

# WELCOME TO



Your Hosts; John & Linda here with the late Pickles







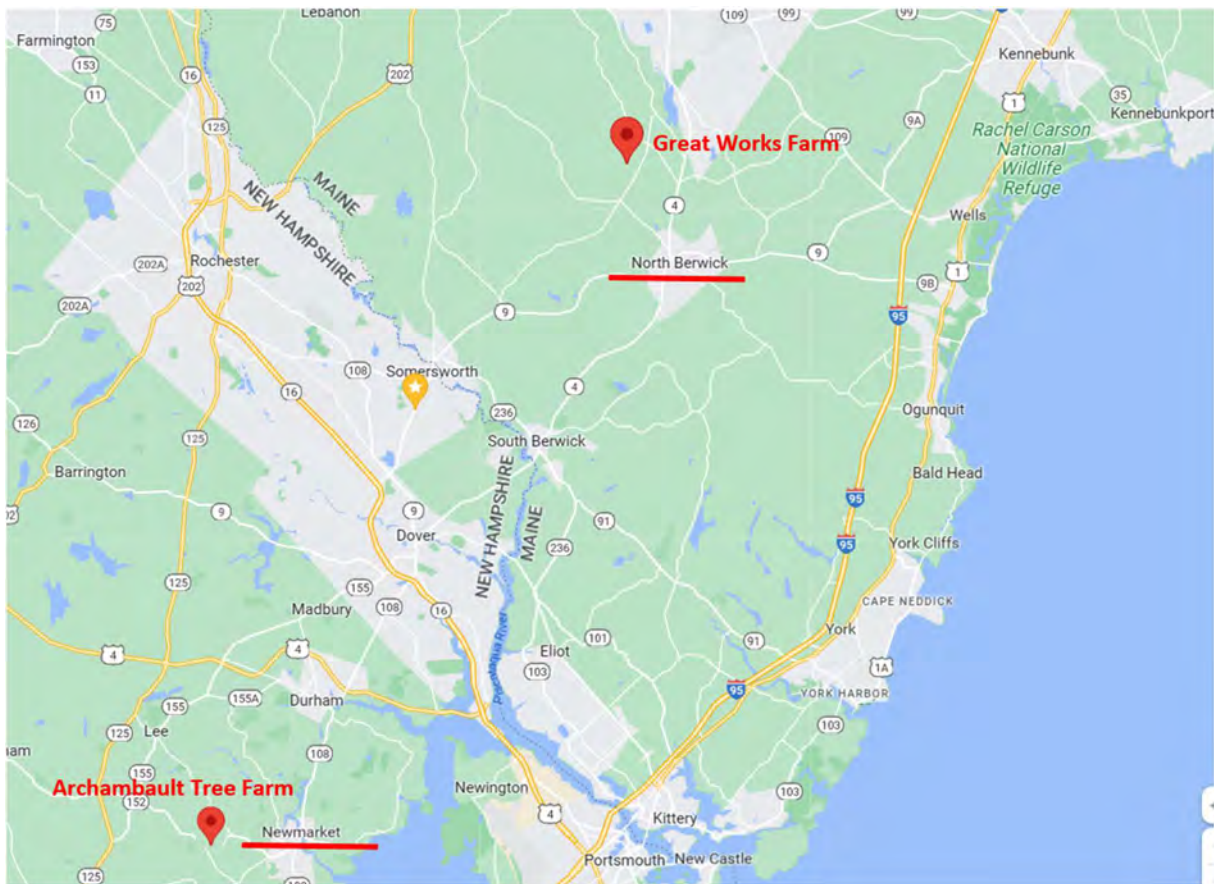




# NEWMARKET, NH



I planted my first Christmas trees in 1990 in Newmarket NH starting Archambault Tree Farm. The farm has 7500 trees. In March of 2010 we purchased an 85-acre farm in North Berwick Maine, located 10 Miles west of Wells Maine, planting started 1 month later. We moved from Newmarket to N. Berwick in 2011, renting the Newmarket house and continuing that tree farm. Our Son Zachary Archambault and his wife Missy purchased the farm in 2018 and are continuing the business.





We planted the first Christmas trees at Great Works in the spring of 2010. Today the farm has 15,000 Christmas Trees planted over 15 acres of open meadows, the contour of the fields is rolling terrain with plenty of rocks and stones.

The farm was named Great Works Farm after the Great Works River which the local watersheds run into. The farm house, garage and stable are the original post and beam farm buildings circa 1800. There are two large chicken houses (circa 1940's), we converted one to a residential rental unit, the second is our workshop and Christmas Barn.

