

Growing & Teaching Organic in Denali

HEALY - After receiving his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Georgia Jimmie Hendricks moved to an off the grid organic farm in Arizona and found that farming organically was the path for his life. Jimmie and his wife Laura worked/interned at Arctic Organics in Palmer and ever since then they have owned and run Denali Organics.



The farm is 20 acres in size with two to three acres being intensely cultivated. They sell their produce to 20 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members and have recently started selling to the local school. In addition they sell to many local restaurants including; 229 Parks, Panorama Pizza, Perch, Salmon Back, Prospector Pizza, 49th State Brewery, and Camp Denali Lodge.

The Hendricks' love eating all the fresh food they produce and pride themselves in hearing members of the community comment on the freshness and amazing taste of their products. It's all in their backyard and all the work is done by hand! So you could say a large amount of love is added. Jimmie and Laura both really enjoy many aspects of organic growing and believe they are living out their dream by producing food and educating their interns. They see their operation as not only a farm, but also a learning center.

On top of farming organically Jimmie is also a wilderness guide and is involved in entertainment speaking; doing 30-40 shows throughout the summer at one of the local hotels. In his shows he talks about building log cabins, growing organic food under the midnight sun, and hiking Denali. That being said



from the first of May to the end of September his hands are tied!

It has been a dream of the Hendricks' for years to be included in the educational component of farming. "Being able to get students involved with farming with enthusiasm has been wonderful," states Jimmie, "Doing something good for the community is a life achievement."

This farmer profile is brought to you by the Division of Agriculture Please contact Jamie Peterson with questions or comments. (907)374-3715 jamie.peterson@alaska.gov