

Windy Hill Organic Farm
McKees Mills, N.B.



Goals

- Protect soil from erosion
- Build up quantity and diversity of macro and micro life in the soil
- Build soil that drains well and has good water holding capacity
- Have high bioavailability of nutrients in the soil to support plant growth
- Produce very nutritious and delicious food
- Try to maintain as closed a loop system as possible by recycling our own products back into production



Manure

- Pile made from goat and chicken manure, vegetable trimmings, mortalities and offal from on-farm slaughtering
- Pile is built in layers and “turned” naturally but not truly composted
- Manure is spread, followed by a cover crop and vegetables grown the following season
- Other source: goats' winter accommodation has a tall manure pack by spring which is spread on fields
- Only enough for each field to get manure every 2 years





Compost

- Made from wood chips and seafood waste: lobster shells, etc.
- Allowed for organic production
- Buy next year's compost this year to let it age and build fungal hyphae for better degradation and nutrient release
- Used as a soil inoculant more than major nutrient source

Cover Crops/Green Manures

- Used to add organic matter to soil: annual grasses
- Adds nutrients: nitrogen from legumes (clover, peas, vetch) or phosphorous from buckwheat
- Improve soil drainage and air movement through deep root penetration: yellow blossom sweet clover in a two year rotation
- Plant either one crop per season and manage by mowing or two different crops, eg. Buckwheat followed by oats and peas







Rotations with Livestock

- Experimental so far and always with poultry
- Plant grass and legume species that work for poultry grazing, eg. Not too woody when mature: annual ryegrass and red or white clover
- Some poultry grazing mixes contain mustards and we avoid these because we already grow a lot of brassicas
- Mobile pens allow for an even spread of manure over the land
- Feed organic feed to avoid GMO seeds in the field







Thank You!

