



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome October!

September really knew how to go out with a bang, huh?

I hope your experience with Hurricane Ian wasn't too bad and that you didn't sustain much damage. Driving around both Stokes County and Forsyth County this week, it sure looked like Stokes bore more of the brunt of the storm.

We are still assessing what happened here at the farm. There were definitely a lot of trees down and most of our road was without power until Sunday night. We were very lucky – we had power throughout along with our neighbor across the road. The guys from the utility company said we were the only people in about 300 homes that were spared! Thank goodness!

We had at least one large tree uprooted (thankfully in a hayfield) and lots of big branches were broken off around the house. The greenhouse and one of the high tunnels had their roll-up sides blown apart. And the crops took a beating too. Kale was ripped out of the ground, and the okra, peppers and tomatoes were pushed over -- we actually had to replant some of the peppers because of the wind damage! Here are a few pictures from the aftermath:







I am most grateful that Ray has both tractor and chainsaw skills -- and an orientation to safety! Plus, all-in-all, he's a Tree Hugger!



But after clean-up, the show must go on! Back to planting, washing seed trays and harvesting!



Even though we will be in clean-up mode for a while, we are still getting ready for next year's crops. The strawberry field got a final weeding and weak plants were removed. Our new plants arrive next Monday so we want to be ready to get them in the ground when they show up.

Some of our time before the storm was spent with Ray's sister, Linda, who popped in for a super quick visit. Far too short, but it is always great to see her.



Pepper Day A Hit!

We had a grand time at Cobblestone with our Chile Roaster and a plethora of peppers. Ray was roasting peppers most of the day (and attracting a crowd) while Elise was busily selling out of just about everything! It was great to see so many of you go home with a bundle of warm, smoky goodness. We hope you enjoyed them! Thanks so much for stopping by our tent -- we've missed seeing you at market this summer!



As we clear out and harvest crops, the animals have been enjoying the delicacies that come from both the field and the greenhouse. Here Brix is enjoying some vines from some pea plants that were left over from the Plant

Sale -- I think she likes it!



That's all we've got for this week, folks. Take time to enjoy these beautiful Autumn days -- they are so fleeting!



Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

