

Strawberry Production at Joe's Brook Farm



A work in progress. . .

Farm Overview

- Certified organic operation in Barnet founded in 2009.
- 60% of sales direct to consumer. 40% wholesale.
- Own 2 acres tillage, a home and a barn on Joe's Brook. Lease 20 acres of loamy sand along the Passumpsic River 3 miles away.
- Around 10 acres total veg/berry production. 1.5 acres of berries for 2017 harvest.
- Employee 2-3 full timers from April-November. 2-3 additional full timers from June-August.





First Berries. 1/8 acre. Yielded 96 quarts.

We have experimented with different production models.

- **Spring planted on bare ground.** SPRING PLANTED ON PLASTIC. Hand planted. Machine planted. Runners set. **Runners removed.** *Fall plugs on plastic.* Drip irrigation. Overhead frost protection. Row cover frost protection. Row cover over the winter. Row cover in Spring. STRAW OVER THE WINTER. **Straw by hand.** *Straw by machine. Traditional renovation.* Fall Plug Renovation. **Bird netting.**
- Generated a lot of enthusiasm, but not a lot of profit.

An Enterprise Analysis of Four Organic Strawberry Production Systems in Northeastern Vermont.

4, 500' bed trials of Jewel all with drip

- Traditional matted row
- 16" Spring planted bare root on plastic, runners removed
- 36" Spring planted bare root on plastic, runners set
- Fall planted plugs on plastic





Primary Study Goal:

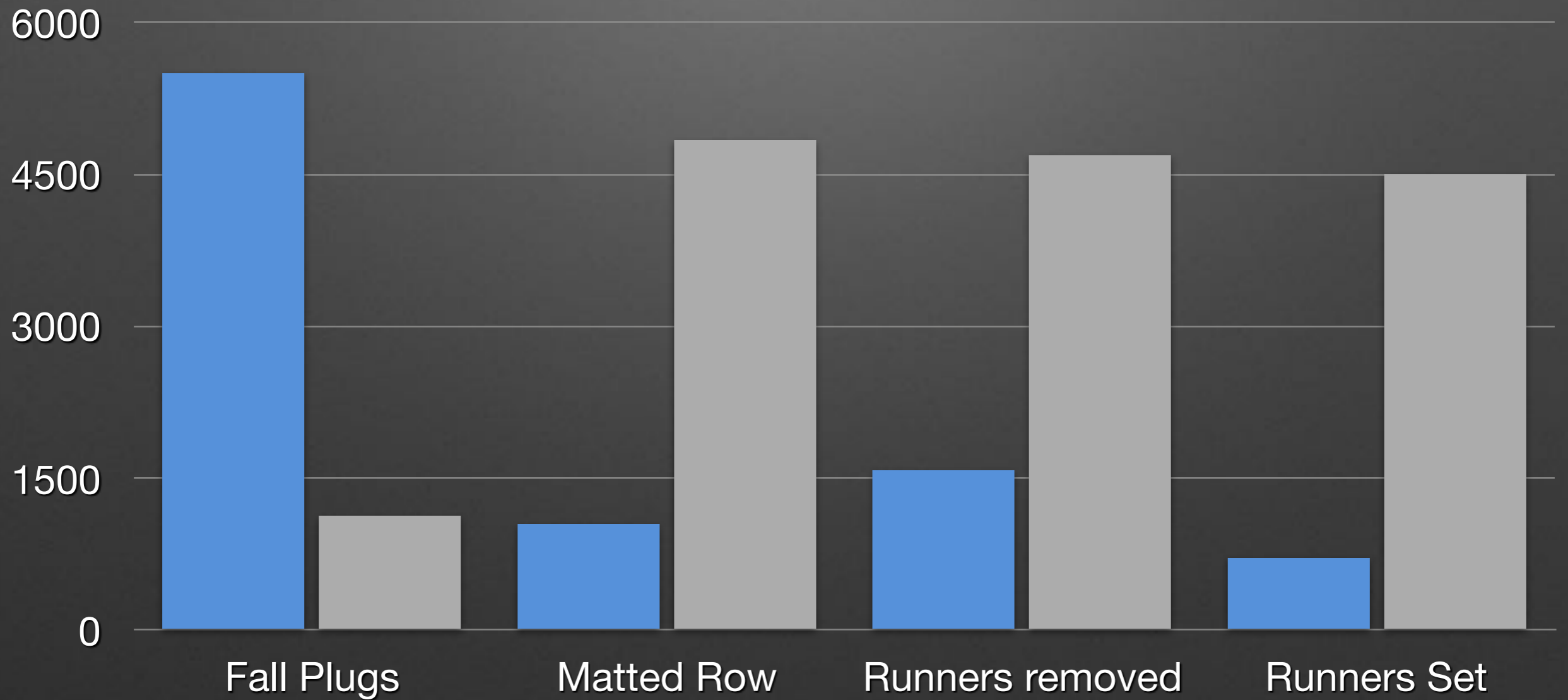
**Help first time organic strawberry growers pick a production system.
Experienced growers may be too good at their current system to
benefit.**

Establishment Year Costs

	PLUG PRODUCTION	MATTED ROW	16" BAREROOT RUNNERS REMOVED	36" BARE ROOT RUNNERS SET
NON LABOR INPUTS	\$141/500' bed \$2,115/acre	\$126/500' bed \$1,890/acre	\$141/500'bed \$2,115/acre	\$141/500'bed \$2,115/acre
PLANT COST	\$367 \$5,505	\$70 \$1,050	\$105 \$1,575	\$47 \$705
LABOR INPUTS	\$75 \$1,125	\$322 \$4,830	\$312 \$4,680	\$303 \$4,505
TOTAL/BED TOTAL/ACRE	\$583 \$8,745	\$518 \$7,770	\$558 \$8,370	\$491 \$7,365

Establishment Year Costs

■ Plant Cost ■ Labor Cost





Will production differences make a winner?

Join us in 2017 at a conference near you. . .

Further Research

- Different Varieties
- Multi year



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