

Assistant Farm Manager at Resilient Acres

Jenna Dent

Chardon, Ohio

Mission Statement

"Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) is a worldwide movement to link visitors (WWOOFers) with organic farmers, promote a cultural and educational exchange, and build a global community conscious of ecological farming and sustainability practices"



Background

This, I signed up for an online volunteer organsummerization called WWOOF. I volunteered at a couple farms and I fell in love with farm life. When I learned that all my classes would be online this semester, I jumped on the opportunity to set up an internship at Resilient Acres. I secured a 180-hour internship from September 13-November 26.



Here I am on a zoom call under the grape arbor at Resilient Acres

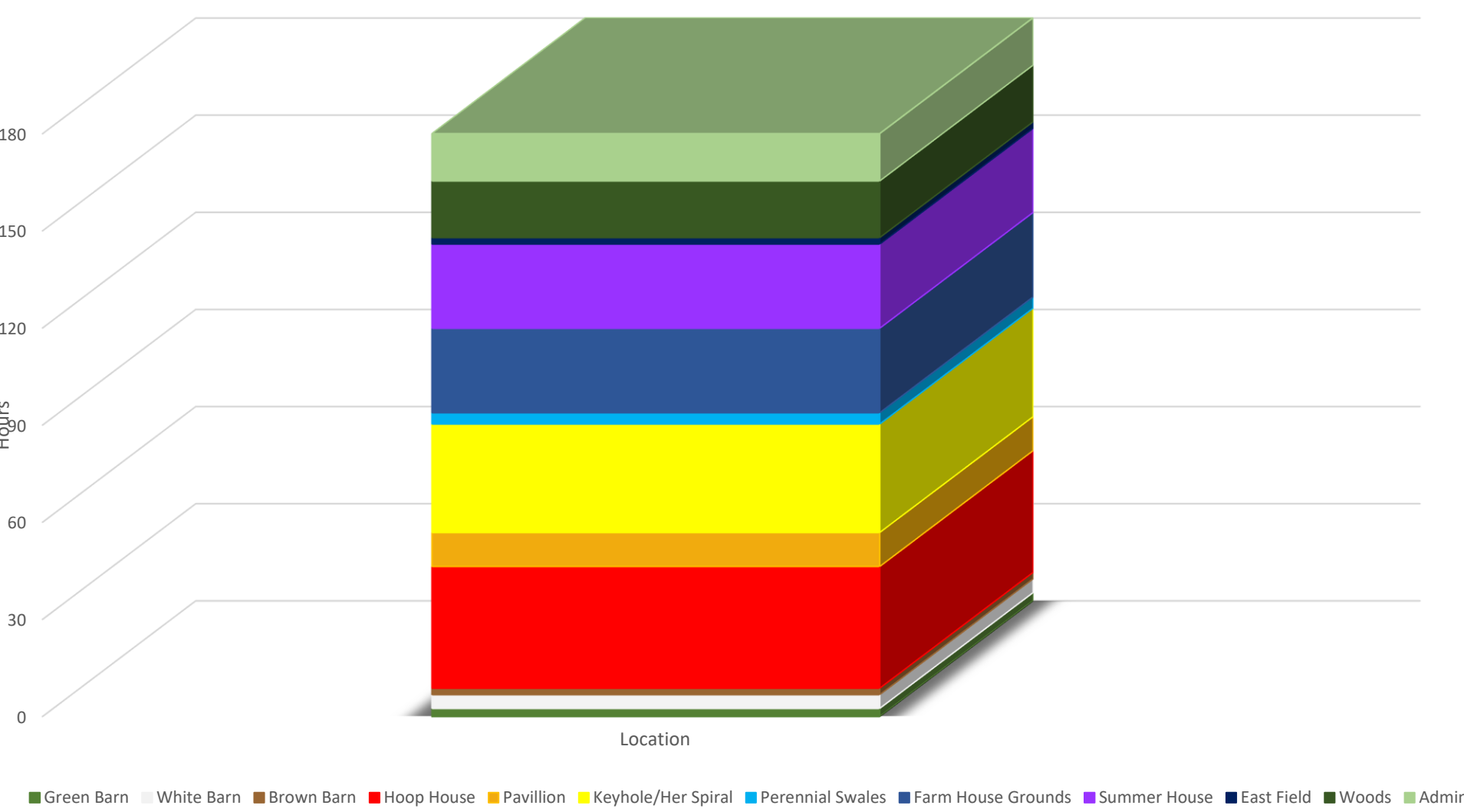
Goals

- Learn about organic farming
- Grow and identify plants
- Help on the farm
- Experience a new culture and meet people
- Work hard and have fun

On the Job

My job was to assist Margaret, the farm manager with whatever needed to be done on the farm. I logged all my internship hours in google sheets to keep track of my work and see where I spent my time. I felt like my work was diverse and constantly changing with the season.

On the Job Work Breakdown



Jobs and Accomplishments

- Weed
- Mulch
- Harvest
- Wash, weigh, and record harvest
- Set up the farm stand
- Seed winter greens, cover crops, and native flowers
- Water and fertilize plants
- Built a propagation box
- Transplant seedlings
- Invasive removal in the forest
- Plant identification
- Raked up leaf humus pile
- Seed saving
- Processing seeds
- Meetings with hosts and coworkers
- Sanitized

