

Farm Opportunity in Paw, Illinois

I own 19 acres of property with an unused long narrow strip of land on the east side of Willow Creek, about 4 miles northwest of Paw Paw, IL. There is no structure on it, nor electricity or water. (There is drinking water and electricity across the creek, but it would be hard to access.) At places, it's about 60 to 100 feet wide and other places it is much more narrow. It runs for about 2000 feet along the creek and is approximately 2 acres of land.

A few years ago I had a bull dozer in there taking down storm damaged trees - mostly box elders. I left all the mature walnut trees along the creek. The trees we cut down are in large piles and quite dry by now. We have been cutting some good wood from the downed trees, but now its ready to burn. What's left after the burning will be put into hugelkultures. I have to burn the pile down a bit, because it's too narrow for the bulldozer to dig a huge pile of trees into the ground. So we will burn some and bury some for hugelkultures.

I would like to put this narrow strip to good use, yet I don't have the time to give to it as I am spending half my time at my Iowa farm. It has good soil. There are all kinds of rocks along the creek bank because the total 19 acres was a sand and gravel pit at one time. Lots of black dirt and sand above the creek. It also floods once in a great while, but there are higher places along the creek which don't flood. Lots of natural materials there.

If you know anyone (greenhorn or even an old codger) who has some or all the following characteristics of my ideal person for this land, this is what I have come up with as the ideal circumstances/person to handle this strip of property.

I envision a modern day shepherd (probably without the sheep). This ideal person would have these qualities:

- 1) enjoys being alone a lot
- 2) likes to garden and has skills in raising some farm animals if he wants them - i.e. a few pigs, chickens, maybe even a cow. Bees?
- 3) is physically strong
- 4) has good carpentry skills. Masonry skills would be cool for building a stone hut out of local stone (I have plenty).
- 5) can help me put up a good fence along the entire border of my eastern property along with Dave, a fellow who helps me on the property. We already have one strand of barb wire run along the border.
- 6) would be willing to make this a long-term relationship/contract if it looks like it is working out.
- 7) is extremely neat.
- 8) is creative with a great imagination

In exchange for offering the use of this land, this person would share some eggs with me (providing he raises chickens) and perhaps a stew chicken, maybe even a pig (or a part of a pig) if he raises pigs. I would like some help with the mowing,

too.

A well-behaved, gentle big dog (Great Pyrennes?) is a possibility. This property could also be offered to a couple, as long as they get along well. This man/couple could be young or retired.

As I said, it occasionally floods over there, but there is high ground where a tiny home on wheels, strawbale, or stone hut could be built . I would provide the funds for this, but also keep the structure. Water could be brought over from my outside spigot, but it is quite a ways away. As is the electricity. Solar electricity is always a possibility. Access to this eastern strip of land is off Beemerville Road, and this access is (at present) not big enough to get a car through, but it is big enough to get my John Deere Gator through and a mowing tractor. My road into the main part of the property is just across the creek off of Beemerville Road, so there is a road into most of the property - just not this east side yet.

You can google the entire 19 acres by using my main address: 934 Steward Road, Steward, IL 60553 OR by using the new address off of Beemerville Road (3031 Beemerville Road, Paw Paw, IL 61353). Believe it or not, the two addresses and different towns (!) are both from this one piece of property which I have had for 42 years.

If you know any hardy, likeable soul out there who would take over this strip of land and develop it, please let me know. I am not selling that strip of land, but it is never used - and needs to be. This could be a great opportunity for someone with a long-range vision. I'm talking 7 generations.

I am working with Mark Shepard (author of Restoration Agriculture), raising his hybrid hazelnut trees and developing a permaculture farm on the 19 acres. (really 17 acres on the west side of the creek). Hopefully, if the ideal person is found, he/she would be of like mind to continue the hugelkultures with chestnut and hazelnut plantings, fruit trees, vines, etc.

The downside: There is very little employment around here without driving several to many miles.

The upside: - this is a beautiful piece of property with so many possibilities!

Thank you,

Jane Heim

[815-988-2628](tel:815-988-2628)

ajheim@earthlink.net

www.restorethatfarm.com