



What is Bear Canyon Farm?

Bear Canyon Farm is a not-for-profit, small scale farm that exists to provide employment and hands on learning opportunities for students at Mount Ellis Academy, and to deliver healthy, fresh, local produce to the community. Our goal is to equip students with practical skills and unique agricultural knowledge—preparing them to be reliable, responsible employees and volunteers in their communities and in the world.

For the past year Bear Canyon Farm has been in the planning and formation phase. This has included a lot of research and a lot of paperwork. We are excited to finally start implementing these plans and want to share what has been going on!

To start with, God has blessed Bear Canyon Farm abundantly through generous donors and encouraging supporters of this project. Despite the many challenges along the way, we are so thankful for all God has provided to establish this farm. It was a huge blessing when our 501(c)3 status was approved in record time—just under 3 months! (It can often take as long as a year for the IRS to approve tax exempt status.)

Last winter we applied for the Growth Through Agriculture Grant, which is a \$50,000 1-to-1 matching grant. With this grant money we hoped to establish a one acre greenhouse, however we did not receive the grant this year. Although this was very disappointing news, we know God is leading in this project and will continue to provide as we move forward—according to His will and in His time. Plans for the large greenhouse are on hold as we continue to save toward the purchase price and at this point, we are about halfway to our goal. In the meantime, we have more than enough going on to keep us very busy!

Bear Canyon Farm is led by a board of directors. Currently, the board members are: Eric and Katie Harris, Brian Nystrom, Jerry Wernick, and Alix Harris. Eric Harris is currently managing the operation.

FAQ

Why are the trees I see planted along the walking trail so close together?

These are called Pole or Columnar Apple trees. They don't branch out like a regular tree and are supposed to be planted 2-3 feet apart.

How are donation funds used?

100% of your donations are used for operation expenses such as: seeds, plants, irrigation equipment, fuel and student labor.

Can I have a tour?

Yes! We will offer a tour of the farm on Friday at 1 p.m. If you would like to attend, please meet at the cafeteria.

Contact us

Feel free to contact us with any questions, or if you just have something to share!

Email: bearcanyonfarm@gmail.com

Website: bearcanyonfarm.com

Phone: (406) 750-1367

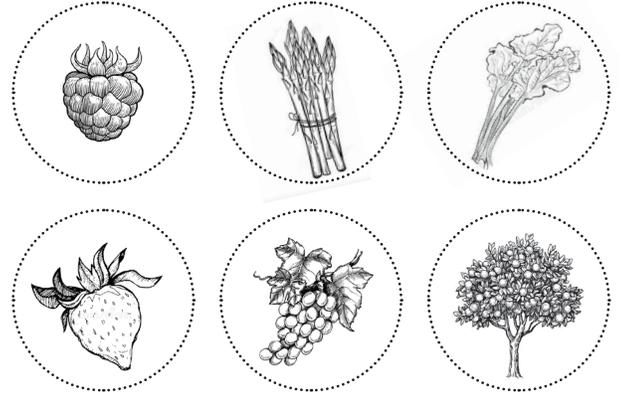
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/bearcanyonfarm

What's growing this season?

This spring we have planted a variety of fruits and vegetables including: raspberries, asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, grapes and over 200 fruit trees. This totals over 2,600 plants in all and covers approximately 2 acres. We also have a variety of seedlings waiting to be planted outside. We are finishing our irrigation set up and laying the last of the weed barrier.

Just as some of our plants were beginning to really flourish, a hail storm came through and shredded the leaves and damaged the stems of many plants. Please say a prayer for their recovery, they are still looking quite tattered!



What's next for Bear Canyon Farm?

This summer we will be setting up two 30x100ft hoop house frames that were donated last fall. They have been dismantled and are waiting to be re-erected and re-covered. We will also be building a trellis and will re-apply for the GTA grant this fall.

Next spring, we will plant two additional acres of fruit trees. Once everything is planted, Bear Canyon Farm will be operating five acres in total. When we reach full production, farm activities will include providing produce for the MEA cafeteria, selling at local farmer's markets, and selling through a CSA (community supported agriculture) program.

How can
I help?



Support

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to establish Bear Canyon Farm.

Volunteers

We could use help with various building projects this summer. If this falls under your expertise, or you are willing to lend a helping hand, we would greatly appreciate the help!

Donations

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please make checks out to:

"Bear Canyon Farm"
3271 Bozeman Trail Rd.,
Bozeman, MT 59715

You can also make donations online at
bearcanyonfarm.com