



## Philosophical Ponderings of a Farmer

### **Value-Added Production on a Micro-Farm (c) 2018**

Oh, did you think that I have everything under control in terms of balancing field work and kitchen work? While that actually might be the case right now (yippee!), much of the last few months has been an endurance race of olympic proportions. It's hard (really hard) to run a multi-plot farm and a value-added business at the same time, by yourself.

Somehow everyone around me intrinsically understood that it would be (almost) impossible to do this, and told me so. But I felt confident that if anyone could do it, I could. I am extremely organized and logistical, almost to a fault. Which is why I have been able to make it work. But I have to admit that July through September has been challenging. And while I have gotten everything done that really needed to happen, it hasn't left much time to enjoy the summer outside of farming.

Not only am I farming and processing, but I am also marketing - prepping CSA boxes and doing the farmers market takes a whole (12+) hour day each week. And its just me (I have a rule that I have to be able to pay myself before I can hire any help.)

I'm not complaining. The real problem is that I love it all - the farming, the canning, the CSA, and the farmers market. How could I possibly choose to give one of these things up? I guess that is what the winter is for - reflecting on last season, running financial reports (which I'm oddly excited about - yep, I'm a total nerd), deciding what works well and making changes to the things that don't. I guess we'll see what happens...