

# Back to her Roots



By Matt Beardmore

Covid was a wakeup call for Angela Worth, owner of Meadowbrook Farm Catskill. Cancer had recently taken the life of her sister, who was also her business partner, and the early childhood education centers she owned in New Jersey remained open throughout the pandemic as emergency centers.

"Covid was pivoting," Worth said. "It wasn't about money. It wasn't anything but bringing us back to the simple things in life – family and friendships. For me, I needed a change and I wanted to go back and get my hands dirty again."

That is exactly what Worth and her husband, Steven, who had a long career in law enforcement, decided to do as they purchased the 120-acre property where Meadowbrook Farm Catskill stands today. The property in Leeds used to be owned by Worth's grandparents, Eugene and Rose Peigelbeck, for more than five decades, and Worth has many fond memories, such as swimming and fishing in the Catskill Creek, from when she visited the property as a child.

"I'm trying to bring something new to this land," she said. "It's really about experiences for me and creating experiences with events and festivals and things that bring the community together."

The Sunflower & Sangria Festival will be returning to Meadowbrook Farm Catskill for a second year (August 14-17, 2024) after 3,600 attendees took in the live music, food and drink, and the 20 different varieties of sunflowers this past August. A year earlier, Worth and her husband were selling the sunflowers they planted at a farmstand at the end of the road.

"For our first time hosting the festival, it was very humbling to have that many people attend," Worth said.

Rain limited attendance to about 500 for the farm's first Fall Fest in October, but Worth was thrilled to bring the community together for hayrides, live music, food, an apple pie baking contest, and many other activities.

The focus now is to put the farm to sleep for the winter and prep the soil for the spring when at



Meadowbrook Farm Catskill will host a Tulip festival or walk.

"Last year I grew 14,000 tulips," Worth said, "and there were so many different species. It was an experiment for me. To share that with the people, that will be very cool."

Meadowbrook Farm Catskill also serves as a venue – it has several weddings booked for next summer after it hosted its first wedding in August.

More details about Meadowbrook Farm Catskill can be found at [www.meadowbrookfarmcatskill.com](http://www.meadowbrookfarmcatskill.com).

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is proud to have a number of other farms as part of its membership:

**Story Farms in Catskill:**  
[www.storyfarms.org](http://www.storyfarms.org)

**Stoneledge Farms in Leeds:**  
[www.stoneledge.farm](http://www.stoneledge.farm)

**Black Horse Farms in Athens:**  
[www.blackhorsefarms.com](http://www.blackhorsefarms.com)

**East Durham Farms in East Durham:**  
[eastdurhamfarms.com](http://eastdurhamfarms.com)

**Fromer Market Gardens in Tannersville:**  
[www.fromermarketgardens.com](http://www.fromermarketgardens.com)