

# Who Grows Your Food?

## Watauga River Farm • Valle Crucis, NC

When he was seven years old, his daddy gave *Charles Church* half a row of tobacco to tend for his own. He planted, weeded, and harvested that row and collected the profits. He's been farming in the Watauga River Valley ever since through flood, drought and disease, working from sunrise to far beyond sunset. He still grows tobacco, along with organic broccoli, cabbage, collards, tomatoes, garlic, and more.

What drives Charles Church? "A real passion." he says. "Seeing things grow that you planted, holding a head of broccoli- it gets deep in your blood." Charles also loves the independence. For this descendant of Daniel Boone's line, fighting to keep farming is worth it for the freedom the life provides.



*Charles Church*

