I have some exciting news to share!

Since I started my entrepreneurial journey in 2019, I've always sought to make a profitable business that doesn't cut corners, or solve one problem but create another. While our shrimp production has proven to have a low environmental footprint and is getting lower, the financing side of the business has relied on accredited investors only. I view community fundraising as a way to even the playing field for investors who may not have the highest net worth, but are still savvy enough to know a sound, meaningful and scalable business when they see one.

TransparentSea is moving from its 2020-2024 proof of concept farm into its commercialization phase and I am finally inviting friends, family, fans and everyday customers to invest in TransparentSea Inc for 2026 and beyond. We just soft launched a traditional fundraise for accredited investors, but simultaneously are earmarking around $500k in shares for retail investors. Checks under $50k will be directed through the platform, and anything over that can be considered off platform.

We're using a popular platform called WeFunder to manage and share the raise. Make no mistake that while community fundraising is often thought of as a donation or favor on some sites, this is NOT A CHARITY. It's a legitimate opportunity to own shares in the parent company. You'd invest at the same valuation as larger investors. No tricks. I'm simply giving you a rare opportunity to own part of a company that you've already supported by supporting me, commenting on our media or buying our product. Once you have reviewed it, feel free to send questions offline or set up a time to chat.

You would join a diverse group of angel investors that include several professional investors, the world's foremost aquaculture accelerator venture capital group, agricultural family business owners, a former SpaceEx engineer, a tequila company CEO, and film producer, to name a few of our existing investors. We are in talks with celebrity chefs and some larger potential investors, but I'd love nothing more than to fund a big chunk of this through Main Street, not just Wall St.

Investment minimum is just $100, with developing perks that encourage you to take a larger bite if you're so inclined. It's not public yet, I wanted you to see it first. If there are any questions you have that aren't answered on the portal, that would be super helpful — if you're asking it, others are too. Note the site will evolve and change, but the core video and pitch will remain. Feedback is as good as gold for now. Sharing to your networks will be hugely helpful in a couple of weeks, once I've worked in any feedback.

Heres the link: https://wefunder.com/transparentseafarm/

We are building on what worked for us at the pilot, but this is an opportunity to own shares in the IP of the company as it plans to expand in San Diego county and eventually at other locations around the continent and world.

Reach out anytime if you have questions or feedback for me. Happy holidays!

Steve Sutton [redacted] Tue, May 19, 8:00 AM

Hi Community,

Since I finally decided to test the waters on this Community fundraise concept in December, I've had lots of conversations and received 42 separate investment reservations on the site! All with very little effort and exposure on the crowdfunding side of things. We are over $80k in investments, and about to finally leverage the tools and greater network that Wefunder offers. Since we passed their minimum amount ($50k) and have a price on the round with a lead investor, they'll be sending this out to their hundreds of thousands of email subscribers and put us as a searchable company on their page. It's time to see if we can build more excitement from Main Street instead of Wall Street.

For those of you who have reserved or invested, thank you for your vote of confidence and patience for this to close over the few weeks. For those who are considering it, check out the progress on the site and herein. For the rest of you, here's another one for the inbox.

Updates:

1. ROUND IS PRICED:

It's taken time to find the right lead partners, but we have priced the round with larger investors who spent 3+ months conducting due diligence on us. So, professional agriculture investors who have spent a bunch of time and some money to review the opportunity. Instead of the initial $15M pre-money valuation, we have agreed on $12M. What does this mean? Basically it lowers the share price at which you'll be entering the company to $3.13/share. We will get our production up to 75 tons a year in the next couple of years, and then scale at our site and replicate elsewhere. You're making a bet that our assets, protocols, technology, future farms AND set-to-be profitable California farm will be worth more than $12M at some point in the next few years.

2. FUNDRAISE UNDERWAY:

Since I have no idea where it will end up, this WeFunder raise is meant to be supplemental, alongside some larger checks that are now coming in. The terms on the platform and off platform (larger investors) are the same. So

far, we have committed $1.1M on these terms in the last week. One never knows what the future holds until it happens, but we have other parties interested that could contribute another $2-3 million in the next couple of weeks. Once the $4M is raised, we will wind down this offering. So while it is no sure thing, consider reserving soon if you are thinking of investing. You'll have a chance to confirm your reservation and send the money later.

3. PERMITTING UNDERWAY:

We are not using the funds from WeFunder for at least the next month, probably two to three. However we are already using other funds to get the project started and get to growing shrimp sooner. Our team is working through design and layout. Architects have been to the site to help us begin permitting. Engineers have been selected and are beginning work on power and other requirements. Yours truly has also begun to work on unloading our current assets on site (5 truckloads so far), and improving some of the property infrastructure.

While we haven't yet launched far and wide, please feel free to share this link with anyone you think might be interested! More updates coming on the page as we are undergoing an independent financial review pre-launch.