



CONCORD HOUSING NEWS

A Publication of the Concord Housing Foundation, Inc.

Working to Preserve Concord's Housing Diversity

Volume 12, Issue 1

April 2014

Farming Team with Local Roots to Lease McGrath Farm



Melissa Maxwell (left) and Lise Holdorf have leased McGrath Farm from the town. They plan to start a CSA, in addition to operating the more traditional farmstand at the farm's location on Barrett's Mill Road.

When you read this, a pair of young farmers will be looking out on the sun-dappled fields of the McGrath farm, from a newly redesigned farmhouse and apartment. Melissa Maxwell and Lise Holdorf (along with her husband and baby daughter) moved in on March 22nd, having signed a lease with the Town to farm this land for the next five years. Melissa and Lise have both worked at Appleton Farm in Ipswich, on land overseen by the Trustees of Reservations.

If you met these two eager, enthusiastic young women, you might wonder what they know about farming. You'd soon realize that the town committee

that chose them from a good-sized group of applicants chose wisely indeed. Concord native Lise (CCHS '98) has a degree in Human Biology from Stanford, while Melissa earned her degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Michigan. Their knowledge of the art and science of farming—and running a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)—has been built from the ground up (literally). Each worked at Appleton, first as a seasonal intern, then as year-round Assistant Manager, learning the wintertime routine of planning, *(continued on page 2)*