

providing squashes and pole beans to the CSA, and allowing us to produce a seed crop of Longfellow Flint corn, an heirloom open pollinated corn variety. In the fall compost was spread on an enlarged area to be planted to vegetables and more mulch hay was spread over this same area to control weeds in anticipation for planting in 2006.

During the summer, one area that had mature pine was selectively logged to produce high quality logs for a home being built on the land trust. In the fall we cut and moved the remaining 12 cords of firewood, and this allowed the cleared area to be thoroughly brush hogged. We spread pasture mix over the entire area again, in an attempt to fill in the toughest brushy areas, and eliminate the chance for more weeds to grow. The grasses and clovers are becoming the dominant cover.

6. Results. The results have been mostly as expected. However less time was available for land clearing last winter than necessary to clear the proposed area. As a result part of the planned clearing has not started and likely will not start as part of this project. Ground prep for planting will take considerable time as well.

We have been very happy with the results as pasture has always been in short supply and the rapidity of turning this field into productive pasture has been gratifying. Other land that has been needed for pasture, can now be used for hay crops.

7 Conditions. The 2004 season was relatively wet and though the soft ground was easy for the pigs to root, some areas where hogs were pastured became muddy as a result. Otherwise conditions were as expected

8. Economics. We are expecting to show that clearing land this way will be an economically viable method as income is produced immediately (cordwood, pork products, rough pasture) as work begins and overhead costs are very low compared to having heavy machinery do the clearing. Experience shows also that the land is left in much better condition as the soil layers are not disturbed.

9. Assessment. n/a

10. Outreach. Every person who has visited our farm, roughly 30 visitors /month during snow free period has been given a tour of the field clearing progression since 1983. Though formal advertised pasture walks have not been made since the grant began we plan to host them this summer.\

We missed getting on the 2005 pasture walk schedule, but will be ready to host pasture walks this summer.