HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

- Razed homes to raised beds....
The beginning

- Land acquired that lead me back to my hobby of gardening.
- First issue—slugs!
The first four....

- Ducks instead of chickens....
The first egg
The Duck 'N' Roll Inn

- The farm combined with hospitality makes a viable business!
Giving to the community

- Most farms generate goodwill and protect their investment via involvement with the youth.
The Eggstravanganza

- Education and interaction with animals fosters compassion and reverence for life.
How do urban farms make money?

- Combining businesses with education, hospitality, or eateries.
- Non-profits
- Niche markets
- Adding value through cottage foods/crafts
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's)
Non-profits

- Mark Covington, farmer and community leader

10. Mark Covington: Providing home-grown vegetables to his community.

Upon returning to the community where he grew up, Mark Covington has become something of a household name to those around him. Urban gardening has become a popular way for the people of Detroit to reclaim their city, and Covington is at the helm. He developed Georgia Street Community Garden, a public garden that offers its vegetation freely to the community.
Georgia Street Community Collective

- From blight to thriving community center.
The Local Grocer, Flint, MI

- She provides micro greens and sprouts to local restaurants.
City Girls Soap, Pontiac, MI

- Thriving business that turns goats' milk into soap.
What about state ordinances?

- The Right to Farm Act: The original intent protected farmers from nuisance lawsuits due to encroaching suburbs.
- In 1999, it was amended to explicitly remove the ability of local governments to take legal action against any farming operation that meets the requirements of RTF protection.
How do you meet the requirements for RTF protection?

- GAAMPS: Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices
- Recent changes have affected small farms and urban farms.
- Under the Livestock Site Selection GAAMP, primarily residential areas are sites with more than 13 non-farm homes within an eighth of a mile of the livestock facility or one non-farm home within 250 feet of the livestock facility. However, local communities can decide to allow farm animals under these circumstances.
Cities and local ordinances

- Detroit: Agricultural ordinance in place, proposed livestock guild
- Flint: Has a master agricultural plan that includes broader food systems goals.
- Pontiac: Re-writing Master Plan to create Entrepreneurial Districts which will include progressive agriculture. They have recognized that Urban Ag is a key component of revitalization
- Grand Rapids: Recently allowed chickens.
Rooftop garden at the Laid In Detroit Duck Farm.
Soil Issues

- Small intensive farms need rich soil.
- Raised beds and rooftop gardens use rich compost.
- Organic practices are preferred and almost universal due to higher population density.
- Issues of lead and other pollution are often circumvented by simply creating our own soil.
- Inexpensive testing is available through the Garden Resource Program.
Detroit as an urban ag leader?

- As urban agriculture is embraced around the world, whether we know it or not, we have become the role model.