# Believe believe in the magical fruit. 

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## Quick History

- 2009 - Started growing beans and making burgers at BHF; vended Rutland Winter Market
- 2010 - Picked up by BRP; worked 3 VT markets and 1 NYC
- 2011 - Tried out various other commercial kitchens while outgrowing BHF
- 2012-2015 - Moved to MRV for MRV Food Hub
- 2015 - Moved to our own rented kitchen at KBMG organic farm
- All Souls Incorporated and started producing tortillas in Warren as well
- 2017 - All Souls moves to new space in Burlington, VBC expands in MRV
- 2021 - Purchase of the farm in Warren; All Souls sets up new wheat tortilla bakery in Burl.
- 2023 - VBC awarded Kendall Foundation grant in partnership with SDX and NOFA-VT to increase local organic black beans served in VT institutions (also a regional scope)
- 2024 - Positioning to add copacker and bid on NY and MA DOE contracts



## Why Edible Dry Beans

- Role in rotation with grains as more Northeast farms add more grains
- Estimated of hundreds of thousands of acres in generational succession across Vermont soon. Need new markets for new crops
- Much of the soy and grain sector that supports dairy is relevant
- Market Potential enormous, and not saturated in Northeast
- Consumer Economics: cheapest protein source, makes other local proteins more affordable when combined
- Health

Meeting people where they are:


## Bean Economics 101

- Commodity prices are around $\$ 45 \mathrm{cwt}$ for common varieties (blacks, pintos, etc)
- VBC pays $\$ 62$ cwt for NY-grown conventional ( $27 \%$ more)
- VBC pays $\$ 125$ cwt for Organic Black Beans ( 2.7 x more)
- VBC pays up to $\$ 340 \mathrm{cwt}$ for VT-grown Organic Heirloom (7.5x more)


## Public School Meals

- At $\$ 4 / \mathrm{lb}$ dry weight, cooked cost is $\$ 2 / \mathrm{lb}$ or $\$ 0.50 /$ serving, under the cost per serving budget of public schools
- At $\$ 2 / \mathrm{lb}$ dry weight for black beans, cooked cost is $\$ 1 / \mathrm{lb}$ and a local beef and bean chili can be served within current public school budgets
- We are up against "free" USDA commodities in public schools
- But! More and more VT schools are opting out of those commodity can beans and talking about switching to our pre-cooked frozen 10lb case option!


## Transparent Sourcing








Flour base of Northeast-grown Oats, Beans, Buckwheat



## Mocking Bird Nuggets

Offer complete protein by combining Northeast-grown organic beans and corn-masa.


Equipment commons for beans and grains

*Thank you VHCB/VFFV and Kendall Foundation

## Bean Box

- Mail Order Subscription
- 24 distinct varieties offered
- Helps move Heirlooms
- Direct to Consumer
- Includes farmer profiles, bean histories and recipes
- Selling to nearly all 50 states
- Shipped Quarterly



## Combined Impacts of All Souls and VBC

- Organic Grain bought in
- Tortillas Made
- Beans bought in
- Vegetables and herbs
- Dry weight beans sold
- Cooked weight sold
- Bean burgers sold
- Payroll and FTE
- Double-digit annually compounding growth


## Biggest Catalysts

- Greg Cox of Boardman Hill Farm, West Rutland
- City Market Vendor Loan
- VHCB VFFV program
- Northern Grain Growers
- UVM Extension
- Agency of Ag, WLEB
- NOFA-VT
- VT Community Loan Fund
- VT Farmers Loan Fund
- Mad River Food Hub


## Biggest barriers

- Lack of affordable housing for staff
- Nearly all staff are paying more than $25 \%$ of their income to rent, and some around $50 \%$ ), and we pay an average of $\$ 25 /$ hour which is above average for our sector
- Lack of affordable childcare and early education opportunities
- Every week is staffing triage
- Thank you for passing Act 76. It's a start! Easily worth the $0.44 \%$ PRT for us
- Paid Family Leave (H. 66)
- We have had to shoulder the costs of paid family leave as a single enterprise to offer maternity, paternity, bereavement, and medical leave for staff.
- We would have saved money over this last decade paying into a plan as part of a larger risk pool at the State (or Federal) level


## Feel free to reach out with any questions:

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