population that is comprised of different races. Seven racial categories (white, black, Indian, Asian, Hawaiian, two or more, and other) were used. A perfectly homogenous population will have a score of 0, while a perfectly heterogeneous population will have a diversity index score of 1.

Percent foreign born, 2005-2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#)

Type of data: Multi-year average of monthly surveys

Year(s): 2005-2009

Definition: Percent of county population born outside the United States, regardless of citizenship status, excluding population born at sea.

Population change rate, 2000-2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [Population Estimates Program](#)

Type of data: Change over 9-year period

Year(s): 2000-2009

Definition: Change in population between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2009 as a percentage of the initial population.

Percent with college degree or higher, 2005-2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#)

Type of data: Multi-year average of monthly surveys

Year(s): 2005-2009

Definition: Percent of county population 25 years old or older with bachelor's degrees or higher.

Percent 65 years or older, 2005-2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#)

Type of data: Multi-year average of monthly surveys

Year(s): 2005-2009

Definition: Percent of county population 65 years old or older

Percent of Population Farmers*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#) (Table P2 and GCT-P1)

Type of data: Multi-year average of monthly surveys

Year(s): 2008

Definition: Percent of county population whose main occupation is a farmer according to the Census 2008.

AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Number of farms, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 1)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Number of agricultural operations in the county that produces, or normally would produce, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products per year.

Percent land in farms, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 1)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Land reported as part of agricultural operations in the county, as a percent of total county land area. The proportion of land area in farms may exceed 100-percent because some operations have land in two or more counties, but all acres are tabulated in the principal county of operation. The approximate land area data were supplied by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

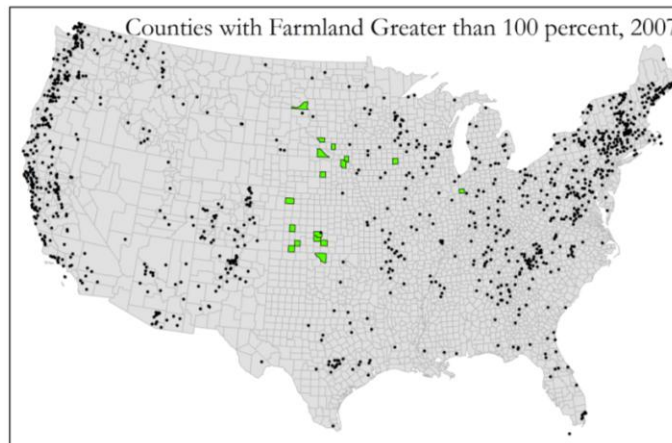


Figure 11. These counties have more than 100% land categorized as farm land because land is shared by two counties.

Average Farm Size, 2007*

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 1)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: All farms were classified into size groups according to the total land area in the farm. The land area of a farm is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. This mean was computed by dividing the sum of the acres of farm land in each county by the number of farms in the county.

Average value of agricultural products sold, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 2)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Market value of agricultural products sold by farm operations in the county, including landlord's share and direct sales, divided by the number of farm operations.

Average Acre Value, 2007*

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 1)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: The value of land and building refers to the amount that the land and building would sell for under current market conditions. This average is the estimated current market value of land and buildings owned, rented, leased from others and rented or leased from others.

Government payments per operation, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 5)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Government payments received by farm operations in the county divided by the number of farm operations; government payments include those from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) plus government payments received from Federal, State, and local programs other than the CRP, WRP, FWP, and CREP, and Commodity Credit Corporation loans.

Percent of farms with less than \$10,000 in sales, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 2)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of farm operations in the county that sold less than \$10,000 of agricultural commodities during the year.

Percent of farms with high-speed internet access, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of farm operations in the county reporting high-speed internet access.

Percent of farms with direct sales for human consumption, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#)

(Table 4)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of farm operations in the county that sold agricultural commodities directly to individual consumers for human consumption.

Percent of farms with women operators, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 46)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of principal farm operators in the county that are women.

Percent of farms with minority operators, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 46)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of principal farm operators in the county that belong to a minority group, including American Indian and Alaska Native, Black and African American, and Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin farm operators.

Percent of operators 65 years of age and over, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 46)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of principal farm operators in the county that are 65 years old or older.

Percent of operators working off-farm, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 4)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of principal farm operators in the county that worked in an off-farm job or jobs 200 days or more during the year.

Percent of farms with agritourism or recreational services, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of farm operations in the county that received income from agritourism or recreational services, such as farm or winery tours, hay rides, hunting, or fishing.

Percent of farms using Community Supported Agriculture, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of farm operations in the county that reported marketing products through a community supported agriculture (CSA) arrangement.

Percent of farms with value added commodities, 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Census of Agriculture](#) (Table 2)

Type of data: 1-year summary, from census of farms conducted once every 5 years

Year(s): 2007

Definition: Percent of farm operations in the county that reported producing and selling value added crops, livestock or products such as beef jerky, fruit jams, jelly, preserves or floral arrangements.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Poverty rate, 2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#) (Table P87)

Type of data: Annual average estimates based on statistical modeling, combining data from administrative records, intercensal population estimates, the decennial census and the American Community Survey

Year(s): 2009

Definition: Percent of county population living in families with income below their poverty threshold; poverty status thresholds vary by family size, number of children, and age of householder; if a family's before tax money income is less than the dollar value of their threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For people not living in families, poverty status is determined by comparing the individual's income to his or her poverty threshold.

Per capita income, 2005-2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [American Community Survey](#) (Table P82)

Type of data: Multi-year average of monthly surveys

Year(s): 2005-2009

Definition: Household income earned during the previous 12 months, in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars, divided by the county population.

Household GINI index, 2000*

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#) (Table P52 and P76; Burkey 2000)

Type of data: Annual average estimates based on statistical modeling, combining data from administrative records, intercensal population estimates, the decennial census and the American Community Survey

Year(s): 2000

Definition: Distribution income or income concentration that is calculated by dividing the vector of frequencies by income. Commonly used as a measure of inequality of income or monetary wealth, this statistical dispersion was calculated through using Mark Burkey's method. It includes income of all household members 15 years old or older.

For more information on how this variable was constructed please see

<http://www.ncat.edu/~burkeym/Gini.htm>

Unemployment rate, 2009

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) (Table P43)

Type of data: Annual average of monthly labor reports

Year(s): 2009

Definition: Number of unemployed people 16 years and older as a percent of the total labor force.

Appendix C. Dropped Variables

Proximity to City (ESRI 2000) and Proximity to Interstate Highway (ESRI 2000)

Initially, I had intended to test accessibility characteristics of WWOOF hosts through the distance between cities over 250,000 people, between interstate highways, and large airports. Using ESRI data and Hawth's tools, I had calculated the distance from the access point (i.e. cities, airports, roads) and the centroid of the county. However, these variables were dropped after insignificant results in OLS and after discussing the limitations of these methods—the county centroids were used and not the location of the host, which has huge implications for how far hosts are to these arbitrarily defined points that represent cities. The weaknesses in these measurements, i.e. the scale and use of centroid, deterred me from using them in the final tests.

Urban Influence (USDA 2004) and Rural-Urban Continuum (USDA 2004)

Access to the larger economies that cities provide was measured through the Urban Influence code and Rural-Urban Continuum. Urban Influence code spectrum is composed of population size, urbanization, and access to larger communities. Rural-Urban Continuum is a classification scheme distinguishes metropolitan counties by their population size and nonmetropolitan counties by the degree of urbanization and proximity to metro areas (USDA 2004). The Urban Influence code is divided into 12 groups that are categorized by their adjacency to metro, non-metro and noncore areas. Metropolitan counties (1-2) are classified as metro areas with more or less than one million residents. Nonmetropolitan counties are determined by proximity to large metropolitan areas (3-4) and to small metro areas (5-6). Non-metro noncore counties are divided into seven groups by their adjacency to metro or micro areas (6-8) and whether or not they have their "own town" of at least 2,500 residents (9-12). This variable provides insight into how influenced and accessible urban markets are to WWOOF hosts.

Dropped but interesting:

Urban Influence code, 2000

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Economic Research Service](#), using data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census

Type of data: Point-in-time census data

Year(s): 2000

Definition: 12-level classification of counties by metro-micro-nonmetro status, location and size of largest place

Metro counties:

- 1 Large - Central and fringe counties of metro areas of 1 million population or more
- 2 Small - Counties in metro areas of fewer than 1 million population

Nonmetro counties:

- 3 Adjacent to a large metro area with a city of 10,000 or more
- 4 Adjacent to a large metro area without a city of at least 10,000
- 5 Adjacent to a small metro area with a city of 10,000 or more
- 6 Adjacent to a small metro area without a city of at least 10,000
- 7 Not adjacent to a metro area and with a city of 10,000 or more
- 8 Not adjacent to a metro area and with a city of 2,500 to 9,999
- 9 Not adjacent to a metro area and with no city or a city with less than 2,500
- 10 Noncore adjacent to micro area and does not contain a town of at least 2,500 residents
- 11 Noncore not adjacent to metro or micro area and contains a town of at least 2,500 residents
- 12 Noncore not adjacent to metro or micro area and does not contain a town of at least 2,500 residents

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/urbaninf/>

Rural-urban continuum code, 2000

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Economic Research Service](#), using data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census

Type of data: Point-in-time census data

Year(s): 2000

Definition: 10-level classification of counties by metro-nonmetro status, location and urban size.

Metro counties:

- 0 Central counties of metro areas of 1 million population or more
- 1 Fringe counties of metro areas of 1 million population or more
- 2 Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population
- 3 Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population

Nonmetro Counties:

- 4 Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area
- 5 Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro
- 6 Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area
- 7 Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area
- 8 Completely rural or fewer than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area
- 9 Completely rural or fewer than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/ruralurbcon/>

See Isserman (2007) for more information regarding the distribution of urban-rural counties and urban-influence.

Appendix D. Interview Questionnaire

Volunteer organic farm tourism and regional development: the case of WWOOF

This paper examines the WWOOF (Willing Worker on Organic Farms or World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) organization/movement in the United States. As rural regions in industrialized countries are experiencing profound impacts of global-scale environmental and socio-economic changes, voluntary organic farm tourism arguably offers a novel and more holistic approach to sustainable rural development. In this study, we first detail the geography of WWOOF host farms by examining, for example, whether or not existing WWOOF host farms are located in geographically advantaged areas (e.g., areas that are already well-endowed with natural amenities and economic resources). We will then report the findings based on interviews with WWOOF host farmers in Upstate New York. The study seeks to answer whether "WWOOFing" is a viable form of agriculture and tourism in rural regions under a multitude of distress in the long term.

Certificate of Informed Consent Interview Study: WWOOFing in USA

Purpose & Procedures: The purpose of this research is to learn about how the WWOOF organization may or may not contribute to rural development. By granting consent to be part of this research, you agree to participate in a formal tape-recorded interview, lasting approximately 60 minutes. I have a list of questions that will serve as a guide for our conversation. Your participation is completely voluntary.

Benefits/Risks: This is a research study; therefore there will be no direct benefits to you from participation in the study. There are no risks to you from taking part in the interview, all efforts will be made, within the limits of the law, to safeguard the confidentiality of the information you provide.

Confidentiality: You understand that all information collected in this study will be kept strictly confidential, except as may be required by law. If we use your information in a research paper or report, you will only be identified by the pseudonym (fake name) that you choose prior to the interview. Because of the confidential nature of the research, there will be no witness to consent procedures; only the participant and researcher will sign this consent form. No one in your family, school, or community will have access to the information you tell us during this interview unless you choose to share it with them.

Compensation: Your participation in this study is completely voluntary.

Your Rights: You understand that every attempt will be made by the investigators to maintain all information collected in this study strictly confidential, except as may be required by court order or by law. If any professional papers or reports this research, you will not be identified by name. You may choose not to answer any question that you do not want to answer and are free to end the interview at any time.

Contact Information: If you wish further information regarding this study, or your rights as a research subject, you may contact the principal investigator of this project, A. Katrina Engelsted, her faculty supervisor, Dai Yamamoto, or the Chair of the IRB committee at Colgate University, IRBchair@psych.colgate.edu.

You have been given the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to your liking. You have read and understand the consent form. You agree to participate in this research study. Upon signing below, you will receive a copy of this consent form.

Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

_____/2011
Date

Time

Name of Investigator

Signature of Investigator

_____/2011
Date

Time

Date: ____/____/2011

Farm Name: _____ in _____, NY

Farm Operator Name(s): _____ (* indicates interviewee)

Age(s): _____

Tell me about yourself. How and why did you become a farmer? What led you to where you are today?

How and why did you choose to live and farm in your location specifically?

Part I. Farm Characteristics

1. Number of Years Farming: _____ years

2a. Full-time farmers? _____

If not, what other occupations:

Educational Opportunities and workshops	
Lodging	
Guided Tours	
Restaurant	
Other: _____	
None	

b. Commercial tourism services (choose all that apply):

3. a. Description/Type of farm (crops, animals):

Family Home and Garden	
Commercial Organic Farm	
Non-commercial Organic Farm	
Educational center	
Agritourism Destination	
EcoCommunity	
Other: _____	

b. Self-Description (choose all that apply):

4. Size: _____ acres (Total Crop Acreage: _____)

5a. Last year's average total annual sales: Approximately \$ _____

b. Have your farm profits changed over the last few years? Explain:

6. Involvement in Local Market (farm stand, CSA, volunteers): _____

7. Your farm's characteristics of 'organic' (no chemicals, biodynamic): _____

8. Are you certified 'organic'? If so, through what organization? If not, do you follow USDA guidelines?

9. What types of machinery do you use on your farm? Tractor? Or mainly manual labor?

10. Religious or spiritual affiliation? _____ -

Any additional Comments:

Part II. WWOOF Organization

A. Number of Years as a WWOOF host

< 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years	10 or more

B. How did you hear about WWOOFing? How did the WWOOF organization come into your life?

C. Why did you decide to become a host?

D. Are you in contact with other WWOOF hosts? What are your opinions of them?

E. What have been your experiences with WWOOF office? Is the organization well-run? Are there enough WWOOF hosts? Are there enough WWOOF participants?

F. Overall, what do you believe are the benefits of being a WWOOF host? What are/have been your positive experiences?

G. Can you think of an example of how your involvement with WWOOF has attracted are visitors to area? How about your involvement with local initiatives?

H. How do you recommend WWOOFers get to your farm? Is it difficult?

I. Do you use WWOOF to advertise? Is it a good form of advertising? Do you get interns?

J. Farm tourism can be defined as any farm operation that also involved some form of tourism. Do you believe WWOOF is a form of farm tourism?

K. Through either hosting or volunteering, how has WWOOF contributed to your life?

L. In what ways can the organization improve? How do you envision the future of WWOOF?

M. What are your future prospects for your farm/business? Where do you see yourself in ten years? Does WWOOF play a role?

Part III. WWOOF Participants

1. If you have not had any WWOOF participants, why do you believe this is?

2. If you have had WWOOF participants...

i. How many in total? _____ How many in the last year? _____

ii. a. Where have they come from?

USA		Asia	
Upstate New York		Japan	
New York City		China	
Northeast		Australia	
Southern States		New Zealand	
Midwest		Africa	
Mountain States		Europe	
Pacific Coast		France	
Canada		Germany	
Mexico		U.K.	
Central America		Switzerland	
South America		Belgium	
Other:			

b. How did they describe the type of place they were from? Large cities? Mainly rural areas?

iii. What ages? (tally mark)

15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+

iv. Gender?

Male	Female

v. Occupations?

Student	
Young Professional	
Farmer	
Retired	
Family	
Other: _____	

vi. Interests? What did the participants do in their free time?

vii. About how long have the WWOOF participants stayed?

<3 days	Week	Two Weeks	1 month	3 months	Up to 6 months	Up to a year	Year +

viii. How did the WWOOFers get to your farm (bus, car, train, and airplane)?

ix. How many WWOOFers can you accommodate? _____ What type of accommodation do you offer?

x. How often did they go into town? How often did they support local initiatives? (at farm, in community) Would you consider the participants conscious consumers?

Appendix E. Coded Interviews

Document	Code	Segment
Host C	Location, location, location	I will actually be farming a different farm (one I own!) in Maine and wwoof will be a big part of our life. I hope to engage wwoofers for the rest of my life
Host D	Location, location, location	The farm was our weekend home for many years and 17 years ago, when our first child entered kindergarten, we moved to the farm full time to far
Host 12	Location, location, location	If you compare it to all the people that lives here it is probably not that much... but there are a lot more people living self-sufficiently, organically, we are told it is the best market in the county.. Indoor outdoor pavilion. End of Cavila Lake... really ideal set-up... thousands of people pass through each weekend... WWOOFer love to go to the market... love to send them there because it is also crafts and cooked food... all different kinds... best place to go to eat, ethnic foods, deserts, baked good... a lot of fun... the social event after you have been on a farm working all week and to socializing that much... you can really get out and meet a lot of people...
Host 10	Location, location, location	I would have been just as happy to go to a city... have a place to stay... wasn't considering... "Looked at places close to a city but it wasn't my main focus
Host 10	Location, location, location	Not very affluent area... Just observing that most of our neighbors are farmers also and they are not some of them are organic farmers... I drove down the road the other day and I saw a sign on the barn that said "gone broke farm and moving to Mexico"... it not one of those towns that's hippies, natural food store... it is a really small town and you can just miss it... there are other small towns, but their towns are slightly bigger and some others are slightly more affluent. I think that we are getting there... it think it is possible to be more like that, but it is just not... there is not enough demand for us to fill 70 shares around here right now...
Host 10	Location, location, location	For being small town in the middle of nowhere they are probably more bohemian than Middlesex and there are more young people... this is an older town... by coincidence... it's been here a while... people think that this is still a nudist colony... some people respect the community here and come to the summer shop
Host 11	Location, location, location	been treated badly... We have been here 12 years... if you wanted to join a CSA you had to do a lot of calling around... you'd go to the farmers market and there were people selling but they were not CSA... this is on a logarithmic growth chain over here... I bet in the greater Ithaca area there are 2 or 3 thousand ma
Host 9	Location, location, location	I have grown up all my life doing some amount of gardening with relatives who farmed, but we came here because we were looking for an alternative way of living... this very much grew out of our homeschooling and concerns about various social, justice issues. Johanna started reading economic at 14 or so and we weren't allowed to shop at Wal-Mart and there were all sort of issue about the concern of food and grown by whom and so we ended up coming here on that basis.
Host 9	Location, location, location	That wasn't particularly for this geographic location certainly. When we started looking for something to do... We are a family... I am the mother, Johanna was 19, and Zach was 1. Johanna volunteered at heifer project in Massachusetts... we were living in Maine at time and Zachary wanted to do more volunteer stuff, he was very interested in building and construction, but he wasn't able to work at habitat sites until 16 because of insurance. We wanted to volunteer together and there were not many places to volunteer. Johanna started reading online things, started asking people where you could produce what you needed to eat, be self-sufficient and where she would have time to write... and then we decided we wanted something to do it together, and people suggested Catholic worker farms, so we looked at those and this was on list
Host 1	Location, location, location	Would I have started a farm if I had not had this land? No". Since he grew up on the land (but was living in an apartment 5 miles away) he had many friends in the area.
Host 6	Location, location, location	we are influenced by the Hudson River, but if you were two miles to the east because that is when the Berkshires start, they are a little colder than what we are... When the winters are below minus 10 for three nights in a row, that freezes all the peach buds and we didn't get a single peach out of them for two years... and so that's a loss...
Host 6	Location, location, location	Well, just for us being on the WWOOFers list and we are fairly close to the city
Host 7	Location, location, location	We were in Manhattan for 15 years or something like that... and then decided not quite at the same time... decided... I had to get out of there. I was just losing my marbles... and so we moved to Hudson because that was easy there was a train... and so we just rented a place... and then we started thinking about where to go... we actually did a cross country trip for six months looking at all kinds of properties all around the country... think could we move to CA, Arizona... basically we came back thinking, naw that's not going to happen... because you know professionally we need

