

# Irrigation for small farms: land & system assessment, considerations and component selection



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# Community Farm and Food Project: Access to land Livelihood & Learning



# Community Farm Case Study



What we ran into while figuring out  
the community farm infrastructure  
for veg and livestock watering

Designing the system from the needs of  
two farmers and at estimated and  
projected carrying capacity of the  
program and farm back to the source:



# SAHC Incubator Program Costs

- **Incubator Example Fees:**

Improved Crop land: \$134/acre/year

Improved Pasture: \$34/acre/year

Water: \$.0025/gallon

Storage: \$.50/sq. ft./year

Greenhouse: \$50/year



# Farm Pathways Project



SAHC incubator program,  
workshop series & Buy-Protect-Sell



180 hr. Beginning farmer  
training & C.R.A.F.T.



Provide land matching  
services/consultations

# WNC Farm Link is:



A partnership facilitating successful relationships between farmers looking for land to farm, and landowners aspiring to keep their farm and forest land in agriculture.



# WNC Farm Link Serves:



- Alleghany
- Ashe
- Avery
- Buncombe
- Burke
- Caldwell
- Cherokee
- Clay
- Graham
- Haywood
- Henderson
- Jackson
- Macon
- Madison
- McDowell
- Mitchell
- Polk
- Rutherford
- Swain
- Transylvania
- Watauga
- Wilkes
- Yancey



# Why Lease?

- 'Rough draft'
- Lower start-up costs (land and structures)
- Greater working capital
- Flexible
- Can lead to ownership

# Why not Lease?

- Not my farm
- Uncertainty of control
- Age or existence of infrastructure
- Limited equity
- Multiple landlords
- Multiple tracts – higher costs? logistical inconvenience?



# Why own?

- Permanent infrastructure improvements build equity & value
- Greater control and freedom over production
- Collateral=access to financing

# Why not own?

- Costs can be prohibitive
- Diverted profits & cash flow (away from infrastructure)
- Locked into current land base
  - Acreage
  - Problems
  - Water
  - Buildings



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# Questions?



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FARMLINK** 

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