

# LOCAL PEOPLE

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## Youth in Transition

Young people looking for work through the YMCA's Youth in Transition program visited an organic farm recently to check out agriculture as a potential career.

Youth in Transition — for unemployed youth up to age 29 — helps young adults explore employment options and find work. It's offered through the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford and funded by the federal government.

Participants toured ManoRun Organic Farm in Lynden to learn how crops and livestock are raised using organic farming techniques. They had an opportunity to feed pigs, harvest oregano and make pizzas for lunch in a rustic outdoor kitchen using eggplant, zucchini and peppers picked during their visit.

"It was a learning experience," said Zoran Cooke, 22, of Hamilton, who hopes to find work in a kitchen. "It gave me a better look at the industry. It's important not to waste food. It took a lot of time and effort to make this lunch."

Colby Simms, 19, of Hamilton, hopes to find work in the music industry, but enjoys exploring his options. "The Youth in Transition program gives us insight into what career to go into. I love farming, to be honest."

Special to The Hamilton Spectator



Ben Chabot, 21, of Hamilton, feeds lettuce to the pigs during a visit to ManoRun Organic Farm.



Colby Simms, 19, of Hamilton, fries organically grown onion for pizza toppings.



Zoran Cooke, 22, of Hamilton, slices pizza made with organic ingredients from the farm.



YMCA employment counsellor Joe Leluzzi works pizza dough for pizzas made with organically grown ingredients from the farm.



Rachel Tenhage, 20, of Hamilton, tries an organically grown tomato.

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