

STATE OF MAINE  
COUNTY OF WALDO  
COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



**PRESS RELEASE for Immediate Release**

**Contact: Barbara L. Arseneau**

**Waldo County Commissioner William D. Shorey**

**Waldo County Clerk**

**November 3, 2016**

**WALDO COUNTY GARDEN PROJECT 2016**

We have completed the production of the Garden Project for 2016. Once again, we would like to thank clients from the Reentry Center for their dedicated volunteerism to this project.

At the height of the 2016 growing season, we had nine clients each shift working on the garden project. The rain wasn't plentiful this year. We had a meaningful shower in May and then it was September before we had another one. Needless to say, it was very hot and dusty in the garden and very difficult to get the maximum production we had hoped for. We had a goal of 80,000 lbs. this year and all summer we noticed the squash was somewhat smaller, as were the potatoes. We wound up with a total production of 78,000 lbs. this year. We feel exceptionally fortunate to get this amount of production in a very difficult growing year.

This past year we farmed about 7.25 acres. At the end of October, we finished seeding the winter rye crop and also plowed up some additional farmland. This coming season we will be farming about 10.5 acres. Likely we will keep the garden at this size because that fits in very well with the goal of being able to seed down and "rest" different plots of ground from time to time.

This year we also added a new machinery shed to keep our equipment under cover and that proved to be a great asset to this project.

We were very fortunate this year to have the opportunity to purchase a 55 h.p. diesel tractor along with all the associated equipment that goes with it. We used to contract the tractor work out and we put 200 hours on the new tractor this year. At \$60.00 an hour, you can see that this turned out to be a really good investment and a savings to the County.

Corporal Christopher Albert and Officer Walter Wagner were the two individuals providing oversight of a crew this year. They both did an excellent job.

The Garden has been a very successful project for Waldo County because it is a total team effort. From the County Commissioners Office to the Sheriff's Office and Reentry staff - everybody contributes and is more than willing to see that the project is successful. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their strong support. Next season we look forward to producing 100,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables for food cupboards, soup kitchens, the Game Loft, WIC, the YMCA and many other entities in Waldo County. All the citizens of Waldo County are welcome at the Garden at any time, but please do not come all at once! If you are out for a drive one day and would like a tour of the garden, around 11:00 in the morning is a good time to catch us for a visit such as this.

If you have any questions about this project you are welcome to call me at 322-7185 or email me at [wmsshorey@myfairpoint.net](mailto:wmsshorey@myfairpoint.net).

Waldo County Commissioner William D. Shorey, District 2