

(Shrewsbury) Evening Song Farm. Been busy these weeks doing lots of farm planning with respect to hiring, ordering supplies, revamping web and social media presence, crop planning, and generally planning how our farm may develop over the next several years. One shift that needs to start happening is growing less brassicas as a part of our crop mix...too many problems with cabbage aphids, Alternaria, black rot, flea beetles, and the expected arrival of Swede midge. Farmers markets were slightly down for us in 2016, but wholesale accounts picked up the slack. Excited to continue researching the possibility of increasing high tunnel profitability with biomass heat...would love to learn from any growers with experience!

(Huntington) The huge production that was seen across much of the Northeast this year has me grateful for our local wholesale accounts, where demand has been strong and consistent. Regional markets have been pretty saturated for many of the storage crops that we grow (especially winter squash), with prices-paid reflecting the warm, dry summer. We finished a new insulated storage barn this summer, and the space has been a pleasure to work in. Winter farmers market sales have been slow - luckily they are a minor part of our business. Now time to get those W-2's in the mail...

(Ange-Gardien, Quebec) Wake up, breakfast, say bye to children to school. Digesting 2016 data, what were the problems, good moves, strength, weakness (how to overcome theses), costs of production, margins, planning, planning, planning, lunch. Shovel greenhouses, play with agribond, city swimming pool, skiing, fix things, arrange other stuff, say hi to children back from school. Spend some time with them. I agreed with my wife to prepare 1 or 2 dinner per week (up to march) before she gets back from work so: do that. Committee here, rendez-vous there, education, rest. Enjoy not having storage crops. Hope this does not soundt g the pprooundtm !iWñBT/F1 12 Tf

RENEW YOUR VVBGA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE RATES INCREASE

It only costs \$35 per farm to renew your Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Assn. membership for 2017,

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The Non-Insured Assistance Program offered by Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides insurance protection against losses due to drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, strong winds, and some other natural factors. Different levels of coverage for crop losses and market prices are available. Cost starts at \$250 per crop, or \$750 for three or more crops (grown in the same county). Those fees are waived for beginning farmers (with less than ten years of experience) and limited resource producers. The higher levels of coverage are available at a reduced rate for these groups. The deadline to enroll for coverage of annual vegetable crops is March 15, 2017. Contact your local FSA office: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Vermont/>

NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS SURVEY

The National Young Farmers Coalition is conducting this survey in partnership with George Washington University. They will use this information to guide their work and to craft a policy platform aimed at helping young people enter agriculture. Responses are confidential, and you can get results of the survey by providing your email address at the end of the survey. Questions: contact Hanna Seltz at hanna@youngfarmers.org or (518) 643-3564 x216. The survey is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQ3HFR3>