

[www.Tri-TownPost.com](http://www.Tri-TownPost.com)

## A ROW TO HOE



PHOTOS BY JOHN FITTS

## Bristol's Farm in Canton



For the second year, this store at Bristol's Farm, Route 44 Canton, along with up to 10 acres of land, are being leased by Mark Palladino, of Wild Carrot Farm LLC. Palladino follows organic farming practices and he and his staff sell the farm's offerings and other products, many made in Connecticut, at the store. The farm still operates under the Bristol's name.

Above: Courtney Blomquist, 16, of New Hartford and Mark Palladino use stirrup hoes to weed a bed of lettuce and scallions at Bristol's Farm in Canton. For the second year now Palladino, aka "Farmer Mark" is leasing the farm store and up to 10 acres at Bristol's, which sits along Route 44, shortly after its intersection with Routes 202 and 179 and across from the Farmington River. Palladino follows organic farming practices and will be eligible for certification next year.

The farm store will feature eggplant, squash, cucumbers, lettuce and a plethora of other vegetables and herbs grown at the farm. Right now, farm-grown fresh strawberries are a popular item and the store offers other vegetables grown off-site, many of them in Connecticut. Other products such as honey, maple syrup, compost and pancake batter are offered as well. Many of the products are organic and one favorite has been the organic quiches made by Savory Thyme Catering in New Hartford. Palladino also works with school groups and encourages parents to bring children to the farm to look around. Palladino is owner of Wild Carrot Farm, LLC, but the store and site still run under the name Bristol's, a Canton institution since the late 1800s.

The farm store is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is 693-8965. Please see more photos on page 13.







Maureen Hamilton of New Hartford browses through the farm store at Bristol's. Hamilton said she is a strong believer in organic foods.



Some of the outside offerings include compost, tomato stakes, patio herb gardens and hanging plants.