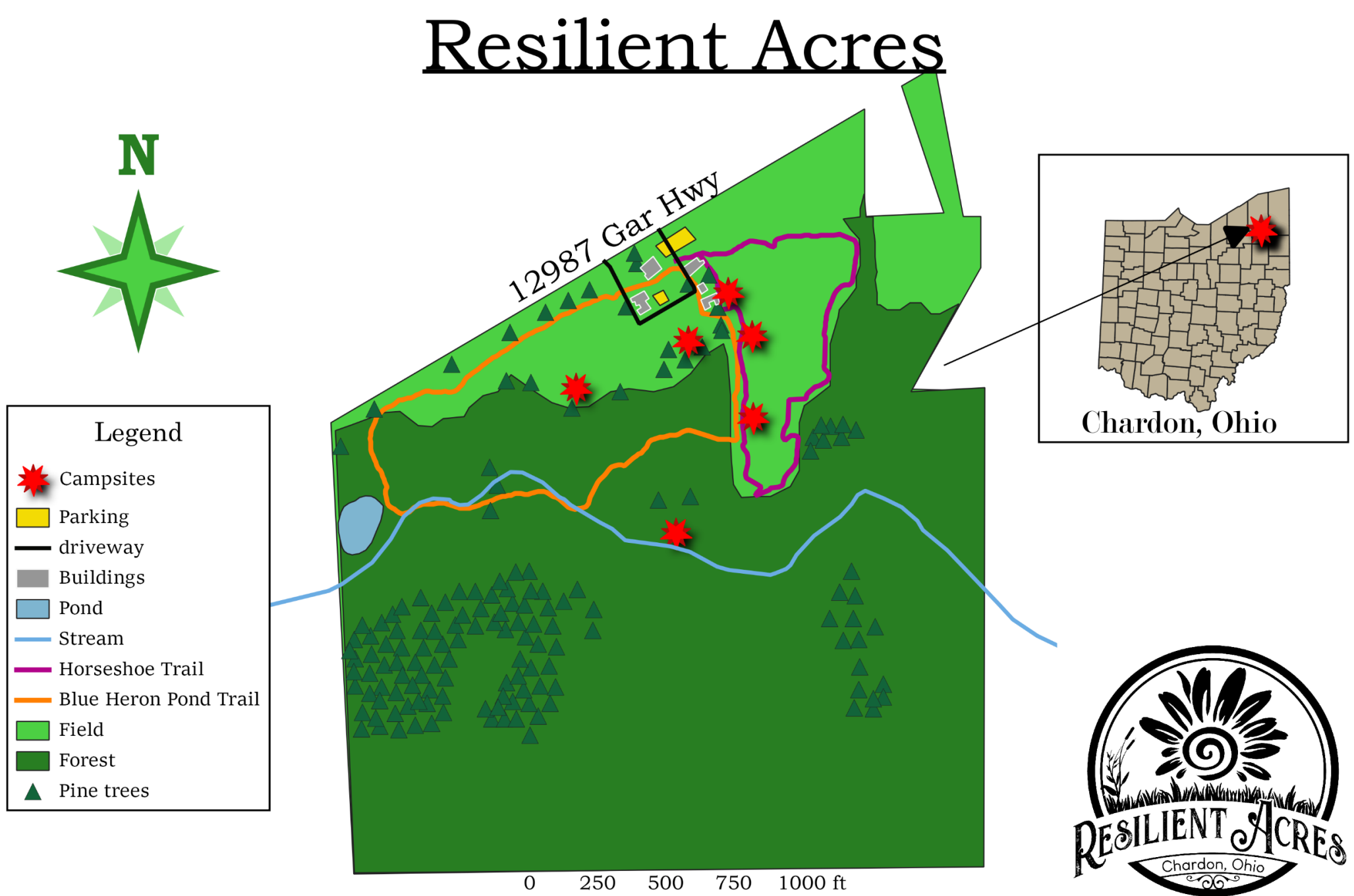


This is a before and after picture of Keyhole Garden.

Connecting Work to Class

This farm internship was very conducive to learning. I had a separate office space from my bedroom, and I was constantly connecting my learning material to my internship.

