

Workshop Title:

Post Harvest Handling at Tourne-Sol Farm

Speakers:

Emily Board

Executive Summary:

The session covered a small vegetable farm in Québec. The speaker discussed how they sell their produce and the structure they have for a successful post-harvest.

Main Notes:

Emily is with an organic farm outside of Montreal. They rent 17 acres and 12 acres are in production (6 of which are vegetables). They began in 2005 and currently they deliver products for 22 weeks of the year. They sell a customizable basket of produce for 30 dollars.

Market Style Distribution:

They put the vegetables on the table in bulk so that people can put together their own baskets. They have many choices with lots of signage to indicate what the product is. They have an exchange basket system (where you can swap for something you did not want from the table).

The goal of harvest is to get the vegetables out of the field as fast as possible. The constraint on their farm is that they begin to harvest at 7:30am. They harvest Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They deliver on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Pre-harvest: harvest meeting (what, how much, who, when, where)

- What: the plan Crop Manager

- How much: quantity They have software online to adjust quantity of basket delivery when needed. The workers pre-choose bulk of the basket and customers can exchange once delivered 400 baskets over 5 distribution spots
- Who: who is doing the harvesting for what? For bunching crops they work in teams of 4. One person stays at the washing station. Begin with harvesting the greens and follow with harvesting roots Beans and tomatoes can be harvested in the afternoon because they are able to withstand the heat
- When: rates of harvest: How many carrots can one person bunch in a minute? Gives people goals. Workers will know what their expectations on the job are. Washing bins is a process requiring three workers because cleanliness is an important factor in their business

There are certain methods for putting into harvest containers: specific weight of a crop placed in a certain type of bin

Harvest leader will divide the tasks depending on what the crop is. They do not have very specialized equipment; most of their processes are very basic.