

Impact of 2022 Local Farmer Awards

Granted to 74 farms, the 2022 Local Farmer Awards once again had a mighty impact. Farmers successfully introduced a multitude of efficiencies, improved product quality and safety, supported new work practices for employees, and set product expansion in motion.



Wheel-View Farm

Introduced Efficiencies

Numerous farmers underscored big savings on time and labor. Many Forks used its two large Gorilla Carts to haul compost and apply to beds all over the farm, estimating a 50-75% savings on time and labor. Twenty Acre Farm's Water Wheel Planter Project reduced planting labor by 75%, replacing "back-breaking and time-consuming work." Lion's Tooth Farm's polyplanter for organic mulch doubled their efficiency over planting by hand and even made it possible to plant a second crop mid-season.



Many Forks Farm



Bostrom Farm

Improved Product Quality and Safety

The farm-to-table menu of ServiceNet's Prospect Meadow Farm features shitake mushroom soup. Their award, a mushroom growing shade, added 960 square feet of mushroom space, extending the shitake mushroom season by 60 days. Bostrom Farm's organic milk bottler cools pasteurized cow's milk to conform to state Department of Health requirements, so the farm no longer has to outsource milk packaging.

Supported New Work Practices

While challenges posed by crop, animal, and product management always loom large, farmers show immense concern for the well-being of their employees. Clarkdale Fruit Farms' Harvest Box Shuttle provides a safe way to transport crops, eliminating intense labor to load and strap bins. Justamere Tree Farm's remote vacuum cleaner system reduces the need for workers to be out at night or in very cold weather because they can monitor cleaning activity from a desk.



Clarkdale Fruit Farm



Kielbasa Farm

Set Product Expansion in Motion

Kielbasa Farm produced new apple varieties by installing 900 T posts to support high density apple tree planting. Dufresne Sugar House purchased a candy-making machine to pursue a new line of business for their own operation and also produce candy for other maple sugar farms. Berle Farms LLC, enthusiastic about the possibilities opened up by its new dehydrator, now has not only dried herbs, berries, and vegetables – but also “dreams of what our new knowledge and equipment can do for us next year.”

Supported by community funders:



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FARM CREDIT EAST



and others ...

Our Farmers: Practical. Resourceful. Motivated. Smart.

The 2022 awards reflect an astonishing breadth of creative and practical measures that ultimately enhance the appeal of the abundant products offered by farms in our region. Farm Girl Farm captured the optimistic spirit: “The grants are often successful in helping navigate through a bottleneck, clearing the way for expansion and greater profitability.” Harold Grinspoon, founder of the Local Farmer Awards sums it up well, “we are thrilled with the impact of the 2022 awards upon farmers, their communities, and the marketplace.”