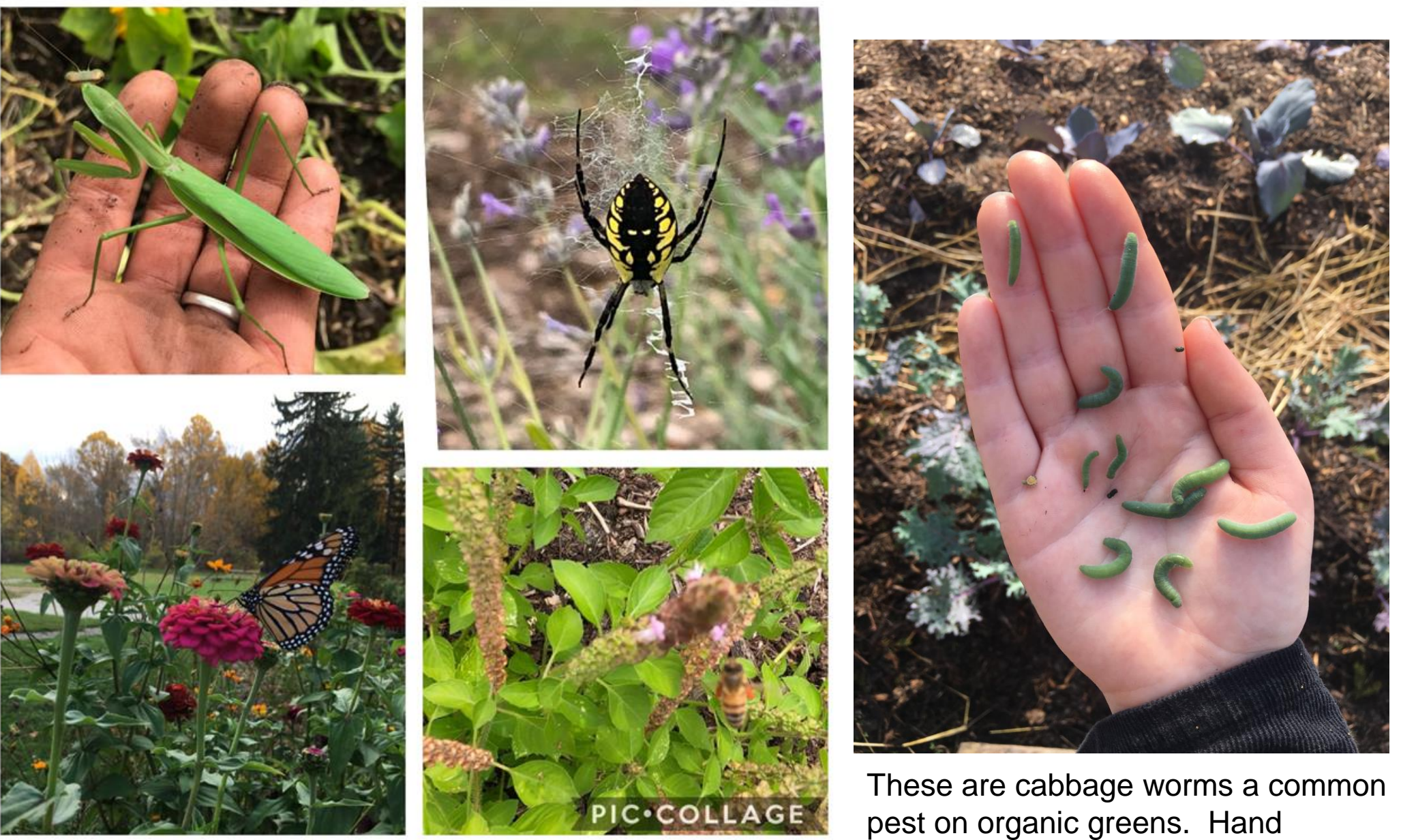
In ENR 3700: Spatial Technologies in Natural Resource Management, I learned how to produce cartographic maps using geographic information systems. Here is a map I made of Resilient Acres.



