

An aerial photograph of a rural farmstead. The scene is dominated by large, rectangular agricultural fields in various stages of cultivation, some appearing brown and others green. A network of roads and paths crisscrosses the landscape. In the upper left, a body of water is visible. A small cluster of buildings, including a large barn and a house, is situated in the center of the farm. The surrounding area is densely wooded with green trees. The overall lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

GORANSON FARM DRESDEN, MAINE

Jan Goranson
Rob Johanson

Jan's Family















SUPPORTING GORANSON'S FARM



PAUL CUNNINGHAM / THE TIMES RECORD

HUNDREDS came out to Goranson's Farm in Dresden on Saturday for a fund-raising pancake breakfast to help the family replace a barn that burned this winter. The fire caused the loss of many seed potatoes and other root vegetables. Throughout the morning, volunteers cooked and served pancakes, home fries and sausage to the 400-plus well-wishers who stopped by. Rob Johanson and his wife, Jan Goranson, also gave tours of the sugar house where maple syrup was being made.

Neighbor helping neighbor, at Goranson Farm in Dresden



ANNE DUNHAM and her 11-month-old son, Robert, enjoy the hot breakfast.

Saturday, a pancake breakfast fund-raiser at Goranson Farm in Dresden filled the air with the sweet smells of maple syrup, pancakes and sausage.

More than 500 people showed up to support farm owners Jan Goranson and her husband, Rob Johanson, who lost a barn to fire in January. Along with their winter supply of carrots and cabbages, the fire also destroyed thousands of dollars worth of woodworking tools.

An even greater loss was the destruction of their certified organic seed potatoes, a cache that is expensive to replace, and takes years to accumulate.

Since the tragic fire, neigh-

bor ways to help Johanson and Goranson. Earlier this month, a community supper was held to kick off a "Raise the Barn" fund-raising effort.

Saturday's pancake breakfast was the second fund-raiser, and one that all who participated in seemed to enjoy.

While at the farm, many took time after breakfast to tour the sugar house where Johanson was busy boiling down sap to make the maple syrup that was poured on the freshly cooked pancakes.

Easter Sunday was not a day of rest for the farm either. This year Easter and Maple Syrup Sunday fell on the same day, so Goranson and Johanson again opened the farm to visitors, receiving close to 1,000 friends, both new and old.



VOLUNTEER JOE MURRAY starts a new batch of pancakes for the waiting crowd of people.

Cruising for re-construction

All aboard for Goransons' Farm



At Goranson's Farm in Dresden, reconstruction of the new Barn has begun. New supports are rising past the burned timbers from the fire last January, in the effort to have the new barn up by July in time to hold the summer hay and vegetables. Photo Peter Vickery

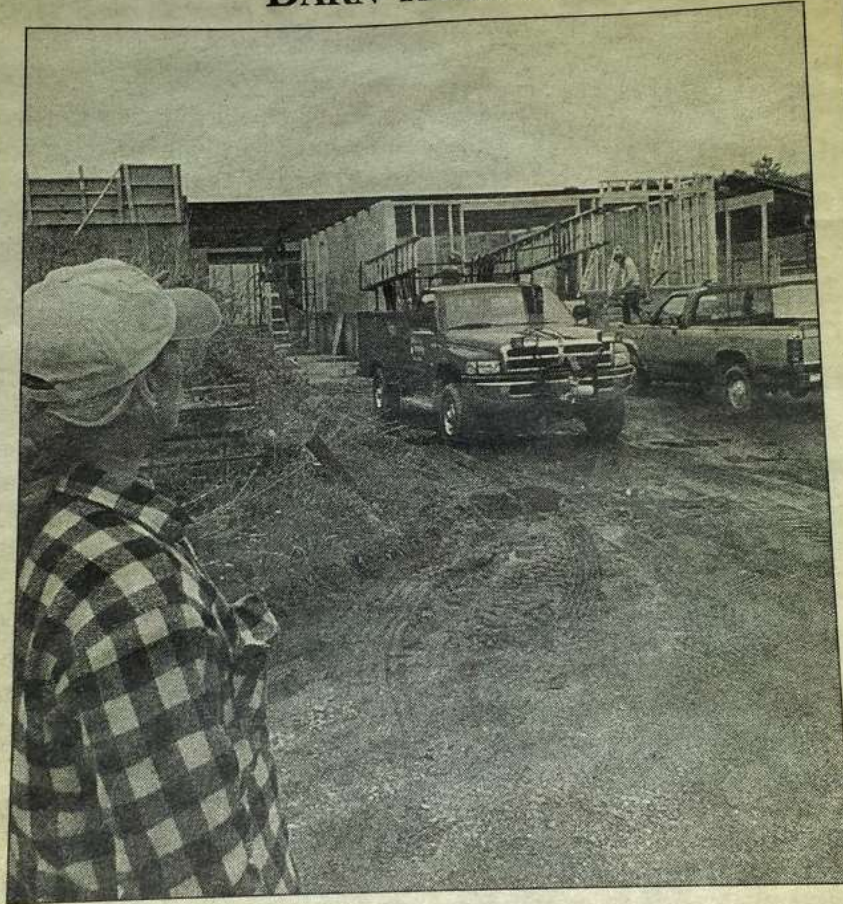
land that Jan's parents farmed, selling their high quality organic produce through their farmstand at local Farmers Markets, and through their Community Share Agriculture (CSA) program.

