



Next steps:
Enterprise Specific Training for Latinos in Nebraska and Iowa

Justino Borja



Farm name:
Las Gemelas



Location:
West Point, Nebraska

This case study series showcases Latino farmers in Nebraska. It highlights three separate farmers and how they run their operations, what they produce, and lessons they have learned that might be helpful and educational to other aspiring Latino farmers. The Center for Rural Affairs is able to assist by providing resources and training opportunities. Visit cfra.org/farmers for more information.

Justino's story



Justino Borja has always enjoyed working in the field.



He learned about agriculture by visiting with other experienced farmers who shared their advice and experiences.



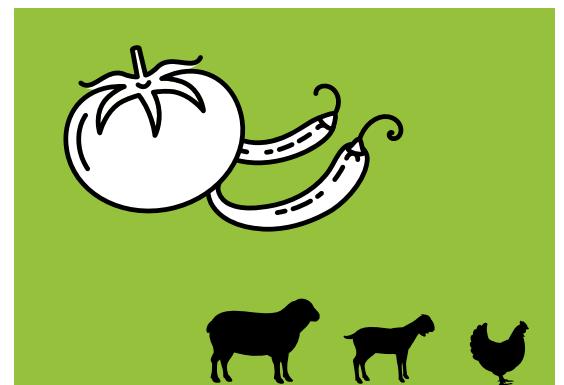
When he began farming, Justino planted on someone else's land.

Operation

He began by renting a small parcel of land to grow jalapenos, tomatoes, and other vegetables.

Today, he has a 2-acre spread outside of West Point where he raises chickens, sheep, and goats. He and his family also grow vegetables.

“ The animals sell very well, and they are always breeding. ”
-Justino





Acquiring land and making sales

Justino is interested in buying more land to expand his livestock operation. He has inquired with the Center’s Lending Services staff and contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to learn about applying for a Farm Service Agency loan.

“ I advertise my products by word of mouth and sell to the public and marketplace and to friends and acquaintances.

-Justino ”



Challenges

“ Being able to find my own land to farm on and getting enough water for my plants and animals was a barrier that took time to overcome.

-Justino ”



Working with USDA

“ I haven’t worked with USDA, but I have obtained information about the requirements to work with them. I would suggest the USDA be more accessible about the benefits and agriculture programs and provide more opportunities.

-Justino ”

Advice to aspiring Latino farmers

“ I didn’t know how to start, so I visited a few other farmers and learned from their experiences. Seek advice, look for good options and recommendations, and remember, farming takes time and dedication.

-Justino ”

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