		<p>to be close to the city... and um it was also at the height of the real estate boom and so...</p> <p>...and it was also when Bush got re-elected to second term and being out there... out west</p> <p>Yea, Arizona... That wasn't so much fun... and like, you know we would go all the way out to some dusty mike town in Arizona and to some farm and the ymca... whatever we think about buying would still be \$500,000... well that we could go out to Brooklyn... that doesn't make any sense... so in Hudson we start looking around the area... and very quickly just realized that it was too... well the parcels were too small. you really couldn't get enough land in Hudson valley and so then we started looking out in the Catskills... kind of the same problem when you go into Delaware county... as long as you are in this same three hours radius of NY city you are competing with weekenders, which generally means that properties are split up within five ways... So we ended up with a bunch of farm brokers... and, um... we spent a year looking at farms and what we determined was that there is a triangle between Binghamton, Syracuse and Albany, roughly...</p> <p>That was the main area... that's where we were looking... so, we didn't want to go to the Adirondacks because it is too cold... for farming and it's just a different culture there... we didn't want to go too close to the city... we didn't want to go too far west... two far away from the city, so this was the triangle... and so we just looked at every farm for a year</p> <p>And so the farm was not like because we were... gunho, let's get into farming... it was because we liked the landscape, we liked the land... and I think particularly at this area... jus the landscape itself... the rolling hills... it's not wide open and whippy... and it's not deeply wooded and kind of claustrophobic... and so we were responding to the land... and farm stead in this area... were kindof lie what we thought would be ideal...</p> <p>But it was kind of like a parallel track because, you know we start looking at these places that used to be a farm... you get the surveying, the barn is sold to one person on the farm, the house to another... so you look at this, you want the whole thing... so we started looking the these full farms with these brokers, who were part time farmers... so we learned a lot about these</p> <p>We saw a dozen farms every week... and ah that was very helpful... and then we started parallel, interning, taking classes at the Cornell extension... and then, um, it kindof moved further and further... well if we are going to go out we better do something... if we are going to do something we better go further out and get some land... if we get some land we better go further out... and next thing you know A big thing for us was that we wanted something secluded... we didn't want to see any neighbors... if we were going to go that far out it better be on a dirt road, on a dead end... and this was the only place within a year that even came close... and we went to so many properties and also did just online... so much searching We probably considered over 500 properties... went and visited at least 100 We had like stacks and stacks of print outs and photographs and fax sheets and... And most farms are built on the road in this area... and the explanation is yeah dairy truck has to get there and pick up the milk... that's all bullshit... you go to west Virginia and farms are like a half mile off the road.. It's a cultural thing... in this area it's hard to find a farm that is set off the road... and that is actually... for sale, on top of it... um, and so anyways, we found this place and this hasn't been a... we bought it from a family that bought it in the 70s and they didn't farm.</p>
Host 7	Location, location, location	<p>So, the only place we can go is North... but going North is once you get into the Adirondacks, you have sandy soil and growing conditions are really bad... and you are in a zone where you can't grow anymore... supposedly, the Mohawk Valley... the south side of the Mohawk Valley... the Marsalis shale released the gas when the Adirondacks formed... we're banking on that... the idea being that... you know, if you look at the listings... nobody has a gas lease.. There haven't been gas leases ever in that part... so it would be between Richfield Springs and a little further up... towards like foot plains... and that are</p>
Host E	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location	<p>The Catskill Mtn. region has some appropriate soils for crop production but it is mostly either developed, controlled by large non-organic farms, or too expensive. Affordable choices with the attributes for success are few and after 5 or 6 years of searching we purchased our farm which has fertile, tillable soil with no pesticide/chemical history. Our farm also has ample clean water, sunlight, and no weird incumberences.</p>
Host 12	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location	<p>Check out this area because my wife at the time was selling crafts at different festivals... right outside Ithaca and we heard that there are good festivals... having a big farmer's market was a big plus... having a place to sell your stuff... we looked around and we found this place... not perfect farm land but you can farm at a lot of different places... doesn't have to be flat</p> <p>We weren't so much looking for farm rather than a place to farm... this places was residential next to a farm... used to be a diary farm, not anymore... its hayfield... right here where we are it hadn't been farmed... so we started from scratch...we were looking for a place not next to something toxin, or a commercial farm that was spraying or growing genetically modified crops... not isolated but away enough, like 2 miles... not next to big industrial toxic farm...</p> <p>The next thing that was absolute was good, clean water... we have a deep well and the water is good it drains out of the well...</p> <p>Surrounding wanted to be in a beautiful area with nice neighbors... also, some</p>

		space...
Host 10	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location	so I came to work on the farm... specifically interesting in the community because of the farm... there's a lot more that happens here, like spiritual work, and crafts, like pottery and wood working, but I came for the farming... what is keeping me here is the community aspect, along with the farming, as well as social day to day rewarding aspects
Host 11	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location	le doing this? Ithaca is an odd little universe of its own... it's more than I would say in any other area than I would say demographically... Ithaca is a small city and it is not near anything... if you ask people about NY they would say Syracuse, Binghamton, Elmira... Ithaca has been a hip town forever partly because of the large college dynamic... there is a lot more doing on then I wo
Host 9	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location	probably part of religious beliefs; felt it was where we belonged. More intuitive, and place based than rational.
Host 1	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Land	Another place, such as Connecticut or Massachusetts would be hard mainly because of land. You need extenuating circumstances for vegetable growing. If you want to grow vegetables at maximum production you need to find ideal land, that has decent soil (which you will need to build up anyways) and good water sources.
Host 6	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Land	we don't own the land... Hugh actually set up a long term lease December '93 and in April '94, he planted the orchard and set it here to a twenty year lease... and about seven years ago we extended the lease for another twenty more years...
Host 7	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Land	the seclusion
Host 7	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Land	we have a pretty, for a hundred acres, we have a pretty diverse range from meadows, hayfields, garden able areas...
Cecile Cowsberry Crossing	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	stong Waldorf/anthroposophical community that we belong to.
Host B	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	My relationship with my grandmother, who operates Linwood Gardens, is a close one. I grew up partly there, in a sense, so have a deep connection with the land there as well. I've always lived on a small farmette connected to a large functioning dairy farm, operated by my uncle. I don't work there, but do spend a great deal of time tending to activities on my homestead.
Host B	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	Lee, the proprietor of Linwood Gardens, inherited the gardens from her father, and he from his father, who built it. She came into it naturally, then, and has spent very few years away from the place since her childhood. The land is a testament to the generations, and continues to be an important central location for many family members. It's a beautiful location, on a rise overlooking the Genesee Valley, and woods, meadows, and gardens make up the landscape, a ravine cutting across part of it. Everyone who visits comments on its special secluded feeling
Host C	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	My uncle inherited this land and needed someone to take care of it/give it a future
Host E	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	Family ties keep us in the area
Host F	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	homesteading intentional community on this land
Host 10	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	I consider everyone here my WWOOFing host because we decide to host as a community and no one is accepted as a WWOOFer unless everyone agrees... so everyone takes care of the WWOOFers here and so much is going on... Also, this place has a much more structured schedule and what I do is much more... my whole day is expected in the morning, so I know what I am going to be doing throughout the day in the morning, on the other farm I don't really know what I will be doing day to day... so here was less stressful... it was more stressful in that I didn't know what I was going to be doing on a day to day basis... I was there for 3-4 months... for the whole summer... I was committed for the summer... and I stayed for the summer
Host 10	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	I was looking through the site and their page stood out the most to me... I contacted them first and was chosen to be a WWOOFer... to be honest, I wasn't focusing on geographical location, it could have been anywhere... I was looking for a place, that I don't know if I was looking for a community I guess a place with more people and a lot going on where if I liked the place but no interested in farming I could do the crafts... they said that they played music... I also like that they asked a lot of

		questions... others seemed casual and more serious... they asked a lot of questions... they seemed different... they seemed like they were a serious place and knew what they were trying to accomplish
Host 1	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	Would I have started a farm if I had not had this land? No". Since he grew up on the land (but was living in an apartment 5 miles away) he had many friends in the area.
Host 1	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	Appeal of living in this area: established family and infrastructure, a place that he is comfortable (community, he knows who can fix the car, have relatives that can get anything he needs for fraction of the cost), infrastructure (what it takes to start a farm is enormous; it takes a while to start to take down capital expenses).
Host 6	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	whole biodynamic and intra-philosophical network and so he ended up coming up here and, um, met the two land lords
Host 8	Location, location, location\Attraction to Location\Relationships (family, friends)	Farm is part of eco-community, part of larger eco-communit
Host A	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	The challenges of marginal environment, marginal climate, marginal economy, and marginal popular interest, in a city like a moon colony that wouldn't exist without an umbilical cord to the outside world, also create an acid-etched proof-test for radical sustainability and subsistence
Host 11	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	as horse shoes... at the same time our neighbors here are really traditional.. Bensons do classic dairy farming they spray the hell out of everything... they are people who have thousands of acres and they just do a really traditional approach... so it is a real mix, we have a traditional agriculture base outside here.. in the boonies which is really traditional agriculture grow corn, grown hay to feed to cows... it's a milk factory, it's what agriculture has become around here, it's sad... because if you added up his assets he probably
Host 1	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	He claimed that he was not living in a "hip" area, which made it difficult to make large profits from selling local produce. His location made it hard to make great profits. The Syracuse area is severely underserved. If he were in Syracuse he would be able to make buck because there is a lack of CSAs there... but he is not... it would involve finding and buying the right kind of land for vegetables... lots of initial start up funds... don't have the community or family in the area.
Host 7	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	But there's always idiotic neighbors but that's not specific to this neighbor
Host 7	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	that's all expensive and chopped up... we can't go west because the gas goes all the way to Ohio... we can't go south because we hate New Jersey and Pennsylvania
Host 7	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	So, just showing up and doing things differently... you can get two kinds of reactions... and a lot of them are negative...
Host 7	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	Right, and it's not a city thing... and the other thing is you know... people here... some people keep chickens or they have some experience with it... and everyone has dairy cows... so it's sort of one area of activity where people actually don't know... they really don't know anything about it... and they see you doing it and it gives you some sort of credibility... with locals... because with everything else, driving a tractor, ploughing, it doesn't matter... they have done it for two generations and you have just started this.. So it one area of activity where you know... them... you just get a little bit of respect, which is not a terribly thing... because obviously the surrounding, the old dairy farms are very conservative and that's not.... We don't spend a great deal of time with them... and so... but they make up the larger community here...
Host 7	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	Oh my god, it's I mean it's no one is hostile, but that... that it always present you know... um, well, and gas.. you don't talk to any of your neighbors about the gas issue... there is just no way you can bring that up... see, the upstate/downstate thing... you know... if you go to the Hudson Valley it is a very concrete thing... because you know when we first got our place in Hudson it was just started to be severely populated by the people from the city, buying houses for dirt cheap and renovating them... and then property taxes went up and up... and so what they did you know as a group... the city people... is drive the locals out, they couldn't afford their houses anymore...and that was a very real hostility and that had a good reason... these guys felt like you know I lived here... my dad lived here and now I can't pay my bills because you jerks come here and renovated these houses... so, that was a very strong... very noisy hostility... now here, you go to Davenport county it is the same thing... if you have a local population and a weekend population you know in Davenport county you have basically the locals cut the lawns for... and plough the snow for the weekends... and they hate them for it... so, here we really don't have any city influence... so here it is like this weird fantasy that people have... and I cannot tell you that we've had neighbors... I was talking to when hunting

		season gets around... everyone has camiflage and trucks are driving up and down... search light sin my field... what are you going to do... you are going to tell me that you are poaching on my land... get the f out of here. And so I am talking to this neighbor about these guys cruising up and down and he said yea all those people from the city coming up here and hunting... have you even been to the city... who has a gun in the city? What are you nuts? This is like the guy is from the village down here... but it's like this is the standard line here... you blame everything on the city people and really what they mean is.. what they really mean for the most part is people like these neighbors here... people who live in New Jersey who you know... they are not city people... some suburban population that keeps land up here and basically comes up a couple time a year to use it... and that's you know... I am not a fan of that ...
Host 8	Location, location, location\Challenges of Location	Because we are so far from everything... yea maybe
Host A	Location, location, location\Regional Development	Growers Market table(s), local festivals, volunteers, cooperative activities, non-profit outreac
Host C	Location, location, location\Regional Development	We've probably had a dozen new people with disposable income come live on our farm and shop at local stores
Host D	Location, location, location\Regional Development	farmers markets and on farm stor
Host E	Location, location, location\Regional Development	Yes. Most people who come to my farm also visit the surrounding towns, attractions, stores, and restaurants, etc. Everyone who drives buys gasoline or diesel if they don't make their own. Mostly everyone visits Woodstock, New Paltz or the Gunks. Many people who visit are from out of town or other countries
Host F	Location, location, location\Regional Development	I run the Food CoOp's bakery booth ther
Host 6	Location, location, location\Regional Development	We have a fruit CSA... we give fruits shares... last year was the last year we had a vegetable CSA... and then we actually stopped as of this year we stopped our vegetable CSA... we had a small local group... the last five years we had a full time employee and he is moving on now he is taking his own farm and we gave him our local CSA
Host A	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	Yes, and that is a large part of the problem for me. We are looking for semi-skilled people, with staying power, who are quick understudies, can carry increasing responsibility, and turn out to be a net gain for our diverse activities and operations, if not also growing into full-fledged collaborators.
Host C	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	Farm tourism can be defined as any farm operation that also involved some form of tourism. Do you believe WWOOF is a form of farm tourism? Yes. A very deep form
Host E	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	G. Do you use WWOOF to advertise your products or farm? Is it a good form of advertising? Yes, Yes. H. Farm tourism can be defined as any farm operation that also involved some form of tourism. Do you believe WWOOF is a form of farm tourism? Ye
Host F	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	Well, people do travel up here from distances because they're looking for something so in that way, yes, it brings people her
Host F	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	It certainly CAN be
Host 9	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	Downside, not like coast of Maine, drop dead... not great tourist destination... can't image what would attract people here... farm is beautiful if you want to get away... but it's NOT a DESTINATIO
Host 6	Location, location, location\Regional Development\Farm Tourism	it's almost a cheap holiday for them too because they don't spend any money... unless they want to buy their own beer... Because they want to see parts of the country... and of course because of their interest in agriculture
Host A	Progression of WWOOF and host/time component	I am especially impressed that they can integrate intermittent and short-term WWOOFers into their operations because I have found it almost impossible.
Host A	Progression of WWOOF and host/time component	Yes, and that is a large part of the problem for me. We are looking for semi-skilled people, with staying power, who are quick understudies, can carry increasing responsibility, and turn out to be a net gain for our diverse activities and operations, if not also growing into full-fledged collaborators.
Host A	Progression of WWOOF and host/time component	We seek longer-term serious commitments and many WWOOFers seek shorter-term light stints.

Host D	Progression of WWOOF and host/time component	Would like a listing opportunity at WWOOF for farmers such as us who are looking for long-term WWOOF stays. Two week stays are not beneficial to us. We will probably not be WWOOF hosts this year
Host 10	Progression of WWOOF and host/time component	The age range is 70s, 60s, there's really no 50s, 40s, 30s, and then 20s... skipped generation because the older people who had kids, most of them left... some WWOOFers and some decided to stay on... there are a few families there are husband wife couple... most of them met here... most of the kids are old, the youngest one is in high school...
Host 8	Progression of WWOOF and host/time component	To get help mostly... at first it seemed like a way to get somebody to help because it is really hard to be a small farm and to do it all... because there is way too much to do, especially when you are doing everything by hand... it is really labor intensive... no tractors, a rototiller... it was... once we did it reasons change as you go along... I mean now I would say it's the interaction with people... it's a really big thing... but mostly, it's a way to have people help you and work with you... and to help people in their paths... like cause you are teaching them stuff too and it's just really like interesting... you meet really cool people... at the time in the beginning, I think it was... I was thinking it was a way to get somebody to help and then after like... the first or second person we had it was like... wow, this is a way to really have fun too because we are cooking together or enjoying our time together... it quickly became apparent that this is... at least the way that we do it... we are sharing everything, like cohousing... having a relationship with somebody was really beneficial... and working together...
Host 12	Value of Food	Try to get the highest quality of food that is local... taste is better.... Sold for life as soon as they try an organic vegetables... so many levels... so polluting... almost not even farming anymore... factor
Host 9	Value of Food	small, not for profit, not paid staff, live on donations and whatever we sell, less than \$30,000 a year, but we have healthy food, work that we care about... able to provide food and lovely wooden toys for refugees and
Host 2	Value of Food	Towards small farms... toward local farming, like what it was when I was a kid growing up... like we had three farms in our town, that everyone went to including my parents,
Host 2	Value of Food	We don't value food, we don't pay for anything. Even when I was a kid farmers can't pay for health. Everyone gets paid less, the farmers, the employees, it's terrible.
Host C	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Many came because of our focus on music and culture
Host E	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	I was dissatisfied with commercially grown, pesticide laden, poor quality choices and supply problems.
Host 1	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Adam was quick to mention that WWOOF volunteers provided cheap labor. He laughed as he repeatedly mentioned that his dairy farm neighbor, Bob, is in shock that Adam can get people to work on his farm for free. Adam tells Bob that as soon as he goes organic he too can get people to come to his farm and work for free. Though, he did mention that not all the workers are effectively hard workers. There were a couple of workers out of the seven that he has had that did not put in great hours. These WWOOFers are "doing me a favor more than they know". WWOOF is helpful, interesting. It is not a 'real organization' but it is a cost prohibitive business. "Most people cannot believe that a program exists where you get free help".
Host 1	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Most farmers in the Hudson are have Mexican workers. He claimed that the Mexican workers were paid pretty well with \$12 per hour and they worked insanely hard. They would not accept 40 hour weeks.
Host 1	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	He has about two months to make income, which is mostly made off of tourists in the summer. Essentially, there is no retirement system for farmers.
Host 1	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Adam was educated with a four year degree in biology, but felt compelled to go back to the land, like his great grandfather. Adam emphasized that our parents' generation moved away from farming and in a way the value of food. He claimed that Americans do not value food like other cultures do. Europeans have done it properly because food is expensive and they spent a majority on their salary buying food. This shows how much they value and understand the importance of food. Americans though brag about how cheap their food is.
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	... we go and just waste them... I mean our whole culture is so wasteful
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	we are having some neighbor friends that actually just got out of... they lost their farm because they have been conventional dairy for a long time... they came from Jersey 15, 17 years ago now... he was always a dairy farm in Jersey raised them and dairy farm... they moved here because his dad sold the farm and dispersed it and because him and his sister shared it... rick and his wife bought a farm here... milk prices have been so low they were into the feed mill for \$3,000... just for feed...they weren't covering their expenses so they sold to a big huge beef guy.... guy is buying up all of our dairy farms here... he is doing grass fed beef... not certified organic, but grass fed, it's a big, big money, investor
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	and I am hoping financially that it doesn't, I mean, there is a big push to agro business... there is def... family farms are suffering and belonging to the wayside...

