

To whom it may concern,

Feb 26, 2023

On May 17, 2023, we had a freeze at the height of apple bloom. We were able to save our strawberry crop with overhead irrigation but the 6000 plus fruit trees had no protection. We lost 99% of our tree fruit crop, which was devastating. No crop of peaches, pears, plums or apples was the projection.

All the care and expenses of running the orchard still had to go on to care for and protect the trees but with no reward. Our customer base dropped by about 45% with no Pick Your Own experience to offer them. Our crop loss income followed. We were able to salvage that 1% of apples for our store with extensive and expensive man hours, picking a bushel here and a bushel there. They were not pretty but they were on the shelf. Most went into cider.

We were fortunate enough to have a basic CAD insurance policy. Others did not. Some farmers and orchardist won't be able to stand the loss, but we will make it to see the Fall this year, God willing and the weather plays nice. We can't speak for what will happen if this happens again.

We were left out in the cold, literally. We had no help from our State or Federal government in the way of financial assistance. Later on there was mention of a "loan opportunity" which anyone could guess was just adding fuel to our fire. The SBA had loans but guess what, not for agriculture!

We hope that you will all appreciate the plight of the orchardists or farmers in this beautiful state of Vermont and make resources available to those that bring joy, culture, beauty and food to our tiny state.

Respectfully,

Roy Mark

Linda Friedman

Linda Friedman

*Wellwood Orchards, Inc
529 Wellwood Orchard Rd
Springfield, Vermont 05156*

Overview

Wellwood Orchards is located in Weatherfield/Springfield, Vt and was purchased in 1924 by Joseph Wellwood. The Wellwood and Chapman Families incorporated the business in 1954 and it was sold to the current owner, Roy Mark and family, in 1981.

The apple orchard has gone through many changes in the past 40 years. It is now a diversified farm growing all "PICK YOU OWN" fruits. They are open to the public beginning mid-June through November 1st, for pick your own fruit and freshly pre-picked fruits available in their country store. They grow strawberries, raspberries, cherries, blueberries, peaches, pears, grapes and plums along with their primary crop, APPLES. But that is not all that Wellwood Orchards has to offer.

Wellwood Orchards has become an agritourism destination. People from all around the country and the world make their way to the orchard. They visit for the clean air, beautiful picturesque vistas and their Famous Apple Cider Donuts!

Wellwood Orchards also hosts community events such as the Strawberry Festival in June and a Harvest Festival in the Fall. The country store is packed with many Vermont goodies including Maple syrup, fresh baked pies and handmade crafts. There are free wagon rides into the orchards on weekends during apple season and parking is always free.

The orchard provides its customers with a full petting zoo where you can feed and visit with their small farm animals. It's the highlight of any family visit.

But what Wellwood Orchards is most known for... is also their motto: The Difference in Wellwoods Is FLAVOR!



