



Sheep Not Goats

Latest from Malpaisillo: Although Steve and Sandy are in the US until Jan. 1st, growing continues, workers are paid, and produce is sold in Malpaisillo every week. We strive to institute processes that do not depend on our physical presence and have total confidence in all the workers.

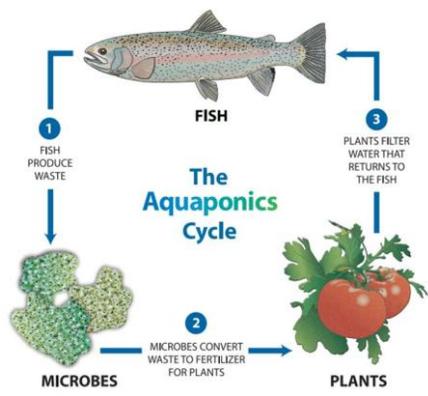
The Farm

We're up to 354 plantain plants and are adding bananas. These all produce year-round and are most of what we sell in the streets twice each week, with plans to add more days soon. Medardo sells from our triciclo (shown here), but we also have vendors of fried plantain strips who come to the farm to buy 100-300 fruits at a time.



The Fish

We got our first batch of tilapia fingerlings in September and in 5-6 months should be selling our first fish. The aquaponics system circulates dirty fish water to plants that benefit from nutrients in the water. Cleaner water is then returned to the fish. It looks like tomatoes will be a good fruit for the system.



The People

Raúl and Oscar are both full-time workers on the farm, and each has a new daughter! Their names are Estér and Ximena, respectively. Another of Oscar's daughters, Camila, is one of the girls who are pen pals with girls in Chicago. Those girls raised funds to pay Oscar's salary for a week once his daughter was born so he could take a week off with pay! This is amazing ongoing fruit from the visit of the Baer family in March and of their love for the young people here.



Kids Camp

Through your generous outside assistance, it looks like 25 Malpaisillo kids will be attending the 1st Nicaragua Swamp Corps camp in early January. Every one of them raised part of the required funds to which they added "sweat equity" through 15-25 hours work on the farm.

The Next 30 Days

Find and plant 100 Williams-variety bananas (what's exported to the US). Find a solar energy implementation expert. Finish building the aquaponics growbed for tank #2.

Medical

People are very sick in Malpaisillo. Kidney problems and diabetes are rampant, and if that isn't enough, the mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus has touched every family we know. Most people can't afford to see the doctor or buy medicine, and frankly the accuracy of diagnoses and treatment decisions here are often suspect.

A physician in Atlanta, Dr. Craig Heigerick, visited Malpaisillo in February and again in October. One of the first things he did was to visit a local pharmacy to see what medicines are available locally. Dr. Heigerick sees people in their homes and goes to great lengths to explain their situation and the importance of following through with their treatments. He follows up from the US through us, and is committed to returning regularly to Malpaisillo.

Treatments require funds, especially because at times lab tests, tomography, or ultrasounds are needed. That's why we added a "Medical Support" category to the Sheep Not Goats donation page. If you use that we'll let you know who your money helped right away since there's almost always an urgent need.



Sheep Not Goats

What	US-based 501(c) (3) non-profit
Where	Nicaragua, the poorest country in Latin America
Why	To share God's love by offering help to the very poor
How	Through income from our farm, <i>Finca Buenpaisillo</i> , as well as medical & other forms of support as needed
Help	Visit sheepnotgoats.org to make a tax-deductible one-time or monthly donation

100% of donations goes to worker salaries, medical care, and other areas of our mission. We receive no salary from the non-profit.