



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome November!

Brrrrr! Even though we had a bit of frost a couple of weeks ago, this morning made it official -- Winter is on the way! Looking out the window this morning, it was almost like it had snowed. A blanket of white was everywhere. And even though our phone weather app said it was 29, the weather station here was at 33 at 7 a.m. so I think we missed a hard freeze.



Garlic Time!

With yesterday's damp, bone-chilling temps, we decided it was a good day to spend in the greenhouse cracking garlic. We decided to make our own snow -- garlic snow! We got about halfway through the cracking process -- we are aiming at about 14,000 cloves this year.



And if we don't get too much rain this weekend, we should be able to start planting early next week. The field is ready and all we need to do is shape beds and lay drip tape. This is great news since we have not been able to plant garlic this early in a number of years! Garlic is one of the last things we plant each season -- this year a couple more things will follow it (strawberries and some brassicas) -- so it always feels like a major rite of passage when the last cloves are in the ground.

Every year we always think back to our first year planting garlic here in the Test Bed by the farmhouse. We planted just after Thanksgiving in 2007. I think we planted about 100 cloves -- you've got to start somewhere!



And a big thank you to Chad Tucker of Roy's Folks at Fox8 News. He wanted to re-broadcast the story they did on us last year which focused on our garlic. In case you missed it then, [you can find the story here](https://myfox8.com/roys-folks/stokes-county-farm-grows-20-different-kinds-of-garlic/).

A screenshot of a news article from Fox 8. The article title is "Stokes County farm grows 20 different kinds of garlic". The byline is "by: Chad Tucker". The article is dated "Posted: Nov 16, 2020 / 06:03 PM EST / Updated: Nov 16, 2020 / 06:03 PM EST". The main image shows a white house with a sign that reads "PLUM GRANNY FARM" and "336-994-2517". The article text below the image reads: "STOKES COUNTY, N.C. — Cheryl Ferguson's family have been on this farm in the Capella community". There are also some file names at the bottom: "New-jam-labels.jpg" and "Farmer to Farmer eC...pdf".

Pre-Frost Hustle!

We knew that the temps were going to be dropping this week so we needed to get some repairs made to the greenhouse to make sure that it was a bit more airtight. We had gaping holes where the plastic was no longer attached to the the house and lots of cuts and tears that needed to be mended. The greenhouse will be completely recovered when we finish the extension this

winter but we had to make repairs now! Nothing helps to focus one's attention on the need to reduce escaping heat like having to fill up a propane tank. When you spend \$1,300, you want to make sure that as little heat (and those hard-earned dollars!) is escaping as possible!



We also ran around harvesting as many of the sensitive crops as possible. The walk-in is now loaded up with oodles of peppers, eggplant and chile!



Strawberries for...Thanksgiving?

While we wish we could offer up strawberries for your Thanksgiving feast, we'll just have a couple coming off of the baskets that we have in our high tunnel. We've been working on getting them cleaned up and fed this week.



Maggie has been trimming the runners off and getting out any of the dead leaves so that they can go into the coldest part of the year with energy focused on staying alive and healthy. But while we were doing that we did find a few tasty treats! No, we couldn't resist! Mmmmm, so sweet!



RIP, Spider Friend



Our greenhouse Arigope spider went missing last week. She wasn't in her usual perch with her 2 egg sacs. I thought that she had moved on to another location to build more webs and maybe lay more eggs. I had been so jazzed to learn that [they can live for 2-3 years](#) so I was hoping that she'd be around a lot longer.

Unfortunately, no. Ray found her in a ginger pot last weekend. But we look forward to seeing her babies emerge next summer -- and maybe one will carry out Mom's habit of hanging around the potting bench to keep watch over our work.

That's the news for the first week in November. Don't forget to set your clock back an hour on Saturday night -- Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m.

Sunday morning. Yay! An extra hour of sleep!



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