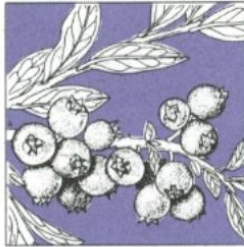


BLUE BARRENS FARM



RR1 • BOX 27 • COLUMBIA

MAINE 04623 • 207 483 4196

June 29, 1998

Dr. Jim Gardiner
SARE
10 Hills Building
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont 05405
Re: Request for no-cost extension of FNE-96-135

Dear Jim:

I'm writing to bring you up to date on our progress in our project "The Development of Rhubarb Agriculture in Maine," and to request a no-cost extension of the project for reasons I'll here explain.

Progress to date: With respect to the preparation of the power-line right-of-way, we have leveled the land, thinned and top-pruned the bordering overstory trees, plowed, harrowed, and are now ready to plant a cover crop. This phase of the project has been considerably more expensive and time-consuming than first imagined and has proceeded much more slowly than originally anticipated on that account. Principal causes of delay included: we had to remove a much greater volume of shading overstory timberwood than anticipated; we needed assistance in removing some overstory timberwood from the local utility; and an unusually wet spring during 1996 delayed our efforts to level the right-of-way. With respect to varietal trials, we have planted four varieties (rather than the three originally proposed) and have learned that Valentine is the variety most suitable for our needs, being a deeper red in color and slightly more tender than the other varieties tested (Canada Red, Crimson Red, and Victoria). We now have approximately 1,000 Valentine crowns growing in a temporary location, pending completion of soil preparation on the right-of-way.

Request for extension: For the reasons listed above, we are behind in our efforts to plant the right-of-way. We are therefore here requesting a no-cost extension of our project until November, 1998, by which time, we anticipate, we should be able to shift the crowns now growing to their permanent locations.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. We look forward to the prospect of seeing you in the near future.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Jacoby". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Mark E. Jacoby