



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

What a beautiful week we've had! Such a treat to have sunshine, mild temps and low humidity -- the weather trifecta!

We've been taking advantage of the weather to get some tasks crossed off the list. First thing on the Monday to-do list was to get the sheep into a new paddock and the cows into the front pasture. Except that one of our maple trees had other plans.

Unfortunately, the trees around the house are starting to die. They are probably about 100 years old and are showing their age. There are 3 on the north side of the house that are huge, but their branches are beginning to break. On Monday morning we awoke to a large branch that had broken over the sheep paddock -- no one was hurt, thankfully!



The sheep were happily munching on the leaves, so catching them for their move wasn't too difficult.



Tony and BB got settled in their lush new pasture while Ray and Jonny got the branches trimmed and cleared. Once things were safe enough, we moved the cows and Brix into the main pasture -- but they had to stop for a little snack along the way...



Everyone has had a week full of lots of fresh grass and sunshine -- pretty contented critters all around. And they all are walking with a bit of a waddle. They've packed in some major calories this week (and pounds, I'm sure!)



Field Walk Time!

Let's take a look around the farm and see what's been going on, shall we?

We're getting the strawberry field ready for planting next month. Unfortunately, more than half of the existing strawberries didn't survive. We have plants coming in October but only about 900 -- so we are going to be shy of the plants that we need to fill the field for next year's crop. The pressure's on to tend each one of them well so they will produce a bumper crop for 2023!



Hay Daze! Now that the rain has stopped for a bit, it's time to do the Hay Hustle. Making hay is one of the most nerve-wracking parts of our operation. Trying to get the timing right is so tough. And for the fall cutting it is even more difficult because you need even more time for it to dry since it is cooler. Barring equipment issues, we hope to get it in the barn by next week (fingers and toes crossed!)

More plants in the ground! We have whittled our planting list down and only have a few more things to get planted. A bit behind schedule but it's getting done!



It's spider season around here! Looks like there is a big crop of 'em! Has Duke Energy found a new source of line workers? These ladies are fast and very



The cabbage loopers and armyworms got the memo about all the new plants. Aargh! Time to get with the plan for using Bt or [*Bacillus thuringiensis v. kurstaki*](#). It's a beneficial bacteria that will infect the unwelcome diners. It will control most *Lepidopteran* (caterpillar) insects such as cabbage loopers and armyworms without harming other insects. We use organic pesticides very sparingly and when we do, we want one that's as specific as possible to our target pest.



efficient. They'd make perfect employees!

Got Garlic?



Don't forget to register! If you want to have a great crop of garlic at home in 2023, NOW is the time to start thinking about it! Join us on **Sunday, October 9 from 2-5** for our hands-on workshop that will give you the advantage of our 14 years of experience. This popular workshop includes all instruction, handouts and 1/2 pound of seed garlic. [Click here](#) for the registration form. The workshop is limited to 10 participants, so don't miss out!

Mark Your Calendar for Pepper Day!

Next Saturday, we'll be popping up at [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) as a featured vendor for their first-ever Pepper Day! We grow LOTS of peppers and are especially known for our **Green Chile**. Our years in New Mexico made true believers out of us!



So stop by our tent on **Saturday, September 24** and check out our Pepper-Palooza! We'll have the pepper roaster on-site so it will be a delightful day for the senses! Just follow your nose to the roasting peppers!

That's a wrap for this week's news. Only SIX more days until Fall! Next Thursday will mark the [Autumnal Equinox](#) which will arrive at 9:04 p.m. It's almost Fall, y'all!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

