

# Rustic Road Farm, LLC

## THE FARM

Rustic Road Farm has been owned and operated by Marc & Luis Bernard since 2012. Rustic Road Farm produces Certified Naturally Grown vegetables, honey, fruit, heritage pigs, dairy, goats, beef, chicken, lamb & eggs for a 750-member Community Supported Agriculture subscription and onsite farmstand, as well as two farmers markets. Marc harnessed his three decades of executive chef experience to create The Soup Company, which produces a value-added line of soups, salads, entrees, sauces, baked goods, and more to increase revenue. Based on five acres, production is supplemented with leased land and contract growers. Rustic Road Farm needed to ensure a secure land base to scale operations to meet existing demand and business growth goals. On behalf of Rustic Road Farm, The Conservation Fund has purchased a 30-acre farm, which includes nine outbuildings and a farmhouse. This farm infrastructure is well suited to allow all livestock operations to be brought together on one site, as well as expand their micro-dairy and add grass-fed cattle. Located in unincorporated Kane County, this farm is strategically located close to existing customers and farm.

Rustic Road gains immediate access to the farm under a flexible lease. They will meet key financial benchmarks and make infrastructure investments to put them in a position to purchase the farm from The Conservation Fund within 3 years after a farmland conservation easement is secured. Using a Buy-Support-Protect-Sell model, the [Working Farms Fund](#) is providing Rustic Road Farm with immediate access to farmland, and a pathway to affordable farmland ownership.

## BY THE NUMBERS

 750 Member CSA & 3/week Farmstand

 30 acres permanently protected farmland

 35% increased revenue projected in 2 years

## PROPERTY

30 acres



Elburn, Illinois  
(40 miles to Chicago Loop)

## FARMERS

Luis & Marc Bernard, Owners & Operators



## FARMER VISION

Expansion of vegetable, bush and tree fruit, honey, dairy, heirloom pig, free range chicken and pasture egg farm operations to support existing farmstand featuring a value-added line of soups, sauces, and baked goods.