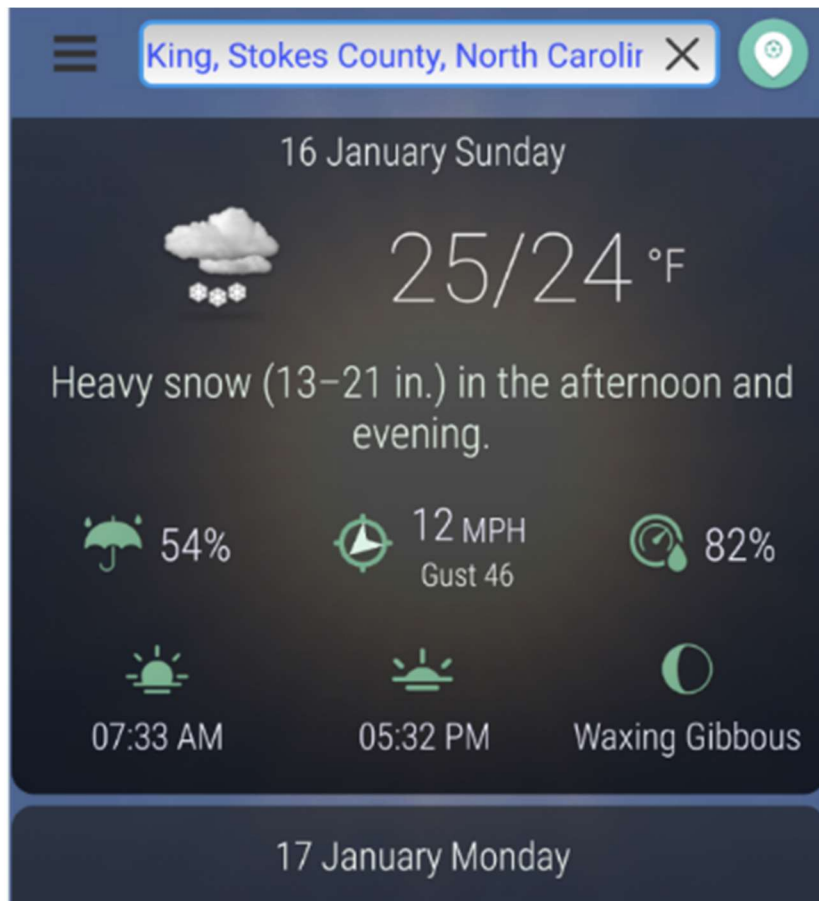




Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



When you see some variation of this weather forecast all week, it really gets your attention! I know there are several other versions of what is predicted for Sunday -

- some better and some worse because of freezing rain -- but all of them mean that we are going to have some pretty serious weather challenges in the next 72 hours.



It looks like the grocery stores got the message that a weather event was on the way, too!

To prepare for this (in addition to a grocery run), one of our main tasks is to get our high tunnels and greenhouses ready for snow and sleet. One of our tunnels, Raz House, was scheduled to be recovered this winter anyway because the plastic had split on the bows over time. So this seemed like a perfect opportunity to get the plastic off the roof and endwalls and keep the structure safe. Heavy snow and ice can do a number on metal. Bent or twisted purlins or bows are not something that we want to deal with!

We'll be keeping the other houses clear with a combination of brushing off the snow and having portable heaters stationed at the ready. Oh, and a generator is also available if needed. We try to be prepared for these situations as best we can!



The storm last week was pretty kind to us -- some fallen branches -- but a huge tree fell at Cheryl's brother's house blocking a driveway and narrowly missing the house! After some major chainsaw work, Ray, Kevin and Brian were able to get the driveway cleared.



The reward for that hard work is that we now have some beautiful logs for benches

and chairs to put at the fire ring at the Demo Garden!



Detroit and Luna wasted no time in trying out their new chairs. Their rating? Four paws up!



As we prepare for some wintry weather, it's nice to be able to go into the greenhouse and breathe in the warm fragrance of soil and plants. Although we haven't started our big seed-starting push, we do have some plants that are getting ready for their day in the sun.



We've even got strawberry baskets that are getting really lush and are blooming. These will be gorgeous by the time our plant sale comes this Spring!



Clearing the Decks

January is always a time of purging -- cleaning out closets, desks, etc. Farms are no different! In our case, we need to get some fields cleared for planting. We will be planting onions to overwinter in one of our fields so we needed to clear out the plant debris and weeds. The task was pretty daunting -- but our fearless team was up to the task! Pretty amazing, huh? Hoover is wondering where his mousing area went.



Before



After

That's the news from the farm for another week! Be safe this weekend -- snuggle up with a book and a cozy cup of cocoa and enjoy the snow falling. And say a prayer for those less fortunate ones that don't have warmth or shelter in these winter storms.

Take the time to spread some kindness!

**Until next Friday,
Cheryl & Ray**