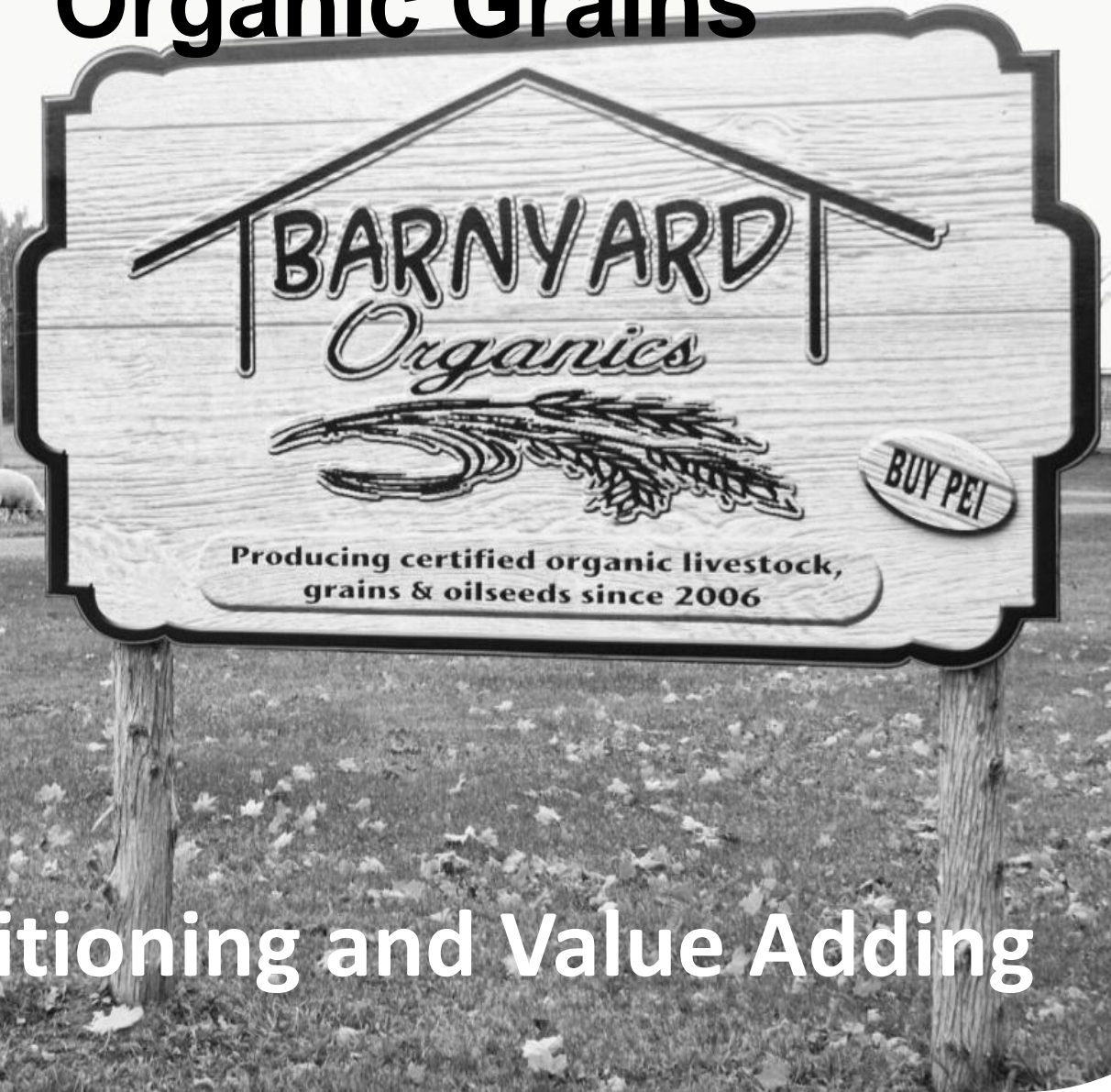


# Converting a Potato Farm to Organic Grains



Transitioning and Value Adding









# Soybeans



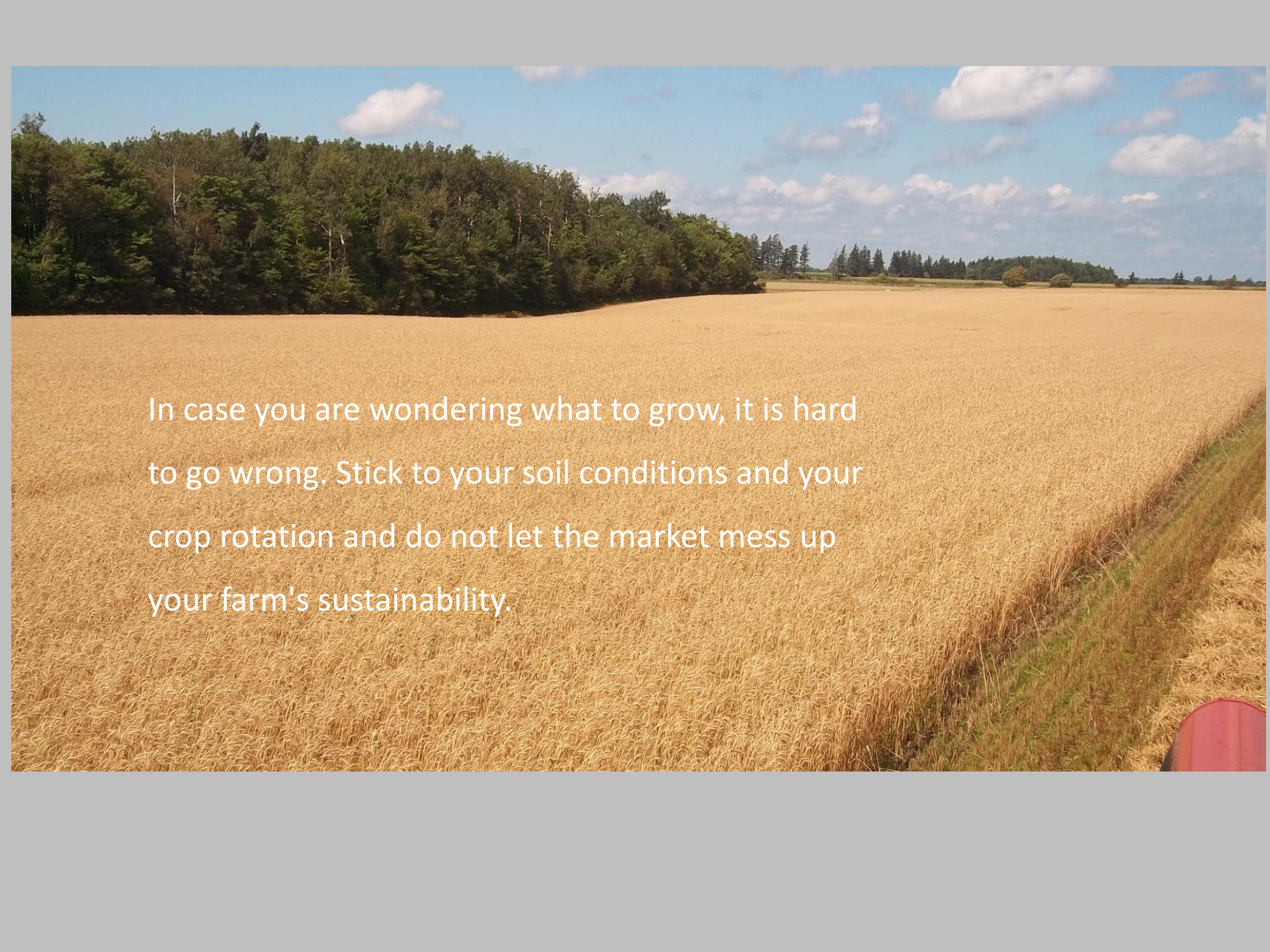
# Developing A Rotation

- Has to work for the farm (labour )
- Has to make money not at the expense of the soil
- Diverse
  - Confuse weeds (summer and fall planted crops)
  - Types of crops (legumes, deep rooted and grasses)
- Build organic matter and fertility



