



Infrastructure Decisions for a New Market Garden



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Boneyard Farm

VVBGA Annual Meeting Jan 2025

An intro



2017: Boneyard Farm established,
scrappy 10-acre Bakersfield homestead

2021: Purchased 180-acre property in
Fletcher, VT (Cambridge town line)

Former conventional dairy
Conserved with Vermont Land Trust



The farm

- Certified organic vegetables
 - Pastured pork
 - 100% grassfed beef and lamb
 - Wool + sheepskins
 - Value-added products
(jam, chutney, pesto, pickles, etc.)
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- Self-serve farmstand
- Farmers market(s)
- Free choice CSA
- Limited wholesale



SEASON 1 (2021)



MARKET GARDEN

Tarped field prior fall,
tilled with friends' BCS
in spring, beds by hand



30' x 40' unheated tunnel



FARMSTAND

Built into
dairy barn,
household
refrigerator

2021

ANIMALS

- Laying hens (~200)
- Broilers (~500)
- Pigs (18 total – farrowed + bought in feeders)

HOUSE

- Closed on new property, after leasing.
- Finished renovating old house and sold it.
- Camped out in downstairs of new house.



SEASON 2 (2022)



PURCHASED BCS
749 tiller with
PDR rotary plow
to shape beds.



CSA
Started traditional
weekly boxed CSA
program with 12
members.



DISPLAY FRIDGE &
FREEZER
Expanded cold
storage in
farmstand, still no
walk-in, everything
harvested day-of.

2022

ANIMALS

- Laying hens (~200)
- Sheep (13 ewes, purchased fall '21)
- Broilers (~600)
- Pigs (farrowing here)

Built a lot of permanent perimeter fencing

Very part-time employee shared between farm and fence business



SEASON 3 (2023)



30' x 96' LEDGEWOOD
Built it ourselves over an
existing block.



DELUGES
Unprecedented rain. Big losses.



2023

ANIMALS

- Laying hens (~150)
- Sheep (13 ewes, first year lambs)
- Beef (9)
- Pigs (farrowed, lost litter in storm)
- No Broilers!

CSA – increased to 20 members

LOGGING (winter)

HOUSE

- Structural work, drywall
- Moved upstairs



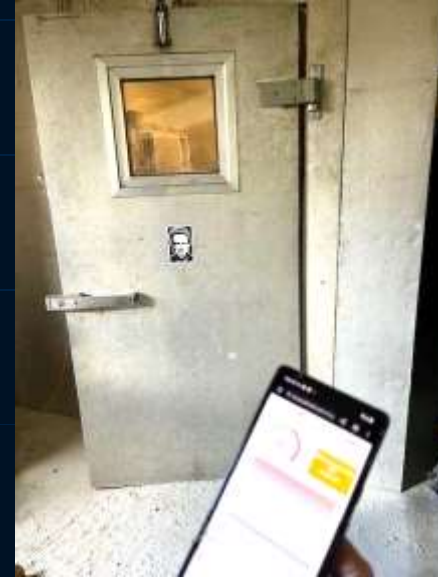
SEASON 4 (2024)



EXCAVATION
Drainage.
Gravel road.
Parking lot at
farmstand.



PACKSHED
VT Family Farmer of the
Month award (NOFA)



WALK-IN COOLER
Used wall panels.
Coolbot + AC

2024

ANIMALS

- Sheep (sold some breeding stock)
- Beef (10-12, sold bull)
- Pigs (new model: 2x/year feeders)
- NO BROILERS! SOLD HENS!
- More perimeter fence, waterline, barn hydrant.

CSA

- Hired first full-time employee, Kate, Market Garden Assistant 25 hrs/wk.
- Started free-choice CSA, well-received.



HEADED INTO 2025 SEASON 5...

- THREE UNHEATED TUNNELS + CATERPILLAR
- PERENNIAL BEDS ESTABLISHED
- BCS
- PACKSHED, FARMSTAND
- WALK-IN COOLER
- ROADS, DRAINAGE

Clarity on livestock:

PORK (feeders, 2x per year)

BEEF, LAMB – rotational grazing, good genetics,
grazing infrastructure in hayfield





MAGIC WAND?

- RETURNING EMPLOYEE (full-time?)
- TRACTOR???
- HEATED PROP HOUSE? Woodstove?
- MARKET VEHICLE SOLUTION



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

GROW SLOWLY

- Build our community / speed of demand

SHARE AUTHENTICALLY

- Define our own vision / timeline, tell the story
- Land stewardship / conservation

GRANT/GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

- Don't take it on if it is not something we'd do anyway

LABOR IS TOTALLY WORTH IT FOR US



Thank You!



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