



We raised prices an average of \$2 to \$3 per case this year to reflect higher costs for labor, inputs, and shipping. There were no complaints from our customers – everyone is facing the same inflation. The last Jamaican H2-A employees will leave mid-November, and we're looking to hire a few more local part-time employees for the winter.

(Guildhall) Potato harvest is nearly complete, 3.5 acres to go and we'll be done. We started in on October 11, and have gone nonstop aside from 1 rain day, and a much needed 2-day weekend. Yields have been good, though not last year's historic crop. Quality and sizing have been excellent, and hopefully they continue to remain that way in storage. So far, we've done 72 trucks (200 cwt each) and yields are roughly as follows: golds 325-357 cwt/acre, reds 260 cwt/acre, Peter Wilcox 450 cwt/acre, whites 350 cwt/acre. Last year we made 20' tall piles in the barn out of necessity but suffered quite a bit of bruising because of it. This year we've held most of the piles to 13' to try and lower our cull rate.

We recently hosted the Potatoes USA Executive Committee. The members were all from large farms in Wisconsin, Maine, California, Washington and Idaho. The committee was doing a Northeast tour visiting growers in Maine and Massachusetts. Showing them around the living history museum that is my farm was pretty fun. Honestly, only the Maine rep had seen anything like our place. Discussions around pH, fertility, sprays, and things I do differently (no neonics and no herbicide) were interesting. I've always been impressed by how supportive, open minded, and non-judgmental potato growers are, and this visit was no exception.

(Westminster West) Potato harvest finished, crop has excellent quality and very good yields in all 5 varieties we grow, a special shout out for Carola that customers seem to really like. Bunched carrots about sold out and winter squash all gone, excellent crop this year. Napa wants to get picked real soon, beets being bunched and sold.

A surprise is the celery crop, as we are on the second harvest from the original plant, which never occurred consistently before. A bit behind garlic planting but should get it done this week, about same amount as last year, about all we can handle with the regular crew. Still picking tunnel tomatoes and raspberries! Cover crops seeded and emerging with this great warm weather!

Outdoor farmers' market just wrapped up with a record sales year, now onto the winter market! Pricing was spotty as increases in our spring plants went fine but pushback on vegetable price increases during the summer and fall. Disappointing prices from Hannaford's for winter squash, our biggest crop, but great support from the many co-ops we supply.

(Burlington) Fall harvest is proceeding apace. Enjoying a top-

Summer CSA finished last week with positive feedback from members, and winter CSA opens this week. Always nice to have fewer individuals to manage during our CSA distribution! CSA has a bit of a lag in pricing flexibility, as we are setting our share prices and selling them more than 6 months before giving out any vegetables. After hiking our prices this year by 6 to 8% with zero comments from members, I'm interested whether a second year of steeper share price increases will result in any more comments or attrition. I am guessing not.

This winter we'll be planning for more automation in our tunnel climate controls, streamlining root crop washing, and seeking out the best option to replace our defunct biomass furnace in our greenhouse. Looking forward to catching up with people on the farm as well.

(Elmore) Lots of apples in storage but not so many sales of them. Working with one farmstand and focusing on high quality and bright images near the produce. Had a persimmon harvest in our high tunnel that was looking good until a bear or something climbed the small tree, broke all the branches and ate all the fruit. Perennial vegetable rows continue to feed us with French sorrel making its second crop and sea kale showing a lot of promise. Harvested horseradish; it is so easy to grow and harvest why is it not grown more?

We have not raised prices on anything this year, but all is good.

First evidence is weird silvering on leaves like Bok Choi. These mites lay eggs in-between the leaf layers and eat their way out giving the leaves a weird silver/white look. They have very dark brown/black bodies and fire red legs. You will be hard pressed to see them.

Another late summer/fall pest in our area is the [Hawaiian beet webworm](#). It can make a mess of Swiss chard and beet greens, and less often spinach, it depends on variety. The moth is beige and very small, a quarter the size of corn ear worm. But like most lepidopterous larvae it is easily controlled with a shot of Bt. This is easily done in the fall while spraying the fall Brassicas. We are attentive to keeping the HBW out of our winter greenhouse Swiss chard plantings, so we backpack spray Bt twice.

This fall we suddenly got back into the rain track from down south and lost some fertility with leaching. We discovered Chilean nitrate's ability to get much needed nitrogen to wanting Brassicas. It didn't take much but clearly gave the plants a much better boost than feather meal or bagged chicken manure fertilizer would have provided.

Winter squash is not holding up. It was my misunderstanding that the ultra-dry weather for most of the growing season stalled the need for protectants like copper. Going into the fall I am not sure about this.

(Argyle NY) Amazing warm and sunny fall! All fall storage crops are in now with good yields and quality. Sweet potatoes have very little wire worm damage as opposed to last year. Applying nematodes twice paid off. Broccoli and cauliflower are still coming in but delayed due to Alternaria. Hot water seed treatment definitely pays off. Lots of leeks still in the field but it's too warm to start storing them in the greenhouse (standing up in crates).

Winter rye and clover are covering most of the farm now, and still seeding cover crops as ground opens up.

Tunnels are slowly getting planted for winter as summer crops come out. Still have tomatoes, celery, eggplant, peppers, and broccolini in the tunnels that are doing well. Only 3 nights of freezing temperatures so far with 28 degrees being the lowest, so a little bit of heat to keep tunnels in the 30s is paying off. Mixing up our traditional winter planting schedule a lot. Let you know how it goes.

## **EQUIP SIGN UP DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 18 IN VERMONT**

The Fiscal Year 2023 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) signup date for Vermont NRCS is November 18, 2022. Vermont NRCS has a \$1 million funding pool for Community Scale and Urban Agriculture, in addition to \$236,000 for nutrient management and soil health through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) with the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts.

Producers interested in learning more about the NRCS conservation practices and developing conservation solutions for their operation should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

