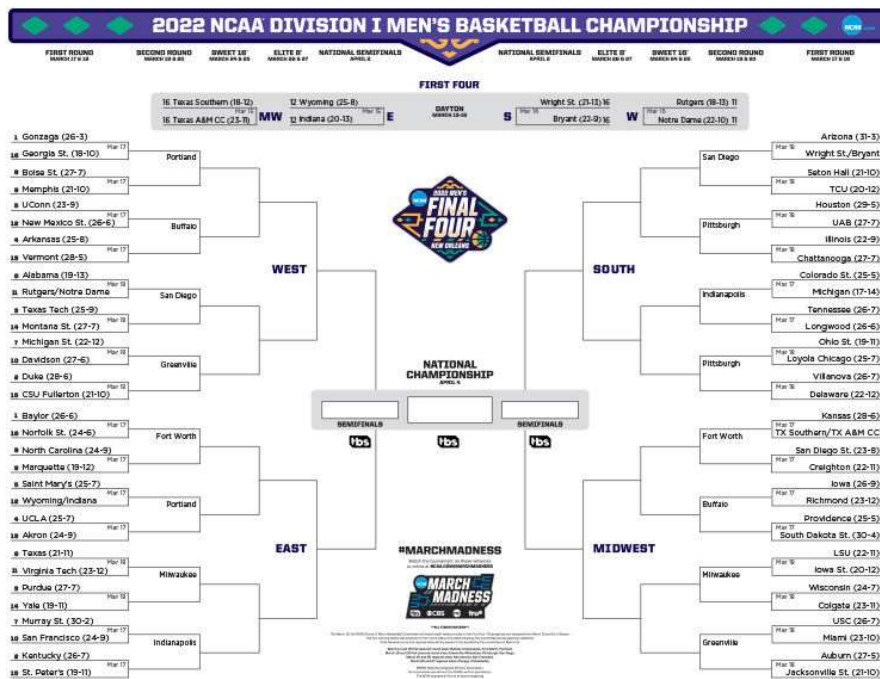




Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome to March Madness!



As March Madness settles across the country with nonstop broadcasts of basketball tournaments, we are settling into our own form of madness. The madness induced not by hours of watching basketball (although Cheryl was well-schooled in the art of ACC tournaments growing up -- AND we did watch the end of last night's UConn-New Mexico State game! Go Aggies!). Our madness is driven by very long lists, wild winds and rain, and the realization that we have a plant sale NEXT WEEK. Aieeeee!!!!

But this is where our "brackets" (i.e. spreadsheets) help. We try to keep all of

the balls in the air with Ray's favorite farm tool -- Excel. Sometimes it feels like we are dribbling 5 balls like Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Time for Tomatoes!!

The weather looks like it has stabilized enough to get our high tunnel tomatoes in the ground. These tomatoes were seeded back at the end of January and look amazing.



Today is a perfect day for planting so we needed to get holes marked and get the plants soaked in fish emulsion and compost tea. The house is filled with 141 tomatoes now -- woo-hoo!

So why did we take the time and trouble to mark for holes (each flag in the picture on the left)? If we used our usual method of "about that far apart," they might not all fit. And we want to make sure that we have every tasty early tomato we can get!



This planting is also a bit different than any tomato planting we've done before. We are planting the tomatoes into beds of spinach. As the tomatoes

get larger, they will help shade the spinach and hopefully keep it cooler than it would be if it were the only crop.



And since the spinach is looking so good (best crop ever!), we want to make sure that we keep it in good condition, so it is ready for our earliest *PlumFresh* bags.



Field Walk Time!

Let's take a quick walk around to check on some of the other crops, shall we?



The snap peas we planted last week are popping up! We gave them some protection in last weekend's cold, but they are looking really good.



The cucumbers in the greenhouse are growing like gangbusters. Trellis lines went up this week and we'll be trellising by this weekend.



Lettuce was also planted in the greenhouse this week. The first round of outdoor lettuce will go in next week.



The strawberries are doing pretty well. They did have some cold damage from last weekend but all in all, they are strong plants that are starting to kick in for some heavy-duty growth. Note the black center on the strawberry flower on the left -- this indicates freeze damage and the fruit that would come after the flower has been killed.



Plant Sale Just ONE Week Away!

We've been really bucky beavers getting plants potted up for our **Early Spring Plant Sale**. The sale will be held here at the farm on Friday (3/25) and Saturday (3/26). We'll have herbs as well as lots of cool season plants for your Spring Garden. For a complete list of what we'll have at the sale, [please check out our website](#).



Better Hop To -- PlumFresh is Filling Up Fast!

If you've been thinking about joining our signature veggie and fruit subscription, you'd better hurry and sign up! We only have a few more spaces available -- and we are close to capacity at Cobblestone Farmers Market and Delivery.

PlumFresh is completely unique in its approach to Community Supported Agriculture. One of the hallmarks of our program is its flexibility. We offer our members the opportunity to customize their bag, pay on flexible terms and skips weeks if you are out of town.

This year we are adding some new options like an Egg Share so that you can get farm-fresh pasture-raised eggs every week. We will also be offering add-ons such as coffee, bread, honey and more!

So don't delay! Make sure you have your bag reserved for you! For more information about the program, [click here](#). Ready to sign up? [Go here!](#)



That's all the news for now! Thanks so much to those of you who reached out with your concern about Lil' Abner. We were able to confirm that the man who took him was his owner. We greatly appreciate your interest in his well-being.

Spring arrives on **Sunday at 11:33 a.m.** marking the [Vernal Equinox](#). The day and night are equal on this day. And longer days are definitely something to get excited about -- especially when you have a new porch to take your afternoon coffee break on!



Remember to be kind, love your neighbor and pray for Peace.

**Until next week,
*Cheryl & Ray***