

and participating in [Kendal Hills Farm's virtual farmers market](#) in the span of a few short weeks.

[When Kawartha Lakes This Week](#) last spoke with Danielle French, owner, she discussed the pandemic shifting peoples' shopping habits to the local food supply chain — as products such as meats became more expensive and harder to find — and possibly hosting cooking classes focusing on education for wholesale livestock from farmers — a whole chicken, for example.

A season later, French said she's pushed the cooking classes idea down the road a bit as she's focused on creating a more robust website and collaborating with local businesses.

"Definitely there's a new structure of my business that will always be there," she said, adding she'd like to start doing events and classes again when the pandemic is over.

French said her business has taken a hit financially, but the pandemic has put her back in touch with the more important aspects of her business. "I feel that's been a really good thing," she said.

Lunar Rhythm Gardens

Jessica Foote, owner of [Lunar Rhythm Gardens](#), was among [five farms in Kawartha Lakes that were heading into their busy seasons short-handed last spring](#). Her migrant workers were stalled at the border due to COVID-19. She'd also began on-farm, mini-markets and online sales to keep working as farmers markets shut down. She'd hired packing staff for produce, and a Canadian crew on the fly.

"It's been a lot more work," she said, though her workers did manage to get to the farm. They've returned safely to their southern families now that the season is over.

Foote said she expects the farm managed to keep most of its customers through the mini-markets and ended up having a near regular year financially, despite crop failures caused by the summer's 60-day drought. Lunar saw more sales, but also had higher labour costs.

Over the course of the year, Foote said the farm managed to improve its processes and become more efficient in its new normal such as how it packs orders. She said she would like to go back to farmers markets next season, but will likely do so while