

## **Ben Whalen Biography**

I was raised in Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Vermont in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy. After college, I moved to California and worked for Joe Morris at Morris Grassfed Beef - a holistically managed cattle ranch where I learned the fundamentals of holistic land management. In 2010 I moved to Boulder, CO to work for three years at Cure Organic Farm - a certified organic vegetable farm. My farming experience also includes work on a livestock farm in Vermont and as a gardener for a family in Massachusetts.

In 2014 I started Bumbleroot Organic Farm with my wife, Melissa, and our friends, Jeff and Abby Fisher. Bumbleroot Organic Farm is a diversified, certified organic vegetable, flower, and herb farm in Windham, Maine. We directly serve 125 families through our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program, attend 3 weekly farmers markets, and work directly with 20 area restaurants and caterers.

In 2018 we received the Young Entrepreneurs of the Year for Maine from the Small Business Administration. In December 2018, I attended the Stone Barns Center Entrepreneurship Intensive for Farmers.