

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News –January 7, 2019
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REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

(Burlington) This fall was a good reminder that no two seasons are the same. The prior two winters our unheated tunnel greens were way too early, overlapping with the end of our field greens, so we pushed our autumn seeding dates later into the fall. Bummer for us this year, as almost nothing is ready on our target schedule. I'm left realizing we are unlikely to ever be able to hit the timing perfectly where the outdoor greens quit just as the tunnel crops are ramping up. That said, we are seeing much lower rates of lettuce crown rot in the multi-cut leaf lettuces this year, likely due to the cooler temperatures during planting and establishment that aren't conducive to *Rhizoctonia* development. We're hosting a tunnel research trial in conjunction with UVM researchers testing ASD (Aerobic Soil Disinfestation - yikes!) as a Rhizoc control, which also may help this winter.

We are happily moving into our new winter storage and washing facility, and now are able to process produce all through the winter without waiting for the 'warm' day in the mid-20s and setting up all manner of plastic sheeting and construction heaters. Since we have additional storage capacity, we harvested many bulk bins of Brussels sprout stalks in mid-November prior to the deep freeze, and we g0 gBT/F40lv 0 he deep freeoŃA/E6sY!86H DUOLNHO YEUKH QW@0 HVW@

One of the biggest obstacles to getting started with farm succession and transfer planning is that many farmers don't know where to start. This is particularly true when it's not clear who might take over the farm. The very first steps usually involve setting personal goals for what you ideally want to see become of the farm in the future. And part of this typically involves differentiating between goals for the business, goals for the farm itself (the real estate), and goals for yourself and your family. Even this can be challenging, but Vermont farmers are lucky to have a number of resources to help you to get started,