After spending 6 years farming on 3 different farms throughout the Northeast, we started Brix Bounty Farm in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. We are currently in the 2nd season of an initial 3-year lease with the Dominican Sisters of Hope. The Dominican Sisters have taken an active role in ensuring the land on the farm is placed in permanent preservation and are committed to providing an affordable opportunity for a new farm to become established in the community. At the end of this initial lease we will have the option of either signing a longer term lease or negotiate purchase of the farmhouse and farm land. We farm 5 acres of a 13 acre property situated among a semi-developed part of town.

Our decision to move to Dartmouth, Ma (located on the South coast of Massachusetts 1 ¼ hours south of Boston) was based on a number of factors:

1. Proximity to family – while farmland in SE Massachusetts is much more expensive than land in western NY State or Columbia County, NY (other areas we were considering), ultimately being closer to “home” was a big reason for searching for land in our current area.

2. Proximity to markets – a result of my focus on small-scale production and community education, I was interested in finding an opportunity that would closely connect me with our customers, especially geographically. The issues we face on the farm are also issues experienced by our local community, and we have increased our capacity to engage community members on food issues by rooting ourselves in their community. Logistically, this also creates more time to spend on the farm and building relationships, instead of transporting produce.

3. Availability of the specific opportunity – simply put, if the opportunity didn’t exist we wouldn’t be here. In the northeast farmers have done a remarkable job creating new interest in agriculture among our younger generations (through apprenticeship programs), but the opportunity for young farmers to develop their own operations are restricted due to the limited local land base.

4. Availability of on farm housing. I believe farming is about building a relationship with the land; by living on the land we can develop intimacy with the farm’s rhythms in a holistic manner.