Their big potato barn was lost last winter to a fire. A number of events have been planned to help with reconstruction.

Save the date of June to bring your Dad on Fathers Day to a spectacular Goranson's Farm 'Raise the Rafters' Silent Auction Winter Street Church in Bath.

This year let him pick his own gift ranging from a service such as a chimney sweep date, to a holiday in a cott

BARN RAISING



PAUL CUNNINGHAM / THE TIMES RECORD

JAN GORANSON, of Goranson Farm in Dresden, looks toward the new barn that is under construction recently. The new structure will replace one that burned in January. Friends and neighbors have helped Goranson and her husband, Rob Johanson, raise funds to replace the burned barn and its contents.

Raising and harvesting



Staff photo by Andy Molloy

HARVESTING MUSTARD GREENS at the Goranson Farm in Dresden are Renee Blais, left, and Dalziel Lewis as a new barn rises in the background Wednesday. The barn is being built to replace the shed that stored the farm's winter share produce, which was destroyed by fire Jan. 12. "It's going great," farmer Rob Johanson said of the new building that should be the site of this winter's community-supported agriculture produce. More than \$90,000 has been raised for the new barn, Johanson said, which will feature refrigeration and a greenhouse.



PAUL CUNNINGHAM / THE TIMES RECORD

With the help of friends

Rob Johanson, co-owner of Goranson's Farm in Dresden, walks up to the family's new barn that friends and neighbors helped finance and build after fire destroyed the old one last January.

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Rising up from the ashes

Jan Goranson and Rob Johanson lose a barn, produce, seeds and tools. But they're determined to bounce back from that setback.

BY BOB KALISH
Times Record Staff
DRESDEN

When their old potato barn caught fire recently, Jan Goranson and her husband, Rob Johanson, were in Augusta attending a state agricultural exhibition. They were informed via cell phone that firefighters were on the scene.

"While I was driving back, knowing it was burning," Goranson recalled, "I thought to myself, 'Well, I'll be able to save the carrots, the cabbages. In my mind it would be there when I got back.'"

But it wasn't. By the time she arrived back home, the barn had caved in; the building and its contents were a total loss.

Goranson's first reaction

was one of panic. How would she fulfill her obligation to the 110 members participating in the Community Supported Agriculture program who expected their winter share of vegetables?

"Some of them really depend on the food we offer," Goranson said. "So the winter foods were all being kept in the old potato barn and we still had two more deliveries, February and March, and it's all gone."

But most of her winter subscribers, when they heard about the fire, called or e-mailed to let Goranson know they would prefer that any compensation earmarked for them be used instead to rebuild.

"It's been incredible, the support we've received," Goranson said one sunny, cold day when a recent snowstorm had buried the remnants of the fire under a white blanket that belied tragedy. "One of our (customers) offered us an interest-free loan to rebuild. Another customer offered old-fashioned potato barrels for us."

Still, it is difficult for the cou-



JAN GORANSON and her husband, Rob Johanson, lost their potato barn in a fire at their farm in Dresden last month. But they're planning to rebuild this spring and, with the help of their friends and customers, return fully to the Community Supported Agriculture program they've had at the farm for several years.

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