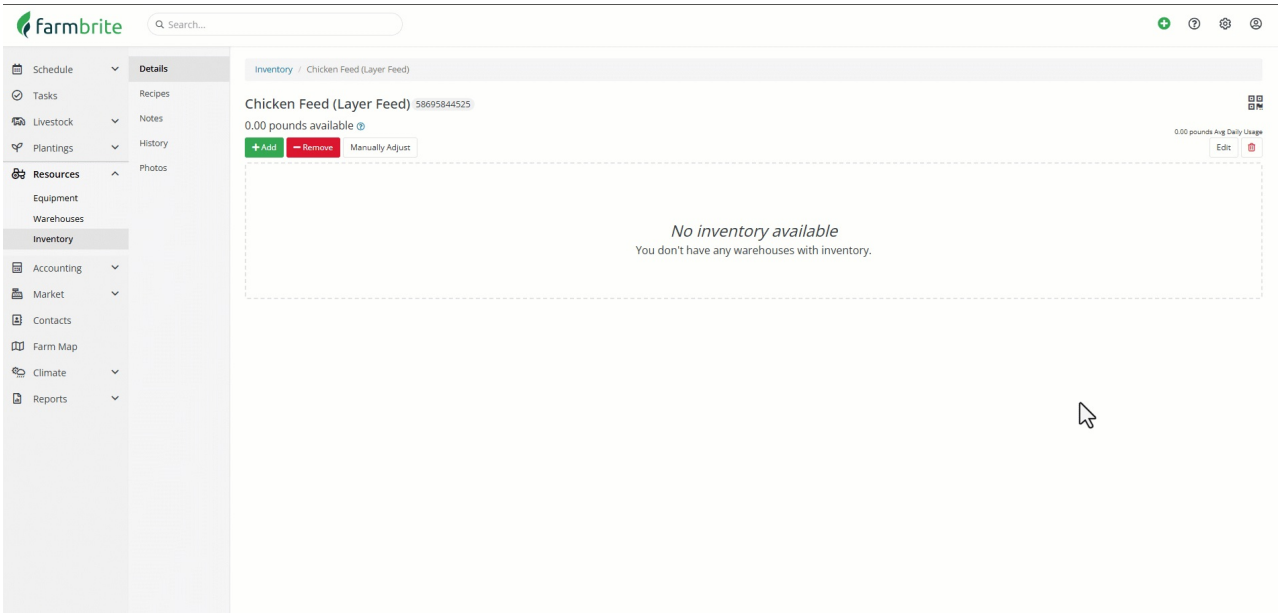
Tracking Inventory in Lots

Last Modified on 08/12/2026 11:17 am MDT

Keeping track of your different harvests, yields, purchases, and deliveries can be extremely important to your farm inventory. Perishable items expire, so you'll want to be sure that you use the ones you've had for the longest time before accessing any recent additions. You might hear this as "FIFO", or a "First In, First Out" process. This can make sure you use the oldest feed first when feeding your animals, or pick the produce from last week's harvest before packaging from a more recent one.

Farmbrite helps you do this by optionally tracking your inventory in lots. Enabling this option creates an additional level of inventory tracking. Beyond the warehouses and bins that you define to store your items, lots let you track subsets of the item that expire on different dates or have different costs. Perhaps these are from different crop harvests, animal yields, or even from different deliveries and supply runs. This selection is available on an individual item basis, so you can choose which items need this extra layer of tracking, and which don't.

To enable this option on an item, check the box to Track Individual Inventory lots and then save your inventory item. You'll see a new option added to the left menu for lots. When adding inventory, you'll also see the ability to supply a lot number.

