All but forgotten, Rawn Fulton’s award-winning documentary captures the hardcrable area of farmers in the 1970s.
Carl Culver of Ashfield plows uphill with his team of workhorses.

The Don Burrell family of Leyden cleans blueberries with factory-like efficiency.

## BUILDING THE FILM

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### Root: A timeless study of rural life

From Page D1

Not that it’s 80 years old.

Fulton calls the finished film “a window into a way of life as experienced by people who are no longer at the end of their own lives, but who were also torn out of the mainstream of the current movement.”

Although he had numerous mentors and influences, these farmers “understood that there was an essential quality in the life of the small farmer that was unique, that was different from anyone else, and that’s something that’s important.”

Fulton was surprised to find that there were still farmers who were willing to make the journey of working on their small farms.

### Life & Times

For some, it was more than just a way of life. For others, it was a way to keep up with the times. For still others, it was a way to reconnect with their roots.

### SEE THE FILM

DVDs of "Root or Die" cost $20 at the Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange. Also, Ashfield library has copy in its collection. Finally, you can see a clip online: www.searchlightfilms.com/media/vids/ROOTstown_OR_DIE.html

### ASHFIELD WOODS ROAD MOVIE FESTIVAL 2012

"After living in India for two years in a village with no running water or electricity, I think I know a little bit about how they farm on their basic farms with the barest of tools," said director Rawn Fulton. "I think they have a deep respect for the earth, a respect that is at the core of their being, and that deep respect is something that we have lost here in the United States. We have lost the connection to the land, the respect for nature, the need to be in harmony with the land."