

COUPLE CHASING FARM DREAM



CHRISTOPHER MASSA REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

John Suscovich of New Milford hosts the 'Growing Farms Podcast,' giving farmers a place to share insight into their lives and work. Find out more about John and Kate Suscovich's dream to own a farm at foodcyclist.com or growingfarmspodcast.com.

Research, hard work part of effort to find land

BY BRYNN MANDEL
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

For John and Kate Suscovich, the eggs — and other organic edibles — came way before any chickens.

In fact, the 20-something urbanites-turned-aspiring farmers' future chickens are not yet even eggs. But for the married couple, a vision of raising birds and plants has already hatched.

The duo has a business plan

"WE LOOKED AT THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HAPPIEST DOING WHAT THEY WERE DOING ... IT WAS FARMERS, SO WE KNEW WE WANTED TO DEVELOP A LIFE AROUND THAT."

JOHN SUSCOVICH, NAUGATUCK NATIVE

posted to a bulletin board in their New Milford home. They have bicycled more than 5,000 miles, stopping to volunteer at organic farms from Connecticut to coastal Washington in exchange for farming advice

and places to rest. They spent most of 2012 as apprentices on an organic farm in eastern Connecticut, doing everything from pulling weeds to delivering produce to customers.

To complete their unconven-

tional dream, they now need land upon which to raise their fantasy birds and herbs. But finding a swath of earth to farm for newcomers to agrarian life has proved daunting.

In Litchfield, Fairfield and Westchester counties, where the Suscoviches hope to set up a community supported agriculture cooperative, land remains expensive. Tracts suitable for farming are few and far between.

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