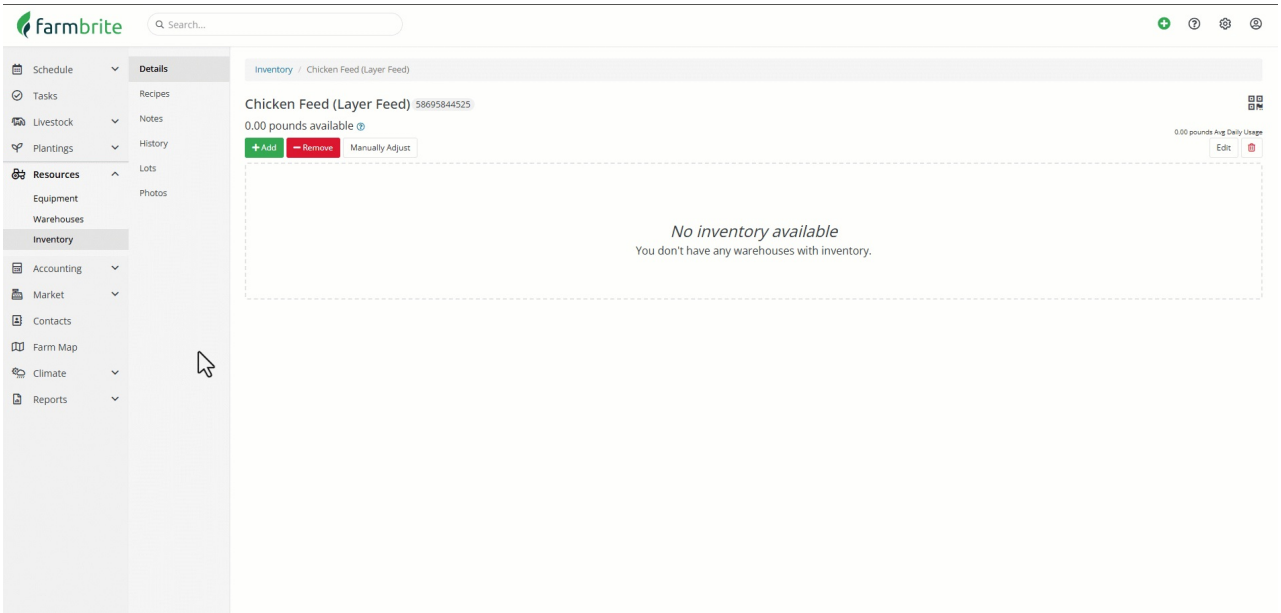


If you would like to track the expiration date on your lots, edit the item again and you'll see a new field for "Expire After". Since each Lot will have a different expiration date, this is based on the number of days from when it was added.

Adding Inventory to Lots

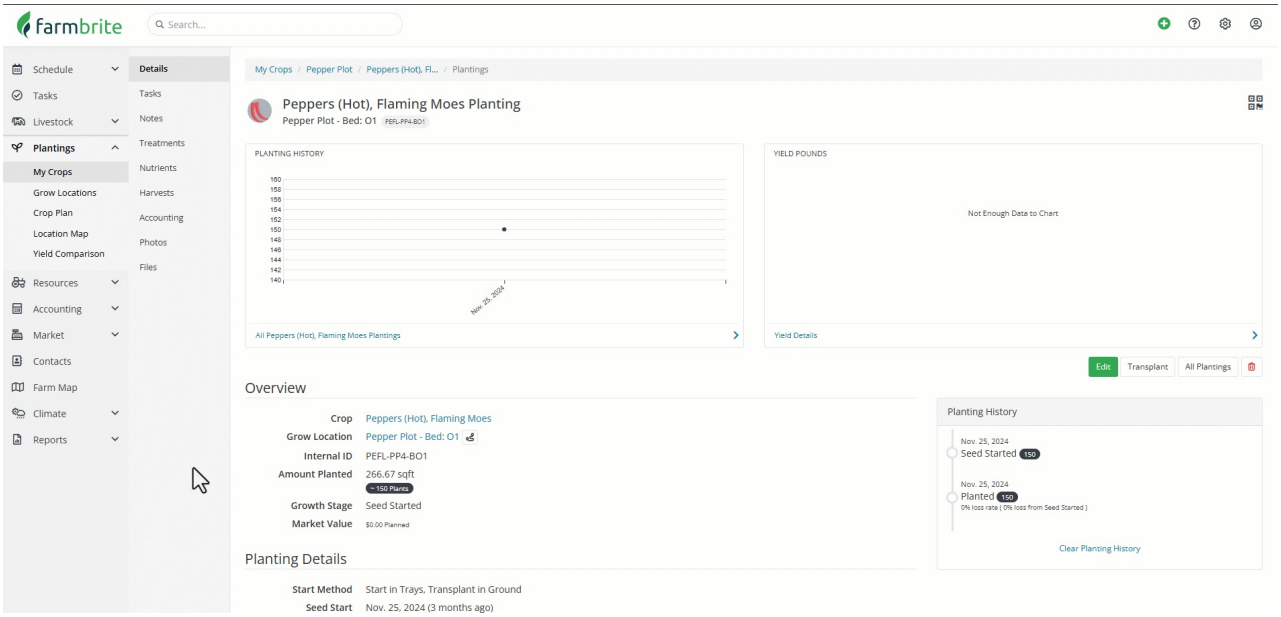
Now that your item is being tracked in lots, when you add inventory you'll be able to supply a Lot number, or one will be automatically generated for you. Our example below we are adding 150lbs of chicken feed that was recently purchased. We want to track it separately from any other feed we add, so you'll see a new lot number automatically generated. The format is "YYDD - Addition Number". So in this example the lot is 26218-1, which represents the year (26), the day of the year (218th day of the year, August 6th) and the addition (the first one we added today).

