

## Discussion Questions:

Some of these questions have come from *The Biggest Little Farm Viewing Guide*.

- Why did Molly and John decide to start their own farm? What are some of the challenges Molly and John faced as they were building the farm?
- In what ways did nature impede Molly and John's plan to build a self-sustaining farm?
- Describe some of the ways the farm's animals, plants, and insects coexisted positively. How did everything work together as a functioning ecosystem?
- The film documents the lives of many different animals who live or lived on the farm. Which animals did you find the most interesting? Why? What questions do you have about them?

## Summary:

*The Biggest Little Farm* chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature. Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chester's unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination.

Featuring breathtaking cinematography, captivating animals, and an urgent message to heed Mother Nature's call, *The Biggest Little Farm* provides us all a vital blueprint for better living and a healthier planet.

- If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, whom would you ask and what would you want to know?
- Apricot Lane Farm survived a very big fire, but many neighboring farms did not. What unique features of their farm made their survival possible?
- Early in the film, John has a lot of empathy for the coyotes and does not want to harm them. Later, his opinion changes. How does his opinion of the coyotes change? Why do you think it changes?
- What did you learn from this film you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?
- Would you want to live or work on such a farm? Why or why not?

## Want to view more films about these topics?

### **Urban Roots: Urban Farmers in Detroit**

This is the story of the spontaneous emergence of urban farming in the city of Detroit. Detroit, once an industrial powerhouse, is a city devastated by the loss of half its population due to the collapse of manufacturing. By the looks of it, the city has died. But now, against all odds, in the empty lots, in the old factory yards, and the sad, sagging blocks of company housing, seeds of change are taking root.

### **Growing Cities - Examining the Role of Urban Farming in America**

From rooftop farmers to backyard beekeepers, Americans are growing food like never before. GROWING CITIES tells the inspiring stories of these intrepid urban farmers, innovators, and everyday city-dwellers who are challenging the way the USA grows and distributes its food. From those growing food in backyards to make ends meet, to educators teaching kids to eat healthier, viewers discover urban farmers are harvesting a whole lot more than simply good food.

### **Living the Change: Inspiring Stories for a Sustainable Future**

This insightful documentary explores solutions to the global crises we face today through the inspiring stories of people pioneering change in their own lives and in their communities in order to live in a sustainable and regenerative way.

### **Life Off Grid: A Film About Disconnecting**

A two-year journey exploring the lives of Canadians in every province and territory who have made the choice to disconnect. LIFE OFF GRID is a film about people who have chosen to build their lives around renewable energy, with beautiful, inspiring, and often challenging results.

### Seed: The Untold Story

Few things on Earth are as miraculous and vital as seeds. Worshipped and treasured since the dawn of humankind. *SEED: The Untold Story* follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000-year-old food legacy. In the last century, 94% of our seed varieties have disappeared. As biotech chemical companies control the majority of our seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food. In a harrowing and heartening story, these reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to our most treasured resource and revive a culture connected to seeds. *SEED* features Vandana Shiva, Dr. Jane Goodall, Andrew Kimbrell, Winona Laduke and Raj Patel.

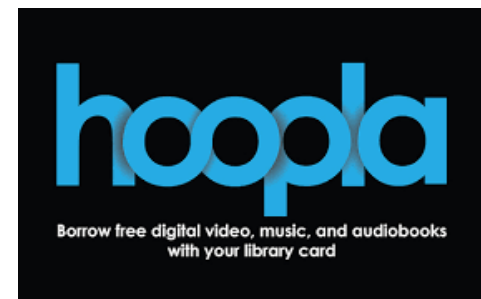
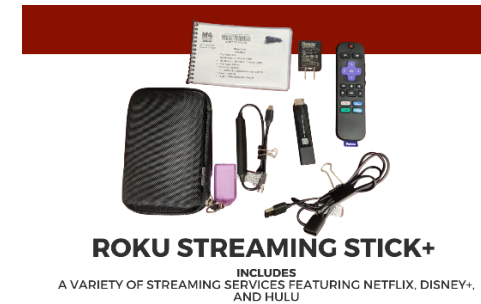
### The Need to Grow

*The Need to GROW* explores both the opportunities, and the struggles, of challenging the status quo with real world solutions.

The inspiring stories are supported by featured experts Dr. Vandana Shiva (Physicist and Agroecologist), Paul Stamets (world-renowned Mycologist), David King (Master Gardener and founder of SLOLA), Douglas Gayeton (founder of Lexicon of Food), Jeffrey Smith (author of *Seeds of Deception*), Kathy Kellogg Johnson (composting expert), and Permaculture Guru Larry Santoyo.

## Do you prefer to stream films?

With your library card, you have free access to a number of streaming options. Visit [www.chathamlib.org](http://www.chathamlib.org) to learn more.



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## Screening Room