



The GRAPEVINE

NEWS FROM UNION GROVE FARM

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Spring has arrived at Union Grove Farm, and we're busier than bees. It's an exciting time as we welcome our sheep, prepare for grapevine planting, continue to build beautiful soil regeneratively and get ready for visitors to experience and stay at the farm.

Shhh ... we're counting sheep ...

224 Katahdin sheep to be exact! Yes, the **sheep have arrived at UGF**. Ewe may have heard the bleating calls from our newest employees who arrived on the fields about three weeks ago and have been happily munching on our cover crops and beautiful pasture at our Maple View Farm site.

We are so excited they are here! Sheep play an integral role on our regenerative farm by not only trimming the cover crops in our pasture, but also by fertilizing the fields. Studies show the saliva secreted by the sheep activate certain auxins in the cover crops to stimulate growth and strengthen the root systems. Take a minute to [learn more about Katahdin sheep](#) on our new blog series from Jay Bryant.



We are **planning to offer sheep experience tours for folks to visit and spend time herding the sheep**, so please stay tuned and look for more information to come on our UGF website.

Check out our new vine lines ...

You may have seen the lights of our tractors at night in the field at Maple View as we burn the midnight oil to get 128 vine lines prepped for our first large series planting of our proprietary Muscadine table grape.

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help us plant the vines. We will be reaching out to you directly to provide more details for the May planting.

April showers bring ... beautiful soil

We have been blessed with ample rains this spring, and all of our field watchers have been shocked with the explosive growth of greenery on our fields. This is not a result of fertilizers, but the combination of crops we use that have a symbiotic relationship to increase the nutrient value in the soil and for our crops. Enjoy the diversity of the cover crops as well as the incredible soil being built under them.



Get ready to take a tour ...

In June, we will start offering tours of UGF to learn more about regenerative agriculture: tour our farm and the vermicompost lab, experience the sheep, see how we grow mushrooms, leverage hügelkultur to grow pumpkins and how we are working with nature to build and preserve the gorgeous farm ground.

... or plan to come and stay at the farm!

We have been rebuilding and renovating amazing properties for people to stay and enjoy life on the farm. This week, we are completing a 2-bedroom guest house at UGF, along with the 'tiny house' trailer beside the pool at Maple View that comes complete with a view of the vineyard. We will be renovating the farmhouse at Maple View Farm and working with artisan builders to preserve and rebuild our beautiful old tobacco cabin into a charming loft. All in, **there will be five properties for visitors to stay and experience life at Union Grove Farm.**

These vineyard properties are also available to host your events – from weddings to birthday or graduation parties, corporate offsites and more. Beautiful pastoral spaces for any event. More information to come on our UGF website.

Summer camps from our friends at The Honeysuckle

Looking for the perfect summer camp for your little ones? Look no further than Camp Honeysuckle! Located at the Honeysuckle Tea House in Chapel Hill, the camp offers a unique and unforgettable experience for kids aged 4-10. The activities are designed to inspire creativity, exploration, and learning through play, with everything from catching crawdads in the creek to picking fresh blueberries from the garden. Find more info and sign up for camp on [The Honeysuckle website](#).

April 30: Celebrate our heroic fire fighters at OGF

Please join the Orange Grove Fire Department [OGFD] on [April 30, 2:00-4:00pm, at the Orange Grove Fire Station](#), to celebrate the **50th anniversary of the OGF** and recognize the outstanding firemen and women who volunteer to support our community.



This courageous team responds to over 500 calls every year in service to the people of Orange County. We are proud that our UGF CEO, Greg Bohlen, serves as a volunteer fireman and a board member and is an enthusiastic supporter of this valuable team of fire fighters. **Come be part of this celebration!**

'Little House by the Vineyard' blog series

We are so pleased to announce our new blog series: [Little House by the Vineyard](#). It is a reflection on life on a farm, through the unique perspective of **Jay Bryant, Union Grove Farm's Poet Laureate**. Please take time to visit our website and read his latest musings on the ['The Rise and Fall of the Plow'](#), ['Monoculture'](#) and ['Everything you always wanted to know about Katahdin Sheep'](#).

Are you very social ...? Join our team!

We are seeking a **summer intern or ongoing part-time Social Media Specialist** to help us leverage our social platforms to spread the word about all the great things we are doing at UGF. This role will be responsible for taking and posting beautiful photography and impactful videos, developing blogs and vlogs, and engaging with the regenerative ag and community influencers to drive awareness and followers for our vineyard and Center for Regenerative Agriculture. [Let us know](#) if you are interested in joining our amazing team!

We hope you all **are enjoying this beautiful springtime**. As always, please feel free to [reach out to us](#) with any questions.

It's always a grape day at Union Grove Farm! 🍇