



Alumni

Elisa Lane, BFTP Class of 2011

Farm Name: Two Boots Farm

Location: Hampstead, MD

Website: twobootsfarm.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/
twobootsfarm](https://www.facebook.com/twobootsfarm)

Instagram: [@twobootsfarm](https://www.instagram.com/twobootsfarm)

Can you tell us more about Two Boots Farm?

Two Boots farm is a small family farm that uses organic growing techniques. We're growing vegetables, flowers, and also incorporating animals, as well as fruit (we have paw paw trees and bushes). It's located in Hampstead in Carroll County.

How did you get started farming?

I traveled a lot with Clowns Without Borders; I was doing clown shows in developing countries, so I'd go to places like Haiti, and bring laughter to these kids in troubled places. But when I was there doing the work I was trying to do, I realized that people had bigger issues that needed help before I could come in with my laughter. People were starving. Especially in Haiti where all the issues they were having were connected, like the unemployment, the lack of food security, the poor water quality-- all of these things are interconnected. Going to places and witnessing that was a paradigm shift for me. While I love doing art and making art, making people happy and making people laugh, I have more to give... there's an appropriate time for laughter, but I wanted to focus more of my life on sustainability and self sufficiency. So I started studying permaculture and eventually when I moved to Baltimore, I started seaching for things online and found the BFTP. I applied and luckily I got in! That's the history of it all.

What was challenging about starting to farm? What was rewarding?

Before I started Two Boots, I helped found Whitelock Community Farm. Creating Whitelock Community Farm has been a transforming experience in my life that has been so challenging. A community farm is not just about farming or just community, it's both at the same time. It's very difficult being a community organizer while also creating a viable business. That was the most challenging and also the most rewarding thing I've ever done in my life. I've grown so much as a person from doing it; it's forced me to be a more open person, I'm used to public speaking more, my writing skills, my growing skills have gotten better, and I feel really lucky that through all the pain and struggle of it all, I've managed to still believe in Whitelock Community Farm and not become jaded; the community and the kids get to see how things are grown and that's really powerful.