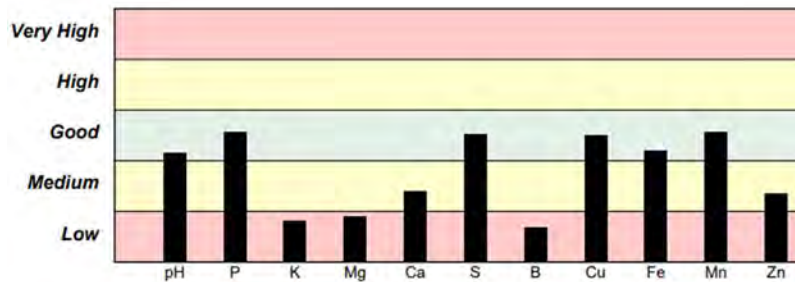




At Great Works Farm, all trees are spaced 5.5 ft in the rows, the rows are 6 ft apart, all transplants are planted using a 5" planting bar. We trim the trees with knives. To maximize the quantity of trees, paths are limited and narrow. The variety of trees are mostly Balsam, Canaan, Fraser and Concolors, we also have Turkish Fir, Veitchii X Balsam and Koreana X Lasiocarpa .

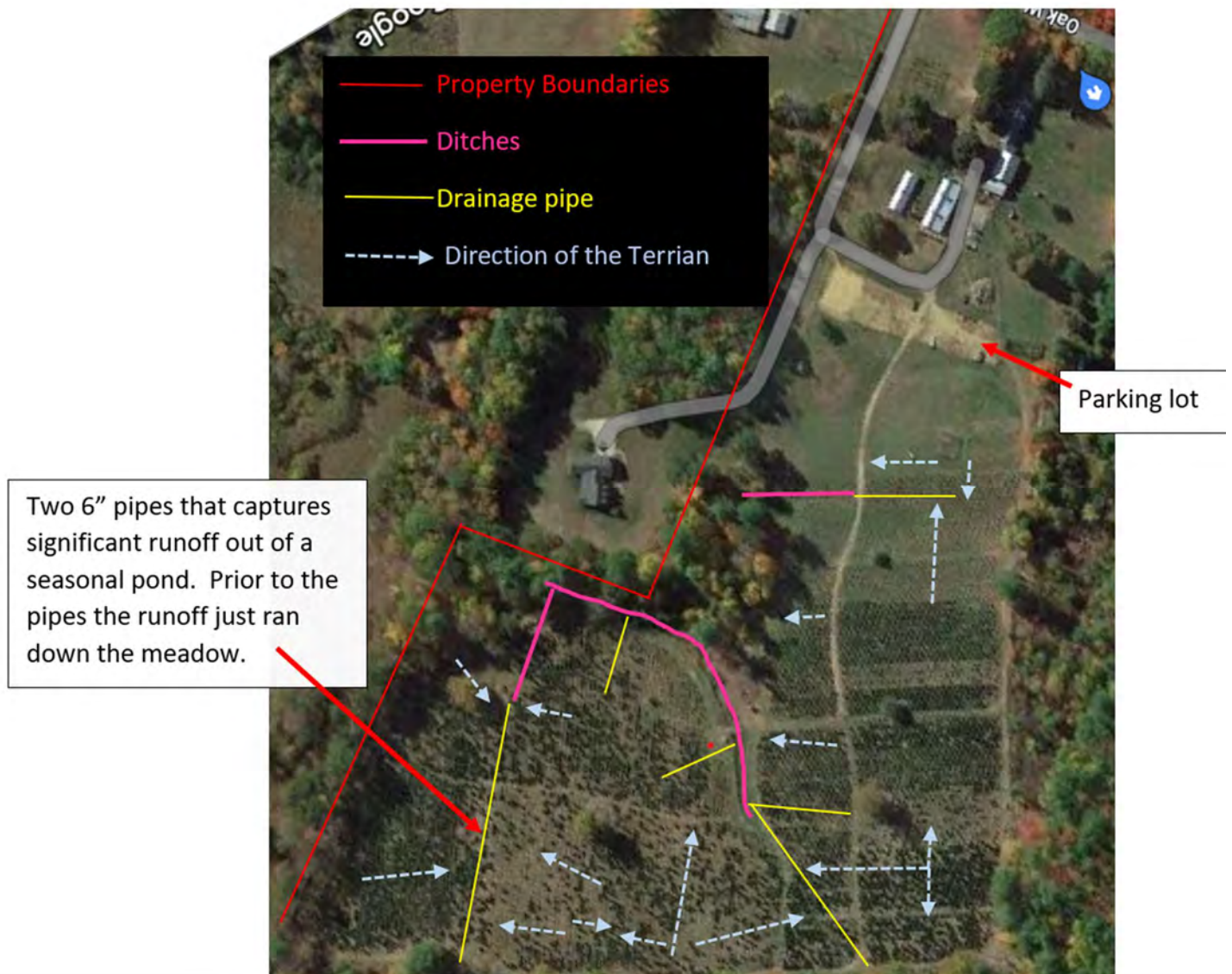
The soil type is 'Hermon' a sandy loam with excellent drainage, technically "The Hermon series soil types consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils on upland till plains, hills and ridges.