Note that we have changed the preloaded cost for this lot as well. The estimate value from the Inventory Item details was defaulted, but the price was slightly higher for this purchase than normal. This cost is then associated with the lot itself, and is used to calculate the feeding cost when we use this inventory item to feed our animals. That way we can have very detailed break-even costs, where the feed from this lot is allocated at $1.80 per pound, while other lots might differ based on what we paid. It's also important to know that the lots are used in a " First In, First Out" order, so you'll always use the oldest lot first when feeding, treating, breeding, and servicing your animals, plants, and equipment. The video below will help you see how this cost input can be valuable for you.



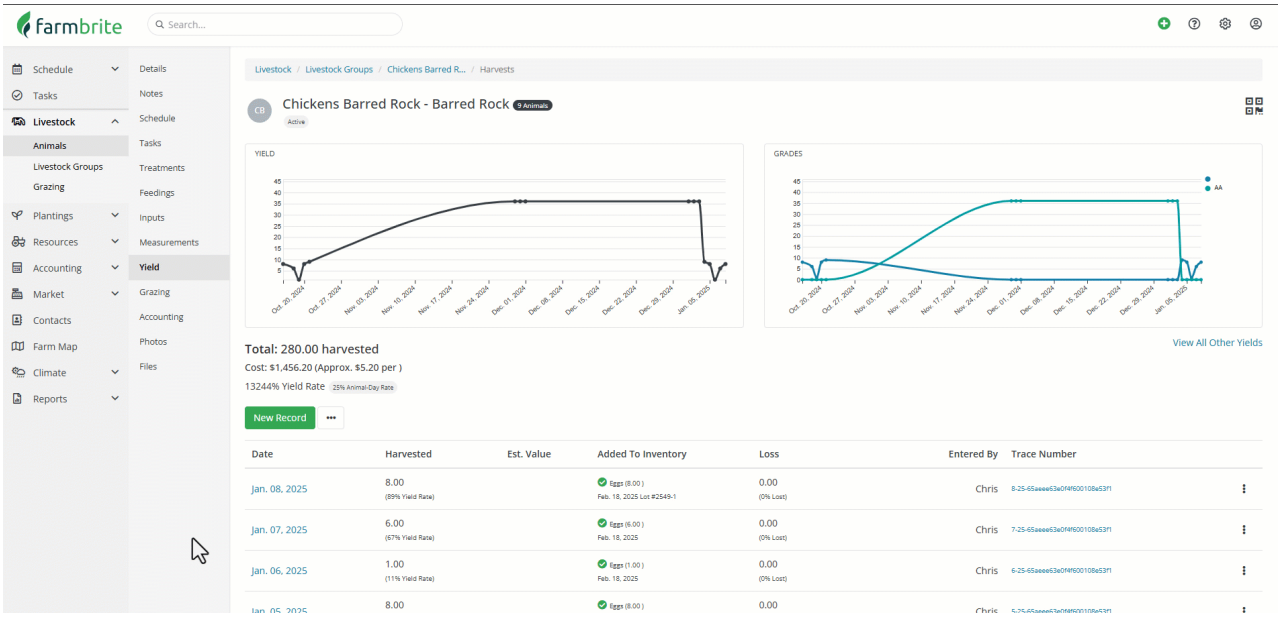
Harvesting Crops to Lots

When you harvest a planting you'll have the opportunity to add the yield to your inventory. If the item you select is tracked in lots, the system will automatically