

## Froylan Bucio –Graduate 2013

“It’s a beautiful thing to plant a seed and see it grow.”

Froylan Bucio has a calm, friendly demeanor and a lightning fast smile that brightens up his face when he speaks. “I like to invent things. I might spend half a day just thinking about a problem, and what I could do to make it work better, or faster or more efficiently.” Though, he is the first to admit that not all of his ideas work out for the best. “Sometimes I fail, but with trial and error, I find a way to get better.”



Agriculture and planting is something Froylan has always known about. His father is a farmer, but mostly focuses on a small plot, growing beans, corn and other plants for the family. Froylan wanted something different. “I want to see where life takes me, to learn something more...I have never dreamed of owning my own ranch, but I do want a place where I can have something that is mine, where I can do things my way and see if works out.” He came to Alba, first to help a relative who had gone through the Farmer Education Program. As the years went by, he realized that going through the program himself, would “allow me to achieve something, to learn how to commercialize things. I wanted to try it.” He graduated from the PEPA program in 2013 and has since found success in his crop of carrots.

“I really like to plant, then to see how things grow. You get the chance to use your ingenuity and learn from the ingenuity of others.” To Froylan, the community of Alba has allowed him to use new, important resources, and to connect him to the right markets. “If something does not work the first time, you can try again. Even a small change in the process can make a difference.” Whether he is using a different technique to fertilize his crop that takes 20 minutes instead of an hour, or using discarded bicycle parts to creatively tackle a different agricultural problem, Froylan is always inventing.

“Maybe someday I will take these techniques down to Mexico. The climates are very similar and I would like to try to see if I could get a good product to sell.” For now though, he will continue to work hard, side by side with his wife, and see where life takes him.

