



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Hasn't it been a glorious few days? We have been soaking up the sunshine as we work through our to-do list. It has been such a pleasant contrast to so much of this winter weather.

Even the bees were out and about. We haven't seen much activity in the hive in a couple of months.



It seems like this winter has been a struggle for everything. Even the garlic has been buffeted by the cold and wind -- we've never seen it look so sad. But the good news is that new leaves are emerging, and it doesn't look quite as rough.



Yes, we are all looking forward to warmer, sunny days -- although as farmers, we do get a bit panicked when we realize that March is just around the corner! There's so much Winter Work still left to do!!

This week we got our early spring order from [Seven Springs Farm Supply](#). We coordinate bulk orders with local farmers and gardeners to help us all get better prices on soil amendments and supplies. And given how these prices (and

freight) have increased, that's a good thing! We will be making our big order in late February/early March, so if you are interested in getting on our announcement list for details, please send us an [email](#).

A popular item that we get is fish emulsion. Our favorite product is [Brown's Fish Fertilizer](#) which is based in Western North Carolina. They make a great product that uses trout by-products (keeping them from the landfill) and turns them into liquid fertilizer. It's the modern version of what the Native Americans taught the Pilgrims.

We buy the fish in a 55-gallon drum (don't try this at home!) and then pump it out into smaller containers. Sometimes it can be a bit tricky when we get to the bottom of the barrel!



In other Farm happenings...



It was time to dig the blackberry volunteers out of the nursery so that we can pot them up for our Plant Sales. We'll have lots of beautiful organic Triple Crown plants for you later in the spring!



Haircut Time! The bulb onions got a trim -- this helps the plants grow stronger and will help them put more energy into the roots. They will be planted out in March and harvested this summer.

LOTS of greenhouse this work this week! Amanda and Alex got all of the seed trays and pots washed and stored (HUGE thanks!). Ray potted up ginger plantlets and Cheryl got more seeding done. The greenhouse and the germination chamber are really filling up!

But we've found that some greenhouse visitors just can't be trusted...



Gotta make sure you don't leave any bagels around! Hoover has definitely acquired a taste for them (this is the 2nd time he's gotten into a bag!) Perhaps this is the aftermath?



Sharpen Your Skills! Blackberry Pruning Workshop on February 23

Come sharpen your pruning techniques and knowledge at a **Blackberry Pruning Workshop** sponsored by the [Stokes County Cooperative Extension Office](#). This workshop on **Wednesday, February 23** from 2-4 will be held here at the farm. For more information and to register, [click here](#). The workshop is FREE and you'll get to learn by doing. Registration is limited so make sure to

sign up soon!



That's all we've got for you this week, friends! For those of you who are into such things, don't forget that Sunday is the [Superbowl](#) (I admit that I only watch the ads online!) and that Monday is Valentine's Day.



In closing, here's a heartwarming story that I heard yesterday on [WFDD's](#) broadcast of [Here and Now](#). It is about Julia Hawkins of Baton Rouge. She celebrated her 106th birthday yesterday-- which is quite an accomplishment. AND she has set records in the 100-yard dash -- at the age of 105! Take a moment to listen to this inspiring and feel-good story! And look for those Magic Moments in your life. Enjoy!

Until next Friday,
Cheryl & Ray