		and I am not sure financially how it will turn out in 20 to 30 years... but I defiantly think that... food... people are going to start to pay more for food...
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	We pay just as much as we need for the doctor, but the doctor industry is filthy rich and the agriculture industry is starving... and that's what Greg and I always talk about... god forbid, if something catastrophic happened and you didn't have health insurance... and you needed triple bypass or whatever and so you lose your whole farm because... from on operation.. You still want your heart to wor
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Something we did. They always did well. They were busy and then all of a sudden the supermarkets became bigger, so to speak. And the problem is the supermarkets don't want to buy from his brother, Doug. His string beans, they would rather buy from... all those little farms with houses on them... there's houses on them because farmers couldn't pay the taxes anymore and farmers sold their land
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	and how do I prevent the... big thing.. is.. regular corn... not GMO... so, how do I prevent Howard's GMO corn cross-pollinating with my corn... how do I prevent GMO cross-pollination... we can't 100% prevent... we have the buffers, but pollination can happen from
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	And it's expensive... we have a nice friends of ours... and they are conventional and we had dinner with them last year... young kids in their 30s... they were talking about their seed costs... their costs are just as expensive because of Monsanto... and their sprays... they have a huge bill because they are cultivating their crops... but theirs is all spray... they are paying for the spray... to have it sprayed... it's expensiv
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	The chemical farmer isn't working... that's why every year they are coming up with new chemicals...
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	but its farming... the consumers is the person that decides what he want to buy... the information is out there that is saying that this information is not very healthy... 90% of information is saying that this is not healthy... its happened before... you know... I think commercially, as farming, it kindof creeped up on everybody...
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	WWOOF allows them to do this while appreciating other culture, stories and ways of life
Host 3	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Well... for the most part they benefit... unless someone is coming here and they don't know why... that's why we have to do some screening... for the most part they benefit us and we benefit them... for everyone... look our culture needs a lot of help... the two areas where our world is greatly stressed is... I forgot the financial... but that is not really important... the two areas is emotional health and health of our environment... the statistics for personal health are actually frightening, especially for children and teenagers... there has been a doubling of cronic illnesses among children and teenagers in America and doubling and tripling of obesity and being overweight... the level of quality of food and therefore connection to nature has degenerated progressively... and we may be facing the first young generation that is in a centuries time that is going to have a shortened lifespan than their parents... um, so... you know we have an epidemic among the parents who are getting older... we have an epidemic of Alzheimers disease, which is a consciousness disease... we have a system of medicine based on principles of unconsciousness... of mechanicality of.. drugging up these elderly people which I think is primal of nursing homes and making them into zombies... there is so much work to be done to make a difference in this world... in terms of the health... and simultaneously the environment arena because our... I mean most experts in the environment predict that at least 25 % of all species are going to be threatened with extinction within a hundred years... you know within a lifetime of a young person... so... something is obviously wrong and what's wrong comes from within and manifests externally and so... somebody has to take the lead and show that this is not right and how to turn things around... and so we are inspired to do that... and attract the young people to share that is the best way to do... cause this is their future that counts
Host 4	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	there is are a lot of pluses... they add to the life of your bed and breakfast with their culture and their happiness... but if you are giving up a room that you could get a hundred dollars a night for for a WWOOFer... you got to get what you need out of them
Host 4	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	I guess the one thing that the WWOOF organization could get across to kids is that when you go to a farm thinking that you are going to be taken care of and this idea that you have... you are setting yourself up for disappointment... that every farm has its own culture, its own foods to eat, and if you are going to be picky and expect them to do it differently you're wasting your time... you're there to learn and you are their guests... essentially you might think that you are working hard for them, but they are working hard for you to... because to set that place up took a lot of money and time and to cook food for you everyday takes a lot of money and time... and to give you days off and to make it so that you are part of the family they have got to stretch as much as you have got to stretch... they are not just, um, doing nothing... and I don't think that they really get that message out in their information... that that is the way it is... and I think that people who are 20 actually need to know it... because it just doesn't dawn on you... it's not all about you... it's not until you've had another job and you've put a house up and you know what it costs to put up a bed or whatever...that you really get to take a bigger broader look at your circumstances...

Host 4	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Their English was secondary, they didn't need to learn English them too... and they admitted it freely... they said I applied to camps, I applied here, I applied to WWOOF... I applied to all the free jobs I could find... I don't want to risk getting paid and getting my visa taken away... they can't get pay otherwise they can get turned in... and there's a lot of people who don't have them [visas]... family included... you get letters from all kinds of Israelis, um, you know because their culture is used to kibbutz... got two kids and a wife... yeah... they find relatives who live nearby where they can go when they are not working... so for me, you know, cause I literally usually say straight up: now tell me really and truly why did you apply here
Host 5	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	So there's those two models that takes place... on one hand, people can either work for economic reasons and have to take care of themselves... and not until an entire shift in our entire economy that values food in a totally different way and maybe doesn't value advertising as a valuable part of our economy... or insurance marketing... jobs that most people have in this country... talking about creating jobs... that doesn't take care of them... the most important thing is that people should get taken care of for what they do... not this model where everybody gets a tiny bit of money... not enough for anyone to live off of... it's not going to work... ever again... and I say ever again because it is not working right now... so...
Host 5	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	it is still more affordable to ship it across the entire country than to pay a partnership or what it needs for locally grown produce... but it's like our entire economy is built around cheapest goods possibly
Host 5	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	that is why I started farming because of my eating habits... I would say that eating is a legit addiction that people have in our culture... like 80% of our culture is addicted to eat... addicted to eating fast food... bad food...
Host 6	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	Well, Hugh has got three older kids and for him... he never... Australia he never considered, sure he grew up in the first twenty years of so, but at that time in the 50s and 60s he said that Australia was just dead... culture was completely dead... plus, he used to have migraine headaches from the glare and the sun... he doesn't really like the climate, just hot, dry weather and he really loves the northeast with the four season... and he really loves th
Host 6	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	getting a sense of the different languages and also for them... for the kids to experience that... you know have the world here in the house... and also personally, for me personally to become very clear which is like... be very straightforward and very clear what we expect... and that is difficult... that's a really... I find that very, very difficult... maybe it's more difficult for me than others, but just because, I mentioned before certain things are just so obvious to me, but I realize that they are not necessary obvious to others... even just in the house... when I go to dinner parties... cause when they are clearing the dishes, but you won't believe it... some people don't necessary lit do that... yea they weren't trained... you can't really blame them, it is also part of the culture where they come from... but you also have to.. I do expect that they um help and behave the way that we expect them to... and not take a shower 10pm at the night... and help with the dishes... even if you are macho and you don't do this kind of work at home... but you are here, better get on with it... but people tend to be very open and just being up front about it... as I tell them look guys you really need to do this... um, so that's I find that challenging
Host 6	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	we're the ones who are not getting any subsidies, so if the true costs were out there on the produce sets in the supermarket, we'd be at least equally as cheap... see we had... when we went, delivered we had a big CSA in the city for seven years, just food back in 1999... I believe they did this research... that every week they got one share from us and then they went to the organic health food store, to conventional supermarkets, a better one like Saybas or and then they went to cheap supermarkets and they actually checked what... they kind of shred the cost and they realized that they could complete with the cheapest supermarket there
Host 6	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	But then of course you run into the problem of the middle man... and the middle man are the ones at this point that make a lot of money... and that's what this whole new system has to develop... and actually Steiner talked about this too... the threefold system there... like the middle man, gets the salary and... but doesn't make any money per se... all the costs are covered, but where they don't make money, you know... where they don't pack in all this... all this reward for selling the stuff because nowadays the farmers don't make any money... it's the distributors and of course the process... it's the big corporations that make tons of money... and so, how can you avoid it... you have something... that's what spiritual food does... I mean their work is also volunteer... all the costs that are associated with it... they cover... and so they sell it onto other members... then they put a little mark on this so that all their costs are covered... and that's it... don't put any more marks on that they can stuff more money in their pockets...
Host 7	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	That was the main area... that's where we were looking... so, we didn't want to go to the Adirondacks because it is too cold... for farming and it's just a different culture there... we didn't want to go to close to the city... we didn't want to go too far west... two far away from the city, so this was the triangle... and so we just looked at every farm for a ye
Host 7	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	And then like 'Naw, too hard, and go back and work for the bank... but more people are doing it and when you get into it faster they are staying in it... and it's not just you know full on homesteading... it's also just people growing food in their backyard

		or window or whatever... it's just some modicum of sustainability... entering their lives... I think that it's part of the culture now
Host 8	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System	I remember selling stuff to Green star and they said 'well if you were certified organic you would get this price, but since you are not certified but say you are organic you get this dirt cheap price'... so we started selling stuff... we joined Finger Lakes organic Growers Cooperative in the beginning... that was... at the time, we could bring things to Lansing, which was on this side of Ithaca... eventually it ended up being in Trumansburg and we had to deliver things and it was kind of wholesale... we met the people also from that... and certifying people from NOFA from the conferences... so, it seemed like something cool to join... o, growers cooperative...everybody brings stuff to growers... bring stuff to one location and somebody figure out how to sell it and we just have to grow it... we did that for a couple of years...
Host A	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	We are highly imaginative, creative, and productive, but severely under-resourced while stand-offish towards the conventional society and economy.
Host A	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	WWOOF has led me to be more deliberately self-aware about how others see what we are doing, and the extent to which anyone wants to participate.
Host B	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	We could always use more volunteers, but as a very private venture we do remarkably well. Tree peony sales are up, and open garden days in the spring boast larger attendance every year due to publicity and especially word of mouth. Mainly we are a private residence, so this is all we could ask for
Host C	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	Strength: being inclusive and getting everyone on the same page about what we're doing and why Weakness: taking on more than we can handle
Host D	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	Strengths: diversified Weaknesses: overworked and not enough help - burnou
Host E	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	Strengths are many but no energy to answer completely right now. I will say that small local farms have personal connections and generally a fresher product because it is not shipped and stored long distances (saving the energy and cost of shipping). Small local farms sometimes know their market very well and can adjust and grow accordingly providing better service. One large weakness of small farms is overcoming overhead (operating and capital expenses). Large farms have greater resources and cash flow to pay for the basics that small farms struggle to pay like insurance, taxes, equipment, etc. Don't get me wrong though, even large farms struggle sometimes
Host 1	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	Adam viewed the farms strengths as being efficiency (and wanted more mechanization). He would love to be bigger, but the current market is prohibitive. He would never be able to saturate the market. And this relates to his weakness, which is his debt.
Host 2	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	Our strength: Hard workers... that's number one... I think we are hard workers, honest... honest, that's another really good strength... we know what we are doing, too... our weakness is... capital... having enough capital to really... do everything right... have this mortar and key... we're not... building stalls and we're not... do you know what I'm saying.. when our stalls our built its one less financial burden and hopefully one more financial positive.. because I could have the stalls rented... and we could... do you see what I am saying...so we are not quite where we need to be... right? Yea, accountable income... Do you think it's because you spread yourself too thin? Or investing reasons? I think it's both. I think that we are spread thin and... we since we have been here, I can answer that, since we've been here we have been trying to play around with what would be profitable... and we have pretty much figured out that we want to stick to grass-fed, organic beef... that's for us because we are such as large acre farm... we have the acres... so we need to just get more fencing done and increase the cattle... and which in lye we would... it's a kind of two-fold thing because we would need less to buy... in less fertilizer because we would be fertilizing form the cattle and so instead of... cause that's our other problem because there's not a lot of fertilizer here because we don't have enough animals for the acres... and we would use less fuel... which is one of the things that... it's a big expense... and we are not really happy about that... we are not really tractor-loving people... either one of us... we both actually hate running equipment, which is so funny, because right now we do a lot of equipment work because we have to... it would be a positive change... so that is we are kind of something we are looking into... trying to find a good market... or the grass-fed organic beef and getting our herd size bigger...
Host 3	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	Our strength is our vision, strength comes from within... strengths is having depth of vision... if your vision is like a mirror it is going to shatter... but if it has depth of vision, it is going to sustain itself... Our weakness... um... I think you know what comes to mind is that I think that we

		<p>still feel a little isolated... and um where we are... so, it's hard to get a broadened community support out here it's not like we are living in Oregon, or Seattle or Washington DC... so... it's not exactly a weakness but it's something that we struggle with... being isolated here... and therefore the web become pretty important here to keep in touch... to set up networks and connect with social network... what else might be a weakness... I mean we have fiscal limitations in how many people we can actually house share... we are dealing in a weak economy, where everyone is struggling so we cannot do as much as we might like in a strong economy.... I dunno those are the first things that come to mind</p>
Host 4	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	<p>Strength is that I always lived this way, even though I didn't have a farm or anything... you know when I was in high school I did a poster for the ice cream cone" the perfect container: you eat it and you are done with your ice-cream"... I have just always hated fighting wars for oil... I always thought it was always unfair that soldiers had to go so that we would waste gasoline... I always hated to waste gasoline... And I have always been a nurse and seen people die on the road through car wrecks... cars are the worst thing... public transportation is my mode... if I was the president... so I've always lived eco-friendly, so it is easy for me to figure out how to do that end of it... my father had a compost pile when I was a little girl...everyone I know has always been... caring... I've working on Indian tribes... I've been listening to people, like Ralph Nader, talk about things like this forever... so I kind of hide out here... and make my own little world... and makes it so that I don't have to get frustrated over you know my paycheck getting eaten up by the defense department or whatever... so it's a little bit of a political thing for me.</p> <p>One weakness that I have is that the politics in this town hate my business... and they have shut me down three times... basically I am not your normal thing... I might be getting a little bit more liked as time goes on... but from the beginning they have been not happy letting us make a nickel here, its legal because of the way the government is set up for NY state... to have a B&B on a road like this and all, but it's been a struggle politically.. Because these people... there's have been little incidences that have happened along the way: raw milk, applying for a liquor license so that I can serve wine... I mean we want to have an elopement package so that people can people married here, especially in the wintertime when it is slow here... People just get pissed off here</p> <p>I think another weakness is ... I think that there is a major curve to get things set up properly... and we might be getting closer to that, but every time we think we are... there's another thing to... you know now it's the milk cows and the milk parlor and finding enough employees so that Bill doesn't have to be the only milker... and after that I don't know what is going to be next, but it will be something... so that's a problem, it sets us back financially and then there is less money... it's kind of a nuance not ever having an end to however much money you are going to spend... Strengths... I think we are lucky that we have what we have... I mean we have been able to set our bed and breakfast up with furniture and the way that we clean it... all the things that we have I think we are really lucky... that we are this age and come to our point in life that we've had enough accumulation of stuff and savings and knowledge... and how to make things work and fix things and trade off... you know it's not like I am a fresh 24 year old who doesn't understand that... what questions to ask and to know how to figure it out... so that has an advantage... um, but other than that.... I don't see myself giving up for at least five more years, but in the middle of July, you ask me that... I don't know... I keep on telling people tell me about January and February again... what is it like... I want to remember right now... cause its 99 in the kitchen and you've been on your feet since 9 in the morning and you've got a whole pile of tomatoes there or whatever... the cow is where... 2.5 miles from here and you gotta walk her all the way back and it is 99 in the shade.. I mean there is always the surprise major energy output around the corner... um, mom did you realize that the cow took down all the fencing on the west half of our whole 40 acres and you gotta go down put the whole thing back again before they get out again... so you know, energy in the form of money, in the form of fiscal energy, in the form of mental energy, in the form of... you know there are a lot of different ways you can look at getting through your day and having enough energy is defiantly... one of the things we always consider... but if you can get through the day and not have any surprises it is very peaceful and very nice</p>
Host 5	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	<p>my biggest weakness is... I don't really see them as strengths or weaknesses I see them as learning experiences or responses to learning experiences... um, strengths... um, so weaknesses first... um, alright I try to do too much at one... I put too much on my plate and I can't deal with it all... and then I blame... I blame ever other factor except for myself for putting too much on my plate...for example, other people don't have the patience for my busy schedule... for it I don't return a phone call for like a few days or something like that... I don't take responsibility for it because I am like.. well you have n idea how busy I am, or something like that but really it is my responsibility for getting to the at point... my weakness is not taking respons... my weakness is not planning things out and seeing them all the way through in like a responsible way... um, let's see what else...</p> <p>This is going to be a funny one... you might not have to write this one down... sometimes I smoke too much pot and that doesn't happen because then I get disorganized... yeah you know, sometimes I will be like man... um... not like necessarily in a way that I don't get everything I need to do... I work in a way and function really well but I will lose track of the small details that are sometimes really</p>

		<p>important and not really small... sometimes I have these lapses in memory that don't work out the best... I don't [smoke]... I personally just really like pot... it's not like I am always high or something like that... it's not what I do all the time, but there are my days where I am like... o, well I have a little bit of weed and I'll smoke it.. and it will affect my ability to like... kind of one of my mottos of farming, this is kind of a weakness and strength... something I have learned, which is that you have to see the whole picture all the time... you could be getting a bunch of tasks down really effectively... but if you forget... while getting everything done, while having a relatively satisfying day, if you forget to water that one bed of seeds that just got planted... if you forget that one thing... You can forget just one thing which is very insignificant but can play a really big part of it... to me that is a weakness... is organization in general... I wouldn't say it is just smoking weed but I blame it on that... um...</p> <p>I think strengths that I have um it's not about... it's not always about what you do, but who you know... and um, I have made some friends in fairly high place in what I have been doing... especially since I am doing more than farming... I am actually proposing developing new food systems for the area... um, that's a whole other thing I am working on... I am doing consulting work for Field Goods, which is trying to start a local food distribution for this area... And I am one of the people involved in that process, but they are a really good connection in that... like they are experienced business people... they spend hours and hours editing my business plan... I helped them learn everything there is to know about farming, so that they can know what to expect for farmers plans... so, my strength is that I am well connected... and they actually talk with congressman Gibsen about my farm... yesterday... so that's a strength... is the people... the lady that runs the Philmont farmer's market, one of our biggest supporters... that lady can write grants on the back of her and... that's huge... she got me enrolled in full scholarship for a microbusiness partnership that I did... There's a lot of people that are just like... I have... the stuff that I am talking about now... like you 're not the first person that has asked me these things... not that I have said all this before... not that it is scripted, but I have explained all my projects a number of times now and you get kind of good at explaining it... Am I good at explaining it?</p> <p>I've explained it to a lot of people and certain people have really taken interest in it... and that is important... that's really important... um and that was this past season was one of my biggest weaknesses was isolating myself... I just kind of... I don't even know what happened... I just got to a point where I just didn't want to be around people, especially my friends... I literally disappeared to the woods and then I like had a bunch of WWOOFers come out... um... I don't know that was really a weakness... um...I talk too much and kind of long winded... maybe that's why I haven't explained the project... questions are important... so those are my strengths and weakness</p>
Host 6	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	<p>Strength is certainly that we are flexible... because we have got these different legs to stand on with the vegetables and fruit and the meat... Hugh and I are king and queen on our farm and that can be both, a strength and a weakness... um, weakness, um, I mean I guess in agriculture in general we are all so vulnerable to, you know the big corporate world with the pricing that we can't... um, work as cheaply as they do... and yet... we're the ones who are not getting any subsidies, so if the true costs were out there on the produce sets in the supermarket, we'd be at least equally as cheap... see we had... when we went, delivered we had a big CSA in the city for seven years, just food back in 1999... I believe they did this research... that every week they got one share from us and then they went to the organic health food store, to conventional supermarkets, a better one like Saybas or and then they went to cheap supermarkets and they actually checked what... they kind of shred the cost and they realized that they could compete with the cheapest supermarket there... but of course, one positive aspect was that our stuff was all fresh and very little environmental costs with all of it... the packaging and the petroleum for all of this... on the other hand, we tell them what they have to deal with... some stuff that they would never buy... and, with the supermarket, when you go shopping you just buy the stuff that you want... and on the other hand, too, is if as the CSA farmer you bring some leeks down, one CSA member never knew what to do with a leek and so she took a liking to it and said she would have never ever bought this in the supermarket... so there's this educational aspect to it too and so that's what with the pricing, you know, all these hidden costs with the big corporate world for food... and we have our strengths... is really.. weakness... it's the true costs... this is our livelihood and we have to put... charge certain amount to actually make it financially... so, it's certainly a lot more honest and that's a big strength...</p>
Host 7	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\WWOOF host strengths and weaknesses	<p>Well, there are no weaknesses of course... laughter... I guess in the permaculture way, any weakness will become your strength... right? I guess a strength is that if you think of it as a homestead... um, when you run a homestead you have to be involved with every aspect of how you sustain yourselves... right?... so, just being kind of forced in that position is a strength because you do, um, you do end up exploring like all those different aspects of it...</p> <p>Well, the thing is I think that we cannot identify a weakness is that... things are so much influx... we are constantly changing what we are doing and adapting... so whatever comes up as a weakness we address... and we try to do differently... and because</p> <p>In that sense, what a strength is is that we are able to...</p>

