



Here at Nolte Hills, we've learned to change with the times. In 2009, we began to take a look at the economic climate, the changes in the nursery business and the new opportunities opening to produce and growing high quality local food.

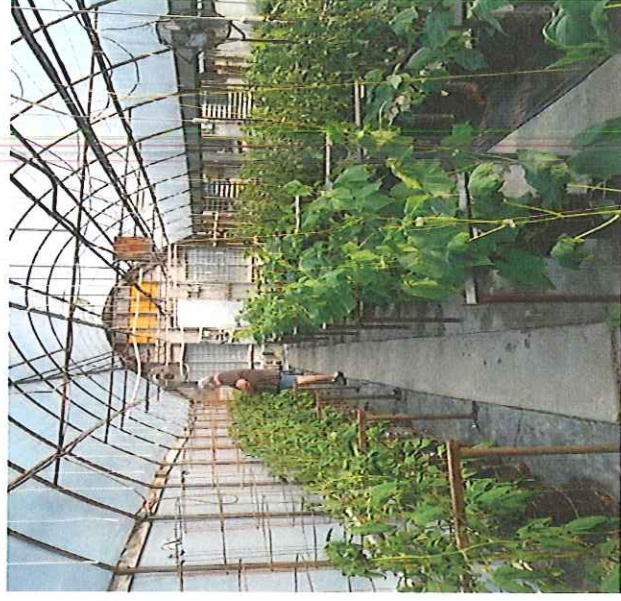
After lots of thought Betty and I decided to become farmers! We filled the green houses with tomatoes, planted our fields with vegetables and began a new phase of life. We still produce the flowers that have been our mainstay all these years.

About the same time, the price of fuel skyrocketed and we knew we had to find a way to heat our production areas for an economical cost. I worked with Mennonite friends and we designed and built our gasification furnace. This unit uses wood chips to create gas that heats our entire operation. Take a look at the furnace as you walk through the greenhouses.

After several seasons of growing our tomatoes on a trellising system designed for indoor use, I took a look at it and thought: This could be applied to outdoor production! So I began to work on using the indoor system outside. This project became the basis of our research for a SARE grant. We installed the trellis on our vegetable plot in Chamois. The trellis worked out great this year and we will grow cucumbers on it next season. They say that necessity is the mother of invention and we know this to be a fact! Our whole family is involved in our projects and the third generation now takes an active role here. Isn't that what it is all about?



Our tomato varieties include a mix of heirlooms and hybrids. We market these year round to area stores; to our St. Louis wholesalers, the Columbia Farmers' Market and at the farm.



Here's that hard working Betty at work in the greenhouse. After 47 years of marriage we can finish each other's sentences. We are a team through thick and thin. Our business has put food on our own table and helped us to raise our kids with the values of hard work, ethics and character. Nolte Hills has been and remains a family affair.

