

## Farm Tours By Appointment

### **Beegrrl Gardens** North Oakland

Host: Ruby Blume, IUH founder

*Lot size: 4875 sf Area Farmed: 2500 sf Percentage used: 51%*

Availability: Weekdays Wed-Friday, mornings or late afternoon preferred. Limited weekend availability. Please inquire.

**Beegrrl Gardens** is an oasis of creativity and simple beauty in the heart of North Oakland. You will see over 250 species of plants including 18 fruit trees, 7 kinds of berries, vegetables, flowers, medicinals, natives and wetland plants, plus alternative bee hive systems, quail, rabbits, greywater system, and more. As well as a thorough introduction to the site, you might also pet a baby bunny, eat a quail egg or sample some of the delicious cultured butter, cheese, preserves, bread, natural soda or wine made on site. Host Ruby Blume has been gardening 25+ years and as a proud generalist can speak to and answer questions on a broad variety of homesteading related topics from bees to harvest to home preservation and cheese making. If you have a specific topic you are most interested in, she is glad to tailor the tour to your desires.

### **Soul Flower Farm** El Sobrante

Host: Maya Blow, IUH Faculty, Herbal Medicine

*Lot size: 2-1/2 . acres Area farmed:: 1/2 acre Livestock area: 1/2 acre Percentage used for farming: 40%*

Availability: Weekdays 11am-1pm preferred, weekends 11am-2pm possible.

**Soul Flower Farm** is a hidden gem, nestled in the hills of El Sobrante. Down a narrow dirt road that feels like a country lane, you will find a small orchard full of mature fruit trees, eighty year old grape vines and a long hillside field stretching below you, which includes a highly productive vegetable garden and livestock areas. Soul Flower Farm strives to incorporate biodynamic farming methods and permaculture design to be more self-sustaining. In less than three years they have transformed an overgrown weedy hillside into a productive homestead. In addition to the usual kitchen veggies they are growing botanicals for their herbal medicine CSA and experimenting with drought resistant grain crops like amaranth and quinoa. They have many established fruit trees, an herb garden, a variety of livestock, and an apiary. Soul Flower farmers have big plans to bridge city and country economics. They have explored community food sharing by creating an ongoing homemade food co-op. Soul Flower Farm offers classes, scheduled tours, and hosts monthly community work parties.

### **PineHeavvyn Farm** Montclair

Host: Jeannie MacKenzie , IUH Faculty, Backyard Chickens

*Lot size 20,000 sf (1/2 acre) Area farmed: 4000 sf Percentage used:20%*

Availability: Saturday thru Tuesday

This sprawling homestead was the first farm in Montclair, started in 1918. There were originally chickens and a couple of goats, and now that tradition continues!! Come ramble around to see several different coop designs, small orchard and vegetable gardens that include many perennials, bee hives, a small spring fed pond, and a grey water system. The goats love visitors and Jeannie does too! She has been keeping her small milking herd of between 4 and 10 does and kids for 7 years. The goat and chicken manure fertilize the garden, and the food scraps help to feed the animals. Learn about country life in the city. Tasting may include honey from her bees and other farm made treats!

**Green Faerie Farm** Berkeley

Host: Jim Montgomery, IUH Faculty, Urban Goat Farming

*Lot Size: 7800 sq ft Garden Area: 3000 sf Livestock Area 2000 sf Total area farmed: 64%*

Availability: After May 31, 2014 daily in the summer, weekends and late afternoons during the school year

Established in 1995, **Green Faerie Farm** includes a large vegetable garden as well as many mature fruit trees, and a smattering of unusual tropical plants such as cactus nopales, kiwi and pineapple guava. At any given time the farm also boasts some 20 chickens, rabbits, a couple of beehives, a handful of quail, 2-5 Oberhasli dairy goats and their kids. Sustainability features include a greywater system and a milking parlor made out of natural building materials. Livestock manure serves as compost for the veggie garden and the farm animals eat plant matter passed over by the residents. Host Jim Montgomery has been keeping animals for over 30 years and offers a wealth of information about their care and integration into a small scale urban farming operation for the health and bounty of all involved. Tasting might include cheese produced on site or a sampling of goat stew.