

Rebecca Buck

To: Bruce Hennessey

From: Bruce Hennessey [<mailto:maplewind0@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 8:56 PM

To: Rebecca Buck

Subject:

Please give a copy to the community taking testimony on the Working Lands Enterprise Grant Program

My name is Bruce Hennessey. My partner, Beth Whiting, and I own and operate Maple Wind Farm in Huntington and Richmond, VT. The farm produces grass fed beef, pasture-raised pork, pastured poultry, eggs, organic vegetables and operates a USDA poultry processing facility. We have been the recipient of two different Working Lands Enterprise Grants. The first was in 2013 for \$15,000 which helped us build our processing plant. The second was a capital infrastructure grant of \$67,500 to build additional processing space, equipment, refrigeration and longterm storage capacity within a new processing barn we built in 2015 to replace a barn that burned to the ground in 2014. Thanks to the second grant, we became the first poultry processing facility in New England to offer innovative air chilling as part of our process.

Both grants leveraged funding of a 200% expansion of our farm business over the last 4 years with total investments exceeding \$500,000 and the creation of 12 new full time seasonal positions and 4 new year round jobs on the farm. It also provided 25 other farms in VT and neighboring states access to inspected poultry processing. In the coming season the farm will produce 20,000 pasture-raised broiler chickens and 1000 turkeys of its own, and process an additional 8000 chickens and 600 turkeys for other farms.

From our perspective, the Working Lands Enterprise Grant program has been nothing less than transformative for our farm, our community and the land we work. Receiving this kind of support has leveraged a great deal of investment and economic activity and provided employment in service to the Vermont working landscape. We are also aware of the benefits that have flowed to other farm and forest businesses and the impact that has had on their communities. The program has driven the development of agricultural opportunity in our area. Continued support for other deserving enterprises can only strengthen our farm and forest communities. Please continue funding this vital service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Hennessey, Owner/Operator, Maple Wind Farm.

--

Bruce Hennessey

Maple Wind Farm

**100% Grassfed Beef, non-GMO Pasture-Raised Pork & Poultry,
Organic Vegetables, USDA Poultry Processing**

1340 Carse Road and 1148 East Main St.

Huntington, VT 05462 Richmond, VT 05477

Ph. 802.434.7257

Cell. 802.233.3861

Email. maplewind0@gmail.com