The soil test below is typical of the fields, a custom blended Fertilizer is used accordingly. We do 2 fertilizer applications each spring. One is nitrogen only that we apply in the 2 to 2.5 foot wide weed controlled tree rows. The second application is for phosphate, potassium and the micro nutrients, this is spread across the 6-foot-wide grass and tree rows.





The following shows the field terrain and where Ditches and drainage pipe has been installed.



All trees are sold choose and cut, 1300 – 1500 per year. We are open on Friday's, Saturday's and Sunday's, 9:30 to 4.

In October we individually price and tag each tree we wish to sell for the year, I'll tag an extra 100 trees so the last customers have some selection. I'll intentionally leave many of the best trees untagged to save them for bigger high quality trees in future years. On larger trees I will tag every other tree, making ample room for the remaining trees to get larger. Our price range is \$50 to \$125 (wide 11 ft premium), we average \$80. Most customers appreciate our fair pricing, those needing the biggest and best are willing to pay, while those getting small and or leftovers are happy to pay less.

The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in November we open for tagging, we have a \$10 charge for tagging, customers pay for their tree when they tag.

We provide bow saws for tree cutting and twine for the customers to tie their trees to their vehicle, but do assist with tying. We have 75 tree carts and bow saws, 2 electric tree shakers, two 23" and a 26" netter. We have a work crew that will shake and wrap the trees, 90% of our customers use this free service. Sorry, no Santa's, elves or hayrides.











## EQUIPMENT

For equipment we have a 26HP Kubota BX tractor with a 42" brush hog mower, we mow the trees fields 3 to 4 times per year. We have custom built tractor side shields that lift tree branches up away from tractor tires. I've attached a 25 Gallon tank and sprayer nozzles to the mower to spray and mow at the same time. We also have a trailer with a 55-gallon tank, a Rears Nifty 55 gallon gas engine high pressure diaphragm pump sprayer for pesticide spraying of the trees, which we have not used or sprayed any pesticides on our trees for 25 years. I bought it in the mid 1990's and used it in Newmarket on Balsam twig aphids, now I believe I over reacted at the time, I phased out the spraying after 2 or 3 years, now we occasionally get and accept some aphid damage. I've kept the sprayer around for any unexpected future needs.



Trailer with a 55-gallon tank sprayer



Rears Nifty 55 gallon



For fertilizing, we have 4 customized spreaders. People ask me, John why don't you just buy a pendulum spreader to do it all. My response is 'that would be easy, anyone can do it that way'. One is a modified child carrier back pack for hand application. We have two spreaders each modified using the following concept. The fertilizer drops into PVC piping where a leaf blower moves the fertilizer through the piping, redirects and spreads it across the 2ft wide tree band/rows. One is a self-propelled pull behind broadcast spreader which can fertilize two rows simultaneous. We use this spreader on our larger block planted trees. This spreader was shown at the VTNH CTA meeting at Rick Zielfelder farm a few years ago.



The second is a push type drop spreader modified to fertilize a single row. This spreader uses an air (pneumatic) cylinder activated by a thumb switch to open and close the chute. A quick 'open/close' will spot fertilize small trees, a longer 'open' for 3 to 4 ft trees or continuous 'open' for larger trees. The air source is a 2 gallon, 150 psi air tank which will do about 1000 open/close cycles, the air tank is replenished with any air compressor. We use this spreader on our smaller trees and where trees are varied in size within the choose and cut areas.











3pt hitch Herd broadcast spreader with a custom fully adjustable shroud used to spread at the desired 6 foot width



Our Farmall A, my late father-in-law's tractor is a lawn Ornament. The farm could not have transitioned from 2010 to today without a Backhoe for digging ditches, installing drainage tile and the parking lot, land clearing, septic for the rental unit, irrigation and so many little jobs. The ripper attachment is a real time saver in digging up tree stumps.



