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Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Hello September!

The beautiful month of September has arrived and after a rainy and stormy start, it is treating us to some absolutely gorgeous weather! Even though this morning required a sweatshirt, I am still very happy for these cooler temps!

Our break was very nice -- we didn't exactly quit farming but we did slow the pace down quite a bit. We even kept our promise to each other and went for a hike! Our friends Laura and Ken suggested hiking along the Rock Castle Creek which is off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Floyd. There is an overlook of the area at the Rock Castle Gorge. The trail did not disappoint! We walked along a stream most of the way and it was peaceful and rejuvenating. It's amazing what walking in the woods will do for your spirit. Highly recommended!



Meanwhile...

Jonny's vacay was a bit more adventurous than ours. He went down to the Florida Keys to visit his dad and brother. They had great plans for him -- participating in an alligator hunting competition (we teased him that they wanted him for bait).. Alligators have become a huge problem in the Keys -- especially in the lake on Key Largo. The population has grown so much that alligators are commonly killing pets and injuring people.

This competition drew fishermen throughout the area to see who could find the biggest gator -- and Team Scoble won the event!



As Jonny says, "that's one less alligator out there eating your family pet."





@#\$%!!

Websites are an essential part of having a business these days. We built our site in 2010 and have been growing it for the past 11 years. We've had the same web host all this time and have been mostly pleased with the way it has gone.

Unfortunately, we were notified in June that the business would be closing on September 1st, so we had to find a new host. Gee -- perfect timing -- farmers don't have anything else going on in the summer, right? Not only did we have to find a new host for the site, we had to BUILD an entirely new website and set up email and, and....

Needless to say, we were NOT pleased! Also, in the process of going through all of this, we found that we were not the administrators of our email (the owner of the company was) and we had to get a "key" in order to transfer the administrative function to us. Did I mention that he was the only person in the company that knew what that was? And also did I mention that he was on vacation in a remote place for a couple of weeks? AAAAAARGH!



Since Ray has the computer background in the family, he volunteered to take this task on -- hurray! But it was not fun. Maddening is a better way to put it. His 30+ year career in IT was no match for the insanity of this task. As Ray put it, "I feel like a physician who has become a patient."

Nevertheless, he persisted. And now we have a new website! It's not perfect, it will change, but we have a site that is functioning. What did you do for your summer vacation?!



Stop by and visit!

And speaking of Plant Sale (see how I did that?), please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 12 from 1-5. *Please note that this is a change from our earlier announcement.* We'll have lots of fall plants ready to go in your garden along with Seed Garlic and Soil Amendments. We'll be posting a list of available plants on the website later this weekend. We hope you'll stop by the farm next weekend and get the only Certified Organic transplants in the area!

Coming Attraction: Sweet Potatoes!



We have been harvesting sweet potato greens for our *PlumFresh* members and decided to do a test dig of some tubers. Wow! They are looking

great! We'll start harvesting them next week, and after a couple weeks of curing, we'll have them available in our <u>Online Store</u>. Don't forget that you can order for pick-up at the Farm on Wednesdays or at Cobblestone on Saturdays. The store is ready for Wednesday orders by noon on Sunday and by noon on Wednesday for Saturday orders. We've got lots of delicious items to choose from -- don't miss out!

Happy Gotcha Day!



Join us in wishing Cara a Happy Plum Granny Birthday! Today marks 3 years since she joined our herd and we are so happy that she did! We love that cow!

That's a wrap for this week! It's great to be back in your inbox and have a chat about what's been going on at the Farm. Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Remember to <u>please</u> get your COVID shot, wear a mask in indoor public places, and be kind. By working together we can get past this new COVID surge!

Until next Friday,

Cheryl & Ray