

“ Access to land is one of the top challenges faced by most new farmers. ” see page 6 >>

first gear



VERNON VALLEY FARM FACES A CHALLENGE that’s similar for many small farms—a need for exposure to the buying public. “The farm has been in the family a long time,” says Vernon Valley co-owner and farm manager Kirk Stephens about the operation his grandfather started. “But it’s not well known in the community as a place you can go to buy food.” That’s changing thanks to the Tour de Farm New Jersey, which was started in 2013 by two local businessmen who wanted to launch a culinary bike excursion through Sussex and Warren counties. >>

PHOTOS: SAM MORRISON (@SAMTHECOBRA)