
Shine Bright like a Diamond Hill Farmer

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For the past month, we have been conducting crop research at the University of Georgia as part of a research and extension summer program. On this Saturday morning, we got to go from research in the field to the crops on the table to see the true fruits of labor. We went to the Athens farmers market where we met Diamond Hill farmers Antho and Rae who were in a rush to set up labels before the market got into full swing. After a quick introduction, we jumped right in to help make labels with today's prices to hang on produce baskets. From chatting with the farmers as we worked, we learned a lot about their unique paths to agriculture. Antho once worked in the service industry but decided he wanted to serve a more fulfilling purpose. When asked why he went into farming, he simply said it was extremely gratifying to have his hands in the dirt, growing food from the earth to put in the hands of the people. Rae used to be an elementary school teacher, but after being a member of World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), Rae felt called to try her hand at farming as she always was drawn to nature and food. She feels that farming is about as basic and as grounded as you can get. Diamond Hill farms is an organic farm with 8 acres on two properties in the Athens area. They grow a wide variety of fruits, vegetables - and even flowers - all year long. They take pride in their local and sustainable produce and want the consumers to feel comfortable that they grow everything they sell. Beyond the incredible variety of fresh produce, watching the farmers interact and connect with the community was by far the best part for us. Watching the excitement in people's eyes as they picked the exact produce they wanted really illustrated the wonders of farm-to-table agriculture. Overall, the experience showed us how rewarding organic farm-to-table experiences could be and if you ever get a chance, check out the Athens Farmers Market!