create a new lot for each harvest record. In our example below, we create 2 harvests for our peppers representing different grades and ripeness. We're tracking them separately, and you'll see the two different lots created. Note the separate harvest numbers (1 and 2) in the two different lots; these represent the different harvests that occurred on the same day (2549).



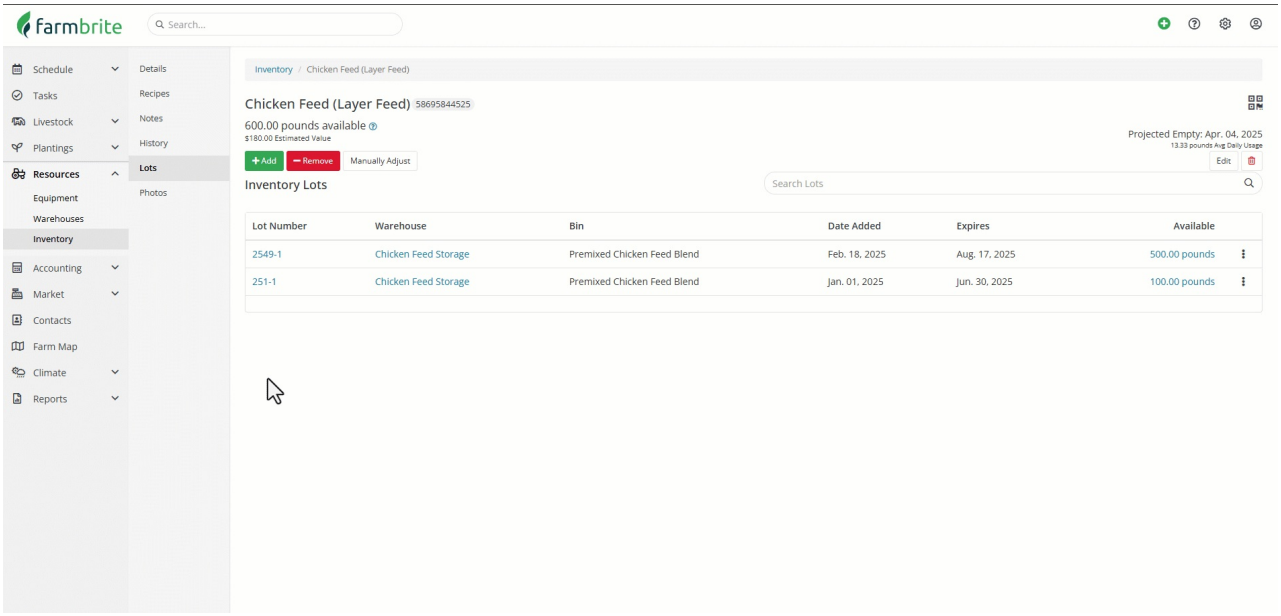
Animal Yields to Lots

You'll find that the process for adding animal yields to lots is nearly identical to the one outlined above for crops. When you yield from an animal you'll have the opportunity to add the yield to your inventory. This might be something like eggs, milk, or wool, or could be the yield after butchering the animal. If the item you select is tracked in lots, the system will automatically create a new lot for each harvest record. In our example below, we harvested eggs from our chickens this morning. Note the sequence of lot numbers over the past few days of egg collection as well.



