

Official Newsletter of LIRA

Vol. 1 Issue 4 • JUN 2023

## Farm Updates!

BY PASTOR CHRISTOPHER MARONDE

Winter break did not last long here on the farm! We have been hard at work through winter and spring!

**Here at the end of June we take a look back at all the projects and events that have taken place so far in 2023.**

From amazing guests on our Webinar series to growing additions to our farm systems, it has been a busy place since February!

We invite you to take a scroll through the newsletter to see what all has been happening on the farm! There is a LOT going on and much more excitement to come!!

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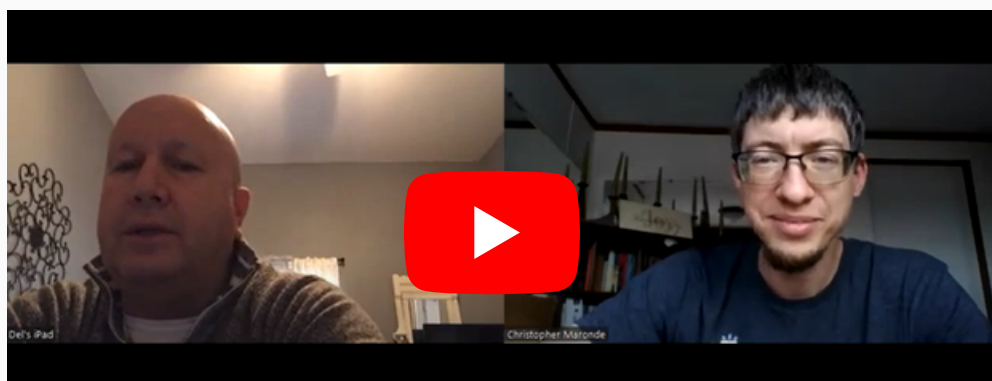
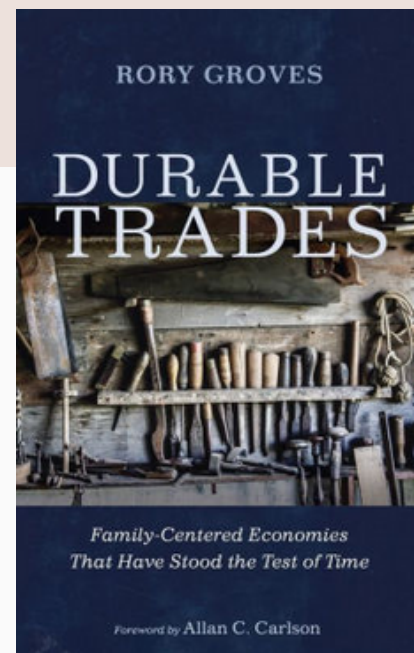
# LIRA Webinar Series

BY PASTOR CHRISTOPHER MARONDE

To check out our Webinar Series Visit:  
[www.youtube.com/@lutheransinag](http://www.youtube.com/@lutheransinag)



Rory Groves, Author of Durable Trades  
<https://gatherandgrow.us/>

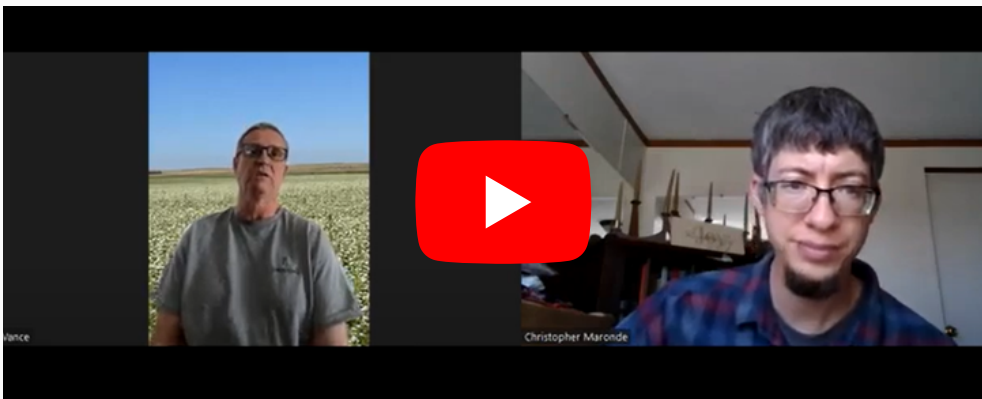


Del Ficke, Co-Founder of Grazemaster Group  
<https://www.grazemastergroup.com/>





Joel Grosbach, Lutheran Regenerative Farmer, Nebraska



Vance McCoy, farmer in southwest Nebraska and owner of Triple Creek Cover Crops

[www.facebook.com/triplecreek.covercrops](http://www.facebook.com/triplecreek.covercrops)



