



SEASON CREATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Welcome to Green Edge Organic Gardens!

Historically, Green Edge Organic Gardens was a dairy farm, part of a lucrative small dairy farm tradition throughout the Appalachian foothills of Southeastern Ohio. Now, Green Edge, under the management of Kip and Becky Rondy and Dan Kneier, is a 120-acre certified organic farm with 10 custom-built high tunnel-type greenhouses, growing a variety of seasonally appropriate crops. These houses are managed intensively using unheated systems and innovative design features to accommodate farm specific conditions. Produce is marketed to maximize profitability through the farm's community supported agriculture (CSA), the Athens Farmers Market, and local and regional wholesale accounts. Green Edge has transformed a piece of creek-side bottomland, less than one quarter of the farm, into a productive year-round operation.

Green Edge Organic Gardens is recognized in Ohio as a leader in organic vegetable production, CSA management, creation of diversified income streams and season extension. Since Kip and Becky Rondy moved back from operating a landscaping business in Cincinnati to their Amesville Ohio farm in 2004, the farm has grown into a diversified full service operation, which has been involved with a wide array of markets, all served with their certified organic produce, mushrooms, and microgreens.

The village of Amesville is located in Athens County, a county designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) as "distressed," (meaning counties that have at least twice the national poverty rate and have a per capita market income 67% of the national average or a three-year average unemployment rate that is twice the national average). In the rural community of Ames township (2010 population 1,183) Green Edge is a major economic asset employing 9 full-time people, 3 part-time and 4 paid summer interns. The Rondys have created a rare thing: a viable agriculture of the middle example which serves a growing market. The positions they've created are full-time and year round due to the Rondy's use of advanced season extension techniques. At a time when the ability for local agriculture to become an economic driver is being recognized, the models created by Green Edge have become an example of a replicable system that offers a viable alternative to rural farmers looking for new markets and new systems to serve those markets.