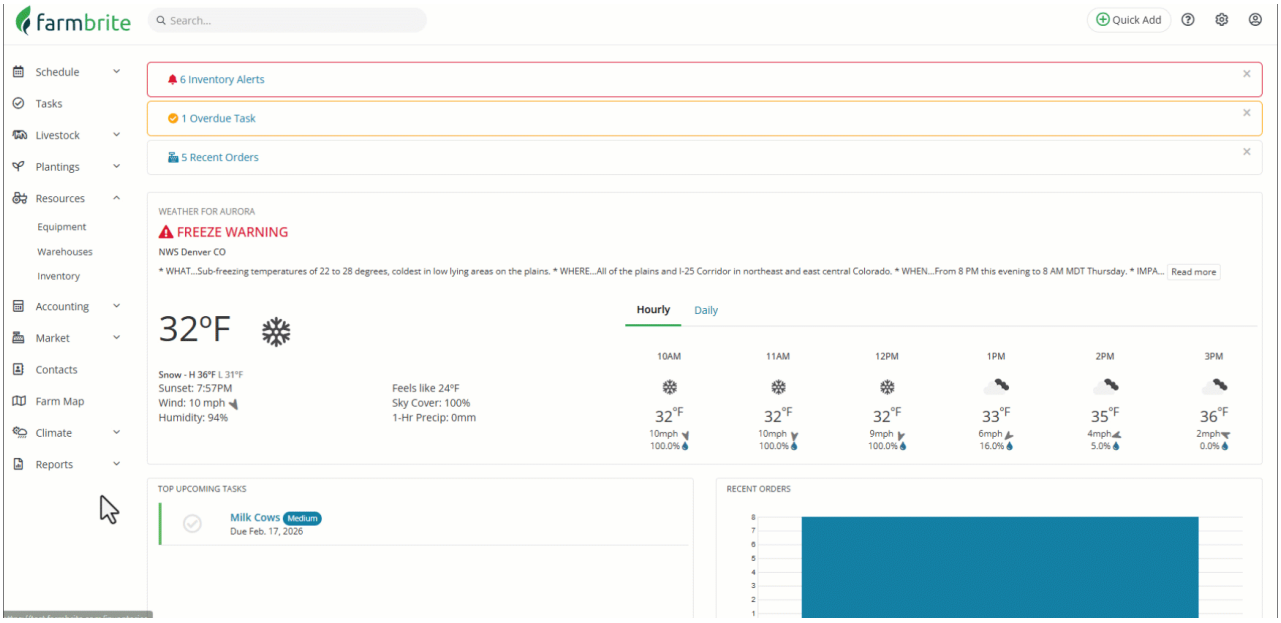
Using Inventory from Lots

When you use inventory for treatments, inputs, feedings, and equipment services, Farmbrite will always practice First In, First Out (FIFO) when removing your inventory from lots. In our livestock feeding example below, see that Lot 251-1 was added in January and expires in June, so the feed is taken from that lot before accessing and using the feed in 2549-1.



