

Saratoga Springs: Where Farming Meets The Front Porch



*From an interview with
with Freehold
Communities and
Convivial Foodscapes*

What do you see as the most exciting part of this community for future residents?

Saratoga Springs will be Clay County's first Agrihood community, bringing fresh, meaningful experiences to residents. With multiple

working farms and a farm share for every household, residents can enjoy fresh harvests, volunteer in the fields, and take part in farm-to-table gatherings that celebrate the land.

Farming is such a unique feature; what kinds of crops or farm experiences do you hope to highlight in this development?

The farm will showcase a wide variety of crops that thrive in North Florida's climate, with seasonal rotations including mixed greens, tomatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, peppers, and more. Residents can expect an abundance of beets, broccoli, okra and onions, alongside cut flowers, and herbs like basil, rosemary, thyme; fruits such as blueberries, figs, citrus, and pomegranates. Beyond the harvest, the farm will offer hands-on experiences for all, from volunteer days and farmers markets to educational workshops and you-pick gardens that invite everyone to get involved.

How will you make the most of Florida's climate and growing season?

Farming is very site specific. Florida's long growing season allows us to grow a wide variety of crops throughout the year. We carefully select varieties suited to the state's climate and soils, emphasizing pest and disease resistance. As organic farmers, we know healthy soil is the foundation of every successful harvest. Through practices like cover cropping, crop rotation, composting, mulching, reduced tillage, and

alley cropping, we continually build and maintain soil health to sustain a thriving, resilient farm ecosystem.

How do you picture residents being involved in the farm; will there be opportunities for hands-on gardening, markets, or classes?

At Saratoga Springs, the farm is designed to be an active part of daily life. Residents will enjoy volunteering in the fields or participate in workshops and join a variety of events that celebrate the Agrihood lifestyle. The Farm Share program will offer a convenient way for residents to enjoy fresh, locally grown produce right from their community. The You-Pick and Children's Gardens invite hands-on engagement for all ages, while the Farm Store and Farmers Markets will showcase locally sourced products and goods from across Northeast Florida, reflecting the community's commitment to sustainability, connection, and healthy living.

How do you see the community connecting with surrounding neighborhoods and towns?

We hope to cultivate meaningful relationships within the broader Clay County community through future farmers markets showcasing a variety of local vendors offering farm-fresh food, art, goods, and music.

Are there examples from other agrihoods you've developed that you'll be bringing here?

Freehold Communities continues to refine its Agrihood approach with each new community, building upon the successes and insights gained from previous developments. Its newest Agrihood, Carnes Crossroads in Goose Creek, SC, has already demonstrated the power of meaningful engagement, with the Farm Store and amenities, which opened in May 2025. Signature programming such as 4th Friday Farmers Markets, hands-on gardening workshops, locally sourced goods, and volunteer days where neighbors connect through shared experiences all inform future designs. Drawing from these proven initiatives, Saratoga Springs is envisioned to be one of Freehold's most engaging, connected, and dynamic Agrihoods yet.