# Consideration When Developing a Rotation

- Follow a heavy feeding crop after a legume
- Light feeding crops the second year after legume
- Grow the same annual crop only 1 year in a row
- Sequence crops to control weeds
- Sequence crops for added benefit to following crop
- Add deep rooted crops
- Add crops that leave large amounts of residue
- Consider the benefits of livestock



In case you are wondering what to grow, it is hard to go wrong. Stick to your soil conditions and your crop rotation and do not let the market mess up your farm's sustainability.

# Rotations



# Current Rotation

- 550 ac of organic land
- 5 year rotation
  - 1 year clover
  - 1 year winter wheat or spring wheat
  - 1 year soybeans
  - 1 year barley after manure or compost applied
  - 1 year oats as nurse crop underseeded to clover



Mixed Cereal – Field Peas, Barley and Oats





# Making the Switch Conventional to Organic

- One year no income
- Year 1 - Conventional grain is planted under-seeded to clover, fertilized and then sprayed at three leaf stage. (June last chemical applied) Harvest conventional grain
  - Canadian Standards start transition after the last non allowable input is applied for 36 months.
- Year 2 - Clover mulched in, plow in fall and plant winter wheat.
- Year 3 - 36 months would be in June harvest organic winter wheat in Aug or Sept.



# The Right Way (I think)

- Plow sod field in the fall
- Disced, broadcasted oats, Disced again – Year 1
- Plan to plant buckwheat disc it down
  - Replant buckwheat and field peas, disc it down
  - Plant winter wheat. Year 2
- Harvest the next fall Year 3
- Purpose is to exhaust grasses and get the soil working

# Oat cover crop





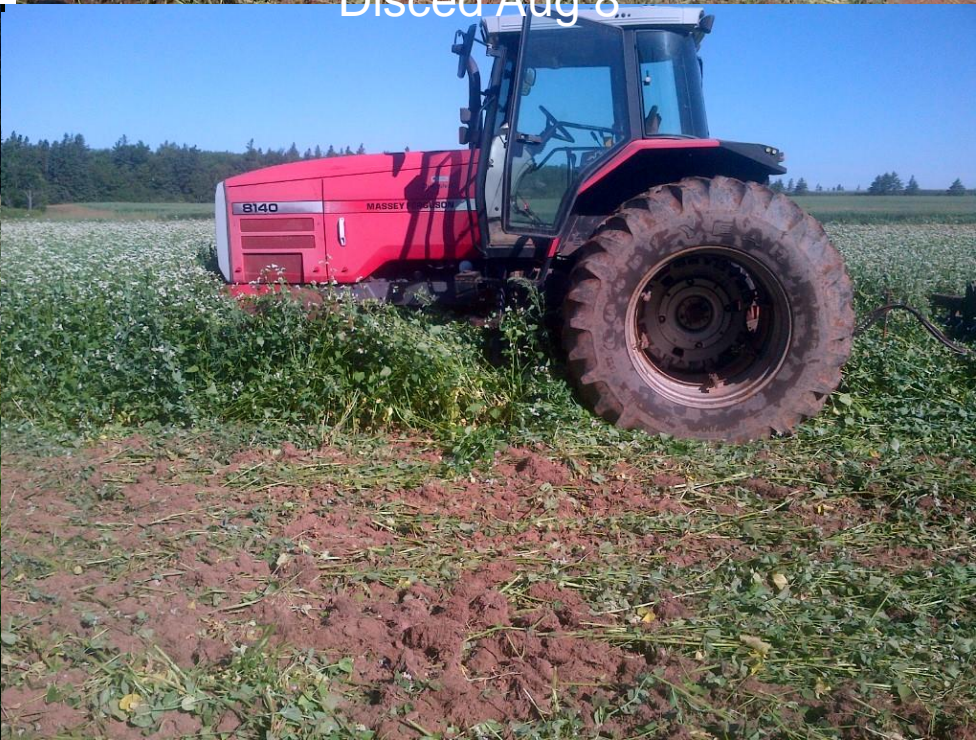
Plowed June 11  
Planted Buckwheat & Peas June 18



