

Introducing...

John & Gretchen Ceteras

Blue Heron Farm/Dream Gourds

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John and Gretchen Ceteras, long time organic producers in the Capay Valley region, have operated Blue Heron Farm and Dream Gourds in Rumsey for twenty-nine years, where they produce delectable oranges, figs, tomatoes, walnuts, and mandarins. Gretchen has also been growing and woodburning her hard-shelled gourds for over 25 of those years.

Farm Name

Blue Heron Farm/Dream Gourds

Owners

John and Gretchen Ceteras

Community Involvement

John: Past President Capay Valley General Plan Committee, President and past superintendent of Rumsey Water Users, recently retired Assistant Chief Capay Valley Volunteer Fire Department
Gretchen: currently serving on Marin County Farmers' Market Board of Directors

Number of Years Farming

29

Our Farm

Using certified organic production practices, Blue Heron Farm uses seasonal workers to cultivate and harvest Washington navel oranges, Valencia oranges, Clementine and Satsuma mandarins, Hartley and Chandler walnuts, Black Mission figs, Early Girl and Sun Gold tomatoes, as well as other tomato varieties on 20 acres in Rumsey.

Not only do John and Gretchen Ceteras produce fruits and vegetables, but Gretchen has been growing and woodburning her Dream Gourds for over 25 years. She has been creating the award gourds for the Eco Farm Conference for almost 20 years, and her work is included in two of the

books produced by Jim Widess and Ginger Summit: Gourd Pyrography and Gourd Craft. She is also a regular contributor to the KVIE Art Auction.

Distribution of Product

Produce from Blue Heron Farm as well as Gretchen's Dream Gourds are regularly sold at the Marin Farmers' Market; and their delicious oranges are distributed through the Sacramento Co-op and other local farms' CSA boxes. Nearly one-third of the produce from Blue Heron Farm is sold in Yolo County. Sales direct from the farm are also available, and visitors are always welcome. Just call first to make sure they are home.

Joys of Farming

We enjoy the opportunity to work outside and be close to nature. Being able to observe and feel the seasons change, the birds come and go, the creek change its course are just some of the benefits we reap, as well as being able to run our own business.

Challenges of Farming

One of our greatest challenges is continuing to farm as we grow older. Generating enough income to pay for increasing labor needs has become our greatest challenge as we find ourselves able to do less than in our younger years. As with all farming, the challenges of the weather and the availability of water are critical issues.

