



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

Sorry that the newsletter is running a bit late today! We had a project that required all hands on deck. We were covering one of our caterpillar tunnels since our plan is to seed carrots there next week. In farming, it's essential to stick with your schedule, especially when you've got rain or snow on the way.



This tunnel (Tabby) was damaged in a storm in late 2020 and we removed the cover last January. Since we needed more covered space for crops, it was time to get it buttoned back up. A good thing about this process is that it gave us the opportunity to make some design tweaks to the structure. Ray, Jonny and Alex moved the hipboards (the horizontal board that runs along the side of the high tunnel) up about 10 inches. This will let us roll up the sides more to allow better ventilation. More ventilation is always good especially in the summer!



Although we still have some fine-tuning to do, we were able to get Tabby completely covered. Hooray! Big Check Mark! And since Jonny has already prepped some gorgeous beds, Cheryl is anxious to take the seeder out for its first spin of 2022!

Getting Growing!

The greenhouse is starting to kick into gear for its super busy season. On Monday, we got about a 1/3 of the house thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Even though we are diligent about trying to keep the greenhouse floor swept, it's amazing how much soil and moss builds up. Thanks to Jonny, Alex and Amanda, the floor is clean, and the benches and heat mats are spic and span and are ready to go for seed trays!

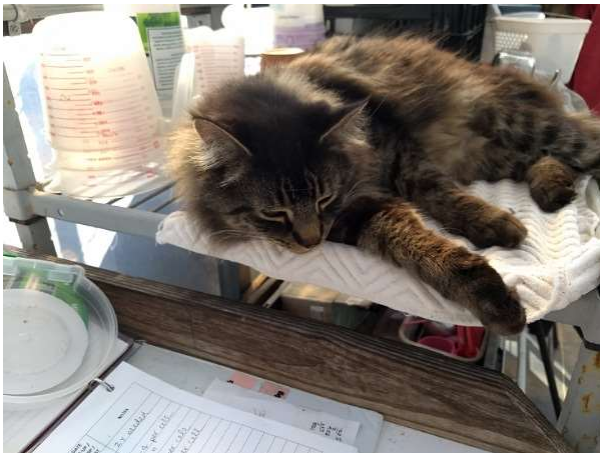


Well, that didn't take long...!



Cheryl got the first round of seeds in trays (several thousand seeds of shallots, bunching onions, kale -- and even some early tomatoes) and quickly filled up the first set of heat mats!

Greenhouse time and seeding is one of Cheryl's happy places. There is something so magical about a tiny seed growing into a huge, strong plant! Working at the potting bench, she is frequently joined by Detroit, her seeding buddy.



But this year, Hoover and Luna have joined the fray. We weren't sure how it was going to go, but Detroit seems to have accepted them in "his" space.



This Very Old House

Old houses are great. They have charm and history tucked inside their walls. The old house that we live in is a family heirloom. It's more than 150 years old and it has more tales about it -- and in it -- than we will ever know. Cheryl's Daddy was born in this house in 1919 -- the baby of the bunch (2nd from right).



Ray jokes that being a farmer is Mr. Fix-It's dream job. Add in an aged structure that was remodeled in the early 1970s, you've got some real job security! Since there is very little insulation under the house (a large part of the structure sits on stones -- not on a typical modern foundation), we have to make sure that the pipes don't freeze when it gets really cold. Last week, Ray discovered a very deep pool of water in the "crawl space" beneath the house. Uh-oh.

After pumping it out, Ray donned protective gear and went in. What you have to understand is that the space is VERY narrow. Even Ray, as thin as he is,

was having a hard time getting in there to check it out. He says it's actually a "slither space."

But Mr. Fix-It did it! He discovered a leak in a pipe and was able to get it patched! Hallelujah!



All this just goes to show that even Dream Jobs can have pretty nightmarish days!



We hope that YOU don't have a nightmare day or weekend! Yes, it's cold and uncomfortable outside but we are about to say goodbye to January -- and it's only 50 days until the first day of Spring!

Celebrate [Chinese New Year](#) (also known as Lunar New Year) which begins on Tuesday. Chinese New Year is a 15-day festival that is celebrated annually depending on the sighting of the new moon. The occasion is also known as the Spring Festival, and an animal is associated with each New Year. The animals

rotate and repeat according to a fixed cycle. This is the year of the Tiger. According to one source, Tiger years are always exciting, dynamic, and full of unexpected surprises that can leave us looking back thinking, “What was *that?*”

And don't forget [Groundhog Day](#) on Wednesday! We must find out what Punxsutawney Phil predicts, right? And maybe it's just a great excuse to [watch Bill Murray at his hysterical best in the movie](#). That one is always good for a laugh! And laughter is more important now than ever.



Stay safe and warm out there, Friends!

**Until next Friday,
Cheryl & Ray**