

FADC Success Story: Hoot Owl Farms Utilizes BEP

The Project: By accessing the Food & Ag Business Enhancement Program (BEP) through the Montana West Economic Development (MWED) FADC, Hoot Owl Farm owners, Bonnie and Rudy, were able to participate in the Market Gardener Masterclass from the Market Gardener Institute. Their farm has benefited a lot already from this training, but the class is ongoing so they will continue to reap the rewards of this awesome program. Hoot Owl Farm is somewhat isolated as a small specialty crop farm in the Libby community - there are not many other commercial growers, and even less using the systems and techniques that they do. The Masterclass has somewhat filled that void. The class is mostly visual with lots of videos and Q&A sessions. Bonnie and Rudy watched farmers in the videos pruning with slightly different techniques than their own and were able to significantly reduce their time spent on this regular task as well as perform it more effectively (i.e. faster AND with less risk of damage to plants). Overall, they have learned much and made several improvements to their farming systems because of the Masterclass. They anticipate more to come as they delve deeper into some of the specific modules.

For more information, contact:

Montana West Economic Development, Ben Thiem ben@dobusinessinmontana.com

Hoot Owl Farm LLC, Libby, MT Bonnie and Rudy Geber

www.HootOwlFarm.net [hootowlfarm.net]