

2020 Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference

Broccoli Production



Featherstone Farm

Featherstone Farm

Rushford, MN

135 acres veggies

13-14 acres of broccoli

Spring:

- Two or three one acre successions of **green magic**.

- Plant every ~10 days starting May 1

Fall:

- Five two acre plantings

- Plant every 7-10 days starting the very end of June

- Diplomat** (68 days) & **Imperial** (71 days)





Propagation

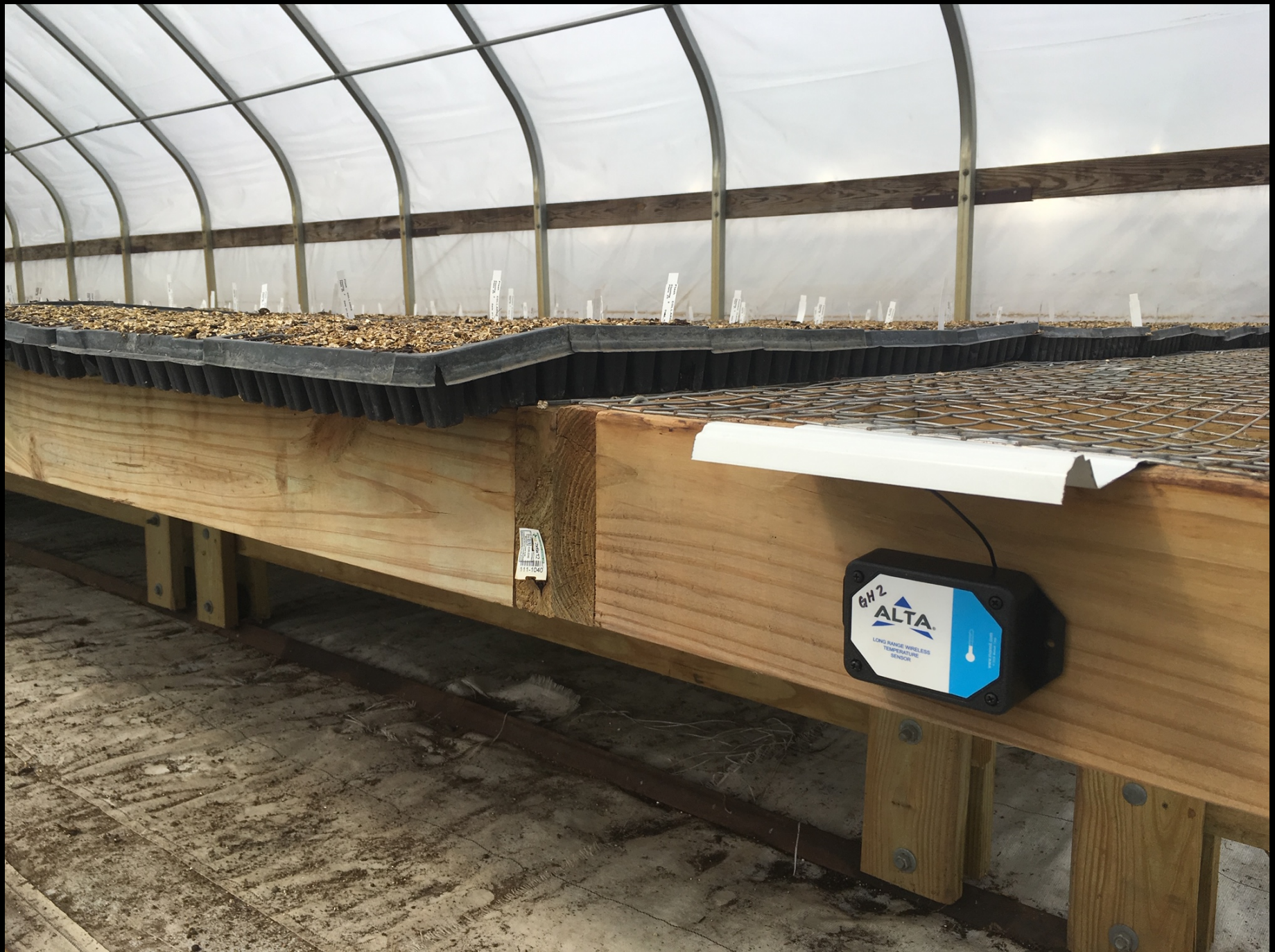
Featherstone Farm


















Bed Prep

- 
- Oats and Peas before spring crop
 - Rye & Vetch before fall crops





Offset Disc



Chisel Plow





Finish Disc





Rain-Flo 2600 Bed Maker

Plastic mulch used for
-all spring plantings (black)
-one fall planting (white)

Rain-Flo 2600 Bed Maker











Transplanting







5000 Mechanical Transplanter





Crop Maintenance

Kubota 245H

Ford 1710

Super C













More than half of our broccoli is grown “dry”



Drip tape under plastic
-all spring plantings
-one fall planting



Traveling gun for emergencies

Disease Issues at Featherstone

Black Rot



Alternaria



Head Rot
(bacterial?
Alternaria?)

Prevention

- Hot water treat seeds
 - Variety selection (more rounded heads to shed water)
 - Crop rotation
 - Avoid moving through fields when wet
 - Sanitation after moving through diseased areas
 - Enter diseased areas last if possible
- SOIL HEALTH – Healthy plants are much more likely to produce during times of high disease pressure.
- Plastic mulch can help





Dipel (Bt)
Cabbage loopers
Imported Cab Worms

Entrust
-flea beetles





Harvesting & Yield

















Marketing

- CSA
- Direct to store grocery
- Wholesale through a distributor (CPW and Whole Foods)





Thank you! Questions?