

Pioneer Valley Heritage Grain Newsletter #002 May 2008



Here we are planting a variety called Dylan at North Amherst Community Farm (Simple Gifts).



Revitalizing local wheat
and grain culture.



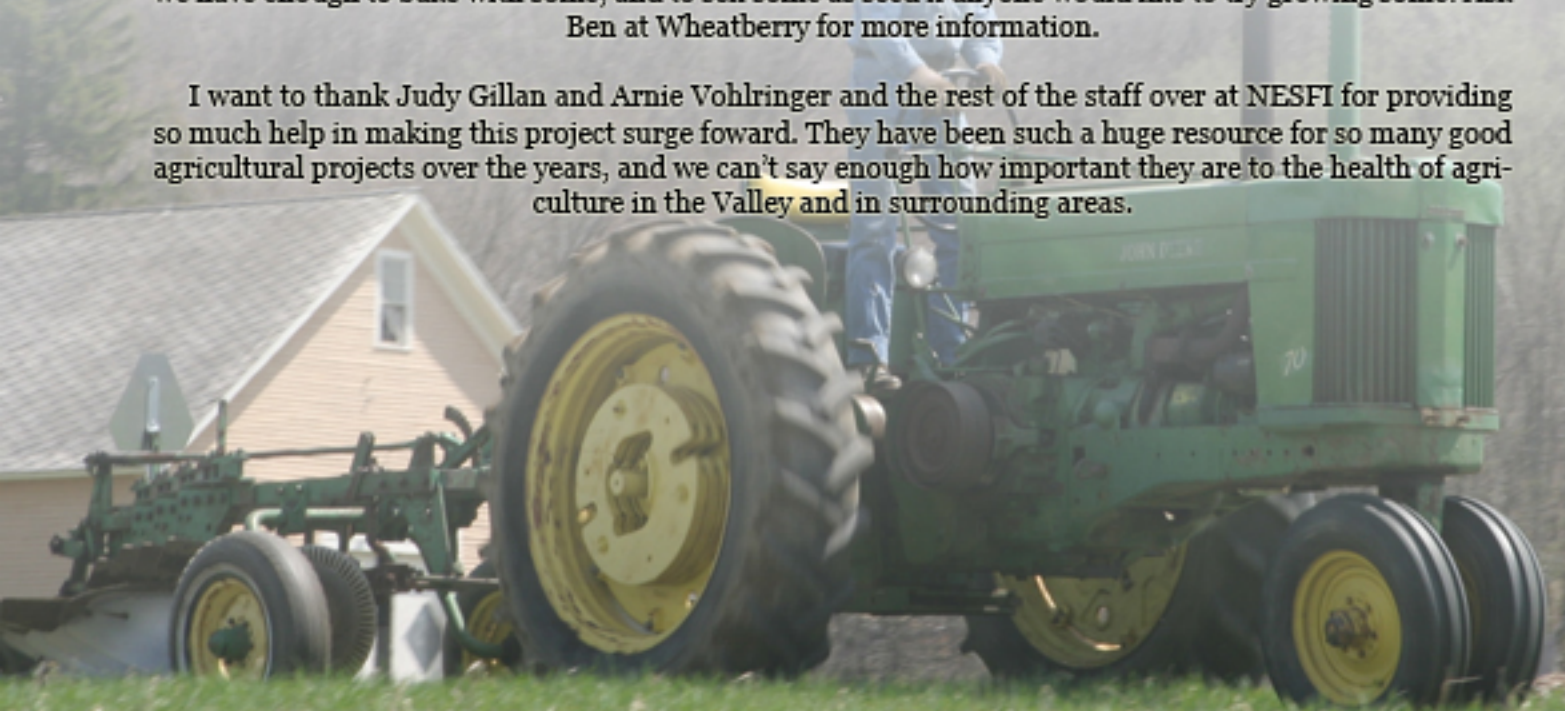
Ben pulling a two bottom plow on one of Arnie's vintage John Deeres.

Join us tomorrow May 7th for Heritage seed planting and primary wheat Trials at The New England Small Farm Institute!

Things are happening! Ben and Arnie plowed the trial fields down at NESFI in late April and tomorrow Wednesday May 2nd from 1-3pm we will be planting the primary trials and heritage seed trials at New England Small Farm Institute in Belchertown and also **sampling fresh bread made from Paire Red Fife Wheat!** come help us put seed in the ground and get your own seed for planting! This is a community funded event so come and join us!

We also planted two display/education plots at Kendrick Park and the North Amherst Community Farm last week at Earthday. Today, we will be doing secondary tillage at NESFI as well as putting some additional trial plots at Lazy Acres Farm in Hadley. Allan Zuchowski owns and operates Lazy Acres, and is excited about growing wheat. As he put it, "Hadley has some of the best soil in the world...we are going to grow some first rate wheat here." Our shipment of Red Fife from Marc Loiselle in Canada just arrived and we have enough to bake with some, and to sell some as seed if anyone would like to try growing some! Ask Ben at Wheatberry for more information.

I want to thank Judy Gillan and Arnie Vohlringer and the rest of the staff over at NESFI for providing so much help in making this project surge forward. They have been such a huge resource for so many good agricultural projects over the years, and we can't say enough how important they are to the health of agriculture in the Valley and in surrounding areas.



Arnie Vohlringer on his John Deere 70 Tandem plowing the trial field with Ben.
(Arnie is demonstrating an old style of tractor riding not currently recommended for safety reasons)