



Addendum to Issue 1. September 2015. Part 3.

## Communities:

**The Farm, Tennessee.** Founded in 1971 The Farm is located in Lewis County, Tennessee. The community has its origins in San Francisco and in a caravan of 60 buses with about 270 hippies aboard which set out to find land. This was found near Summertown where 1,750 acres were purchased. At one stage The Farm had a population of 1,500.. Stephen Gaskin, credited with the founding of the community, and its driving force for many years, visited New Zealand in 1978 and opened the first Nambassa Festival. He also attended the 1981 Nambassa Festival. Gaskin died last year. In the 1970s the community was the accepted model for co-operative self-sufficient alternative living. A key facet of The Farm is its outreach work and over its 40+ year history, The Farm community has created numerous nonprofit organizations as part of its mission to create positive change in the world. These include Plenty International (international aid), Kids To the Country (brings at-risk children to the Farm), The Ecovillage Training Center (sustainability education), Swan Conservation Trust (1425-acre nature preserve), PeaceRoots Alliance (global peace movement), and More Than Warmth (students creating peace quilts sent to children around the world), and many more. The Farm is probably best known for its midwifery program. The Farm today retains its original spiritual ethos and the founding principles of nonviolence and respect for the earth remain in place. Currently approximately 200 residents and over 20 Farm businesses contribute to the maintenance and operation of the community. The community is managed by an elected board of directors along with a variety of committees staffed by volunteers. The Farm Education/Conference Center hosts conferences and is the umbrella organization for the Farm School, which offers alternative education to both resident and neighboring school-age students. GreenLife Retreats is the host of The Farm Experience Weekend and a variety of other events and activities that give visitors a more in depth way to learn about community life. (Sources: IC website and Wikipedia. Links: <http://www.thefarm.org/> <http://www.thefarmcommunity.com/>) [G.D.]



Above: Planting out. Below (upper): Harvest time. Below (lower) Community meditation. Circa middle 1970s. All images. [hippycommune.wordpress.com](http://hippycommune.wordpress.com)

