



Local Farmer Awards Recipients Report on Impact of 2020 Awards



Hicks Family Farm – Hay Tedder

While farmers refer to a variety of specific benefits of the 2020 Local Farmer Awards, the bottom line is that these critical infrastructure improvements do what the farmers predicted in their applications – **they introduce efficiencies and lead to an increase in income.**

For example, award winners have been able to **reduce planting time** with multi-row seeders; hay 25% more fields with a hay tedder; protect plants from frost, deer and insect damage with row cover and netting; and use a weed mat to spend less time on weeding and more time on harvesting and drying herbs for the winter market. **Arduous labor is eased** by such efficiencies as a grain auger, a

pallet stacker, and a mobile milker handling two goats at once, thereby relieving farmers’ hands. Furthermore, with awards that help with storage, farmers **save money and reduce waste** by keeping quantities of food in coolers for the winter, ensuring that ample supply is available to larger wholesale customers. Other examples of increased efficiency and cost savings include an animal feed wagon with auger to dramatically scale up hogs, chickens, and broilers; and, over a thousand quarts of strawberries saved with a frost blanket.



Big Foot Farm – Insect Netting for Pest Exclusion

It’s a pleasure to see that **some improvements led to happier and healthier animals** such as an automatic swinging brush that makes goats more at ease; a thermometer that allows farmers to identify health issues more quickly; and direct-drive barn ventilation fans resulting in more comfortable cows during milking.



Of the Shelf Farm – Auger for Mobile Grain Bin

An impressive 99% called the awards Very Important or Important. Farmers appreciate the opportunity to apply year

after year, the ease of the application process, and our being so attuned to what they are looking for in a community. Wrote one: “Having the foresight and cash boost to make needed improvements effectively and with quality allows our farming community to move forward as opposed to always playing catch-up.” And another wrote “I can sleep soundly at night knowing my crops aren’t being devoured by deer.... Thank you for your efforts in making farming viable across our local communities”. **The depth and sincerity of farmers’ gratitude and the added value to the local farming community are good reasons to continue and even expand the Local Farmer Awards.**



Fletcher Farm – Direct-Drive Ventilation Fans

This year’s awards are brought to you by:



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