



## La Basse Cour's Sustainability Policy

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La Basse Cour is a diversified family farm in balance with nature. Founded by the Hanford family in the mid 1800's, this farm was operated by horse-power and relied on natural methods of production. Land was cleared for pastures for grazing the livestock who returned rich manure for fertilizer. Timber was used to build the house, the barns and the outbuildings, and a woodlot was managed for a constant supply of firewood for heat and for cooking. A no-name creek that flows into the West Branch of the Delaware River runs through the farm and at one time provided power for a grain mill, ice for refrigeration, and water for the livestock. A gravity-fed spring provided clean water to the barn and for the family. A horse-drawn wagon took the family into town for worship and for supplies they didn't produce for themselves on the farm. It was a life in harmony with its surroundings, its natural resources and their cycles.

Much has changed in the 150+ years since the farm was founded, yet we strive to restore that harmony within today's context as we raise our produce and livestock, and operate our farmstore and bed&breakfast for your enjoyment. Our personal values coupled with our chosen location in this beautiful, environmentally sensitive area of the Catskill Watershed motivates us each day to seek ways to minimize our impact and work to regenerate the natural resources we are so fortunate to live among.

We invite our visitors and guests to share in this ongoing labor of love. We have prepared the following list of commitments to which we hold ourselves accountable. In January of 2011, we

voluntarily agreed to participate in  **HospitallityGreen's, Green Concierge (GC) Certification Program** because their program is in sync with our own goals and we value third party certification as a way to demonstrate our progress. We are currently in Phase One of the (GC) Certification Program. Throughout the year we will continue to improve and track our environmental sustainable practices. It is our intention to qualify as a Tier One – Bronze facility under the GC Certification program by the close of 2011. Practices within our stated commitments specific to our participation in **Phase One of the Green Concierge Certification Program** are asterisked with .

### *Our Commitments Toward Sustainability*

*Livestock and Pleasure Animals:* We are committed to humane animal practices to ensure the health and wellbeing of our livestock and pets. Clean and safe housing, quality balanced rations, fresh water, secure fencing, healthy pasture, proper veterinary care and humane handling, all without the

use of synthetic chemicals, are the hallmarks of our farm. We raise heritage breeds of livestock to enhance biodiversity. We adopt our pets from rescues and animal shelters.

*Energy:* We are committed to reducing our consumption of fossil fuels through the implementation of energy conservation measures and of cost-effective, farm-scale alternative energy.



We have participated in an energy audit within the last 2 years

*Water:* We are committed to reducing our water use through the implementation of water-saving behaviors and devices. We are committed to protecting the quality of the water resources on our farm through the implementation of practices that minimize runoff to surface water and to groundwater and that repair and maintain riparian buffer zones, and the use of biodegradable and environmentally-friendly personal care, animal care, and cleaning products.



We are presently testing Green Seal certified non-toxic cleaning products.

*Natural Resources:* We are committed to managing our natural resources on the farm – the soil, and the cropland and diverse habitats and wildlife that it supports and the food that it grows – through appropriate management of woodlots, fencing and livestock access, and composting and manure management, without the use of synthetic chemicals. We re-use and recycle paper, plastics, batteries, linens, and electronics.



Using the Resource Tracking Tool developed by HospitalityGreen, we are tracking all of our resource usage and recycling.



We dispose of hazardous waste according to state regulations.



In an effort to reduce our paper use, all maintenance requests and ordering is done electronically.



We purchase 30% recycled content office paper.



We purchase all soft tissues and paper towels made from a minimum of 50% recycled content.

*Community:* We are committed to being a contributing member of our community by being respectful of others, supporting local community efforts and charitable causes, and being active in creating and sustaining a thriving local food shed and local economy.

We welcome your participation and your suggestions.

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#### What is HospitalityGreen's Green Concierge Certification?

Hospitality Green LLC is a New York based consulting firm specializing in environmental and operations consulting services. HospitalityGreen partners with service-based and product-based clients throughout the hospitality, manufacturing and institutional healthcare industries, to implement sustainable business practices.

The Green Concierge (GC) Project, conceived by HospitalityGreen in 2009, works with tourism and lodging facilities throughout the U.S. to help improve their economic vitality and their sustainable business practices without compromising service delivery or customer satisfaction. The GC Project, through generous funding from the Empire State Development (ESD) and the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) was launched in 2010 and is currently being implemented by HospitalityGreen throughout the Catskill Watershed Region. Through the Catskill GC Project over 150 facilities are receiving technical assistance to improve their operational economic and environmental sustainability practices.

There are 40 facilities currently participating in Phase 1 of the Green Concierge (GC) Certification program. The GC Certification provides a third -party audit for performance-based improvements in resource use conservation and environmentally conscious practices.

The GC Certification process is structured in three tiers (Bronze, Silver and Gold) - with each tier providing a realistic benchmark and advancement to subsequent tiers dependent upon a business' commitment, their verifiable resource tracking and their dedication to increasingly rigorous sustainable practices.

The GC Certification was recently recognized and ranked by [Greenlodge.org](http://Greenlodge.org) as a Silver Tier Program. Along with the GC Certification, [Greenlodge.org](http://Greenlodge.org) also recognizes as Silver Tier an elite group of national and international third party certification programs.

For more information on the Green Concierge Project and HospitalityGreen, visit [www.hospitalitygreen.com](http://www.hospitalitygreen.com)