		<p>So, we don't have... we really don't have any commercial pressure on this operation because we have other things that finance it and that means that we have the freedom to do things the way we want to... you know, so and if one thing we've learn is how brutally hard it is to actually make a living with anything agricultural because no one is willing to pay for high quality food, at least not where we are... and we are not interested in running an operation that truck everything to the city... that's not... we do the oxford farmers market because we want to do market... and it half feels like community services doing that...</p> <p>And I think that you know we do have friends who are, month to month, like the financial pressure is soooo real... it's... it's... a wonder that they stay positive about their endeavor... so I would say that is a real strength... or a real advantage A luxury It's a luxury...</p>
Host 8	Value of Food\Current Agriculture System\Wwoof host strengths and weaknesses	<p>Diversity. High quality stuff... clean, interesting variety, that goes along with diversity, but you know, High quality, taste, unique vegetables, we also do cut flowers so beautiful flowers, we have plants, we have a lot of... unusual, medicinal herbs that are hard to find we grow them... we sell products made from them, we sell the plants, you can buy a nulachampan or alakanivy or artica plant... I sell a lot of odd things... I probably have some unique things because I do some breeding and I have kind of created, or worked with other groups of people to create neat vegetables... so I might have some things you might not see often... they might have been hybrids in the beginning... but now I have stabilized them so they are dehybridize... so, strengths... I think as a Wwoof host I think our strengths are we have a lot going on... a lot of interesting things, like Kim really enjoyed... herb walks and identification.... I can teach stuff, we raise a lot of animals... he does butchering and so there had been opportunities for people.... And we have also learned from our Wwoofers too... Marina had a lot of interesting skills, she came from a rural area... and she taught us how to make sausage, the casings and all... I have learned a lot, quite a bit of stuff from our Wwoofers... benefits of being Wwoof host is like learning from your Wwoofers... people also bring experiences... we have learned to identify the weed from our first Wwoofer... she had been at a place before where she needed to get rid of the weed... so I might not meet other Wwoof hosts, but you gain from a Wwoofers experience... they tell you stuff, you get their stories and learn from another place... especially with these blogs you read about them.. well, skills to teach, we've been doing it for a long time, we can identify a lot of weeds, plants, we have... we have soil blocks we can learn how to make them, we make the mixes... it's a propagation, a medium to grow your plants... its has a mixture that you make and has a block of soil and grows in that and doesn't use any pots... so, I mean we also offer...</p> <p>There is culture that we have that we share with people: music, art... Carl is into archeology... and sometimes just stuff to shoot the shit with, getting into long winded conversation about political opinions and things... um, and it's beautiful place... it a really beautiful place... it's one of the most beautiful places that you can ever imagine... we are on the bottom of it, but it goes up the hillside and there are ravines, and hemlock groves and all kinds of ecosystems within the eland... it's a really unique piece of land... Labrador Hallow is not too far away... park preserved, unique piece of... environment... um, so I mean</p> <p>Weakness is that you could take that same piece of diversity and same that we are doing way too many things... too many operations going on... just, have a way of like taking over certain places, the perennials... we have these herb beds that are basically just weed beds... they needed to be reclaimed 4-5 year... meanwhile, I have no place to put these herbs, they are in the pots, but then I have no time because I have to do a million other things...</p> <p>I am really way to fussey and anal... I am too tedious and I get into tediousness and so like it just has to be done so perfectly and people complain about, especially Carl, like I have to say how something is done... and I think it is a strength too because there is pride in the quality of stuff... there is not going to be a brown leaf that goes on a beet to the market... and so, somebody might have picked through them... but I am going to go through then again... so I am really slow... because of being fussy... and I keep really detailed records and write everything down, which is good but can also be tedious... I have endless lists that I keep... computer spreadsheets about how to grow flowers, herbs... growing that many flowers and herbs takes a lot of time to really... some of them are difficult to germinate... this is the time of year that I have to think about all this stuff... so, having way too many errands in the fire means that sometimes some things slide... something slips between the cracks.. So I am really busy</p> <p>And I get addicted to things... I don't want... I get addicted to varieties of vegetables, I don't want to stop growing something I feel like I am doing a disservice to stop growing it or not try it... I can't grow 3 kinds of carrots I have to grow 10 kinds of carrots... you know something like that, which a lot of people do like... at the same time the same strength is a weakness, so it is the other side of it... you can't have to positive of that same thing and not have the negative of it...</p> <p>I think that I am not very good at managing time, I never will admit how long something really takes to do... like I say what I want it to take... I am also a night owl and so I would much prefer to work all night long than to have to do something in the morning... so, basically I will stay up all night and get up and go... to me, as long as everything is ready to go I can have my cup of coffee and get ready to go... people</p>

		<p>think I am a space cadet because I am so spacey at the market... everything has to be done, I don't want to leave one thing not done... and I will go out to the truck because I don't want to think about it in the morning so I will go back out there and finish it... make sure I have the bag... it's very satisfying...</p> <p>Carl always says what is going to happen when that old truck breaks down because it is really old... well its old and it's kind of limiting... I mean we fill it to the very max and we don't have too many tiers in it... we kind of have with a table we have two tiers but still it's like... we pack it pretty well, so what we bring to Cazenovia has to do with that truck... if we didn't have that truck what would we do about going to the market... so it is a weakness... equipment is always a weakness... it's an '84... it only had 2,000 some miles on it... less... it was the fire department's... they didn't use it very much, so it didn't have a lot of use... there's a lot of rust on it... I think you know... I don't know... I think we will get another year out of it at least... again... there is a weakness... not knowing a clear plan, not knowing where we are heading...</p> <p>Carl is also unpredictable, he changes his mind on things... and so it is hard sometimes to be able to plan ahead, when you don't really know... a lot of the beginning part of it was his enthusiasm too and so we built up and we are kind of like... he still does stuff her does a lot... he moves all the compost, takes care of the animals, does all the rototilerying</p> <p>Another strength is our horses... also a weakness... the strength of having horses and being able to not have to use fossil fuels for everything we do... and one of the weaknesses is not having enough time to put into their training and maintenance... and care... Carl ended up doing them because he doesn't the animals and he resents it and feels like we shouldn't have them... the older horse is trained more... either one, Jason trained the younger horse and trained them to work together as a team... but he got busy with work and everything, so he kind of in the fall did one and one... Sunny will pull the Harrow... it's a great thing and we recently got a four cart, which is a new thing so that you can sit while you work... which might be cool</p> <p>Another weakness is our fields were not set up for horses... they were not set up for large equipment, they were set up for a rototiller... this one goes this way and that one goes that way... and so you can't turn around... and there are only four areas you can use the horse, two of which basically she got rubs on her legs when she turns... two areas are big enough where you can actually use two horses.... They are small considering enlarging one of them mostly for growing more food for us...</p>
Host 1	Value of Food\Future	Adam was in the process of fixing it up so that he could house more workers and/or volunteers, as well as have more space for processing his vegetable
Host 2	Value of Food\Future	Defiantly socially. And I think that there is... ever since we have been here farming... there is more and more education about local... and sustainability... getting to know the farmer... I think that's huge! Me, personally, even if you hate farming, I think that wherever you live you should try to establish where is my food coming from... to the best of your ability... I mean of course I go to the supermarket and buy stuff, because we're not completely sustainable...but... you know, and do you want to eat Monsanto roundup corn with tortillas and salsa tonight and GM tomatoes with you-know spray on it, fungicides, pesticides... I don't know... and do you want your kids to grow when you have then... if you have children.. you know what I mean... so I think organic is here to stay...
Host E	Value of Food\Future\Small Farmer	One large weakness of small farms is overcoming overhead (operating and capital expenses). Large farms have greater resources and cash flow to pay for the basics that small farms struggle to pay like insurance, taxes, equipment, etc. Don't get me wrong though, even large farms struggle sometimes
Host E	Value of Food\Future\Small Farmer	Not sure. Depends. Hope so but it's tough. Things seem a little better now than they were 25 years ago. Wouldn't recommend it to anyone who wants an easy road. Farming is more a lifestyle than a way to financial independence. I suggest to folks that it is helpful to have a paying job and treat farming as a hobby or part time job to reduce one's financial stress. Chances of success are better for an individual than a family without a single focus or compatible foci. Families working together can succeed but they may be living at or below poverty. Farming is one of, if not the most, difficult professions. It requires extreme focus, organization and efficiency, good weather and a little luck for success. Besides the economics, Wwoof gives my farm exposure one person at a time and allows me fulfillment through teaching.
Host 1	Value of Food\Future\Small Farmer	In fact, he believed that in order for small, organic farms to succeed in the future they need to specialize, because that will enable them to have highest yields. This cooperative is the only reality to organic farms because it would be commercially less work. You can't compete with synthetic fertilizers
Host A	Value of Food\Future\Success	I believe small, "organic" farms are the only likely future. I think there will be few other choices, because the opposing reality is destroying ecological foundations of life across the earth and thereby undermining itself.
Host B	Value of Food\Future\Success	It can definitely be possible. We're not a commercial farm, but rather a not-for-profit plant nursery, so it's a bit difficult to answer this, but thinking about other instances it seems it can be viable if done correctly. As people move toward local economies in some places, it will only get more lucrative. This isn't to say it is always easy in a global economy, either. But with WWOOF, small farmers can get help while providing a service through agrotourism
Host F	Value of	I most certainly hope so but have no crystal ball

	Food\Future\Success	
Host 12	Value of Food\Future\Success	It can succeed and be extremely profitable... from NOFA conference some farms can gross \$100,000... another farm in VT was able to gross \$325,000 each year through winter farming.... Encouraged to be smaller... dairy farms only survive through subsidies... in certain areas... co-op not selling as much produce in the summer because more people go to CSDA, farmers market... it's only been a generation... to be healthy you need to farm...
Host 6	Value of Food\Future\Success	Defiantly that's the only way to go... wait til the gasoline goes up... five dollars a gallon, or ten dollars a gallon... I think that small farms are the only ones... I think that small farms are ... the spine of the country... that's the true food security... that's just know doubt... and see there is actually more and more farms.. Young people that want to work with draft animals... we're not quite there yet... Hugh's was training a couple f oxen a couple of years ago, but in knew that by the time the season hit we wouldn't have enough time... maybe Chris when is older that would be nice... just for that purpose, when the gasoline gets really expensive... that you really think about it...
Host 6	Value of Food\Future\Success	Absolutely. I mean, see, that's the thing that is two things that you are talking about because small farms can become conventional too... I mean commercial farms, we are a commercial farm... but small farms... just small farms... period... conventional, organic, biodynamic... small farms period I really believe that they are the only ones that are gunna survive anything major...
Host 8	Value of Food\Future\Success	If it can be grown locally, I think that it is easier... I think small farms have less costs in a lot of ways because you don't necessarily... I doubt big farm would be part of that because it takes time... you know maybe they are not focused on... like the whole beauty of what they are doing... it's just a big money making thing... maybe they don't eat... people say they go to these farms and grow this great food, but don't eat it... they eat bowl of cereal and packet... they don't eat what they grow... I find that heard to believe... I find that less likely on the small farm because small farmers you now it is going to be more food... more motivated...
Host D	WWOOF	Brought us interesting experiences both good and ba
Host 10	WWOOF	other avenues... you could say more than that... the people who come before work for food and accommodation... some pottery apprentices pay...
Host 11	WWOOF	chainsaw... That's the advantage of WWOOFing for us... we have housing... doesn't cost us anything... most host try to provide room and board... but the food part... that can be hard...at a certain point people provide cash to go buy rice and beans... and that is our plan... is to provide WWOOFers a food allowance, \$50 a week, it's not that much but what we get is someone willing to work on our place... cooking, that's not something for us, I am working... we get a person who is going to work on our place f
Host 9	WWOOF	WWOOF org has understanding about how host and volunteers get along... communication and expected... WWOOF is another way for people to find us and another way to find help... basic understanding of what you are doing... but sometimes they don't understand... don't know what they are doing... way to travel, place to stay when don't have enough mone
Host 9	WWOOF	some people want to learn how to live sustainably and have spent time at WWOOF hosts (want somebody to do yard work for them and are not really farming, don't work along with them
Host 2	WWOOF	But, I think it's a nice progra
Ideas	WWOOF as social movement	"I think that generally the organic trend is so popular, and certainly not going to reverse on itself," Goldsmith said. "I think that it's something that from a moneymaking standpoint makes a lot of sense.
Ideas	WWOOF as social movement	Most people who join the WWOOF program do not do so because of the money they can save on food and lodging, Goldsmith said, but because of the experience and education it provides
Ideas	WWOOF as social movement	"I think it goes way beyond money," he said. "I think that people are interested in learning about where food comes from.... It's something that our society used to be a part of, and people are coming back to it now.
Hawaii Website	WWOOF as social movement	It is a voluntary organization set up to teach people about the organic movement, to give them hands-on experience and to help out organic producers as organic production is very labor intensive
Host B	WWOOF as social movement	I hope it keeps growing,
Host B	WWOOF as social movement	They were happy to enjoy the peace of the location and just exist
Host C	WWOOF as social movement	no chemicals, soil-focused, compost, biodiversity in the field, beneficials, community, music, danc
Host C	WWOOF as social movement	Not really. Most laypeople in the area have no idea what wwoof is

Host C	WWOOF as social movement	My first farming experience was through wwoof. I wouldn't be farming today if it weren't for my amazing hosts. I try to pass that forward. This is one of the most significant organizations/cultural phenomena in my life
Host 12	WWOOF as social movement	She makes really nice food... especially in the season when we have a lot of certain things, we can have some really good meals... that's another reason why we got into farming because we eat a lot of vegetables and things like that... best way to get the freshest stuff is just to grow it yourself...
Host 12	WWOOF as social movement	wanted to be localvoires and did not realize how expensive it would be to do tha
Host 12	WWOOF as social movement	What you are doing that it really has value.... I mean we live this way for our children and for the future and because we want to live this lifestyle... sometimes it is quite a grind... day in day out a lot of work... not much rest for six months... and so then to have people sit at your table to be really excited about everything that is on the table from the farm... I cook all the meals and everything, it got me to write a cook book
Host 12	WWOOF as social movement	You are basically like a budding farmer, incubator... not everyone is going to go on to be a farmer... obviously those girls that we hosted they will go on to become loyal customers of farmers... it is not just... you are contributing to the local food system... in whatever way... whether it is making really avid consumers out of people who are just not caught out for the hard work... they are not going to be laborers
Host 12	WWOOF as social movement	One thing doesn't work for everybody... there are no absolutes... where your land is and do it another wa
Host 10	WWOOF as social movement	Well, I don't come from that... growing up I just lived in the suburbs... of St. Louis... and didn't know anything about farming, no one in my family was a farmer... I guess just wanting to eat organic food and understand where it comes from and having an interest in how I could do that in the future... and needing to find a way to learn about it... in normal society you don't have that readily available... I think a lot of... I just went to the NOFA conference... I am seeing that a lot of young people are starting out to branch into farming because they don't really know anything about it and they are interested in where their food comes fro
Host 10	WWOOF as social movement	I think that it is going to start getting better there will be more farmers, and more organic farmer that will be the new economic boost, we need to find a way to be more loca
Host 10	WWOOF as social movement	I am hopeful for the future... I hope there will be... I am optimistic about smaller, more diverse farms... not farm with only dairy, but dairy with vegetable garden or..
Host 10	WWOOF as social movement	If we are not hopeful than it is not going to happen... we have to make it happen so that is happens... if you say that it won't then I guess it won't
Host 10	WWOOF as social movement	There are mainly female applicants... my theory is that most males are applying to place where they get paid, where they get a stipend... we get applicants who are I guess I will do this, not too serious... other males are applying to farms for a more serious internship...
Host 10	WWOOF as social movement	Possibly. I think that a lot of people are form Brooklyn and feel tired from the city or are bored or don't feel like they have a life purpose something is lacking... most people have not farmed before and are trying to do something new something they feel good at... natural organic lifestyle it is natural to work at a farm a natural conclusion... Do they come to reconnect with food? Yeah, I do feel that they want to reconnect with food and they want to grow it... they want to experience food and learn about it... I don't know if they bring it back... not enough experience How has WWOOF contributed to your life? This is my life... I don't feel that it is separate from WWOOFing of hosting... I live here and I work here and I enjoy what I do... living here is defiantly a different life than my life in St. Louis. Really supportive family... they wouldn't do it themselves, I mean my dad might... but they would not do it themselves, but they are supportive for what I do... I think that they are just more conservative and they would want to live in their own house and have a normal job... my mom especially wouldn't have considered this as option for herself... it is not a natural conclusion, option... I think most suburban parents probably don't consider moving to a community and growing food their own food as a viable option... I know that my community in Missouri I know not most people were thinking about... I think that it is just scary... like for someone who... I mean you don't make a lot of money here... it's a really good lifestyle, but you are not going to get rich living here and you are not going to save up a whole bunch of money living here and for someone who spent their whole life working really hard to specifically make money for their kids... I think it is hard to just say to them you didn't have to do that... you could n have just lived in a community and had a really fulfilling and rich community... and to say well I didn't need to work at this job I kind of lived but wasn't really what I wanted to do... It's hard them to like... after they have been spending their whole lives doing that... it's hard for them to want to understand that they didn't have to... it's probably really hard to realize that... and not be resentful...

