



SAVANNA INSTITUTE

SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST

SILT

PROTECTING LAND TO GROW HEALTHY FOOD



Cash Flowing Agroforestry

Humble Hands Harvest is a worker-owned co-operative farm. We grow 2+ acres of organic vegetables, grass-finished sheep, pastured pork, and fruit and nut trees. We distribute at the Winneshiek Farmers Market in Decorah; and through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for both our veggies and our meat. We found our long-term home in 2017 on Hidden Falls Road, 10 miles from Decorah, on ancestral Sauk, Meskwaki, Lakota, and Ho-chunk land, and began functioning as a worker-owned co-operative that same year.

Humble Hands Harvest practices un-conventional, organic, visionary, slow-growing agriculture. We strive to create a resilient landscape that grounds a vibrant local culture.

Humble Hands Harvest is the first enterprise on a piece of land that we are actively growing into a perennial polyculture commons – where a wide diversity of tree crops produce year after year, animals happily graze, vegetables are abundant through the seasons, and the soil is fertile and teeming with life. We are committed to regenerative agriculture that feeds our community, improves the soil, and connects people intimately to the food that we eat, and so to this piece of our earth.

We are young women: unconventional on the Iowa farm scene, to say the least. We're grounded in this landscape and driven to make a difference in this place.

HHH gross income by year:

2017	\$38,759
2018	\$43,874 + \$8500 livestock + \$1000 tree sponsors
2019	\$65,708 (\$49,258 of that is food, the rest events, grants, USDA payments, etc)
2020	\$88,554 (\$60,778 food)
2021	\$88,819 (\$70,365 food)
2022	\$102,519 (\$81,665 food)
2023	\$41,623 (\$32,541 food)

Agroforestry Planting by Year

2017	emily plants apples (free), Hannah plants DNR trees (\$500)
2018	chestnuts, hazelnuts (\$200)
2019	Apple fence built (cost shared)
2020	Apple orchard planted (\$3600 trees)
2021	oak seeds in pasture (free)
2022	chestnut (\$50) and hazel (free) replacements & expansion, tree tubes for all (\$1380), DNR trees (free)
2023	oak trees in pasture (free)

Other agroforestry expenses:

Mulch, every year, between \$40 and \$120 per dump truck load depending on source, usually a couple loads a year.

Fertility—sustane and compost mooched from the vegetable farm

Tree cages—wire rolls from hardware store, fiberglass poles, labor to put them together.

Funding sources:

NRCS cost share for apple fence

Fundraising for initial chestnut planting (\$1000)

Taxes:

\$500/year



Labor estimates by year (underestimates) for planting, mulching, etc:

2017	30 HR
2018	30 HR
2019	20 HR
2020	80 HR
2021	50 HR
2022	60 HR
(first half) 2023	36 HR(watering)



HHH Labor by Year	
2017	H&E \$1000/month during growing season
2018	H&E \$1000/month; 1 20 hour employee, \$8/hour
2019	H&E \$1000/month to \$1200/month; 1 30 hour employee, \$8/hour to \$10/hour H&E \$1200/month; 1 40 hour employee, \$10/hour
2020	H&E \$1200/month; 1 40 hour employee, \$10/hour
2021	H&E \$1200/month; 1 40 hour employee, \$10.50/hour
2022	H&E \$1600/month; 2 40 hour employees, \$10/hour
2023	H&E \$1600/month; 2 40 hour employees, \$11/hour

Sheep numbers 2022:	
24 lambs, 15 ewes (2023 = 32 lambs, 18 ewes)	
Winter hay	\$1,200
Mineral	\$300
ACV homemade!	0
Daily chores	275 hours/year
Spa day, loading for locker	25 hours/year
Veterinary	\$200/year
Processing fees	\$150/lamb + \$20/lamb driver
Electronet (capital expense)	\$800 depreciated over 5 years, so \$160/year
Income	\$4,900

