



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



We hope you made it safely through last Sunday's Winter Storm Izzy and were able to stay warm and dry. We really lucked out on this one. Even though the winds were howling pretty badly, we kept power. And in the end, everything was basically okay.

Obviously, the forecasts we were seeing last week for up to 22 inches of snow didn't come to pass. We're not really sure how much snow we got because it was blowing around so much. Then it got compacted by a thick layer of ice. Accumulation was probably in the 4 to 5-inch range. That ice, though -- it was a doozy!

Saturday we were running all over the farm tucking in the animals (LOTS of hay

and water!), getting heaters in place, corralling loose objects, pruning dangling tree branches, drawing water in case of power outage, and procuring enough petroleum products to power a battalion! Getting ready for a storm is no walk in the park when you've got so many things that could go wrong. At times like these we live our Scouting mantra: Be Prepared!



Ray kept guard over the high tunnels and greenhouse all day Sunday. Portable heaters were blasting in the unheated tunnels and the greenhouse heater was cranked up. We wanted to keep the internal temperature warm enough so that ice didn't build up on the plastic. Since we didn't have heavy snow accumulation, there wasn't as much need for knocking the snow off with brooms. But you should have seen the ice fly when he banged on the inside of the roof!

We know that our preparation paid off, but we also know that we were very lucky. There were lots of power outages up our way -- the parade of trucks from Duke Energy and their contractors attested to that.

We were finally able to get a Post Office truck-size swath cleared in the driveway on Tuesday. The mail must get through, right?



Feeding and watering the animals had become a huge challenge with all the ice. Our ski poles were pulled out of storage and were essential items in being able to get from point A to point B. After some thaw, we were able to make some paths to safely get to the animals on both sides of the road. And have you ever noticed how much longer things take when it is snowy and icy?

Here are a few more pictures from Winter Storm Izzy and its aftermath:



A view of the farm from Ruth's Field on Wednesday. Garlic in the foreground with Cook's Wall looming in the clouds.



Although the garlic might look a bit beleaguered with the snow and ice, it is doing just fine. Most of the garlic's growth is happening underground in the winter. More leaves will emerge later in the season.



We accidentally created an ice sundial as we were shoveling! Added the rocks to indicate the hour!



BB checks out her tasty tree! Sheep and goats love Christmas trees -- although this one may have been a bit too crispy for their liking.

That's a wrap for this week's news! Time to head back to work on closing out 2021's books while we make plans for 2022. Stay tuned for news about all the great things we have planned for the farm in the coming months. We've got some exciting new things coming your way!

Stay safe and warm out there, Friends!

**Until next Friday,
Cheryl & Ray**