		<p>The future for the farm is not to grow a whole bunch more... getting better at growing food and learning how to do task more efficiently... I don't know if I see myself here in ten years...</p> <p>I would WWOOF again... sure if I travelled... if I was in a cool farming area... I would... if I am going to NYC I am going there to get away from rural... if I am going to the city its because I am getting away from the country...</p> <p>We are a community and can rely on the resources that the community has... we are not in debt because we rely on community... valuable resource of land and has been here untouched for hundred of year... even though we are young we have all the resources because of the community... we are young and self-motivated and doing this independently and also helping the community</p> <p>We are all just learning and we are all not experienced professional farmers yet...</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>The young people are doing it because of the same reason we wanted to do it 35 years ago... except now with WWOOFing and interning and the culture changing a little bit I think that people are more into it... honestly there are place you can go in this county where you are considered a wacko if you talk about local, sustainability.. but not as much... 30 years ago you were considered crazy if you waste your college education on dirt farming... it would have been a really tough nut... you had to first of all be a tough nut... no one was going to let you live and eat for free and trade for work... might have been a little bit, but farm work meant farm work.. one step above slave labor, you worked for minimum wage for 10 hours a day... it was basically farm labor, not notion of mentoring... people were interested... most farming 35 years ago was traditional... fossil-fueled based... machine based, farming... it would have been hard to find a polyfarm, Elliott Coleman... the books were there... in the 80s... Joel Solomon was really a kid those days... so, we had a little bit of money we could have bought some land, but there just would have been no infrastructure within the community, either the farming community for us to push forward... We chickened out in the end. We wanted a little bit more economic security. Host trained as a doctor, went ahead and got her MD, and got into medical school, as a career you can pretty much go anywhere. I never got pegged into a career, but we felt like we need to establish ourselves and after that kids showed up. And then you get a house and a mortgage payment. Because after all paying rent sucks... pouring money down the drain... so then you have a house, then a mortgage and mortgage paym</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>fill</p> <p>Communes are cool if you don't have money... with people with some resource that is a little difficult because you don't want to share... we went to Vermont, Boston... we traveled around... one was ecovillage in Ithaca... in end we joined first neighborhood... we were still commuting from buffalo... it was not just about planning community, but also people dynamics... got up to 25 households and bought house in Ithaca... spend year and year</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>ey were doing</p> <p>Was a "foodie"... she started the crop mob... there are hundreds of people in Ithaca but they don't have time or resources... so they will put out the call and farmers will feed them and give them some lemonade... send an email and hundreds of people will show up and help with some aspect of working on a farm... sometimes</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>ng the summer</p> <p>It's a cool thing to do... it was a crazy thing to do... really foolish thing to do... even if it a cool thing to do... it's also cool for people who have brain because they realize that's they can figure out how to live on the land instead of figure out how to bui</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>stead of monocrop...</p> <p>They are probably not into the political thing... but it sure does look cool... the thinking that goes into making an organic farm and permaculture work is a problem solving.. typically farmer out here are older than me and are in a hard position... who is going to get the land and how are we going to sell it... there has to be an upswing of other people who want to do it different... tractor sharing and permaculture institute has got 70 acres... so there is a lot of that cooking... and this computer stuff allows people to stay connected and tap into</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>they are doing...</p> <p>"Interested in self-sufficiency since we first met in college, over 35 years ago. We planned to have a farm and live off of the grid, but life carried us into careers, kids, and conventional pursuits"</p> <p>We found our farm only 8 miles from where we currently liver and work, so we can make a gradual transition to sustainable, self-sufficiency"</p> <p>"I was afraid to jump into this life without a career (i.e. income) to sustain me--- but if WWOOF had existed back in 1976, I might have been braver about striking out as a farmer. We are hoping we can still make a go at it</p>
Host 11	WWOOF as social movement	<p>New term, "foodie"</p> <p>We have to have our own experience of</p>
Host 9	WWOOF as social movement	<p>I don't know how helpful we are going to be because instead of being a farm, where we are trying to make a living or some part of it farming, we are a nonprofit</p>

		charitable organization and it changes... some of the questions are not going to apply to us.. We are a farm, but no part of it has ever intended to earn income, that's just not what we are doing.
Host 9	Wwoof as social movement	whatever the common conception in this county, female farmers aren't stupid...
Host 2	Wwoof as social movement	I think that the intentions are really good... it does help farmers...of course that's the thing, if we had more money we could just hire somebody, but that's obviously.. you know... it's all over the world, where farmers don't have economics to have employees... even small companies struggle to have employees and to pay to the state.. it tough
Host 2	Wwoof as social movement	ever since we have been here farming... there is more and more education about local... and sustainability... getting to know the farmer... I think that's huge!
Host 2	Wwoof as social movement	And now we see the opposite way... people trying to farm... businesses and whole niche market..
Host 2	Wwoof as social movement	Well, see it relates, they have proven for sure round up relates, blocks everything up, so your micro nutrients is not... can't get uptake... we are becoming less and less... enriched foods, we actually all need to be on multi-vitamins because our foods do not have what they used to have... and it will only get worse not better... and there is a whole movement about th
Host 7	Wwoof as social movement	You've notice a growing appreciation movement
Host 8	Wwoof as social movement	And then there is something that happens at the farmers market... there is a lot of conversations, Kim know a lot of people at the farmers market now... she is from Philadelphia... she is really involved in the local food movement there and she connected with this cheese vendor at the Caz market and then we are doing once a month a winter market... its awesome... there are so many people selling so many outrageous local... pasta, flour and you know tons of stuff and cheese and meat... sort of networking of this local food movement... so you have people like Ibpti who is going around the whole country doing this blog... I didn't connect directly to host but I connected through the blog that she visited... so these blogs... we are part of this other one in Caz doing this farm... farm serve... I'll give you the name and he met Kim and he came out here and did a piece and she was here and took a lot of pictures of us together... I am using picture people took to promote the farm... but the farmer's market... a lot of the vendors, people that come and shop from us meet the Wwoofers and they learn and hear their story... I am sure that has an impact o the town of Caz and Homer... Kim is also African America... Homer is a pretty white town I think like you know just that... it brings diversity to the... and Caz is pretty white also... there is this crazy guy that speaks a lot of languages and he was really into Mirina... he's always joking about the new girl, who is going to be here... and I have pictures of the different market
Host 8	Wwoof as social movement	Well, the local food thing it's that you are able to produce it more if you have help and also meeting people that are really interested in the local food movement in their areas and helping them to go back in their towns and use the skills that they learned to go back to their local food movement, whether it is community plots, CSA... raising their awareness a little bit... it also like when you go to the farmers market and the people realize... it helps them to buy your stuff... it makes them realize that you are part of something... they have this conversation starter... wow, you have someone here from Japan this is really cool... that was the local part
Host B	Wwoof\Gains	fantastic organizatio
Host C	Wwoof\Gains	Treating workers, owners and consumers fairly. Engaging in joyful transformation of mundane life. Pursuing economic sustainability. Wwoof helps us pursue these by engaging us in the education process, helping us think about what fairness means in the wwoof context, bringing in fresh blood to help us zoom out, laugh, and see with fresh eyes, and allows us to save money on labor costs
Host 1	Wwoof\Gains	Wwoofers "fill the void
Host 5	Wwoof\Gains	They were all true stories... success stories of why the Wwoof program can be awesome... I might have been a little unconventional in how much I expected of them... because I was like in a bit of a bad spot... I guess you could say, starting a farm with five people and then it was just me and one other person part time, um running and... then the group slowly reformed... and it was always changing too... and I never viewed the Wwoofers as... and because of the situation I was in... I never really wanted to be a leader... but I was contact for the program through Wwoofing
Host 6	Wwoof\Gains	and they just have to be willing and we usually we found that most Wwoofers are very, very willing...
Host B	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital	but our time with our set of Wwoofers really got some work done that we otherwise wouldn't have gotten to. It concentrated our energies and we got very engaged with the projects at hand

Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Reality of it is... we eat expensive things... we were not getting that back... the farm kitchen... For me morally I feel bad about that... they were fine because it is not like I was downgrading...
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	own complicated farm economy here... WWOOFers are paid for by the food that the market farm brings in...
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	It depends on what they are doing... the salary that we get comes from the farm... the farm shop of the community, division of community. So we are actually paying ourselves... and then we pay the community a certain amount, which it is a pretty complicated economy, there is basically something called the SEP Shared Expense pool and we contribute money to that which goes towards making the community run... well for the other shops it is based on percentage, it is half of what they make, but for the farm it is different because we are not using the same things as the other shops so it is a different system of figuring that out... I mean this year we gave them like \$50,000 but that was arbitrary... we for instance give more money to the pick-up truck because we use it much more... but we don't grieve as much money to the craft shows because we don't have a booth there
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	We have to pay taxes and each community member pays that... we are paying for that through living expenses, which is paid through what shop I am working at... moves from one spreadsheet o another... it's all in the same bank account
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	well we all need toothbrush, I don't need to buy food and remember to pay my heating bill for me...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	I know that this county, I have heard that people have started rural migrant ministry, chose this county because it is the poorest, rural county is state and I think that the Amish are buying farms because land values are low. That is hearsay... that is my understanding... low property value
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	We are all full-time volunteers, nobody is paid, but farming is not the only thing that we do...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	No one works off site... nobody is paid for work on farm
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	because we are not just a farm... because our mission statement is that we are here to live in alternative way, we do have attitude about consumer culture
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Donations from people in nearby local community, sometimes from people as students came here to do volunteer service learning experience, I don't understand it very well because we do not send out appeals (contribute of blank or highlight thing)... I don't know what endorses... I just know after the first year or two, when I feel like there hasn't been enough it is not about financial... it's about mindful About physical work, not about the finances... I don't understand how it works, people send us money regularly who have never been on the farm... very grateful but don't understand... no plan Just different, economic downturn because none get paid and resource of land (farm, fields) we can d a lot with very little money... we just can... and that's sustainability, to me.
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Donations from people in nearby local community, sometimes from people as students came here to do volunteer service learning experience, I don't understand it very well because we do not send out appeals (contribute of blank or highlight thing)... I don't know what endorses... I just know after the first year or two, when I feel like there hasn't been enough it is not about financial... it's about mindfu
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	They allow flexibility for the far
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Adam was quick to mention that WWOOF volunteers provided cheap labor.
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	We are just looking for a little bit extra help to do chores in the summer tim
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Yea, yea, but that is through farming... so we are full time farmers... that is our sole enterprise and financial backing... enough work than we need to work... make our bones a little bit...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Financial well being of a farm. There's actually sustainable means to me you can pay your bills, you can make it financially
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	Well, I mean certainly with the work we can produce more for less costs... because otherwise we would have to work even harder and... or change more... and that become more difficult than if you charge even more... can you really sell it?
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	and sustainability the third thing is the farmer. The farmer has to survive you can't kill yourself and that where having help and companionship makes it sustainable you can keep doing it because if you can't physically keep doing it because it is so physically hard and I include with that making enough money, even though you don't really, you can afford to do what you are doing... you can surviv

Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital	But, yah, you know given... sometimes I have given a WWOOFer some money if they have worked really hard at the farmer's market and they have to pay for a bus ticket or something...
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	Gradually outgrowing my resources, time and energy,
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	3) We could never offer any payment because we barely make any income ourselves. We recently could not offer housing because we are upgrading our accomodations
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	severely under-resource
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	6500
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	Weaknesses: overworked and not enough help - burnou
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	In the late 90's my dream was shattered and I was devastated when I had to leave farming for a job with a steady income inorder to support my family.
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	With the most recent economic crises, my job evaporated and after a few part time gigs an opportunity developed and farming came back into my life. I am again very, very happy although economics are still a struggle.
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	Farming is more a lifestyle than a way to financial independence.
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	I wasn't even sure we could keep farm ope
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	his location did not come without its challenges. Located in the 'poorest county in New York State', Essex County,
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	He repeated the hardship of working on a farm and relying on it for income. Though he sold his vegetables for much more than the grocery store it was necessary for him to stay out of debt for a few months out of the year. In November he is in the black and by the end of winter he is back in black. Though he needs the down time, winters are difficult because he does not make much money, especially since the farm does not sell meats.
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	capital... having enough capital to really... do everything right... have this mortar and key... we're not... building stalls and we're not... do you know what I'm saying.. when our stalls our built its one less financial burden and hopefully one more financial positive.. because I could have the stalls rented... and we could... do you see what I am saying...so we are not quite where we need to be... right? Yea, accountable income
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	since we've been here we have been trying to play around with what would be profitable... and we have pretty much figured out that we want to stick to grass-fed, organic beef... that's for us because we are such as large acre farm... we have the acres... so we need to just get more fencing done and increase the cattle... and which in lye we would... it's a kind of two-fold thing because we would need less to buy... in less fertilizer because we would be fertilizing form the cattle and so instead of... cause that's our other problem because there's not a lot of fertilizer here because we don't have enough animals for the acres... and we would use less fuel... which is one of the things that... it's a big expense... and we are not really happy about that... we are not really tractor-loving people... either one of us... we both actually hate running equipment, which is so funny, because right now we do a lot of equipment work because we have to... it would be a positive change... so that is we are kind of something we are looking into... trying to find a good market... or the grass-fed organic beef and getting our herd size bigger
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	And it's expensive
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	t's all.. about the money... it's... I don't know... where is there a lot of money to be made in organic... ?
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	we will when we start milking and making money off of it... but at this point it just doesn't pay because the hay is just so expensive... and the guy that we send them to board charges the same amount as it would be for hay and our barn wasn't that good
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	we don't own the land and we are just releasing it for a long term lease... we can't built a house or have electricity up there or any running water... it's illegal to build a house up there nor could we ever afford doing that...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	um, weakness, um, I mean I guess in agriculture in general we are all so vulnerable to, you know the big corporate world with the pricing that we can't... um, work as cheaply as they do... and yet... we're the ones who are not getting any subsidies, so if the true costs were out there on the produce sets in the supermarket, we'd be at least equally as cheap
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	at some point it just seemed like we weren't getting very much money... wholesale prices and money you have to give them off the top of it..
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	Then I might ask then and they usually say no... they refuse it... which I don't argue too much with, because money is pretty tight... you know Marina never wanted

		anything, eventually I had to insist on giving her some money
Host 8	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	Last year's total annual sales 24,000 that includes everything we sold: goats, milk as a home business you can claim your house, cost what it lives on a land trust, so it brings the profit down on purpose... some of the animals are not to sell, so if we sell a couple we can claim that... supposedly you are supposed to deduct that... if you grow your own vegetables and use meat raised two pigs you are supposed to subtract that... so, I don't know our real profit... it's too hard to figure out... I should figure that out... so maybe last year: February to February... I think we made more last year \$25,00
Host 8	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Financial Stress	We don't pay ourselves a salary... it's no profit making... to be certified organic there are costs too you have to use organic seeds which are almost 2x expensive as normal seeds...
Host A	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	With an ambitious and rapidly expanding local program plus successive extended forays overseas, I needed help and back-up.
Host B	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	We could always use more volunteer
Host C	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Lots of manual labor
Host C	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Also, it gets us labor when we need it
Host E	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Need the hel
Host E	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Wwoof conceivably helps by reducing labor costs which are a significant farm expense or input.
Host 12	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Because we were at the point where I couldn't help myself anymore... we needed help and not really having money to hire somebody... seemed like a good way to get help... mutual exchange stuff that has taken me 15, 17 years to learn... the turning point was that we had people test us privately through farmer's market directory... and then we realized what an amazing asset it is to have two other able body people that are really into farming on the and because they worked out so awesome... then we were like we have to do this Wwoof thing
Host 12	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Farm expanded to the point where I couldn't work just myself... getting help is the benefits... the physical labor... also learning experience... getting positive experience about living here... not just weeding everyday... different things to do and feel good after mastering it, conquering it... felt good about working her
Host 12	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	... being able to get more work done... part of the goal is to maximize your harvest as much as you can... always want to produce as much as you can on a small piece of land... they help us achieve that... gets to a point where you cannot do it yourself
Host 11	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	s. They just need "labor which they do not have enoug
Host 9	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	looking for extra hands in garden during growing season... get busy and when trying to grow more food than just selves it is nice to have some hel
Host 9	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	its probable that we live more closely with Wwoofers, whether Wwoofers or migrant worker
Host 9	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	What we need help with is firewood and weeding and planting and harvesting and canning and all of that stuff.
Host 1	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	cheap labo
Host 2	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	t's not who shows up at your farm, as a benefit if they are somewhat of a self motivated, fairly easy learning person, it's a benefit... because they can take some of the simpler jobs when we are super busy..
Host 3	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	So that was our logic... we are also just in the mist of setting up a web presence, expanding our gardens, doing indoor gardening, teaching raw... raw vegetarian... um, food lifestyles... all of which is labor intensive to... both prepare food and grow foods and so we need help with that...
Host 6	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	we have gotten better over the years... trying to be very clear about what we expect, like with us they work 5-6 hours a day Monday through Friday, Saturdays 3 hours and Sundays off... if they stay a whole week... if they just come for a weekend its 5-6 hours a day and I say five to six hours because we don't live on the farm and we have to drive there
Host 6	Wwoof\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	we don't push a clock and then you leave when the clock's done with the eight hours... it's a flowing... fluid farm work and so if we are weeding a bed of carrots and there is ten more feet to go... if they have worked 6 hours already, well we just do it... or if they worked there five hours... if we are done twenty minutes before 1 o'clock or so we're leave earlier... so that's as easy as that... so that's why I say five to six hours... and people tend to be really good with that... and of course at the house... we are not a bed and breakfast... you help with food preparation and help with cleaning up and keeping the house clean... just requiring common sense... it's something I call common sense... if you are somewhere keep the house tidy

Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	We consider the WWOOFers a unskilled labor...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	but then of course, they've work... they help us... we get a lot of work done that otherwise we would be struggling to get done... I have... I don't want to call it labor... in a way its labor, but it's... I dunno it's not quite the right word because it's an exchange... because they get something out of it too and they want to be here... so,
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Um... I think through the work... getting the work done... that's more of the physical work
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	To get help mostly... at first it seemed like a way to get somebody to help because it is really hard to be a small farm and to do it all... because there is way too much to do, especially when you are doing everything by hand... it is really labor intensive... no tractors, a rototiller
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Labor	Having help... getting things... the benefit of working, it's also like when you do a really tedious job, like planting carrot seeds and you have someone there to talk to and do it with
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	Generally our definition of profit is restoration and gains in health, productivity, resilience, self-reliance, and mutual support, and those are increasing rapidl
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	For small organic and non-organic family farms, sustainability speaks to economics in a raw sense. Can I pay my bills this month? Can my kids go to college? Can my family afford health insurance? Etc. No family, no farm. We try conserve and to limit our expenses, capital improvements, and new purchases. We strive for efficiency and high quality and try to sell at the highest price the market will support.
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	Some farms only want people that they pay and not through volunteers or interns... that doesn't not work for them... they need people that they can pay because once you pay them then you can expect harder work... when we have the interns I don't really expect them to work real real hard or long hours... when you are paying someone then you can expect more out of them... so I think if you eliminate the money then it is going to eliminate some farms who do not want volunteers or interns who want paid positions... they would rather have hard wor
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	people can either work for economic reasons and have to take care of themselves... and not until an entire shift in our entire economy that values food in a totally different way and maybe doesn't value advertising as a valuable part of our economy... or insurance marketing... jobs that most people have in this country...
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	but it's like our entire economy is built around cheapest goods possibly... um, and therefore what we value like food or something really nourishing is on the same level as what we value electronics or... it's cheaper we'll do it that way... so, here's like a farmer like me throwing away 10,000 tomatoes this year while they are coming from CA... the tomatoes weren't that grea
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	growing and it became a lot more about... healthy food... so, I think that is also the most important thing... a lot of the value is not really seen in farming... and like I think that the problem with everything being economically based... meaning not economically because economics actually means how the human being acts, cultivates natures... but monetarily... so how we allocate our debt, which is what money is... means that somebody owns us services because we did something... so everybody else is indebted to me because I have money... so that's like the way of looking a success... but if you think of like the amount of people you are feeding... the amount of care that you are giving to the landscape... there is no way to quantify that financially... the number of years that that monetary system is going to be the driving force of food... I could probably count on both hands... and that's... that's um like... that's where a lot of the value is... is in the way that a lot of things work... and it's funny because one of the most important pieces of advise I heard was actually from this farmer near here who runs Roxbury farm, one of the first CSAs in NY... they served... have 1200 share holders... and in this sort of press release... they have all this information for starting farmers on their website and one of the things they said was like don't start a farm.. don't go buy your own piece of land into farming... that's how you are going to lose money... if you dedicate yourself to being really good what you are doing and do it really well... and you care about your community money will come naturally... the nature of money is that it will naturally flow between people who have good ideas... to people who know how to do what they do because they love to do it... and I find that that's absolutely true... yeah, I am sitting here with no money... but I am never really worried... I have lived off \$40 in the last couple of weeks... this is the most I have spent in a really long time...
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	so I think that you can always really value what people can create
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	edible landscapes all over the place... whoever goes there next year everything is perfectly set-up... but she didn't have this long term thinking... she thought o it's a mess construction site everywhere... but no, the person coming next year... that is where all the value is... they are going to make a lot of money
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	I mean some of them are cows that already had cows before and some of them it is their first time, so they explain where the stock market comes from... the true stock market. Have the cows you have the interests and the dividends... for them calving, once they are two years old they get bred or earlier they get bred and then two years

