

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns

Community Food Security Project

*Know thy Farmer – Stories of Local Farmers from
The Willamette Valley*

Featuring Tom Winterrowd ▪ Pitkin Winterrowd Farms ▪ Canby, Oregon

**INEC: Describe your farm operation: How big is your farm? What do you grow?
How do you market your product? Are you conventional, organic, and or food alliance
certified?**

Tom Winterrowd (T.M.): "Pitkin Winterrowd Farms is a 21 acre farm begun in 1999. We are a "young farm" growing only the past four years. Because of our youth we are learning, evolving and making mistakes. This is where much of our learning comes.

Our products fit into five categories. Because we are direct farm marketer and sell at markets twelve months a year we offer a broad selection of products in small quantities.

I. Nursery Stock-apple, fig, pear trees, table grapes, blueberries, currants and gooseberries.

II. Annual Vegetable Starts-heirloom tomatoes, chiles and peppers and herbs.

III. Orchard/Row Crops-peppers, chiles, tomatoes, beans, herbs, edible pumpkins/squash, potatoes, apples, plums, figs, pears and quince.

IV. Value Added Products-garlic grower kits, garlic braids, mason Bee hives, plant cloches and herb wreaths.

V. Chickens-We raise chickens and sell eggs and layer chickens.

We define our farm as sustainable using organic growing procedures, balancing economics with social and environmental pressures."

INEC: Why do you do what you are doing?

TM: "Using the opportunity to grow clean quality food and help educate people about growing great gardens."

INEC: What is your vision or goal for your farm?

TM: "Create a farm that balances the pressures of economics, social (labor and customers) and the environment."

INEC: What sustains your vision?

TM: "Every year seeing our ground become more productive. Seeing our chickens healthier, happier and more productive. Tasting a Spartan Apple or Hudson's Golden Gem Apple that we propagated for the first time."

INEC: What would you want others to know about farming? What would you want people who purchase foods to know about farming?

“If we are to have local farms we need ALL urban dwellers to shop weekly at farmer's markets, support retailers who sell product from local farmers and eat at restaurants who buy and support local production.”

INEC: What would you want others to know about farming? What would you want people who purchase foods to know about farming?

“Food security is not sourcing our food from Mexico and Chile. Food Security is not receiving all our food from the Salinas Valley or other areas of California. Oregonians need to think about eating what is in "Season.”

“Our farm worked with Marion/Polk County FoodShare and Growing Gardens to provide over 300 tomato and pepper starts for their low income programs. People growing their own gardens is empowering and we want to support that activity.”