

D ACRES *OF* NEW HAMPSHIRE

PERMACULTURE FARM & EDUCATIONAL HOMESTEAD

Hello

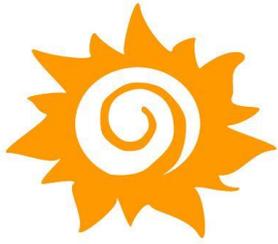
The leaves have fallen and snow is in the forecast here in Dorchester. It is time to reflect on our efforts this past year, and make plans for the future. Fortunately 2022 has been another year of steady recovery from the socio-economic crisis precipitated by the pandemic.

To review, I explored the southwest US for much of the spring while Will, Billie, Dunstan, and Melanie maintained operations through the winter. I am thankful to the community of support that allowed me to travel and explore, replenishing my energy for the work ahead. In April, when I returned, we decided to set boundaries on our scope of operations for the year. We chose to focus on agri-rec-ecotourism. We are building our capacity for visitors to fund our operations through overnight accommodations, recreation, educational experiences, and farm-to-table food. This revenue generation provides economic stability for our outreach and other educational services. Our visitors are exposed to the sustainable stewardship and land management techniques of our learning laboratory, thus accomplishing our goals for direct interaction with the public.

In essence we made deliberate decisions to continue the path of enhancing D Acres as a destination working model of innovative agriculture and land stewardship methodology. One of these foci is our trail system. We are improving access to the perimeter of the property, where we abutt the Green Woodlands trail system. Our trail building experience continues to grow, and we are pleased with the quality of trails we have produced. The machine building process creates a durable trail bed and adequate drainage for erosion control. The trails are accessible to the public and open for activity throughout the year with hiking (year round), mountain biking (June-November), and snow sports when the trails have sufficient coverage. This year, we were able to add nearly 3 miles of new terrain. By investing heavily in building a significant trail network, we are planting the seeds of sustainable forest stewardship. Our forest will continue to provide value without extracting trees for revenue. If you are uncertain of the weather or trail conditions, call or email D Acres for current status.

In this scenario, the trails provide a healthy oasis for the public, and the public supports D Acres by purchasing our farm services. By offering farm-to-table food, we engage the public in the seed-to-plate process of small-scale food production in New Hampshire. For visitors looking for more than a meal, overnight accommodations include options such as renovated school buses, upcycled tiny houses, and tree houses constructed with round wood from our forest. These innovative examples of housing and food systems have been established in our 25 year history of efforts towards sustainable, regenerative farm practices.

This past year, we set a strategic boundary to eliminate food service and farm store operations. While we utilized additional time to focus on trail work and site improvement, we missed the connection to the broader public through food. In 2023, our plan is to reopen weekend meal service and special food events, such as the pizza and movie nights. We also intend to reopen the farm store with an inventory of woodshop



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products and seasonal vegetables. In a systematic and methodical fashion, we are rebuilding our pre-pandemic hosting capacity in a manner sustainable for our staff while meeting our goals of serving the public.

The pandemic created an opportunity; The socio-economic shock of the situation allowed the mental space and time to redesign and reconfigure our operations with a long-term perspective in mind. Covid stretched our capacity to innovate and endure; Now is the time to use that experience to continue manifesting a farm system that perpetuates with resilient and durable design. We continue on our journey to develop a farm system that is healthy and holistic in its approach to the land and broader community.

We are fortunate to have a community onsite willing to work together to meet our individual and group goals. Will has spent a year managing the overnight visitors operations, gardens, and woodcutting. Dunstan is running the Nourish food truck, and stoking a fire of spiritual growth onsite. Catherine has joined the team and is learning homestead skills while embracing the community life of the farm. My role has been primary trail builder and director of day-to-day operations. We were also blessed with the helping hands of many volunteers this year. We hosted several events this summer including the 6th Acorn Festival, a yoga retreat weekend and the Native Edible Plant Weekend with Russ Cohen. In addition, we worked with groups from MIT, Harvard, Kroka, and the White Mountain School providing tours and experiential learning opportunities.

As we turn the page towards a bright future, we feel the support of the broad and diverse D Acres community. We have appreciated your presence in the form of correspondence, donations, and onsite visits. We thrive on the knowledge of the tremendous impact we have made, and we hope to continue to inspire and empower others. We appreciate all the encouragement and energies directed towards the welfare of the D Acres organization and its participants.

In 2023, we will be celebrating our 26th year. While we are continually reminded of our challenges and obstacles, we firmly believe in the promise of collaborating together in pursuit of our goals. Many people complain about the state of the world; it is rewarding for us to be working intently on alternatives. We appreciate your generous contributions. Thank you for your support!

With Gratitude,