



An insight into a local farm making a difference.

# *Iron Lion Farm*

## *Why Organic?*

An organic vegetable is one that is grown without the use of any synthetic herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers or bioengineered genes. This way of farming is a benefit to the environment and wildlife. In addition, organic vegetables are generally fresher when bought do to them not containing any preservatives to increase shelf life.

Farmers like Christina and Decton Hyltton grow and provided their families and community with a variety of organic vegetables. Not only are they grown without harsh chemicals they are grown with love. From their farm to your table.



Pictured above; Christina Hyltton and two of her children.

## **Local Farmers with the Heart of a Lion**

### *Planting seeds to feed the future.*

Iron Lion Farms is located in Oglethorpe County, GA. The farm is a massive 61 acres and owned and operated by husband-and-wife Decton and Christina Hyltton. Mr. and Mrs. Decton have been running this location for an astonishing 10 years. But this is no ordinary farm. The farm produces organically grown vegetables and products, alongside educational services, a herd of goats and delicious honey from bees on site.

The two have for many years also fought to bring awareness to the disparity's black farmers like themselves in America face. Fair access to USDA loans is at the top of Chritina Hyltton's in her fight for equality for black farmers amongst many other issues.

In between tending to a 61-acre farm, fighting for equality, and raising a family the Hylttons still find time to invite and educate families at the farm. The two host a summer camp called the Earth Child Summer Camp that is an adventurous camp that engages participants in nature through hands on learning. The children experience nature, healthy foods, learn the interconnections of life, explore, and make art. Iron Lion Farm is also home to a herd of very happy goats. They occasionally host workshops on the health and care of these wonderful animals.

With so many things happening here this farm has become a staple in its community. Farmers like these fill the gap between farmers and the community through activism and opening their doors for educational opportunities. Anyone who is interested in visiting and learning more could visit them on Instagram at "ironlionfarm". There you can learn more about the Iron Lion Farm and all the enriching opportunities they have available.

## Final Thoughts

The farmers that grow our food have a true passion and love for the industry that keeps our society growing. Interactions like what the Iron Lion Farm offer the community allows us to connect with the source of our food. Farmers are and have always been a vital part of every society. Unfortunately, they tend to be underappreciated and overlooked. We may not all have an Iron Lion type farm in our town but if you ever meet a farmer just take a moment and tell them...thank you.

I leave you dear reader with a final thought plucked directly from the Iron Lion Farmers themselves.

“May you continue to count your blessings and remember that your life is sacred and so are your neighbors – both human and non-human”.



## About the Authors

Nyiefa Cumberbatch and Lola Hammond are Undergraduate Researchers at the University of Georgia. They are part of a larger group of students participating in a Crop Genetics and Genomics internship this summer at the university. The group visited Marigold Market to make the connections between the work they do in the labs and how their research impacts their community. Partnerships like these allows scientist and researchers to see how their work is making a difference.

