Hallelujah! The Grand Opening has been held and with the exception of a few small details the wash/pack facility and construction phase of our growth is now complete. All of the high tunnels are up and operational, the wash/pack facility is ready for use in the spring and we’re all happy campers. The Grand Opening celebration was well attended with many of our supporters there to see the product of their assistance. And in true Lumberjack fashion we celebrated by cutting a log instead of a ribbon. Lumberjacks don’t cut ribbons, they cut logs! Even our President Dr. Shirley participated by cutting a log to mark the occasion.

So at this time I’d like to take just a little space and thank all of those that had a hand in making our first 7 years a success. Without the support, donations, funding, and assistance of these great organizations and people, it would have been a tough if not impossible row to hoe.
Thank you:

- The State of North Dakota Center of Excellence program, their commission and the North Dakota Department of Commerce employees
- The Agricultural Products and Utilization Commission, its members and North Dakota Department of Commerce staff
- The United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
- Set Aside funding through Senator Dorgan’s office Administered through the US Small Business Administration
- The Center for North America REAP zone
- The Bottineau Economic Development Agency
- The Bottineau City Council – Gateway Fund
- The Magic Fund through Minot’s City Council
- The USDA through Rural Business Enterprise and Rural Business opportunity Grants
- The United States Department of Agriculture and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture through their Specialty Crop Block grants and the staff of the ND state offices
- The North Dakota Rural Rehabilitation Corporation
- The North Dakota Center for Technology Education
- FARRMs
- Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, it’s staff and members
- The North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association, its members and board
- Our 4 Seasons CSA members
- Our partner farms, Cutbank Creek Product, Riverbound Farm, North Star Farm, and Thompson Farm
- A variety of public and private sources including local banks, businesses, and individuals, too many to mention but none less valuable than our most important supporters
The Dakota College Lumberjacks played the Vermilion University Ironmen on Saturday, October 4th, and won 13-12! Of course, with a homecoming football game there is always a homecoming parade. Our 3rd year entry featured “Vegetate Vermilion” with accompanying “Slice N Dice Um Up”, and “Weed Um Out” tagline cheers. Diann Beckman, one of our horticulture & plant specialist instructors, drove our float along with her daughter and two grandsons. The morning was cool, yet the sun, the smiles, and the candy warmed everyone right up!
**CSA FALL NEWS** ... We had a successful CSA program this year, and thanks to all who volunteered, participated, and received their weekly produce. For over 16 weeks, 4 Seasons provided to its members, peppers, corn, beans, carrots, peas, squash, potatoes, tomatoes, pumpkins, cucumbers, eggplant, etc. Until next season, the ...

*Greenhouses are empty,*

Our *gardens are bare*, and the *equipment has been put away* for the winter.
**ECH Happenings ...**  Last Spring, a massive wind storm ripped and stripped the plastic right off our rolling high tunnel frame! Taking many hands to get the work done, Keith Knudson, our Farm Management Instructor, and Bill Bittle, our Farm Manager had a little help from some friends and co-workers.

**Upcoming Event!**

Looking ahead we’re already busy planning the North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association and Local Foods conference to be held in Mandan on February 6th and 7th. This conference is intended to interest both producers and consumers so please, feel free to join us!