



Henning Sehmsdorf & Elizabeth Simpson S & S Homestead Farm

On the S & S Homestead Farm, everything is connected: a single unit. “We work together to grow healthy food so we can eat and have the strength to do the work; the food we grow is shared by the animals we care for who become food, too, and who enrich the soil with their wastes. And the food is shared with the community through the schools, neighbors, church and CSA. There is no separation here between home, food, family, community.”

Both Henning and Elizabeth grew up around farming. “Coming to Lopez was like coming home.” Henning remembers harvesting food during his boarding school holidays in Germany. Elizabeth grew up on a farm in Hood River, Oregon and was always involved with gardening, canning, freezing, making jam. Their home is a connection to the families, cultures and places they grew up in – and a future for their children, as well. Henning’s son Johann returned to the farm after completing a degree in forestry and a two-year internship in carpentry and cabinet making. He has been constructing out buildings, salt boxes,

a cheese press – whatever needs to be built. “Tradition is important to us. We have a tradition of home going into the past, present and future and extending widely into the community.”

Elizabeth puts together a salad picked fresh from the house garden to feed the crew that has been putting up hay all day. “Our daily bond is shared work, a shared vision of this place. Home and marriage are one thing to us. Next year, Henning turns 70 and I promised him I’d be on the farm full time while we are still healthy and active; to spend those days – every day – working together.”

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are one thing to us.”*

Henning quotes Terry Tempest Williams who said, “The most revolutionary thing you can do is stay home.” Henning explains, “She’s talking, of course, about going deep, becoming a part of your place and landscape on every level. That’s what home is about.”

Note: Henning & Elizabeth have offered to donate the S & S Homestead Farm to the Lopez Community Land Trust. LCLT is exploring the feasibility of running the farm as a project in sustainable agriculture.