		later they have calves.. and then you butcher them, you've got the meat, you've got the compost... you've heard cow compost is the best manure, best fertilizer there is...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	it's the true costs... this is our livelihood and we have to put... charge certain amount to actually make it financially... so, it's certainly a lot more honest and that's a big strength...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Economic Capital\Value of Money	Money is a spiritual substances... like I was like you must be joking... but then I realized maybe to give you an example of John a young man that worked with us for five years... I mean he got a whole house... I mean we bought, five years ago, we bought a little house right down the street there in Manville... because it's our only retirement... we don't have anything else... we don't trust the stock market and the bank... that's what... we are paying the mortgage now... hopefully, some security... and so he lives in that... he gets a lot of wood... lunch we always had together... so he gets at least one nice meal and usually a lot of meat then too and whatever food comes off the farm he gets... and we paid him a trip to Italy and usually at the end of the year he gets some cash too... and he got like a \$1,000 a month and we said 'look it's not a whole lot of money,' but he had a house and a lot of food... and he, um, had no responsibility as such... he went home five days a week of work... never at the weekends... and um so it was... he had a great lifestyle... and, and then we... he has got huge college debt and so that's why we kicked him out of the nest... john you've got to do something about that... you could have worked on the weekends to deal with that... but you chose not to and we don't blame him for that... and that's when I realized that what it means money is spiritual substance... if you work into your own pockets... if you are responsible for everything that you are doing... it's this little different mind shift... I mean Jonathan was awesome he was such as great guy but there are certain things... just with boxes... harvest boxes cost about \$10 a piece... I deal with them differently than he would do... he tosses them sometimes... it's just particular things... it's like... you just think about it differently... and that's where... that's spiritual substance... that's where it comes... that's what it means... it really comes about it... but of course it is so distorted nowadays... with the big CEOs with the corporations just working half a year and they just make bazillions... and that's of course the big distortion... it's something... the fundamental part of money... it's really a very truthful one... do you know what I mean... if you work into your own pocket, you go about it differently then when you actually employed somebody else... you know you get your money and do your work, but there is this last little bit that you might not put into it... if you're responsible for your own financial livelihood...
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	highly imaginative, creative, and productiv
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	I found WWOOF through my best friend nearly 5 years ago, and have had the opportunity to WWOOF in the Pacific Northwest, Ireland, and Spain. I've touted these times as some of the best experiences of my young life
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	inviting people into your life is an incredible way of enriching one's existence
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	He helped a little and learned a little, but was mostly here to chill. That was OK
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	It's a direct way for people to experience something that we need a whole lot more people doing in this world. Excuse me, in this "first world"
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	The benefits teaching people how to grow food and learning myself... when a new person comes here they are not normally intereste
Host 11	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	nt If there had been something like WWOOF around in those day, and it couldn't have been there unless the context exists too, I think we would have just jumped in it. We would have said we are off. We would have spent a year, two years WWOOFing around. Because you don't get out of college knowing how to lift a hammer or anything., unless maybe you go to ag school... maybe Cornell, but most of it is chemistry, biology... and we would have picked up the skills... and I have the impression that a lot of young people were interested in the same idea about the same time that we were.. It's a career... it's a life that you can go into... and other see you doing, understand it... you can be more committed that is a little bit more real...w e were considered loonies to think that we could go off and farm... some of the idea were cool.. Alternative energy, wind power... it's a little sad that is had been a 35 year cycle... people are all talking about solar and wind and honestly 35 years ago people were talking about those thing... it was a little bit more expensive... bu
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	educational with children
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	need to be attentive, willingness to engage... interest either in learning skills, or being, or getting out of classroom or city and working with hands and fresh air... dynamic social experienc
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	and that's the other thing people who come are interested in agriculture because they might be really interested in food... which is ----- and most WWOOF don't necessarily ever want to become a farmer or anything... but just the interest, I feel like, they have some intuition that the way it's been going is not necessarily going to go on... forever like this... and they just want to have a sense of... or experience how

		food is grown... and now WWOOFers they say...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	the first one she said the realization... she just got so sad about it... she was just so shocked how far away from everything things had become from her... the second one... she realized, gosh she is really reconsidering her life... she wants to do something in the environment... I mean she probably won't because her father is a business man and she had to study business... still, I mean you just never know what you do... what you open up in people when they just show up for a weekend... so, you know it might be life changing for them... what do we know... even if it is not right away... but from ten years from now... just a life changing experience
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	That is also why we do this... to expose people to the starry night... people don't know that anymore... how dark the night can be and look at the stars... it's pretty amazing...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	George met in Mexico and they started traveling together... she was the WWOOFer and he was her company and the other woman that was older she might have been doing some community garden stuff... she might have been in the city and wanted... we have had a few people that are doing community garden stuff that wanted to improve skills for working with some group... that's a motivation for some people... if they are in a city... they want to be able to bring skills to you know... education, wanting to bring it to students, younger people...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital	There is also... it is like a pat on the back.
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	One of our goals is to engage and educate young people about food.
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	like to learn from others,
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	I see myself as an administrator of a homesteading college and I do hope that WWOOFers would play a role in that -- though I'm not sure about WWOOF itself
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	We don't want it to be a form of farm tourism... it's more educationally based... nice to have someone
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	She was so into nature... dark here... quiet... look at the stars... young girls at Manhattan were not good WWOOF candidate, but planted a seed... I would love to teach young people... program for gap years... but need to be paid... lots of work... a lot of teaching... young ones were hard to host
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	Program for gap year students I want to develop... the farm stay program... for the 18 to 24 age group... teach about natural living, health care, cooking and farming... students don't know how to cook... daughter is 13 and in school now and doesn't know how to cook... I don't understand how people can learn how to cook without home-ec... eventually if we had more staff we could have a camp
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	true teaching and true learning comes from experience... not halls, abstract theory is not going to want to make people carry on the mission of farming... is experience... people coming and getting a glimpse of what it is like and then you probably do need some lecture... there is a place for institutional education of agriculture but then without the experience... the actual real life experience of being on a farm... of not just reading about things... seeing glossy picture... that planting seeds in someone's heart... WWOOF is really... that is a big thing of what they do... they appeal to young a person... that is just really a great service... international... I don't really foresee anything taking in place of that... because it is pretty good... a great tool for people to connect and network and for young people to learn... when I was young it took me longer to learn certain things than the young people come to acknowledge... they can learn a lot faster and learn through people who have been doing this for so long... and learn that much.... And travel and stay places without having to spend a lot of money... and even make some money...
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	Mostly people who do not know what to do with their degree or are searching for something
Host 11	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	s... we have small scale ideas and are willing to try... we can make mistakes... we have what you get when you are stepping a
Host 11	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	de You live, you make that choice to get enough resources to do something different... after 35 years we've got resources... we can afford to make mist
Host 11	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	we mentally-stimulating" pr
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual	interested in learning more about farming and bought piece in Maine, has own farm... having people who wanted to learn, could be good, get some help and share what we

	Capital\Education	know
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	life drop outs". One couple from Manhattan quite their office jobs to go on a WWOOF adventure, 21 farms across the USA. They used this time to reevaluate their lives. One other WWOOFer was a therapeutic massage (but she was often too tired to give massages).
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	The reason why we've done it is because we are expanding... trying to have more activities, which require more volunteers... our mission is educational... so consequently, um, youknow, providing us – for volunteers to come and learn things
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	nd we do teach some unique things that people can't... can't really learn elsewhere and has a host we try to be special and make it who we are. And among the things that we teach is a process of doing things that may be menial at times... is um a life certitude approach to nature, to ourselves, to the healing arts and... um we learn as we teach... we perfect what we do...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	you know what is the perspective of someone who does not really know anything from farming...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	it is a good way to experience the world and to also learn something... and I think usually they just don't know that some things are not going to be so easy anymore.. just go the grocery market and buys stuff... get a sense... get some exposure...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education	so, strengths... I think as a WWOOF host I think our strengths are we have a lot going on... a lot of interesting things, like Kim really enjoyed... herb walks and identification.... I can teach stuff, we raise a lot of animals... he does butchering and so there had been opportunities for people.... And we have also learned from our WWOOFers too... Marina had a lot of interesting skills, she came from a rural area... and she taught us how to make sausage, the casings and all... I have learned a lot, quite a bit of stuff from our WWOOFers... benefits of being WWOOF host is like learning from your WWOOFers... people also bring experiences... we have learned to identify the weed from our first WWOOFer... she had been at a place before where she needed to get rid of the weed... so I might not meet other WWOOF hosts, but you gain from a WWOOFers experience... they tell you stuff, you get their stories and learn from another place... especially with these blogs you read about them.. well, skills to teach, we've been doing it for a long time, we can identify a lot of weeds, plants, we have... we have soil blocks we can learn how to make them, we make the mixes... it's a propagation, a medium to grow your plants... its has a mixture that you make and has a block of soil and grows in that and doesn't use any pots... so, I mean we also offer...
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education\Knowledge Handed down	want to teach and facilitate the spreading of knowledge and skills,
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education\Knowledge Handed down	I feel that is wholly appropriate and if they WANT to do more, that's great but I bet someone is already doing it and they can join forces with them instead of re-inventing the wheel and making the pie slices smaller
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education\Knowledge Handed down	Having help with work and having an opportunity to share , pass along to other what we have learned... people who are interested in growing, preserving own food or how to make better compost, how to make cheese... anything that we do and somebody wants to know how to do, we are pleased to pass o
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education\Knowledge Handed down	because we live together and share the table together we have usually incredible discussions and they bring some new ideas and some questions, which are always good for us to face up and practice...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education\Knowledge Handed down	um, I don't know they certainly learn words in the agricultural realm that they would not have learned otherwise... that's for sure... if they keep hearing carrots or kale that will eventually settle
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Education\Knowledge Handed down	certainly vast majority were not from the country... educated, from middle class to upper middle class
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Health	In an effort to provide healthy food for our children, we realized other families were looking for healthy meat, milk and eggs raised on a small farm
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Health	Not easy to find natural foods...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Health	And when we came the farm was not farmed as much as we do but we became aware that we are going to feed ourselves and whoever came along we were trying to take care of our help and if we were going to offer help in the community around us one of the things that was needed was fresh food and we just needed to grow more...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Human and	healthy way to live

	Intellectual Capital\Health	
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Health	You know I thought that maybe the WWOOFer would be interested in doing that... so, so that were getting people more towards the vegetarian, vegan lifestyle getting in touch with us from not only across the county... but all different parts... you know...From abroad
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Self-Sufficiency	Low-energy architecture/ appropriate technology graduate consulting work on self-build housing in refugee/ squatter settlements of Khartoum, Sudan, led me to wonder why these transhumant (sedentary agriculture to/ from nomadic pastoralism) rural villagers staked their foothold in urban space and economy but gave up growing their own food.
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Self-Sufficiency	WWOOF has led me to be more deliberately self-aware about how others see what we are doing, and the extent to which anyone wants to participate
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Self-Sufficiency	Sustainability, at Linwood at least, also means supporting ourselves through what we produce on the land. Increasingly, by opening the gardens to the public at select times of the year, we are able to do this. Volunteers and patrons of many types have emerged to support us. WWOOF (the one experience we had) was helpful in restoring the gardens infrastructure, which is an important ongoing project
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Self-Sufficiency	To experience simple living
Host 11	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Self-Sufficiency	it... (1:06) You could live off of one acre and have everything
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Human and Intellectual Capital\Self-Sufficiency	There is not enough 'flat lining' in our society. It seems that people respect making money and even losing money, but they do not appreciate as much being self-sustainable—staying in an area and not making money, but not losing it as well.
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	Ecologically sustainable, beyond organic, permacultur
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	1) Conservation, 2) restoration, 3) subsistence. Almost every intention of my personal behaviour, professional activity, and social interaction is pursuing radical (Latin: rooted) quantum threshold sustainability, though severely constrained by a dominant paradigm almost wholly anti-thetical to sustainability. Theoretically WWOOF could help, but hasn't yet
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	Grow profitably while nurturing the land, our family and our communit
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	Low or no till (true sense, not mega agri farm def.) Also follow NOFA guidelines
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	Sustainability speaks to appropriate growth (not growing too slowly or too rapidly). Everything has its own scale by which to measure what is sustainable for itself. Another way to view this is that inputs and outputs are balanced and in theory, a sustainable system can continue perpetually as a closed system. On a planetary scale we humans are suffering from squandering our (overly) abundant inputs (natural resources, human capital) and from wasting and producing too much output causing pollution and inefficiency. Alternative societies and communities have coopted "sustainability" to imply "getting off the grid" and practical things like that. Nothing wrong with that, and in fact, it's good. For small organic and non-organic family farms, sustainability speaks to economics in a raw sense. Can I pay my bills this month? Can my kids go to college? Can my family afford health insurance? Etc. No family, no farm. We try conserve and to limit our expenses, capital improvements, and new purchases. We strive for efficiency and high quality and try to sell at the highest price the market will support. We are developing as much as possible alternative means and lifestyles to conserve and lower inputs and to achieve sustainability. Plans include but are not limited to water recycling, rain water collection, grey water use, drip irrigation, solar energy and heat generation, wind and water power, making our own compost, animal power and their products including manure.
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	activist for renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green building, simple/sustainable/primitive living, truth justice and the American Wa
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	No che
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	not certified we do practice strict guidelines... but because of the record keeping and time constraints and all of that/... also we don't whole sale... our market is not so necessary our customers trust us...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	LIVING SUSTAINBILT
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	It scares me, being an organic farmer... I don't know why everyone is not organic... I really don't... I don't get it... I am probably retarded and ignorant... like why... why would you want to exposure yourself? The farmer has to spray all this stuff on your

Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	How can you be organic if you are not positive if your supplies are truly 'organic'?
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	it makes me more of a missionary person because I am concerned about all of the ongoing devastation of our environment
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	right now we have too many animals, we have to buy in hay... and that's something we don't really like... because that is not sustainable... you are exploiting another place... but, yeah, we have to cut way back...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital	ustainability of the... fertility cycle... and... there are so many aspects to it... Um... and also that as an organism that it is sustainable... that you know... that ... we do something right that we don't exploit the land... the piece of land that we are actually feeding it... so that it is sustainable in that way too... you will be able to keep going 100 years from now... people will still be able to feed get produce off of our far
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	otherwise 100% manua
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	We are developing as much as possible alternative means and lifestyles to conserve and lower inputs and to achieve sustainability. Plans include but are not limited to water recycling, rain water collection, grey water use, drip irrigation, solar energy and heat generation, wind and water power, making our own compost, animal power and their products including manure.
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	Human power -- sold the old bio-diesel converted tracto
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	Production, consumption, waste creation. I started an organization to teach simple/sustainable/rural living skills to others who seek simpler ways to live -- HYPERLINK "http://www.SustainableLivingProject.net/"www.SustainableLivingProject.net. WWOOF has not (or, shall I say WWOOFers have not?) but easily could and perhaps even may
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	We have less waste when WWOOFers are here... because if don't sell we we can eat it with the WWOOFers
Host 11	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	It still will not pay for itself... I can't imaging there are many people in their 50s nowadays who have not been substantially negative contributors to the planet... we have sucked resources just by living... so I think that it would be cool if we could spend a few years actually, because we have resources, spending it ba
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	. The purpose of, we do not sell food, we make syrup, grow shitake mushroom, raise pigs, make our own cheese to feed us and whoever is visiting us at any given time... and we take that food to the soup kitchen, we don't sell food... not like Amish who have gardens and vegetable stands... or we have neighbors still doing dairy and selling milk
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	Three concrete things that we have done: bicycles, most errands are on bicycles when pick-up truck died we bought cargo tricycle and we use it to take things to dump, pick up grain, water from spring; using wood from farm, we heat building, hot water with wood, we use wood to build barn and tool shed by garden; third looking at everything and seeing how it works, making things work together... when we went to incorporate... I tried to find someone holding land they said we couldn't do as much as we are doing: agro, educational with children... but all fit together... means not that you are a vegan, but that you use manure to go in garden and extra milk to feed pigs, and pig manure goes into garde
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	waste/energy, which he meets by using nutrient scavenging crops (they hold nutrients in the soil) and composting
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	using those preparations, but also trying to, um, have this closed circle, like with the fertility... don't build the fertility from all over the place, you have your own animals and hopefully a different set of animals bring all these different essences of the compost and the manure that you compost and bring that into the fields... and therefore, you have to feed the place... the pastures... and the vegetables fields and the orchard... so have this closed cycle... the way that farms always used to do it...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	We have horses
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	we don't waste anything... whatever doesn't sell we eat it, can it or dry it... we also raise a lot of meat, veggies, we do our own canning... so some of the projects are mixed together... we do a lot of herbs: growing, drying and so it herbs don't sell we will dry it and so some of the herbs are for us and some are for to sell...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Energy cycle	Another strength is our horses... also a weakness... the strength of having horses and being able to not have to use fossil fuels for everything we do... and one of the weaknesses is not having enough time to put into their training and maintenance... and care
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Local Market	farmstand, csa, restaurant/natural food store

Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Local Market	We have a fruit CSA... we give fruits shares... last year was the last year we had a vegetable CSA... and then we actually stopped as of this year we stopped our vegetable CSA... we had a small local group... the last five years we had a full time employee and he is moving on now he is taking his own farm and we gave him our local CSA
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Local Market	but of course, one positive aspect was that our stuff was all fresh and very little environmental costs with all of it... the packaging and the petroleum for all of this
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Local Market	Produce local food, low impact
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Local Market	And the local food part is the whole thing of food not having to come from far ways and also part of that is security, having food available for people locally. They don't have to go far and ship things and use fossil fuels
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Chickens with pasture/ salted soil restoration cropping on nearby Gardenshare site
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	(Gardenshare: rototiller for soil amendment preparing new ground
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	enduring preservation of land is a main priority -- we try to keep our land as healthy as possible through management of open space and best possible treatment of our soils
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	no chemicals, soil-focused, compost,
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Affordable choices with the attributes for success are few and after 5 or 6 years of searching we purchased our farm which has fertile, tillable soil with no pesticide/chemical history
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	When you take a crap, you cover it with wood shavings and turn it into soil
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Her specialty is bug control... she will go out there with the kids and take the bugs of
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	If you want to grow vegetables at maximum production you need to find ideal land, that has decent soil (which you will need to build up anyways) and good water sources
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Three actions that Adam classifies 'sustainability' with are waste/energy, which he meets by using nutrient scavenging crops (they hold nutrients in the soil) and composting
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	It's a big agricultural area... it's a good area to live for me... I like it here... it's got history, community... um, politics I don't totally agree with... I hope that they don't ruin the whole county... there is history, there is beauty there is a lot of outdoors to do the water, the river is being cleared out... farm... farming here was always a big deal but Agro farming or businesses... I mean there are a lot of those farmers around but I don't think that they are doing that well... a lot of people are turning the ruined soil around and making it protective again... we have a really strong land conservancy here... I also, like the fact that, um, you know I've lived in places where they are college towns... I have lived in places where there are things that contribute money to a town and kind of shape it that way... I like a town that has been shaped by agriculture and history and a river and a train stop
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	so I won't have to hire as much because I will find him other jobs and his room and board will cover most of his hours... he is just a really hard worker so you don't need him for lots of hours... what most people can get done in an hour most people get done in four... he weeds fast, he turns your soil over...He knows what's going wrong... he comes and tells me... there's something going wrong here, there is a bug, I found this thing... that's that guy... so he used to be n employee so he will be half an employee... so we are cutting back on our employees because we are spending so much money on our milk cows so we hope that it works... and that's why the WWOOFers will he
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Some other things... whatever to your soil to kind of get the ph balance going and then we fluffed our soil we took our soil and put it through a sieve and got through tons of rocks and then we also used... we put our transplants into the soil in our basement where we plant them... we inoculate them with Mycorrhizae fungi and it really helped... they sprouted quicker and grow faster, so we had our crops coming up way before our normal schedule to put them in the ground... so we had a lot of things in holding and grow twice as big as they normally do.. so they were too compacted together... so we've got a little bit of a heads up... now we know... we are going to do the same thing with the soil again, plant our seeds the same way, and then there are these drenches that you can put in the soil as you are planting that have a lot of minerals... and kind of seaweed kind of supplements... and we also have this thing where you take a leaf from your plant and you squelch it in this little machine and it tells you how many brix it is and a brix is a measurement of the carbohydrates in the juice of plant leaf... or a juice of the fruit... it just squishes it and there is like a little prism in there so that you can see what the relationship with the sugar is and if its high brix it is good, if it is low brix it means you need to start prepping the soil a little bit more

Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	what I got done last year I will have done by the end of next year... and focus a lot on just working with the soil, designing the land, and really kind of just implementing a whole plan for the entire plan... and so you know she was like it doesn't matter what you do... the biggest issue is 'can you guys work together as a group
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	... most of our soil is depleted through bad farming practices... most of the buildings are built inefficiency and are built to not last... so what we have done is exploit all our resources to the point where there isn't anything to sustain anymore... what we actually have to do to rebuild it... we have to regenerate it... we have to build it back up from... like sustainable farming now couldn't save the food system in America... we have to figure out how to rebuild the millions of acres of depleted soil... chemically polluted soil... so I don't really see sustainability as something that merits very much... same with housing... really, are going to sustain this way of life...
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Hilary Clinton was there last year like giving... doing a ribbon cutting ceremony... so they are really moving along with that... and they have been doing that for like ten years... and recently they just put the 180 acres behind it into a land trust with the intention of creating a co-housing community onto the farm... so I got connected with them through the Columbia Land Conservancy and... I have been writing up this proposal to do this educational program on the farm and eventually I want to be a part of this co-housing community there... and get other people to start really working on that as a project as well... so that's kind of like short, long story short... what I am doing... so it will be kind of like twenty years before it is fabulous... but, the farm itself has never been farmed before so it will be a lot of building up the soil and creating infrastructure... 30 acres of pastures... which isn't bad... the rest is all wooded... there is a river that runs through it... there is a river that runs actually through it, there is a giant turbine and waterfall... that's where they want to put the restaurant, right in front of the waterfall... it has got some pizzazz... we'll see I mean they are trying to do a lot of things... the least I can do is my own things and see how it fits into their business plan... plus, people who are coming and doing the program for a year have the opportunity to learn the things that they offer... the culinary school, they can participate about learning about solar energy... um, like a number of different things... tons of opportunities... they have classrooms there currently... so, what I am... my right now is trying to get that group of people together... who want to learn how to farm... want to learn how to... actually more than just learning about how to farm... people who want to come learn and learn about designing the community
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	Some of them are super impractical, so... you have to laugh that up too... and so, it's not like education that we go through... botanical stuff or so... or that we get deeply into the whole soil life, but if the people have questions we always ask them... because we live together and share the table together we have usually incredible discussions and they bring some new ideas and some questions, which are always good for us to face up and practice... like simple questions... wow, how can somebody ask this because we live in it so much that we can't really say anymore... you know what is the perspective of someone who does not really know anything from farming
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	and Che-way just loved it... just totally loved it... because he was really transported back into his childhood... um, and then also, actually the effort that it took to kill the roosters, and plucking them, and gutting them and actually cooking them... he just wrote a blog to all his buddies back home in China and you could just tell... we were feeding him so much more than just the pure... um, than I think you would get through tourism... it goes deeper... um, and I think for them too, to actually stay with us... course we are not Americans either... but to work... maybe this was my experience too... working on the place, actually working with the soil you get different sense of the country the way it just is... and I do feel that's the same with most WWOOFers that we get too... that they want deeper essence of the country... and hear issues agricultural issues... that we experience here in the US... and of course then we can say how it goes... how it's in Germany and Australia... and a little bit too... Hugh is very hip on politics too... so there is some political stuff... so, it's a really good... good exchange and for them... what they bring to us, food, cooking, their stories, how it is living in China, living in Japan... and all of that... because otherwise when do you really hear that stuff... especially when you are weeding carrots or thinning apples... and everyone brings new stories
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	I mean well we just totally believe... um, like Shoemaker said small farms are beautiful and that it is the only way to go... and to us only organic... biodynamic... not only the conventional idea... that is the only way to go... because of sustainability with the whole fertility cycle... when you can't go and buy the fertilizers anymore... just soil health... it is so important... it is the heart of your farm... and I think that you can only achieve that with organic and biodynamic farming and that is what's going to feed the people... and plus it is healthier for the whole ecology around it... with the bird, the insects, the wildlife all coming into these places... that's the only way to go... I don't know how much in the near future... or further future... but once they pull a rug out of the conventional farms, all of the subsidies... some of them aren't getting thousands of dollars they are getting hundreds of thousands a year... they are all going die out... the big farms around here, just closing down, 12,000 cows they aren't going to make it... the little farms here they have the creativity and inventiveness... and of course we are working hard and the conventional farmers love their land too, but they are just trapped in their way of going and buying things... my father did this way and my grandfather did this way, therefore I do the same way...

		and they don't realize that they lose milk or lose money every time they milk a cow... and they are going to go through debt process
Host 7	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	So, the only place we can go is North... but going North is once you get into the Adirondacks, you have sandy soil and growing conditions are really bad... and you are in a zone where you can't grow anymore... supposedly, the Mohawk Valley... the south side of the Mohawk Valley... the Marsalis shale released the gas when the Adirondacks formed... we're banking on that... the idea being that... you know, if you look at the listings... nobody has a gas lease.. There haven't been gas leases ever in that part... so it would be between Richfield Springs and a little further up... towards like foot plains...
Host 7	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	I think that the next, kind of... for this season... a big action is soil management... um, you know really, really getting it... really understanding the cover cropping... the, just, really focusing on that... I mean we've been... when you start new gardens you are dealing with weeds, but the soil is still... there is something there... um, and but you know once you... and we rotate crops and stuff... but, there's all that...
Host 7	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	you know what's kind of funny thing is now that I am working with horses here a lot... a lot of people respond to that and have some story... and sort of... you know there's... this isn't the area that has a lot of organic farms... so it's partially because of this land that is more suited for dairy and you know the dairy farmers have done their thing a certain way... and you know... dairies here tend to shut down rather than taken over to the kids... so who is going to switch to organic... very few actually do this... and you know it is not prime soil that lends itself to any other thing than grassed pastures... so, there are very few organic farms... the thing is that if you go into an area and you start an organic farm the problem is that... you have to be careful not to present this as an accusation to everybody else who is not doing an organic... you know what I mean... if you go to a market where everybody grows conventional and this is how they do things... and you go out there and hav
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	it's like sustainability as far as the soil you are leaving it better than you... you are putting back what you take out... the soil can sustain what you are doing... because you put back in nutrients that you take out. Maybe the definition of sustainable farming... it is sustainable it can sustain itself and the land will not be depleted and that is organic farming basically.
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Natural Capital\Soil Improvement	the improving the soil obviously if you have help to that you maybe can do a better job... and the one that has the most impact would be sustaining the farmer because if you have help with what you are doing, sometimes at a critical moment, harvest all the garlic, plant all the squash, a big project, sun up to head lamp time, if you have a few people help you, we have CSA people help too
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital	rejecting conventional opportunities
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital	Have been certified (organic, not crazy) in the past but found record keeping to cumbersome and expensive. The term organic has been bastardized by the USDA. If I followed USDA guidelines, I wouldn't consider myself "organic"
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital	conduit to other farms in the area for people who are equally interested in activism and want to share what I can give them in this regard
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital	hope that they are not going to meddle with it more... because it is so free
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Anti-Government	Beyond organic: corporatist USDA has usurped pioneering NM-organic standard
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Anti-Government	However, I wouldn't advise anyone to get into this based on faith in the prevailing system and condition
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Anti-Government	There are perturbations coming as climate changes, corporations adjust, governments thrash about, which will be a wild ride for by-standers.
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Anti-Government	No- we'd like to do NOFA-NY this year. No, but I suspect we surpass USDA guidelines
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Anti-Government	Not certified... we can discuss that too... because for one thing first of all with the organic certification they create a ceiling instead of a floor... so you can't say that you actually have higher standards than what they say through the organics certifications there... um, and that is just BS... that is just... high standards... and we know that we have high standards... and keep the government out of our lives... it's not us, it's not small farms that create the problems... one of our friends said... he has an organic farm in Chatham... he said look it's going to be really difficult to poisoning 3,000 people in 40 states... I can't do that and also because it is our livelihood... if somebody gets sick they are not going to come back to us... so, what do we want the government here for... we've got rural wholesale...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Anti-Government	wait till the government gets hold of the WWOOFers... because its labor, people work and they have to have workers comp... um, who know what they going to do...
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Independence	stand-offish towards the conventional society and econom
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Independence	More women take that one... certainly part through the whole emancipation... they feel that yea, we can do it... and inherently we're the ones doing more of the

		cooking... and like we are coming through foo
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology	I wwoofed in NZ in 2000. Discovered it on the internet with a google search. (back then!
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology	Puerto Rican boyfriend who was one of those computer guys you know sitting in his little cubicle and working on his computer and he tried to explain to us what he does and we are like... forget it... we just don't know computers anyway
Hawaii Website	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	Discuss hopes and expectations, and use the online forums to ask other WWOOFers for recommendations
Hawaii Website	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	It is up to you to find a suitable host, and to use the online comments, ratings, and forums to share your experiences
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	never even heard of it... so I went out looked it up online and put our farm on... and we started getting workers... workers... comi
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	Well, um, the two people in our group have used them... one is Gina Sophia who has an international learning center except now she is in Saratoga because her kids are going to a special high school there... but I heard it from there and also the Turquoise barn, which is the... the Tibetan breakfast that we are affiliated with that does the vegan... um cooking... or uncooking class,... so I heard it from them... and then I went online and researched it furthe
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	Dan Kittredge is studying it.... (http://www.highbrixgardens.com/) there are many people studying it, but he has a lot of stuff on the internet on this... its defiantly concepts that I never heard about or tried... but they are not that hard to figure out and do... he's giving another course on this area now, but it is a little hard for you to drive... I bet he would go for free since you area a student
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	we are hoping... we just started a blog... so that blog will hopefully be our self-designed advertising... to get the word out... not only about the farm products, but about the B&B and all that that goes with it and the eco-friendly things that go with it... the festivals, the opportunities of meeting other people... we are thinking of having weed dating... have it for a few farms around here... organize it and have it set up and let people met each other through weeding... We would have a bunch of young people meet who are not already tied up with somebody else... You can actually learn a lot about a person through weeding
Host 4	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	A lot of them... camps are run on these kind of kids... there are a lot of foreign kids that do not have dorms and they cannot go... going back to Japan cost at least \$1,000.... So they WWOOF... they plop themselves all over the internet trying to find a place to go and they grab the first one they can
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	Always different... you know what the biggest difference was was if they had a car... because if I was going to a BBQ I am bringing like eight in the back of my truck... there was that... but then one of them had a car most of the time... um, they went on outings... they went to Woodstock... they went into Hudson... I gave them the whole middle of the day off, from lunchtime to four or five... the couple went and had sex... people went swimming... there was a lot of swimming... um... someone didn't want to take time off... they were really bored when they took time off... a lot of people read... um, a lot of people would go on the internet when they had time off... they didn't know what to do with their eye
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	and Che-way just loved it... just totally loved it... because he was really transported back into his childhood... um, and then also, actually the effort that it took to kill the roosters, and plucking them, and gutting them and actually cooking them... he just wrote a blog to all his buddies back home in China and you could just tell... we were feeding him so much more than just the pure... um, than I think you would get through tourism... it goes deeper... um, and I think for them too, to actually stay with us... course we are not Americans either... but to work... maybe this was my experience too... working on the place, actually working with the soil you get different sense of the country the way it just is... and I do feel that's the same with most WWOOFers that we get too... that they want deeper essence of the country... and hear issues agricultural issues... that we experience here in the US... and of course then we can say how it goes... how it's in Germany and Australia... and a little bit too... Hugh is very hip on politics too... so there is some political stuff... so, it's a really good... good exchange and for them... what they bring to us, food, cooking, their stories, how it is living in China, living in Japan... and all of that... because otherwise when do you really hear that stuff... especially when you are weeding carrots or thinning apples... and everyone brings new stories
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	so you can't say that you actually have higher standards than what they say through the organics certifications there... um, and that is just BS... that is just... high standards... and we know that we have high standards... and keep the government out of our lives... it's not us, it's not small farms that create the problems... one of our friends said... he has an organic farm in Chatham... he said look it's going to be really difficult to poisoning 3,000 people in 40 states... I can't do that and also because it is our livelihood... if somebody gets sick they are not going to come back to us... so, what do we want the government here for... we've got rural wholesale... they buy

		several times like up to 50% of our foods... it's an ashram in Washington DC... and they created this things spiritual food for the Millennium... you can go online and buy biodynamic food from them... Because the guru Victor had this enlightenment... realization that to have a healthy body you need to have healthy nourishment...and the healthiest there is is biodynamic food... and um, he had known about Hugh for quite a long time and then they actually visited us... we have a really, really good relationship to them
Host 7	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	If you have too many eggs this is a cake that rolls out... online recipe I don't know how many people cooked today without the internet
Host 7	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	I would say yes and its growing... you know... I think... it's absolutely... this is... you know... five years ago you think about... the number of ... of... new homesteads out there... I would say defiantly... it's defiantly increasing... and that has something to do with economic downturn, too... you know when people are changing their priorities... I think it has to do with the kind of information... whether it is good or bad, but you kind of feel that you have some confidence that you can do it... because there are so many... I mean before if you really wanted to do thing on your own you had to befriend your neighbor farmers sort just to get any kind of information or be at the library with references... but I think the internet has been such a huge tool for people just to have confidence and... and striking out and doing it on their own... whether that is really useful or not in the end... I mean you know... but I think that it's in terms of just giving people that sense of confidence... I think
Host 7	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	Well... I would say... you are talking about in general... or here... I think that just the fact that there is a Green horns blog and a young farmer's group... I think that is something... so, I do believe that it is growing
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	a WWOOF blog... she went all over the place and we are on there and the year before we were on somebody's blog: bike able feast... she traveled all around the country she WWOOFed she stayed at a B and B... she went to farmer's markets... all about local food and visited farms all over the US on her bike... she met up with us on her bike in Caz and rode up to our booth at the farmer's market... I was recently looking at picture that she took... I put them on a face book page... anyways, we have had really cool things... and especially being part of something like that is really cool... to be a part of somebody's education project for school and we had a really cool woman
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Political Capital\Technology\Internet /blog	's a website that has free resources on farms and people have found our CSA on that... it's a listing, a free listing... you can list what you sell...
Cecile Cowsberry Crossing	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	It sounded like a great way to stay in touch with today's youth and pass on what we believe to be really important values regarding planet/food/nutrition to the next generation
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	It showed us that it's possible to have a very harmonious relationship with people we might not have taken a shine to in any other situation and that a few people can get a lot done. It showed us that opening up our lives to outsiders can be very beneficial to getting work done and enriching our lives. A good positive experience all around that will influence our choices about WWOOF in the future
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	Many came because of our focus on music and culture. They liked that it was more than just farming
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	Made some friends and spread some LOVE
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	we don't want to just hire cheap labor and not have a connection with people
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	It is nice to be able to live with someone and connect with them... there is potential for our lives and their lives to change... it is really great for the farm and us... I stayed and anyone can stay...
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	provide social benefit
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	be great friends and entertainer
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	WWOOFers could share in the fun adventures of moonlight swimming, music, stories and basic entertainment.
Host 1	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	WWOOF introduced Adam to so many unique people . It is not much of social interaction, but WWOOF allows interesting experiences.
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	We haven't traveled all over the world.
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	Um... in very positive ways... um, for the farm that we get work done... um, also in the house just learning different ways of cooking, you know, different cuisines and, which is just great. Having different languages... understanding more like when Che-woa explained Mandarin versus the other Chinese... what's the other... there is two main Chinese languages... just hearing ht differences and just trying... getting a sense of the different languages and also for them... for the kids to experience that... you know have the world here in the house... and also personally, for me personally

		to become very clear which is like... be very straightforward and very clear what we expect... and that is difficult... that's a really... I find that very, very difficult... maybe it's more difficult for me than others, but just because, I mentioned before certain things are just so obvious to me, but I realize that they are not necessary obvious to others... even just in the house... when I go to dinner parties... cause when they are clearing the dishes, but you won't believe it... some people don't necessary lit do that... yea they weren't trained... you can't really blame them, it is also part of the culture where they come from... but you also have to.. I do expect that they um help and behave the way that we expect them to... and not take a shower 10pm at the night... and help with the dishes... even if you are macho and you don't do this kind of work at home... but you are here, better get on with it... but people tend to be very open and just being up front about it... as I tell them look guys you really need to do this... um, so that's I find that challenging...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	Some of the best ones were like that... we would get a couple a call... can I come in two days? I am traveling through... and it was in the beginning... now we seem to get more people that are planning more...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	Another good thing we've got is music... I'm really into music... and we share stuff, copy each other's music... we share a lot of stuff... I have music from April, from Andrew, Catalonian music from Mirina... I have something here... this woman Alex bough poster from Music Man, the only show we knew... and then we had the Buffalo Gals, they were cool... they were lesbians and not a couple they were young going to school came for three weeks... one was into planning and called for a list of clothes... the other one was more organic and they knew all the indigo songs and I knew the indigo songs and we sang them... it was grea
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	which is really nice have WWOOFers come to the markets with us... because you defiantly have to have other people there you can't do it alone, Ca at least... so I think the 2-3 weeks thing has pretty much stayed the same... and I don't know how it is going to go this next year because if Jason and Mirina are here together and if she winds up having other things to do... and isn't able to help I'll probably have some other WWOOFers... are they going to live in the tent or the house... they don't know yet, so everything is up in the air... if somebody contacts us... I will probably not say no because I need to have the... it's our SURVIVAL... it's how we survive... I can't survive without... I think it is part sustainable farming... think that that organic volunteers, WWOOFer, whatever you want to call them... it makes it... for small, high input, high labor intensive farm... it's like... it makes it doable... it makes it fun... cause you have people that are also enthusiastic... and that is contagious sometimes... at least for me...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	And then there is something that happens at the farmers market... there is a lot of conversations, Kim know a lot of people at the farmers market now... she is from Philadelphia... she is really involved in the local food movement there and she connected with this cheese vendor at the Caz market and then we are doing once a month a winter market... its awesome... there are so many people selling so many outrageous local... pasta, flour and you know tons of stuff and cheese and meat... sort of networking of this local food movement... so you have people like Ibpti who is going around the whole country doing this blog... I didn't connect directly to host but I connected through the blog that she visited... so these blogs... we are part of this other one in Caz doing this farm... farm serve... I'll give you the name and he met Kim and he came out here and did a piece and she was here and took a lot of pictures of us together... I am using picture people took to promote the farm... but the farmer's market... a lot of the vendors, people that come and shop from us meet the WWOOFers and they learn and hear their story... I am sure that has an impact o the town of Caz and Homer... Kim is also African America... Homer is a pretty white town I think like you know just that... it brings diversity to the... and Caz is pretty white also...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	still it makes it so that you can keep going... its only suitable if you can keep doing it... and also sharing with someone... the connection that you make... interactions... the whole part of it that isn't just work... it help you because... you can... the companionship being able to meet people. Help break up stuff that is going on in our house, all that stuf
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital	All those thing: friends, help, music, culture, daughter in law, just having friends, having interesting people to connect with, food sharing great recipes we've eaten some amazingly good things... sharing stories... couple really cool Halloween things, we have a thing called the Trail of Magic, people act out character parts and kids go through and I have done stuff with WWOOFers at the time... and a couple of WWOOFers have done it... so we've had fun with that... they've come to all the common place parties and dinners, whatever stuff is going o
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	Meeting various people has always been enjoyable as a WWOOFer, and so I thought trying the other side of the situation would be enlightening and fun
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	They were extremely eager to learn and were enthusiastic, even about tedious, laborious jobs. We made things fun even if they could have been pretty taxing. They asked lots of questions and caught on quickly. They were also excited for the opportunity to relax and cook and read. Lots of enthusiasm about everything

Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	concerts/dance
Host C	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	Great caliber people coming to our farm, adding fresh energy right when we need it
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	Grow profitably while nurturing the land, our family and our community
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	I will say that small local farms have personal connection
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	fairly tight knit community (off-site, the larger community we're in)
Host 12	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	foster more celebration and enjoyment
Host 10	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	A lot of people are interested in the community aspect... we have so many applicants, we get them season long I am sure... I think that there is something about this community that stand out from other farms... we have the arts, the community and a lot going on... the combination of all of that just drives a bunch of people...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	We do a program in the summer, kids 8-11 years old come out and help us and garden... we take them exploring cause we have several ponds and nice streams, mix of fields and woods, we do nature exploring... they take vegetables home for families, herbs... and so we do that... we have also done vegetables... send them down to refugee resettlement in Syracuse... garlic and onions... stuff down to them...
Host 9	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	Sometimes, helps create community... often with people we work with... we sing together in the evening, sometimes they end up making something in shop, sunset walks in evening and it have people that you enjoy and that adds a lot... if have people mad at mothers They do participate in community... both good and wearing
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	we have group meditations... and we have more events... and so there is a sharing of energy... and an enlivened atmosphere that helps everyone... so, by having volunteers we first, you know, it sets the stage for creating an inspirational setting for everyone... so, I think those are the advantages... you know when you just live with a small group of friends who share a community... become what I call an ingrown toenail... you know everyone knows each other so well and um... you know you fall into happy patterns and sometimes they're painful, sometimes they're unconscious, sometimes they're ruts, and by keeping the energy flowing we maintain the vibe of our community
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	and some of them can just realize that maybe they want a little family time in the evenings... and that is really nice...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	and we just like the social part because we don't have families around here... and I think that is part of it... that he is from Australia... I am from Germany... we don't have that family life... we have to create our own family and such and people
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	she will be a family member...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	Kim came and visited us this winter in December and she stayed... sometimes we've had people stay longer... Mirina... Kim was here for three weeks and helped with the winter market and was also visiting
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	a lot of the WWOOFers come to the parties... and add energy into the community and make it more vibrant, but because we are a community here our geographic common place is not Truxton per se and I don't know how much our WWOOFers have changed anything in Truxton.... but in common place it does add a young vibrant energy in the community, if people are coming to visit there are just more young people young energy... it has to do with the farm...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Community (from Local to Global)	Farm is part of eco-community, part of larger eco-community
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen	Low-energy architecture/ appropriate technology graduate consulting work on self-build housing in refugee/ squatter settlements of Khartoum, Sudan, led me to wonder why these transhumant (sedentary agriculture to/ from nomadic pastoralism) rural villagers staked their foothold in urban space and economy but gave up growing their own food.
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen	I love nature and through organic farming I can fulfill my deepest spirituality and contribute to the improvement of society.

Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen	Yea. We miss it, but you know what I mean, but I just couldn't go back for that reason. I am fine with not having the restaurants
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen	Yeah, it is pretty white and we have actually not had a black person yet... we almost had one, but she didn't work out... after all... it was just the exposure, just the different and also different habits and cuisines and it's just the way The Asians are very different from the Europeans... even among the Europeans, I can pick up on that, because I am European... the French are very different from us Germans and so on... and for them just to experience it... I think that it is just really important... you know we don't believe in any of that ---- we are all world citizens... we are all human beings... So for the kids it has been really, really good... and some say, too, when we feel really comfortable with some WWOOFers, they say, hey do you want to go out tonight... they say 'yeah, sure I'll hang out with the kids'... I will take crystal play soccer... and you know it has just been wonderful... yeah, defiantly...
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	As a volunteer, it has provided me with amazing opportunities to intimately see parts of the world I would never have gotten close to as any other sort of tourist. For example, living in remote parts of Spain gave me experiences, views, and connections with people I wouldn't have gotten any other way. I've learned a lot about gardening/farming, local customs, and personal quirks, and learned about building straw- bale houses. I can't say enough about my experiences
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	To expose our children to different people
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	Meet interesting people. hone people and people management skills. Postives: interesting people from interesting places and languages and practices.
Host 2	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	WWOOF allows them to do this while appreciating other culture, stories and ways of life.
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	genially a very fruitful exchange. They come to use to help us, but also to have this exposure... like some people, especially the Chinese guy... Sean, what's his name... ah, I can't even remember his name right now, but um, we had that several times that they were exposed to agriculture through their grandparents or through an uncle or something that they remember as children visiting the farm... and remembering the ducks and chickens and slaughtering the chickens...and, um... so to them it is also fulfilling this childhood memory of wanting to experience this again... Che-way, this Chinese guy he was so cute, he's up in Albany and he just finished a semester up there and he came to use for like two weeks... and one day, he came on a Thursday and Friday this French girl cam, Marion, we decided to kill two roosters... Friday evening and they were into it, they were totally into it... and Che-way just loved it... just totally loved it... because he was really transported back into his childhood... um, and then also, actually the effort that it took to kill the roosters, and plucking them, and gutting them and actually cooking them... he just wrote a blog to all his buddies back home in China and you could just tell... we were feeding him so much more than just the pure... um, than I think you would get through tourism... it goes deeper... um, and I think for them too, to actually stay with us... course we are not Americans either... but to work... maybe this was my experience too... working on the place, actually working with the soil you get different sense of the country the way it just is... and I do feel that's the same with most WWOOFers that we get too... that they want deeper essence of the country... and hear issues agricultural issues... that we experience here in the US... and of course then we can say how it goes... how it's in Germany and Australia... and a little bit too... Hugh is very hip on politics too... so there is some political stuff... so, it's a really good... good exchange and for them... what they bring to us, food, cooking, their stories, how it is living in China, living in Japan... and all of that... because otherwise when do you really hear that stuff... especially when you are weeding carrots or thinning apples... and everyone brings new stories...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	Um... the exchange... the cultural exchange... um, that's the most important point...
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	and they like that I wrote in there that language obstacles is not an issue for us... even if the English... The language is poor... that we just like exchange... we like the world to come to us... and we had this one French girl and she really liked... that's why she chose our farm because her English was really poor and she felt welcomed here... and so, and Hugh speaks a little bit of French, we both speak a tiny bit... and he speaks a little bit of Spanish so that improves visitors
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	but also sustainability too having this cultural exchange... that's more on the spiritual level I guess...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	it makes it much more enjoyable... we usually work side by side with people... sometimes we have to send them out and do stuff... you have somebody to work with and to enjoy singing together... we've had some really fun times... singing... sharing experience, sharing culture

Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Culture	There is culture that we have that we share with people: music, art... Carl is into archeology... and sometimes just stuff to shoot the shit with, getting into long winded conversation about political opinions and things... um, and it's beautiful place... it a really beautiful place... it's one of the most beautiful places that you can ever imagine... we are on the bottom of it, but it goes up the hillside and there are ravines, and hemlock groves and all kinds of ecosystems within the eland... it's a really unique piece of land... Labrador Hallow is not too far away... park preserved, unique piece of... environment... um, so I mea
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Responsibilities	provide us the chance when our times are up to leave this world slightly better than I found it
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Global citizen\Responsibilities	To share what we have and help others on their path (don't I sound altruistic!?)
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	I grew up in England, my grandmother lived in Spain, and I knew about the original WWOOF long before I had any call on its services.
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	I'm involved mostly with informal, small, local, grassroots organisations. WWOOF is important, though more so to others than to me.
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	Not here; I have had sporadic and occasional contact with my previous hosts, but not enough to comment. I can say I learned a lot about what makes a good host and what could be improved form my own experience as a volunteer, however
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	Word of mout
Host 3	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	my travels... I heard about it... different friends of mine that have used WWOOFers in the past... and that's usually worked out for me
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	And Hugh hooked me up... gave me the addresses... I contacted them and sure you can come...s o that was my... to me that was like WWOOFing, but it's just... I got the addresses through the biodynamic network... but I would have done WWOOFing anyway... You know if it had been more organized.... At that time, fifteen years again, it's not like everybody was on email and everyone had their websites out, don't forget that... just in the last 10 years it completely exploded.... I feel like, gosh am I so old now... I was in my mid twenties when I did that... and it's just... I'm glad that it has become more organized... and it's just the way the world s going... Um, with the traveling... so many people traveling.... And I think a lot of... not just young... our oldest WWOOF we had was 61 years old... they come from all walks of life... and any kind of age...I never ask how old the people are... because I feel like its non of my businesses... and I feel like if they are old it's okay to
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	Well, I came like a year of a WWOOFer, but I got his address through the biodynamic network in Germany... and that was my first stop on my trip around the world... to actually work on different farms... this was my first stop
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	Um, no we are not... no we are not... I mean I know a few farms that do... but we never talk about WWOOFers... I know this one farm they only talk longer term workers... they don't like the short term workers... and so they... I think have a hard time finding them... to me that is the idea of WWOOFing... short time really... Jonathon, our young employee, he signed up for the WWOOFing list... so we will defiantly have an affiliate right down the street from us... but, naw, we don't... all the other farms around here they don't do WWOOFing... I mean most of the other farms except for a couple more...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network	there is a woman who lives here now who came to live here in the community through volunteering through a farm (not WOOF but basically she wanted to volunteer on a farm) and she wound up eventually moving here and she lives here now... unfortunately our relationship isn't as good now... living in a community there is conflict and things... having her here probably has encouraged another woman who lives in the farm house, who it in her 20
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Collaboration	conduit to other farms in the area for people who are equally interested in activism and want to share what I can give them in this regard
Host 5	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Collaboration	It's just... well, that's what's interesting because there is a lot of cooperation compared to a lot of other work that I have done... but bottom line... it hasn't been fine-tuned enough... because you gotta face the fact that even though I could safely say that within a half hour drive of here there are thirty organic farms... and at the same time more than probably eighty percent of our vegetable produce is still coming from CA... because that is how it is affordable
Host 6	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Collaboration	And there was in VT that some farms got together and created this big co-op... in Oregon in the '90s years ago farmers got together because they realize they are stronger as a group... and then became so big that many farmers are pulled out of it, but they still get some interest every year from what they set up... so I think that in the future we will have to tackle that problem... I think that the small farms will have to work together... you know it's crazy that all the small farms growing vegetables having 50 different vegetable crops growing... and we did that in 2002 with a young couple... they started out... they grew half of the vegetables and they grew the other

		half... they took our truck down to our CSA members and then the deal was that if they wanted they could be able to take on our NCSA site the following year... and that was so great... having to focus on 30 different crops... and they had only 30 different crops... I think because everybody is still trying to hold on to their own clientele... you know not competing with each other and nobody wants to step on each other's feet and um that is why... and I think that is what stops it... just not being quite... I am not sure if it is quite trusting... but I think that nobody wants to step on anybody else's feet... but I think that we will see in the future... in the next ten years... something is going to happen that we all realize gosh we really need to work together more, even in the marketing... that's a huge job and most farmers don't even want to do it... I am good at communication and I don't mind it but you have to do it on a daily basis... deal with the customers... why does this beet have these spots... and I don't know how many times a year I explain it... it's a job... and in a way, you know we all have talents and we all have some stuff that we are not so good at... and I think that we need to plug into that... give the people that are really good at growing but are not very patient with people have them right out in the field where they would rather people and have the people that enjoy the selling part... I mean I love being on the field too, but I know at this point it is my chore, my task to do the selling... and, um, yea so... I wouldn't mind passing on to somebody else...
Host D	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Connecting Farms	We know other WWOOF hosts.
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Connecting Farms	My opinions are private for now but farmers are usually generally great people
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Connecting Farms	Friend
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Connecting Farms	Yes -- excellent
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Connecting Farms	Well, the local food thing it's that you are able to produce it more if you have help and also meeting people that are really interested in the local food movement in their areas and helping them to go back in their towns and use the skills that they learned to go back to their local food movement, whether it is community plots, CSA... raising their awareness a little bit... it also like when you go to the farmers market and the people realize... it helps them to buy your stuff... it makes them realize that you are part of something... they have this conversation starter... wow, you have someone here from Japan this is really cool... that was the local part...
Host 8	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\Connecting Farms	Obviously the cost of labor, connections from one farm to another because the WWOOFer is going to be telling stories as they go... they are like you know, the old fashioned, the person who went around, the old minister, traveled around from house to house and brought stories... the traveling doctor or whatever... they brought stories... you kind of like stuck on a farm, you can't go and be a part of a lot of things in the middle of the summer and so you are not getting out as much as you might want to... or its harder to, I mean I try to do some stuff but still... having someone come and tell you stories about... and now with the internet... you can connect with people and find out all about their... who they have seen and the farms they have been on... they take a lot of pictures... it's a connection...
Cecile Cowsberry Crossing	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\WWOOFers /WWOOF hosts	We decided to become a host because our first intern wooffed after he finished his season with us and sent us a detailed travel journal of his adventures
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\WWOOFers /WWOOF hosts	The only benefits I have yet seen are increased visibility of our sites, projects, initiatives, and innovation
Host A	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\WWOOFers /WWOOF hosts	Yes, but not by hosting or volunteering, rather by being somewhat better connected with many people searching and some people offering.
Host B	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\WWOOFers /WWOOF hosts	Cities, I believe
Host E	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\WWOOFers /WWOOF hosts	like to make new friend
Host F	WWOOF\Gains\Social Capital\Network\WWOOFers /WWOOF hosts	My 24 year old sister is/was a WOOFer though and has found a wonderful life for herself at a small school-related community (she teaches) through WWOOF however
Host C	WWOOF\Losses	More responsive presence for support on the website.
Host 9	WWOOF\Losses	so that people that are looking for something quite different than what we offer... some places it sounds like there are large farms with 6,7, 10 WWOOFers staying with them... and so young people think it is fun to be with other folks and they maybe

		have things that are simple stuff to do...
Host 9	WWOOF\Losses	We have met people that we have really enjoyed, and met few others that did not work out... it has been part of the experience of having strangers come and live with us, which we do in other ways as well
Host 1	WWOOF\Losses	but at some point there is not enough time and energy for them to be effective” .
Host 1	WWOOF\Losses	it can be hard to live with them, especially if they are living in your house and sharing your bathroom
Host 1	WWOOF\Losses	The first couple, from Maine, was awful, the worst. They stayed for two weeks and Adam said that he did not know how to address awkwardness.
Host A	WWOOF\Losses\Economic Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	looking for a place to stay for a brief period
Host 2	WWOOF\Losses\Economic Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	I don't want to entertain everybody because it is a lot of work for us... extra things to do... to feed 'em
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Economic Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	I sent her out to pick the beets and she harvested like all the beets... I guess I didn't tell her how many and I was busy... I forgot, I could' be mad... so we didn't take them all to the market we gave them to the CSA the next day... but I did... o wow that's a lot o beets... I guess I realized I need to let somebody know exactly what they need to do... you assume somebody knows something because you don't tell them all the detail... sometimes they don't want to bother you because they have to ask a million questions, but you're busy and they are... so trying to make it... give something easy to do... always weeding.. people say the W in WWOOF stands for weeding... because that is the easiest to do, but they might not know all the weeds... and a lot of WWOOFers don't have experience and we don't count on it... and I have that experience is not necessarily better... I mean it is nice if somebody knows the weeds, but Sometimes they have to stop and ask me a weed, even that requires... especially something that is really small and they don't know... sometime we have wild things that we are leaving and all the herbs that we are into...
Host A	WWOOF\Losses\Generation Gap	young, inexperienced, and still learning their pre-conceptions about
Host D	WWOOF\Losses\Generation Gap	Aging Looking for a way to wind down and pass our skills along to a young farmer. Don't see how WWOOF plays a role.
Host 9	WWOOF\Losses\Generation Gap	Or clearly looking for something different than what we were doing
Host 2	WWOOF\Losses\Generation Gap	Sounds like he is one of these kids that is staying on the internet... You know... on the computer his whole life
Host A	WWOOF\Losses\No shows	Only a couple have subsequently showed up at my place.
Host A	WWOOF\Losses\No shows	We have had several set out to join us but never arrive because of other opportunities they found on the way. We had one show up but decide before starting to continue to Alaska.
Host 6	WWOOF\Losses\No shows	we always have some that don't show up after they say that they are coming... and that's kind of a bummer... but most people do show up or at least contact me...
Host B	WWOOF\Losses\Social Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	As a host, we learned that appearances are deceiving,
Host D	WWOOF\Losses\Social Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	Not interested in farming. Looking for a cheap way to see the US. Looking for a break from the city. Looking for a farm experience but not farmin
Host 2	WWOOF\Losses\Social Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	I know... I don't know how... after we had it with Chris we figured we had to... how do you ask? How do you figure it out? You can ask all the right questions, and then came just answer what you want to hear...
Host 6	WWOOF\Losses\Social Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	Some of them are super impractica
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Social Loss (Bad WWOOFer)	one boy was running away from home... well he was running away from college, he just wanted to get away and he didn't tell his parents where he was going he just left school and he was 18, he was young... he had some health issues too that he didn't tell us about.... right away that were kind of scary... he would go into these weird fits... he would forget where he was and space out... so I think we almost lost him in Syracuse... he wandered off... we had to drive around, almost calling the cops... and then his father called angrily is my son there... it was in the fall... and another one without any warning... the best WWOOFers of course have been girls... we've had hardly any boys... we've had George... a guy he hardly did anything... we had Andrew who were basically babysittin
Host 9	WWOOF\Losses\Space (personal)	when people come stay with us here they live like a part of family, they have meals with us and work with us... if not interested in farming or don't pay attention
Host 1	WWOOF\Losses\Space (personal)	(also difficult when he is sharing living space).
Host 2	WWOOF\Losses\Space (personal)	and then the hindrance is that you have someone that is... you don't know what to do with them... and they are in your home... literally... it makes it super uncomfortable...

		and again it is super individualized... like the person that shows up at your door... right
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Space (personal)	but for WWOOFers really it is kind of like end of May to end of September because of the tent and that's where we might wound up being now... this year is the first year we didn't have indoor space... it does limit it...
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Space (personal)	so, the weather is defiantly a limitation
Host A	WWOOF\Losses\Time	Gradually outgrowing my resources, time and energy,
Host B	WWOOF\Losses\Time	We also need a clear schedule so we can devote our time to working with volunteers, and extended periods of time can be difficult to block out
Host C	WWOOF\Losses\Time	taking on more than we can handle
Host C	WWOOF\Losses\Time	Wwoof encourages us to take on too much because it can be difficult welcoming new people to our norms and values all of the time. Constant turnover can be draining/demanding
Host 2	WWOOF\Losses\Time	I mean when we are by ourselves and we don't want to come in we don... there's always breakfast, lunch and dinner... and I always cook.. sometimes we're working and we would work through lunch and dinner... yeah...
Host 6	WWOOF\Losses\Time	I think that hosting them is difficult and it's just a lot of pressure during the season and I think that some people just have their employees... they are set on labor and they don't want to have any volunteers walking in and trying to re-teach them again... and teach them again... cause then you have to...they are on a constant move... it's a challenge... and that's why we consider WWOOFers as unskilled labor and we plop them in carrot beds and you weed now... or thinking or s
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Time	meanwhile, I have no place to put these herbs, they are in the pots, but then I have no time because I have to do a million other things...
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Time	I think that I am not very good at managing time, I never will admit how long something really takes to do...
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Time	and one of the weaknesses is not having enough time to put into their training and maintenance... and car
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Time	That's a weakness trying to identify [weeds] and so trying to... this is something that impacts the WWOOFers because sometimes I just want to be able to finish something... I sometimes will just say, look if you could take a break in the afternoon, let me get caught up with the plants...
Host 8	WWOOF\Losses\Time	it's a challenge and I am better at it than I use to be... so it is something that I am better at... and of course the longer the person is here they are better... by the end of the time, I could say pick the salad mix and I could just walk away and do something else... she knew how to do it...