Map created by Jenna Dent on December 3, 2020. Fund and property lines are from Google Earth. Google Earth. Stream Layer is from The National Map 1/30/20. Pine trees and buildings are traced from Google Earth 2013 Aerials. Trails are downloaded from www.alltrails.com Map is projected between the coordinates -81.1788, 41.9851 to -81.1670, 41.9933

Permaculture pollinators and pests

I learned so much about organic gardening and farming during this internship through hands on work and individual research. One of the most fascinating things to me is the huge amount of biodiversity within resilient permaculture ecosystem. The presence of beneficial bugs like spiders and praying mantis help keep pest at bay. All the native and perennial plants attract pollinators like bees and butterflies!



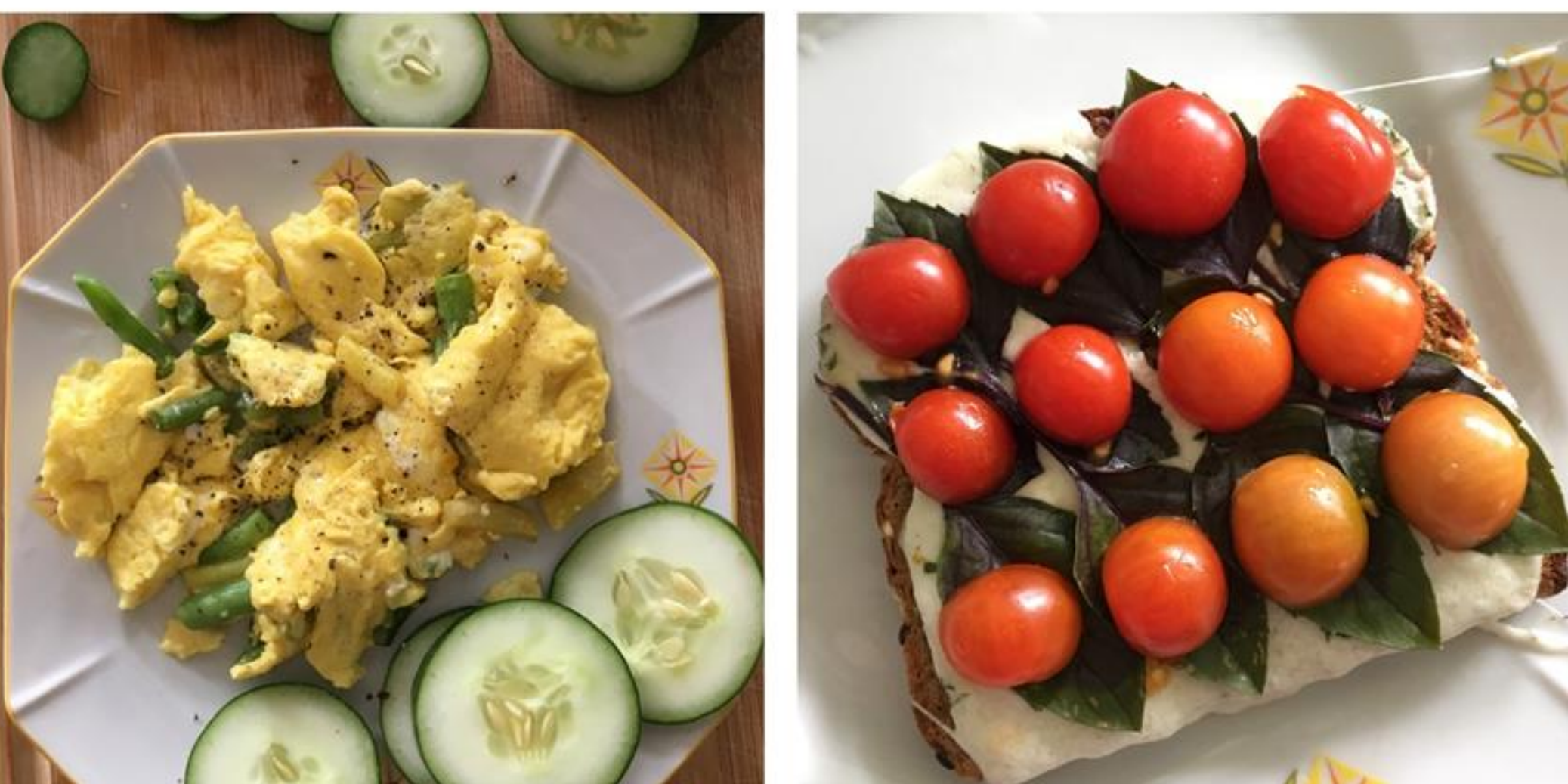
These are all beneficial bugs found at Resilient Acres. Photo credit to Brenna for the praying mantis.

These are cabbage worms a common pest on organic greens. Hand removal is the first step to get rid of them. We also used companion plants like marigolds and nasturtium.

Reflection

Working at Resilient Acres has been an enjoyable and educational experience. I really liked spending time outdoors as a break from doing online schoolwork. Gardening and farm work feel like play to me and I know it's something I will continue to do for the rest of my life. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to spend my semester growing, working, and learning at Resilient Acres.

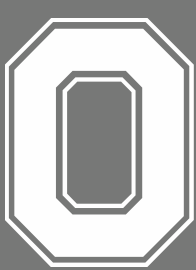
One of my favorite parts of this internship was being able to eat fresh food like eggs, kale, green beans, yellow beans, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, basil, lettuce, celery, carrots, and thyme. Margaret, Brenna, and I used to make big salads everyday for our lunch break. They were the freshest and most delicious salads to eat with good company. I strive to grow as much of my own food as I can in the next year.



These are some of the foods I made during my internship with fresh produce from the garden

Future Applications

In the future I would like to do more work growing organic food using sustainable practices. My experience at Resilient acres inspired me to try to grow as much of my own food as I can in the next year. One thing I've learned about farming is that you're always planning for the next year. I'm excited to continue working and learning about growing food because it's something I'm passionate about.



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