Ripper Attachment





## APARTMENT TREES

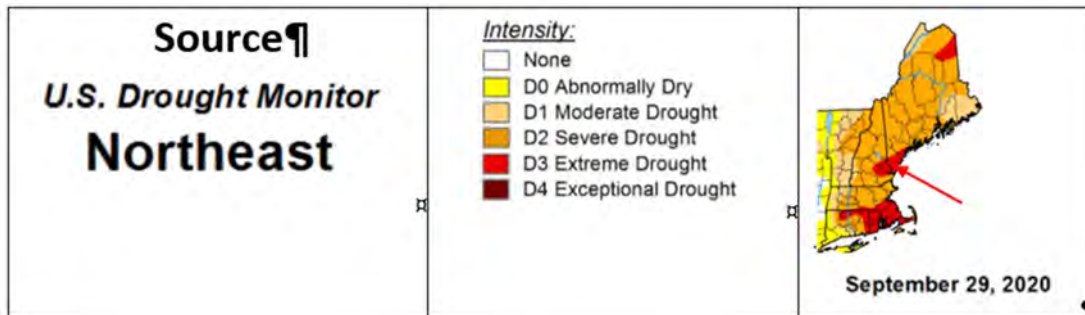
We are experimenting with growing 4 to 5 Ft apartment trees spaced at 3.5 ft giving each tree 12 sq ft, compared to our 5.5 x 6 ft spacing at 33 sq ft. They are doing fine and ready for market.





# IRRIGATION

## DRAUGHT CONDITIONS PERSISTED FROM 2018 TO 2020



This was our driest field after 150 trees were cut and burned due to drought. The smaller trees in the front did not recover and were also cut in the following spring.

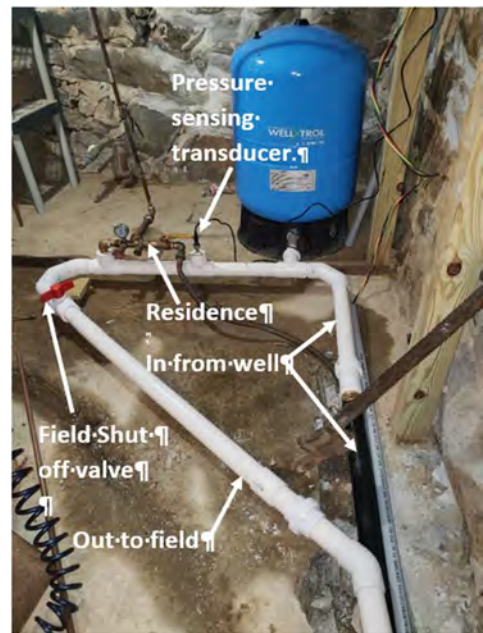
In May of 2020, after planting 2250 transplants in dry soil, we attempted to irrigate them using gallon jugs that had a small hole in the bottom that emptied them in 10 to 15 minutes. This was very time consuming and the results were not very effective.



