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A wedding in a barn

LIKE MOST VERMONTERS, I have several jobs. Among other income-generating odds and ends, I moonlight from time to time as a server, working at weddings catered by The Perfect Wife in Manchester.

Unexpected connections are common in our small state, so I shouldn't have been surprised when I received an e-mail from photographer Lisa Hughes last August. Lisa had shot a beautiful wedding a few weeks earlier at the White Rocks Inn in Wallingford, and she wondered if I might include it in our annual *Weddings* issue. "The young couple lives in Vermont and have started a dairy farm," she said. "It was a fun wedding and I thought it might be a nice story." "You're right, it was a fun wedding," I wrote back. "I was there."

I'll be honest: It isn't always fun to work at a wedding. Sometimes the guests are great; sometimes they are...not. But it was an honor—and an honest-to-God good time—to set up tables, carry trays and fill water glasses for Sarah and James Elworthy. Why? Because their wedding represented their commitment to each other and to their shared life in Vermont. Though they grew up in other states, Sarah and James both graduated from Green Mountain College in Poultney, and since 2007 they've been running a small organic dairy farm in Shoreham. At Liberty Farm, they keep a mixed herd on 60 rented acres and sell their milk to Organic Valley. And on their wedding day they brought the field to the table, with pork, vegetables and flowers raised by them and by their farming friends.

"The local movement is important to us," says Sarah. "Buying, growing and eating local—that's what we're trying to do with our lives and with our business. We wanted our wedding to reflect that." After watching them celebrate with their young friends, many of whom represent the future of our farms and our rural land, I'd say we're in pretty good hands. **¶**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. James".

Photo provided by Lisa Hughes Photography at (585) 264-0409 or www.lisahughesphoto.com