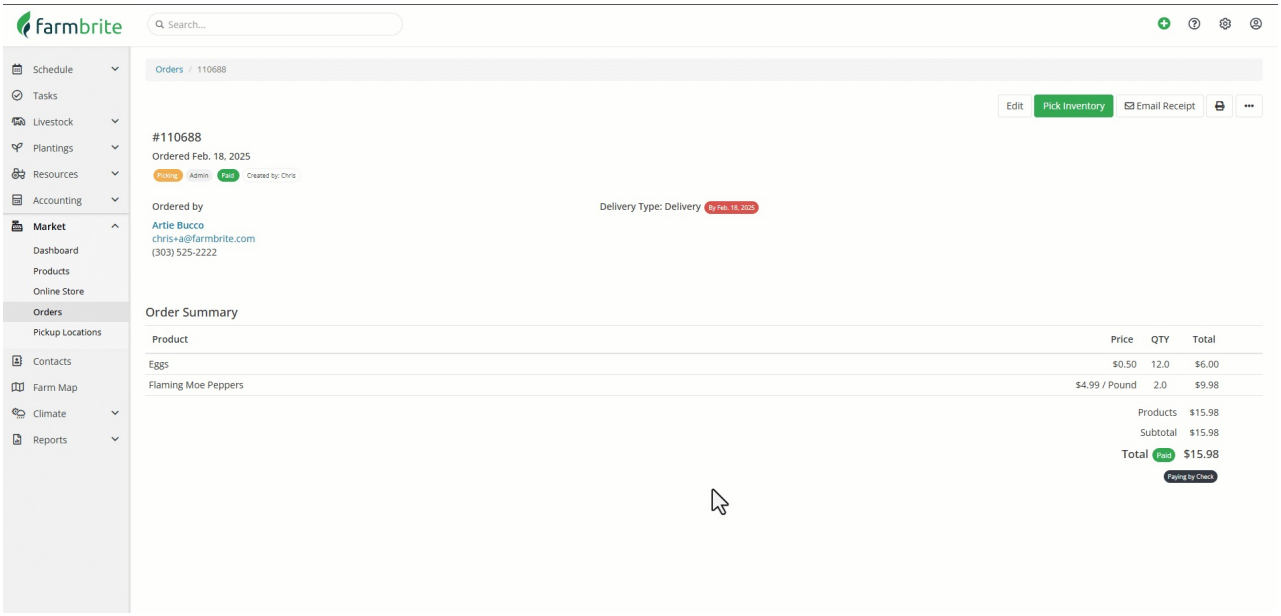
Lot QR Codes

Each Lot also has a unique QR code available. You can print and affix this QR code to the specific lot. This QR code can be scanned with your mobile device's camera to access this specific lot in Farmbrite. *Bonus: the Farmbrite lot number is also displayed on the QR code details, making it easy to see exactly what lot you are working with outside of the software as well!*



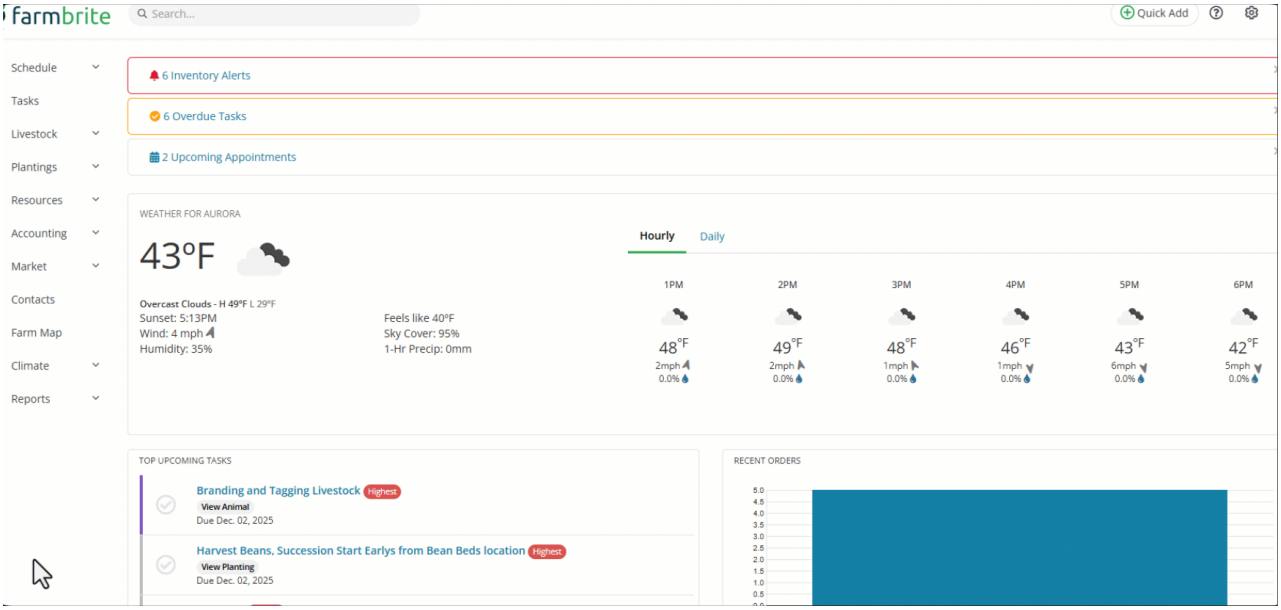
Picking Orders from Lots

While you will likely use a similar FIFO procedure when picking inventory to fulfil your market orders, Farmbrite does give you a choice for what lot you'd like to pick the inventory from. Below you'll see an example of us selling the peppers and eggs from the two earlier examples. We fill the egg order from the two oldest lots, and the pick the correct lot based on grade/quality for our peppers.