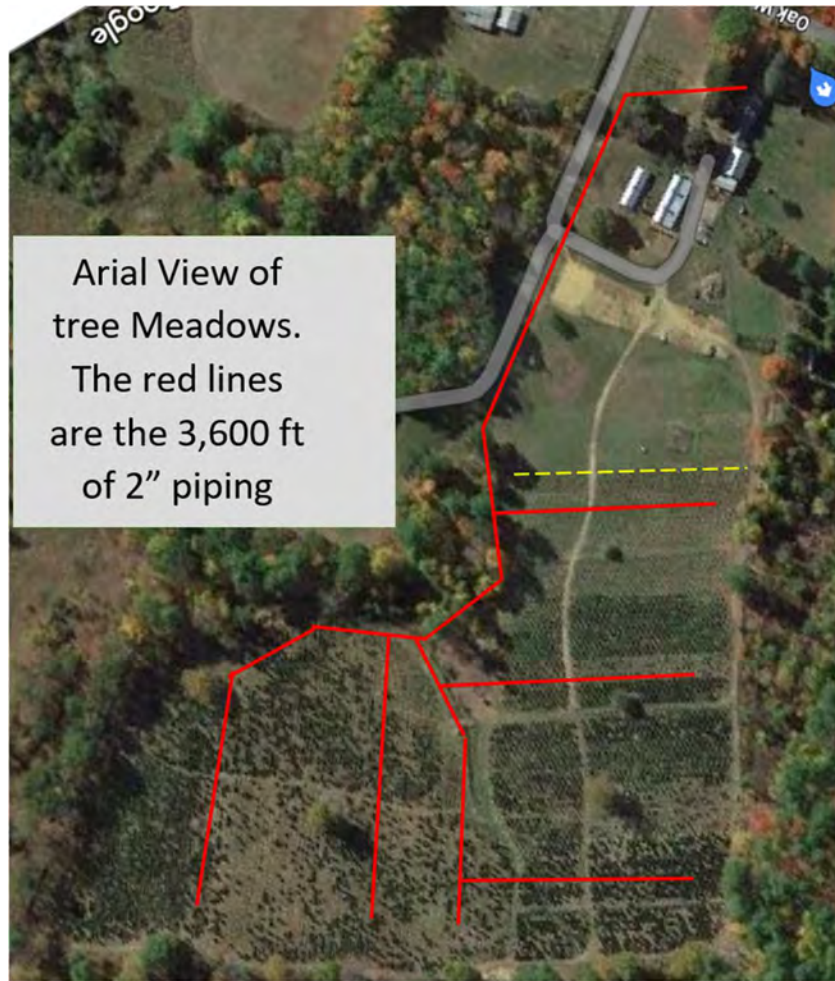


In August of 2020 we decided to install an irrigation system that would cover all trees.

The capacity of the residential 100 foot deep drilled well on the farm was unknown, a few test indicated its capacity to be greater than 30 gallons per minute (gpm). The well pump, water tank, piping and wiring between the house cellar and the bottom of the well was upgraded, to a 3 horse power (HP), 30 gpm continuous flow pump with 2-inch piping.







Our sprinklers irrigate in 90 foot circles, we have 8 sprinklers, 4 are used per 8 hour watering cycle to providing 1 inch of water, each cycle is controlled with a timer. Every 90 foot on the 2" piping are faucets that the sprinklers attach to. After the cycle end the sprinklers are moved 90 ft away from the pipe and connected to the faucet with 1.5 inch fire hose, readied for another 8 hour cycle. We can irrigate 4 - 90ft circles in 8 hours, 24 per day. We seem to always miss some cycles, it typically takes 5 to 6 days to complete all 90 spinkler locations.

#### Math Fun:

1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons

To water 1 sq ft with 1 inch of water =  $7.48 \text{ gallons} / 12 \text{ inches} = .623 \text{ gallons}$

1 acre = 43,000 sq ft \*  $.623 \text{ gallons per sq ft} = 26,800 \text{ gallons/acre.}$

$26,800 \text{ gallons} * 15 \text{ acres} = 400,000 \text{ gallons}$









Fire Hose, tripod and sprayer trailer

## LAND CLEARING FOR MORE CHRISTMAS TREES







Between the fall of 2021 through 2022 we cleared  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre of woodland. I read that many N. Carolina Tree Farmers are planting their fields with Durango White Clover which I decided to use. It's benefits are; it is short so little to no mowing is required, it lasts three times longer than Ladino clover types, when inoculated for nitrogen fixation the clover will yield up to 150 lbs of nitrogen per acre. We planted 100 transplants in the spring of 2023, the photo below was just taken.





## CHRISTMAS BARN

The Christmas barn is Linda's work of art, filled with great finds from yard sales, estate auctions, Criag's Lists and Facebook Market Place. This photo does not do justice to the 16 x 70ft size of the room, which is heated by two propane fire places, everything is for sale, here all customers will come in to purchase their tree, wreaths, beverages and our own donuts. We purchase wreaths, decorate them for sale, we sell no new retail items. It is often a little crowded, but the customers love it, after cutting their tree, the barn just tops off their experience with a great feeling of Christmas. After work hours, we'll bring in some chairs, food and spirits, turn up the music and entertain family and friends.













# VINEYARD

We have a small vineyard of 25 vines which my nephew, an amateur Vintner comes each year to harvest the grapes and then returns a couple of months later with some rather tasty wine.





# FARM ANIMALS <sup>A</sup>

All farms need animals, ours look like sheep but they are actually angora goats, we currently have 6. Linda feeds and sheers them, and spins their fiber into yarn and sells it in the Christmas Barn. We also have chickens for farm fresh eggs. In the past we had alpaca's, ducks and rabbits, we are cutting back on some hobbies.







**Granddaughters dancing and singing 'Old McDonald Had A Farm'**



**OCCASIONALLY WE GET DIFFERENT CELEBRITIES ON THE FARM TO ENTERTAIN (US), ALL IN GOOD FUN.**





# A FEW CLOSING PICTURES OFF THE FARM.

















**ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR ON THE  
FARM COMES TO AN END.**

