

We're considering ground heat, low hoops or other simple structures to extend late fall harvest and stockpile more greens for longer in the tunnels, and shifting winter greens production towards more profitable greens. I'd love to put up another tunnel, but we've seen a dramatic increase in runoff on our sloping fields with every structure we've put up: an inch of rain on one of our 30' x 148' tunnels sheds over 2,500 gallons of water!

(Westminster West) Up and running again, what happened to down time! First tomato seedlings for grafting are ready to prick out and early seeded strawberries ready as well. Still putting finishing touches on this year's master plan and trimming our offerings in order to focus on the better and more profitable crops. Trying to line up additional staff to fill out the crews. Getting harder and harder to get staff; labor pool dried up, hard to know what's going on. Continuing attending seminars and workshops while we still have time and look forward to the winter NOFA conference later in Feb. I'm starting Spanish lessons because, hey you never know!

(Dummerston) High tunnel greens are hanging on despite having lost some outer leaves during the cold snaps and suffered a little vole damage lately. I decided not to use row covers in the tunnel at all this year because it's not always practical for me to get out there and put them on and remove them at the right times. So far it seems to be working out. Some lost foliage due to cold is balanced out by less disease and bolting due to condensation and warmth under covers when the sun is out. I'm still harvesting a little kale and bok choy for the winter market; I appreciate Jon Cohen telling me to raise prices. And I'm waiting for spinach and mustards to grow back. What little winter squash I had left has suddenly all turned moldy. But carrots and parsnips are storing well in the root cellar. I'm not sure I'll be able to sell all the carrots by spring though. So I've added a new product for the market: carrot juice.

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(Fairfax) Root crop sales are very strong. Most crops are holding up well in storage. Nectar (a Nantes variety) is holding very well in storage. A very uniform carrot with excellent flavor.

(Durham CT) I

SLIDE SHOWS POSTED FROM VVBGA ANNUAL MEETING AND COVER CROP CONFERENCE
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BOOST YOUR LABOR MANAGMENT SKILLS

Join one or all four workshops in January and

Family farms that only employ immediate family members, as defined in the How to Comply manual, are exempt from the WPS handler/worker training requirements. Though this exemption applies to many farms in Vermont, other aspects of the WPS will still apply. Please contact Annie Macmillan at the VAAF anne.macmillan@vermont.gov or 828-3479 for more information or clarification about which core manual to purchase.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

For details go to: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/?Page=meetlist.html>

Feb. 15. VT Tree Fruit Growers, Middlebury.

Feb. 18-19. NOFA-VT Winter Conference, Burlington.

March 2 or 3. Vegetable Farm Efficiency Intensive, Poultney or Craftsbury

March 6. Organic Strawberry Growers School, Fairlee