

Twenty-four inches of rain over two days. That is devastating to growing crops no matter how you have prepared your drainage on this flat land. As a farmer, you expect to face drought and times of too much water. This rain we experienced did as much damage as did Hugo. I actually found a three inch bream beneath a pepper plant after the water had receded. He swam into the field. What a big lake; too bad he got lost. There were over ten acres of fall vegetables that were lost to the water - water that did not recede for two days. Vegetable crops need oxygen to live, just as we do. In those 48 hours the plants' roots drowned as oxygen is taken up by the small fibrous roots. The plants growing rapidly literally drowned. A perennial shrub or tree can live for weeks or even months because they can hold their breath, so to speak.

So the farm lost ten acres of income. In addition it lost ten acres of expense. It cost a lot to grow these vegetables. Sixteen varieties were planted in this field. We did not have any insurance on these crops. Insurance is not available on 1/8 acre of bok choy, 1/8 acre beets, 1/8 acre carrots, etc. How much in income did we lose? It's really hard to say. Assuming there was a good growing season and the prices we received were good, we would not have our hand out. In farming you can assume nothing. You can do a good job, work hard and hope. We sell our crops three ways; at the John's Island Farmer's Market, at our stand near Kiawah Island and at a distributor of local vegetables, Grow Food Carolina. Grow Food Carolina is a big source of income.

Fortunately for Rosebank Farm we had enough plants in the greenhouse to plant an additional four acres. These plants are doing just fine in the field and some are producing income.

I wish I could say we were badly bent but in reality we are broke. The small amount of income we receive is just enough to pay our help. We have two tractors out of three that need major repair. Thankfully they are paid for.

I am 77 years of age, my Louise is 71. We work seven days a week. We have a mortgage and our social security is what we live on. I am going to do what I do, get up on the tractor and drive. Any hard work is for employees. I point, advise and sometimes admonish. I will soldier on. I need some help I admit, but I will make it somehow by cutting back on the amount that we grow, cutting back on the number of employees and fretting a little more. Old farmers learn through experience not to fret much. It has never helped.

I am more concerned about my neighbors the Freeman Brothers. These three farm separately but help each other till, plant, and harvest. They go separately to the Charleston Farmer's Market and to the Mount Pleasant Farmer's Market. They are much larger in acreage than Rosebank. They, however, have less diversity whereas Rosebank lost most of our crops to the flood. They were completely wiped out. They sell almost all of their produce at the Columbia Farmer's Market. They lack money to buy fuel. I have a credit card. They have had to basically cease operation until they can secure some finances. We four are the last of the Mohicans on this end of John's Island, the last of a dying breed. Black and white, we all have grey hair.

Sidi Limeouse
Rosebank Farm



Thousand Year Flood Loss

Rosebank Farms 2015

Crop Loss Report

(16 acres total loss = \$28,200.00)

Cabbage	.125 acre (1/8 ; 100.00
Broccoli	2 acres; 1800.00
Iceberg lettuce	.125 acre; 100.00
Bergman green lettuce	.125 acre; 100.00
Red Summer Crisp	.125 acre; 100.00
Romaine	.125 acre; 100.00
Black Magic kale	.125 acre; 200.00
Red Russian kale	.125 acre; 100.00
Windsor Kale	.125 acre; 150.00
Dill	.125 acre; 100.00
Carrots	.25 acre; 400.00
Chioggia beets	.125 acre; 200.00
Arugula	.125; 200.00
Okra	1.5 acres; 2000.00
Flowers	1.5 acres; 4000.00
Asparagus	.75 acres; -----
Jerusalem artichokes	2 acres; 4000.00
Bell peppers	2.5 acres; 3000.00
Sweet Banana peppers	.125 acre; 150.00
Hot banana peppers	.125 acre; 150.00
Shishito peppers	.0625 acre; 300.00
Eggplant	.5 acre; 600.00
Peanuts	.5 acres; 4000.00
Beans	3 acres; 6000.00
Cucumbers	.125 acre; 150.00
Squash and zuchinni	.25 acre; 200.00