Joel Salatin, author and farmer in Swope, Virginia  
[polyfacefarms.com](http://polyfacefarms.com)





Kimberly Clark, Associate Professor Ag Science CUNE



Michael Thomas, Catholic Land Movement

## Why LIRA?

**"We have had the pleasure of supporting LIRA with our own hands and resources during the early stages of the project and look forward to a long relationship as our family grows up. This unique project is vitally important, not just as a means for the next generation to learn skills for food security, but also as the future hub of a tangible community where we can learn to live, work and grow together. LIRA has a courageous vision and plan to build back faithfully, against the chaos of our times."**

**John Rabe, Lincoln, NE**





# February Highlights

## More Baby Chicks Arrive!!!

Our Pasture Egg Laying Flock is expanding! These hardworking hens will be playing an integral part of our soil restoration program.

Ducks and Goslings arrive soon!!



## Opportunities Abound! We're In The Grain Grinding Business!

The opportunity for purchasing grain mill and mixing equipment offers our farm the ability to become more self-sustainable AND offers future students a wide variety of experiences and skills.



## Mulch Time!

Repurposing tree cuttings and branches enriches soil and plant life. We are setting up farm sustainability with our on-site mulching.



## Fantastic Barn Find!

A huge winter task was to get the barn lift functioning. Safely lowered by a crew of LIRA friends, the lift had a surprise for us as it reached the bottom.



# For The Love of Spring!

Perennial Flowers, Onions, Sweet Potatoes, Asparagus, Herbs, Leeks, Kale, Broccoli, Cabbage, Brussel Sprouts, Tomatoes, Peppers, Basil, Calendula....Oh!, the beautiful variety for our seasonal eating!

Students and apprentices here on the farm will be learning first hand how to start a wide range of food from seed and learn how to care for those plants all the way to food preservation methods.





# Spring



Pasture Flock All Grown Up and Hard at Work Out in The Pasture!

Our Animals Play a Vital Role In Healing and Restoring Soil Health!



OUR \$40 CHICKEN TRACTOR!

Samantha's Little Homestead Flock Gets a New Shelter Fit For Homestead Grazing.

Simple, Easy to Move, Predator Proof!



OUR \$30 BROODER SHED!!

It Doesn't Have to Be Expensive, It Just Needs to Work!

Repurposing Great Aunt Myrtle's Chicken Brooder: ReRoof, Repair, and Loft Structure For Predator Security. We Saved this Structure!! Next, perhaps a new coat of Paint!





# Garden



Spring Planting on The HugelKultur!



June Growth on The HugelKultur!

# Fruit Guilds



**Hügelkultur, literally mound bed or mound culture, is a horticultural technique where a mound constructed from decaying wood debris and other compostable biomass plant materials is later (or immediately) planted as a raised bed. Techniques helps to improve soil fertility, water retention, and soil warming, thus benefitting plants grown on or near such mounds.**

150 Fruit Trees, Berry Bushes, Nitrogen Fixing Shrubs were planted this spring as the beginnings of diverse polyculture food forest system. Multiple Fruit Guild systems through the farm offer wide range of experiences of fruit guild design, plant care and propagation, animal integration, and whole systems design.





# Barn

Amazing Finds!

Greenhouse and Airplane In the Upper Loft of The Barn!

A Skillful and Amazing Group of LIRA supporters Take Apart the Greenhouse!



Before



After: Cleaning Time!

## Barn Work Revealed!

Huge Progress is taking place in the barn this summer! The first floor has been cleared out, dirt has been removed and leveled to building grade, and floors are being installed!! A whole new electrical system is going in as well! 2023 Goal is to have Right Wing Dorm Spaces ready for interior work THIS WINTER!



Before



After: Ready for Flooring!



## Fantastic Barn Clearing Crew!



This fantastic family from Minnesota generously gave of their time, talents, and resources to support the work of LIRA. With their help, the barn is quickly becoming a reality to house students and visitors!

Check out their farm:  
[www.piggeryrunfarm.com/](http://www.piggeryrunfarm.com/)

# Please Consider Donating To LIRA

Did you know that LIRA is supported by generous donors like you?

For projects like the barn renovation, volunteers provide the labor, you can help get them the materials!

Please consider supporting LIRA financially to:

- \*LIRA Building Fund
- \*Student Scholarship Fund
- \*General Fund

To Donate Visit: <https://lir.betterworld.org/donate>

Questions: [lutheransinag@gmail.com](mailto:lutheransinag@gmail.com)







## Chicken Fundraiser for LIRA

The Maronde's are raising broilers this summer, and they will be available to LIRA supporters for a \$20 minimum donation for a 4-5 lb. whole chicken (non-GMO feed, pastured broilers). All proceeds beyond expenses will go the work of LIRA.

Contact Pastor Maronde at  
[lutheransinag@gmail.com](mailto:lutheransinag@gmail.com)

