

My name is Lindsay and I own and operate Fawn Lily Farm, a cut flower farm. I farmed at Headwaters from 2017-2021. I can confidently say that my business would no longer exist if it were not for this program.

My scale is small, only 1/4-1/2 an acre each year, yet my business supports my lifestyle and supplies 150 other small floral businesses in our region. My participation in headwaters and the access to equipment, prop house space, etc launched my business into the successful enterprise it is today. I am currently farming along side two other graduates who are also running successful businesses.

I would argue that any farm land has its challenges, whether that is heavy clay soil and lack of drainage, symphylans, wind or weeds. Weeds happen to be a Headwaters issue. My time in the program helped me to become a more resilient farmer, partly because of some of the challenges. I know how to handle pests and weeds and learned strategies early on in my farming career.

Personally, I would've liked to see more diversity of farmer reports in Joe's assessment. He didn't interview any current Headwaters's participants and only one former Headwaters farmer. Why not ask the people who actually work the land what impact the program has had on their farming viability?

To address underutilization of space, I would argue that the economic climate of today is the actual contributor. I know former farmers, headwaters and otherwise, who had to abandon their careers for more lucrative jobs with health insurance. This is not a headwaters problem.

It is easy for someone to walk into a situation and make assessments about how they can do something better. Of course, there is always room for improvement, however, some of the recommendations made are not appropriate for organic production as stated by my colleagues.