



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Hellooo April!!

Lots of changes happening around the farm. We wanted to fill you in on some of the things that we've got planned. Ray and I have been doing a lot of planning and thinking over the past several months. We're really tired and have decided to take a large portion of the farm land out of production and use it for development.

There is a shortage of housing in our area and we feel that if we build some multi-family units on the land that we can make a difference in the community and our bank account. These won't be huge high rises -- they will be 3-story apartment buildings that will face Flat Shoals Road.



*Artist's rendering*

We considered putting in a trailer park in the space but decided that we wanted something more permanent.

Just to get us started with some land prep, we had some grading done to smooth out some edges and we also removed a few trees.

We hope that if all goes well, the first families will be moving into their homes by 2024!





April Fools!

We hope we didn't give you too much of a scare. NO housing development will be going in here -- unless it is for bluebirds or other wildlife (except deer!) We plan on keeping this farmland as farmland and open space as long as we are alive and more!

Okay, let's get back to a few less jarring updates...

### **Greenhouse Progress!**

Ray and Alex kept on getting posts in the ground for the greenhouse expansion. We needed 2 more posts since some of the original posts were bent when they were removed from the original location. This greenhouse was originally a 200' one located outside Pilot Mountain -- Ray disassembled it in 2008 and moved it to the farm.

So, Cheryl headed out to get the needed posts from Piedmont Fence. We got 2 from them last year and for about \$150. When Cheryl talked to them this week, the price was now \$484!!! Yikes!

We decided to hold off on getting the new pipe and considered our options. We could shorten the greenhouse -- which would reduce the size by 200 square

feet. Not a desirable option but it would save a lot of money. Or we could take the pipes to a machine shop to see if they could be straightened.

Ray had another idea -- what if we tried to straighten them with the tractor? At first, he and Alex put the pipe in the arms of the front-end loader and applied pressure to it by leaning on it. Nope -- didn't work.



So, then they tried using a stump as a leverage point to bend it while the tractor bucket was slowly moved. It worked!



Now that we had straight pipe, we could finish up the job of setting all the posts. Alex and Ray steadily worked through the task and got them installed on Wednesday evening. Thanks for hanging in on the project, Alex!



Good thing they finished when they did -- all the heavy rain we got on Thursday quickly filled in the postholes. It would have taken at least another week for them to dry out enough to finish the job.



Lots of other progress was being made this week --



Jonny and Sophie spread manure on the raspberry beds. This nutrient-rich amendment will help our young plants kick-start their growth for the season.

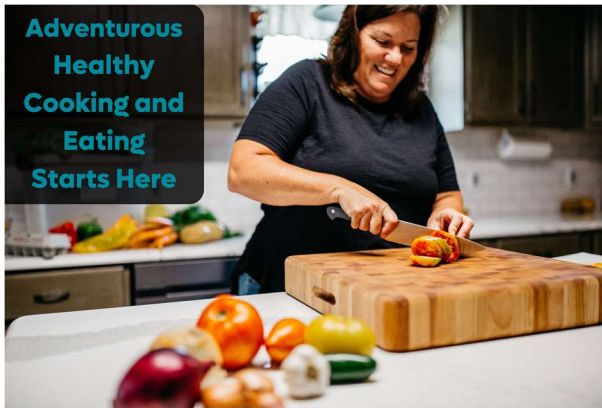


Elise potted up seedlings for our Summer Plant Sale on April 22-24. Stay tuned for more information about our biggest plant sale of the year!

And speaking of plant sales, thanks so much to those of you who came out for our **Early Spring Plant Sale** last week. The weather was a challenge, but we truly appreciate each and every one of you who visited and took home plant babies for your garden. Happy Growing!

### **We Want to Be Your Farmer! Registration Closing Soon!**

Just a reminder that we are still accepting registrations for our signature veggie and fruit subscription -- but not for much longer! Registration will close on April 18 (sooner if all slots fill!) so, if you've been thinking about signing up, time is running out. In fact, we only have a few more slots available for Delivery or for Cobblestone Farmers Market pick-up.



*PlumFresh* gives you items that you can't find elsewhere. In fact, many of our highly sought-after crops (strawberries, asparagus, turmeric) will only be distributed through our Harvest Subscription program.

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

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That's the news from the farm! Get out there and enjoy a beautiful weekend! Flowers EVERYWHERE! Not an April Fool's joke!



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

**Until next week,  
Cheryl & Ray**