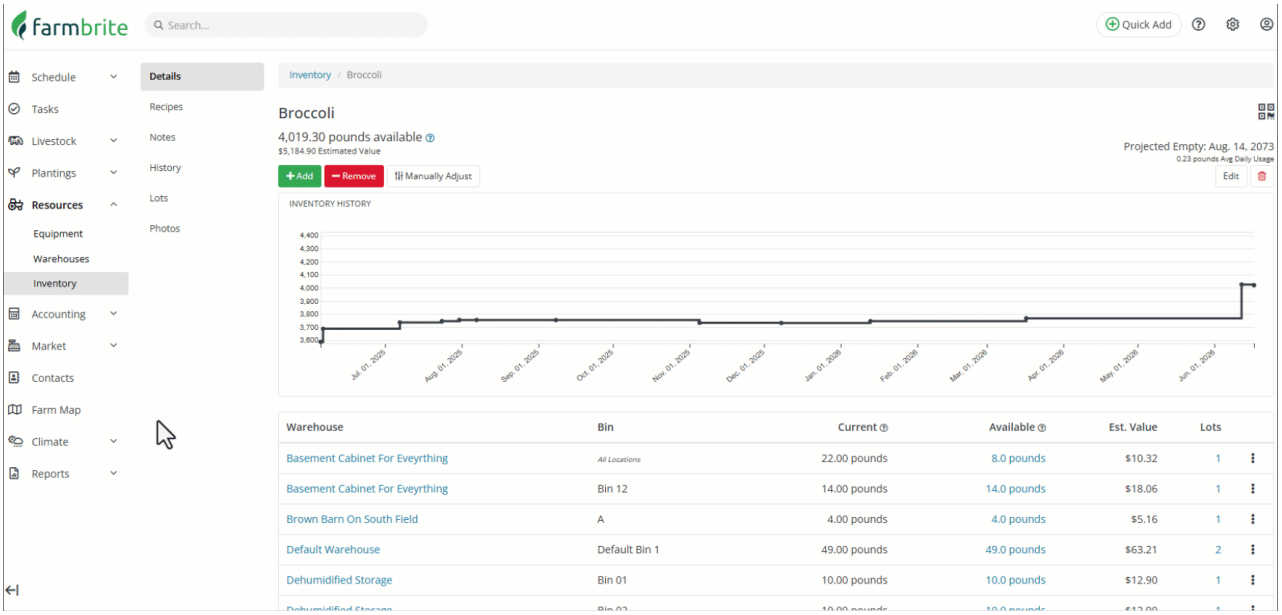
Reporting on Lots

You can also report on individual lots using the Inventory Lot Summary Report. Navigate to the reporting section and choose Resources, and then run the report. You'll see that it is organized by item, with each lot shown below. You can click any of the column headers to organize the lot records within the items. Be sure to set the appropriate date range on top as well, as you will see lots added within that range on the report.



Archiving Lots

If you have exhausted the quantity of an item you have stored in a lot, you can easily archive it so it does not show up on your reports, dashboards, or available lots when moving, picking, or adding inventory. Just choose the lot and then edit it, and check the box to Archive Lot. Doing this will keep the history for the lot, but remove it from future use. This could be a better option than deleting it, as you'll likely want to retain it's history. And speaking of history, be aware that the lot will not be shown on most reports, but it will be included in history reports to reflect what was used in the past. If you did want to see the lot again in the future, you can set the filter on the lots page to "archived = true".



Reach out to us if you have any questions about working with lots!