Irrigation for small farms:

land & system assessment, considerations and component selection







CHRIS LINK

COMMUNITY FARM & FOOD ASSOCIATE CHRIS@APPALACHIAN.ORG APPALACHIAN.ORG

SUZANNA DENISON

LAND ACCESS COORDINATOR
INFO@WNCFARMLINK.ORG
WNCFARMLINK.ORG

CHRIS MCWHORTER

WP LAW FLUID HANDLING SPECIALISTS McWhorter@wplawinc.com

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?

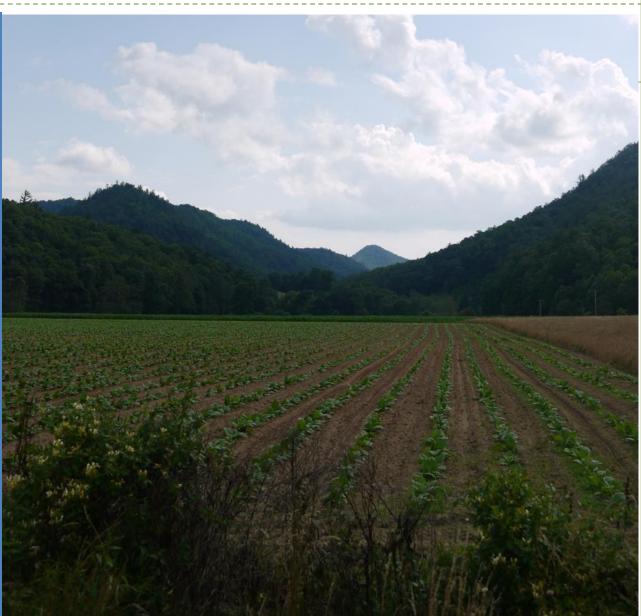
- Permanent infrastructure improvements build equity & value
- Greater control and freedom over production
- Collateral=access to financing

Why not own?

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

Suzanna Denison Land Access Director info@wncfarmlink.org 828.785.4284 wncfarmlink.org





Questions?



Chris Link

Community Farm and Food Program Associate

chris@appalachian.org

828.253.0095

Appalachian.org







