Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Film Profiles (videos)

The Real Dirt on Farmer John

Siegel, Taggart. *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*. New York: CAVU Pictures, 2006. Super 8, 83 min. https://youtu.be/0egeHh1_Sb4.

After taking over a farm from his father in the late 1960s, John Peterson turns it into an experiment of art and agriculture, making it a haven for hippies, radicals, and artists. Demonized by his community for his radical new appearance and approach to farm life, Peterson suffers a crippling setback when he is forced to sell off his farming equipment, much of his family's acreage, and dairy cattle in the debt-ridden 1980s. But in the early 1990s, Peterson returns to what was left of the farm, determined to bring it back to life. Noticing the ongoing multinational takeover of American farming and betting instead on the future of organic produce, Peterson turned the old farm into an organic operation, naming it *Angelic Organics*, one of the largest Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in the United States, a beacon of today's booming organic farming movement. A multi-faceted enterprise, the farm now provides fresh organic produce for 1,200 shareholder families, on-site educational programs, and vast employment opportunities for local people. (Source: Independent Lens)

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About the Environmental Film Profiles collection

Related links:

- Official Film Website
  http://www.farmerjohnmovie.com/
- Angelic Organic Website
  http://www.angelicorganics.com/ao/index.php
- Der Bauer, der das Gras wachsen hört [The farmer who hears the grass growing] (Film Profile)
  https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/der-bauer-der-das-gras-wachsen-hoert-farmer-who-hears-grass-growing
- Der Bauer mit den Regenwürmern [The Farmer and the Earthworms] (Film Profile)
  https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/der-bauer-mit-den-regenwuermern-farmer-and-earthworms

Websites linked in this text:

- http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/realdirt/film.html
- https://www.environmentandsociety.org/multimedia/collection/environmental-films-project