

CASE STUDY STRUCTURE:

- Overview:
 - How much space do you have in high tunnel production?
 - What kind(s) of high tunnels do you have
- Construction/Maintenance:
 - How did you acquire, finance & build your tunnel
 - Orientation, Placement:
 - Repairs required? Type of plastic covering? Do you remove or leave up? Replacing plastic.
 - Accessories (vent, blower motor for double wall, etc)
- Production:
 - What do you grow (typically? Vary or stay the same?)
 - Crop rotation, Soil health, cover crop, etc.
 - Weeds, Disease, Pests, Heat, Irrigation
- Benefits:
 - Quantify amount of season extension achieved
 - Increased sales, costs, net profit?
- Outcomes:
 - Challenges?
 - Benefits?
 - What would you do differently
 - What are you happy that you did
 - What advice would you give other farmers

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How much land do you farm? How much high tunnel space do you have?
 - a. How many high tunnels do you have & How many square feet are they?
 - i. Calculate % of total growing space.
2. What kind of high tunnel(s) do you have?
 - a. *Ex. caterpillar, quonset, gothic* (See appendix A for examples.)
3. How did you build your high tunnel(s)?
 - a. DIY, Kit or Company
 - i. If DIY, where did you get your materials?

1. Where did you get the idea for the design/materials you used?
 - ii. DIY or Kit: Who helped you construct?
 1. What were the main challenges of constructing the tunnel?
4. How did you acquire your tunnel(s)?
 - a. New or Used?
 - b. Did you have financial or other assistance?
 - i. What kind? (Non-profit, govt grant (ie. NRCS EQIP), NGO grant, bank loan, cash, etc.)
 1. Did that assistance cover the whole cost?
5. What type of irrigation do you use?
 - a. Mist, drip tape, hand held hose, sprinkler, etc.
 - i. Automated?
6. What accessories do your tunnels have?
 - a. Heater, ventilation fans, pull up walls, wheels, etc.
7. Plastic type?
 - a. Single wall, Double wall, Insulated, colorized, what thickness of poly (mm)?
8. Do you remove your plastic for winter?
 - a. If so, when, why?
 - b. When do you put it back on in the spring?
9. How often do you need to/choose to replace your plastic?
10. How do you prepare your soil?

- a. Cultivator (tractor or walk-behind?), hand shovel/broadfork, raised beds, etc.
- b. Soil amendments?
 - i. Fertilizer/Compost
 - ii. Mulch (carbon/lignan)
 - iii. Lime, gypsum, or other pH-shifting amendment
- c. Have you noticed and changes in Soil Health?

11. What do you grow? / How do you use your tunnels?

12. What do you make the most income from in your tunnels?

13. Do you rotate your crops?

- a. Cover crops? Dual Cropping?

14. By how much is your growing season extended?

15. How do you manage temperature in your tunnel?

- a. How often do you need to check on your tunnel temp?

16. What are the risks of starting to grow in a high tunnel ?

- a. What are the biggest challenges of this system?

17. How do you manage weeds?

- a. Wood/straw/plastic mulch/black plastic/cover crops/other methods? (Plastic mulch = Garden tarp)

18. How do you manage disease?

19. What diseases or pests give you the most trouble?

- a. Rodents
- b. Insects
- c. Fungus(mold)/Bacteria/Virus

20. How often do you need to make repairs?

- a. How much per year does upkeep cost?

21. How does your high tunnel fit into your farm system?

- a. *Ex. "Do you rely on the season extending and warming properties to offer a more robust CSA?"*

22. What is your Return on Investment (ROI)?

- a. Profit of high tunnel crops - upkeep - initial cost + marketing/variety perceived benefits

23. Knowing what you now know, would you build them again?

24. What would you change if you could do everything all over again?

- a. *Ex. No field crops and animals, only high tunnel?*

APPENDIX A - Tunnel Types
Caterpillar



<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/tools-supplies/greenhouse-and-tunnel-supplies/benders/high-tunnel-12-wide-quick-hoops-bender-9018.html>

Quonset style



<http://articles.extension.org/pages/18358/introduction-to-high-tunnels>

Gothic Style



<http://articles.extension.org/pages/18358/introduction-to-high-tunnels>