Disced Aug 8



July 30





Sept 28

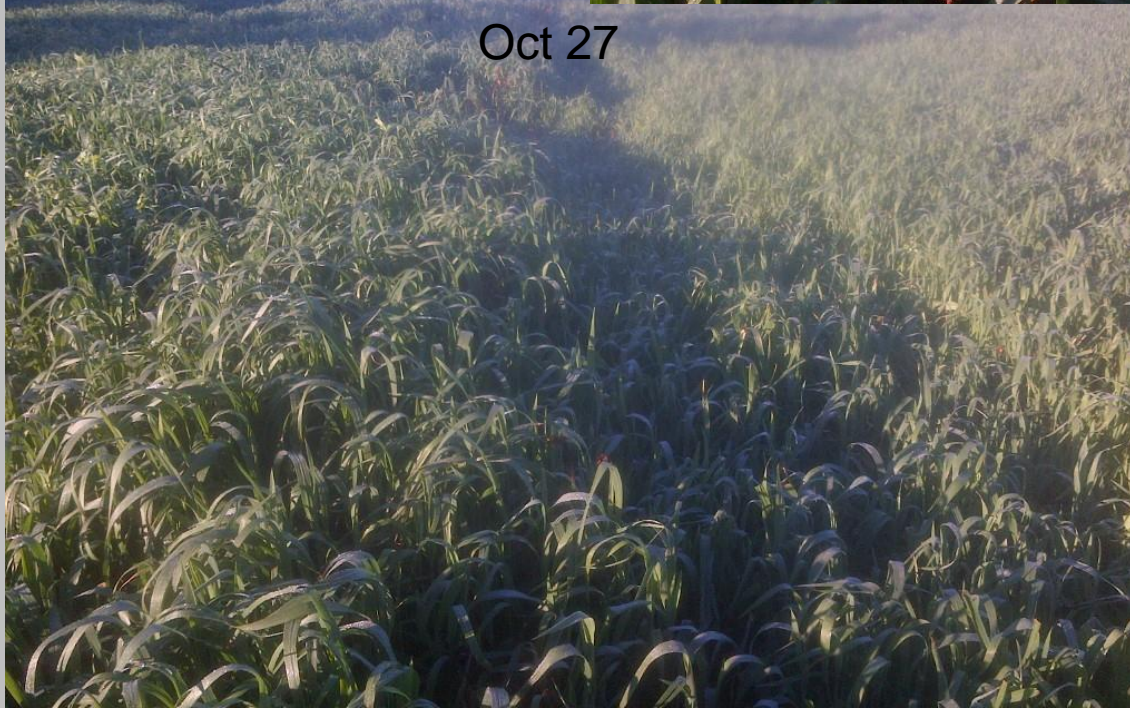


Oct 27

# Oats, Peas & Buckwheat



Oct 27



# Winter Wheat



- Plowed Aug 14,
- Planted Sept 15,
- Finger-weeded Pre Emergence



# Markets



# Markets

- Speerville Flour Mill
- Tofu Processors
- Small Scale Livestock Producers
- Cover Crop Seeds for Market Gardeners
- Home Millers
- Exporting out of the Region
- East Coast Organic Feed Mill















# Plot Trials





# No Till Soybeans into Fall Rye

- Built a Roller for trails
- Flowering was used as the termination date
- Single and Multiple passes where tried
- No till Drill helped to flatten the rye
- New Considerations
  - Using Heading as the termination date





June 28 2007



June 22 2007

