



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

A public service message from Luna and Hoover: "Did you forget us?!"



Yep, they are feeling a little sad this week. They are still looking for the purrfect home and they are sure that one of our Farm Friends would be the best place ever! Won't you open your home (and heart) for these great cat-ens?

Please help us spread the word so that we can find a wonderful home for these very sweet kitties.

Sssssweeeeet!

How did we miss this? Last Saturday was Sweetest Day. Are you sure it

wasn't yesterday? We dug up the next to last round of sweet potatoes and they are looking mighty...sweet!



For those of you keeping score at home, with yesterday's harvest, we've hauled in 3,075 pounds of sweet potatoes. We've probably got another 500 pounds remaining in the field. Wow!

The first round of Garnets are cured and ready to go. Aren't they gorgeous? No filters necessary on these beauts!



We'll have sweet potatoes and a LOT more on our [webstore](#). It will be updated and ready for orders by noon on Sunday.

Great Greenhouse Helper

Our greenhouse spider keeps getting bigger -- but with all the prey she is

catching, it's no surprise!



She is a Black-and-Yellow Argiope spider. A recent Instagram post from the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) filled me in on some of the details of this useful arachnid. According to CFSA, some know them as zipper spiders due to the distinctive design they often weave into their web.

Surprisingly, the reason for the pattern is unknown, though it is thought it may be to attract prey. They're also called corn spiders for their frequency in setting up house in cornfields. Found throughout crops and garden beds in the Carolinas, Argiope spiders are considered very beneficial to have around because they consume insect pests that damage crops and garden plants."

One of the most amazing things to me was that the females can live 2-3 years. And according to [Texas A&M Extension](#), females mate one time per year and lay one or more egg sacs in her web close to her resting position. Each egg sac contains anywhere between 300 to 1400 eggs. Spiders usually hatch around autumn or summer and look similar to their adult counterparts. Our gal just produced her 2nd egg sac in the greenhouse this week.



So even though these spiders may give you the chills when you see one, say 'Hello and Thanks!' and move on, because they're great pest control machines to have around the place!

Farm Walk Time

Let's do a quick walk around to see a few more things happening around the place:

Ray got the drip tape installed in the Brassica Field as well as in the Strawberries. Looks like he had a very stern supervisor making sure that he did the job right!





It's funny how sometimes the biggest specimens of our veggies can come from the compost pile. Here is a honking big Horseradish plant! It probably came from a piece of horseradish that was tossed out last year. I guess we know how to grow it from now on -- in compost!

Our Chile Peppers are really putting on a show. I sure wish that I had to time to make a bunch of ristras from all of these lovely pods. At this time of year in New Mexico, nearly every house had a ristra decorating the porch. Que linda!



We had almost given up on our Snow Peas due to deer nibbling. But a quick check yesterday showed that they are now loaded with flowers! Fingers crossed that the deer don't rediscover them.



That's a wrap for this week. I hear that the autumn leaves are supposed to be at their peak over the next couple of weeks, especially in the higher elevations. Better get out there and leaf peek before next week's rain.

Remember to please get your COVID shot (and a booster if you need it) and keep wearing a mask in indoor public places. And don't forget to be kind.

Until next Friday,

Cheryl & Ray