

Reservations



A deposit equal to 50% payment for the length of your stay and room choice is required to confirm your reservation. Your deposit is due within 7 days of making your reservation. If you need to cancel your reservation, please do so within 14 days prior to your reservation, and we will promptly refund your deposit. Refunds will also be given if we are able to resell the room, even if under the time limit. We accept personal checks, cash, traveler's checks, VISA and Mastercard.

Check-in time is 3 p.m. and check-out time is 11 a.m. Under special circumstances, these can be flexible. Please ask.

Directions

If you are traveling east or west on Vermont Rt. 2, *Fruitlands Bed & Breakfast/Maple and Fruit* is easy to find. Heading east towards the Northeast Kingdom, we are 20 miles east of Montpelier. After the village of Marshfield and after the junction of Rt. 2 and Rt. 232, start looking for a lake on your right. Along the lake you will see our *Fruitlands* state directional sign on the right. Turn left onto Thistle Hill Road. 1.3 miles to the top. Look for our farm and B&B sign on the left.

If you are traveling west towards Central Vermont on Vermont Rt. 2, we are 20 miles west of St. Johnsbury. Five miles after the junction of Rt. 2 and Rt. 15 in West Danville (Joe's Pond), look for our *Fruitlands* state directional sign on the right as you go down a three-lane section. Turn right onto Thistle Hill Road. 1.3 miles to the top. Look for our farm and B&B sign on the left.

If you are coming from 215 in the village of Cabot, take Whittier Hill Road next to the Cabot Town Hall. You will know that you are on the right road when you can look down on the Cabot Creamery cheese plant. Travel up two miles until this turns into (on a sharp corner) Thistle Hill Road. Go to the height of land. We are the first farm on the right once you begin to pitch down the hill.



For reservations and additional information, contact us at:

Fruitlands Bed and Breakfast
506 Thistle Hill Road
Marshfield, VT 05658
802-426-3889 (phone)
802-426-3035 (fax)
info@fruitlands.net

We
ship our
farm products!



Fruitlands

Bed & Breakfast Maple and Fruit



Your hosts: Dale & Janet Newton

Fruitlands is a small, diversified farm and bed & breakfast sitting almost 1900' atop Thistle Hill in Marshfield, Vermont.

Our farm is a bicentennial farm, built in 1976. We practice organic methods. We believe that a quality life calls for planting trees and settling down long enough to watch those trees bear fruit.



Many of you who have visited *Fruitlands Bed & Breakfast/Maple and Fruit* have inquired about the origins of our farm's name.

The original Fruitlands was a 19th Century experiment undertaken by Bronson Alcott, his family and a very few "friends." A red farmhouse set upon ninety acres in Harvard, Massachusetts, was to be a utopian refuge from the gathering storm of the Industrial Revolution. Louisa May Alcott would later write that, "Plenteous orchards were soon to be evoked from their inner consciousness."

From the very first seed, whether vegetable or philosophical, there began a struggle between ideology and practicality. They were not to enslave anyone or anything. Then who, or what, would pull the plow? They would not rob the cow of its milk or the sheep of its wool. Some argued that only "aspiring" vegetables would be grown. Root crops pointed towards hell.

And they were not alone in their wishes to redefine human existence. Just north of Fruitlands were the Shakers. There were sprinkled around New England hydropathists, who looked for salvation in pure water; Grahamites, who were to be saved through whole wheat; and Millerites, who expected the Second Coming in 1844.

Our experiment began in 1976, here on Thistle Hill. We were just out of college, a small school a few miles down the road from Alcott's Fruitlands. We began our teaching careers, built our home, and then, our *Fruitlands* began. As with many experiments, we are not quite sure how or even why. At first there came the sugarhouse, then the acre of raspberries. There was always room for more fruit trees. How about blueberries? We could make preserves and vinegars. Our experiment continued with raising llamas and now has taken on a new course with the opening of our home for a bed and breakfast.

We were recently asked if it were wise naming our farm and bed and breakfast after a "failure." After all, Alcotts had to leave their farm in a year. Perhaps... but isn't any experiment in many ways a success? As Emerson wrote, "The voyage of the best ship is a zig-zag course."

We invite you to visit our farm / bed and breakfast atop Thistle Hill. In many ways the true remedy for our hurried 21st Century routines can be found in turning off the beaten path to find new places and to make new friends... if only for a while.



Guest Accommodations at Fruitlands Bed & Breakfast

The Butternut Room: This is a second-floor room in the main house that will quiet the spirit. The walls are done in native Vermont butternut, wallpaper and wooden ceiling with beams. There is a spindle queen bed, native maple furniture and a queen futon sofa for those needing an additional sleeping space. This room has a private bath just five feet from the door. The views include the tops of our apple trees, pear trees and our sugar woods.

The Alcott Suite: This four-room second-floor suite is perfect for longer stays. It has a well-equipped kitchen with gas range, microwave and fridge. The focus of the living room is a warming Jotul stove. The bedroom has a queen bed, and there is a spacious bath. There are unique windows, skylights and a wonderful deck for catching the sun, stars or even llama watching. There is a double futon sofa for those needing an additional sleeping space. The suite is equipped with satellite TV, Sirius music and DVD.

Fruitlands is a non-smoking bed and breakfast.

Guests at *Fruitlands Bed & Breakfast* are invited to share in our common spaces: our living room, porches, expansive gardens, stone walls, barns and pastures.

Meals

We serve our Bed & Breakfast guests a family-style breakfast in our large country kitchen. We serve a vegetarian menu that includes our maple syrup and many of our fresh, organic fruits and vegetables when in season. Seating is in front of a large arched window with easterly views towards Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Lunch & Dinner

There are several unique eating establishments within a few miles of our Central Vermont bed and breakfast. We love to share our recommendations.

Rates

We try to keep our room rates reasonable and steady throughout the seasons. Call us for current rates or check our web site at www.fruitlands.net.

Activities



At Fruitlands Bed & Breakfast/Maple and Fruit:

- Relaxing and sharing good conversation
- Visiting our gardens
- Sitting by the outdoor fireplace
- Harvesting raspberries, blueberries, apples and other fruits in season
- Maple Sugaring
- Walking llamas
- Stargazing in a "zero" light-pollution setting
- Enjoying some of the purest water in the state, right from our tap

Minutes away:

- Canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing or watching loons in Molly's Falls Pond (Marshfield Dam) one of our area's nicest lakes.
- Fly fishing with Brookies Guide Service, a licensed, professional guide service providing you with some of the finest fly fishing in central and northern Vermont.
- Riding mountain bikes
- Snowmobiling on VAST trails
- Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (We have Tubbs snowshoes available. Reserve these when you make your room reservation.)
- Visiting Cabot Creamery
- Taking in the incredible selection of lilies and other flowers at the Vermont Flower Farm
- Learning to play Celtic music at the Vermont Institute of Celtic Arts—providing instruction in Highland piping, Scottish smallpiping, French bagpipes, Irish flute, whistle, and bodhran

In the area:

- Enjoying Groton State Forest, Vermont's single largest tract of state-owned forest
- Visiting Vermont's state capitol
- Touring Barre granite quarries and notable local cemeteries
- Taking in the many local artisans and crafts people
- Exploring and photographing Vermont's notable covered bridges
- Hiking, trail running, biking, snowshoeing, x-country skiing on Kingdom Trails
- Skiing at Burke Mountain our home away from home in the winter (special ski packages available for our guests) We are actually within an hour of several notable Vermont ski areas such as Stowe and Sugarbush