Birdsfoot Farm is dedicated to self-sustainability and low-impact living. They utilize solar energy, and wood stoves for heating and cooking. Nearly all the buildings on the farm have been hand made and designed to minimize the impact they leave on the environment around them. Timber for buildings is bought from the local community and occasionally hewn from their own property. Birdsfoot also produces all its own fruits, vegetables and eggs, as well as making its own potting soil from composted waste, for fresh herbs throughout the year. Many of the fields are hand tilled and sewn, and huge emphasis is placed on minimizing environmental impact.

Birdsfoot Farm is a small, agricultural community committed to self-sustainability and organic farming. Birdsfoot is an intentional community of families who have chosen to live a simple, and low-impact lifestyle. The families are not related in any way other than their interest in the environment and organic farming. Birdsfoot also sells many of its products at local farmer’s markets, the Potsdam Food Coop, North Country Grown Cooperative, and Finger Lakes Organic Grown Cooperative. In addition, Birdsfoot participates in a very active CSA (Community Supported Agriculture shares), which provides the community with a wide variety of fresh, organic vegetables at affordable costs.

What We’ve Learned about Leadership

Our time at Birdsfoot has taught us a lot about servant leadership. In order for a person to be an effective leader, he/she must know what it means to serve. Our experience at Birdsfoot has allowed us to see first hand what qualities make a good leader. This experience has allowed us to develop our own leadership style, by taking good qualities we have noticed while serving, and avoiding the negative or less effective qualities we witnessed at the farm, and putting them together into our own specific leadership style.

The fact that interested me the most about Birdsfoot farm is that they pride themselves on preserving the environment. Due to my experience at Birdsfoot, I eager to do further research on farming techniques in the United States, and realized how crucial sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly practices are to our economy and environment. Ultimately, I have learned that small farms such as Birdsfoot are necessary for making a difference in a society with waning health and a degrading environment and economy. More emphasis should be put on organic farming in the future in order to better society and the environment around us.