



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

It's that time of year! Are you ready for it?



It's frost on the punkin' time! No matter how hard we want to wish it away, winter is quickly heading towards us. Although the calendar says that it is 33 days until Winter's arrival, it sure feels like it is here. Time to break out the thermals, bundle up and get on with the day!

And it's time to say goodbye to the tomatoes. Here's Ray with probably the last harvest of slicers...I think little tears are dripping on the fruit.



Sunny cold days are one thing, but rainy, windy and cold days are a totally different story. And boy was Tuesday a different story! We were harvesting and packing for our final [PlumFresh](#) Wednesday bag, and it was miserable -- and I'm being kind here.



So. Cold. So. Wet. But you know what was amazing? It didn't turn into a negative pity party! We persevered -- and even smiled and laughed in the process. Wow!



A HUGE Thank You goes to Jonny and Elise for sticking it out and being such good sports about the less than ideal conditions. You guys ROCK!

Testing...1,2,3.....

It's soil testing time! Every couple of years, we take soil samples from all of our fields, high tunnels and raised beds (even our hay fields) and send them off to the [NC Department of Agriculture Agronomic Lab](#) for analysis of our soil composition and nutrients. This is an important part of managing our soil health and provides guidance regarding what is needed for soil amendments. We are

fortunate in North Carolina because we are able to get soil tests FREE from April through November. There is a fee (\$4 per sample) from December through March. Sample boxes and forms are available at your local Extension office.



We use the state labs a lot. In addition to soil testing, you can also get media tests of potting mixes or compost (very useful information!). The [Plant Disease and Insect Clinic at NC State](#) is also a huge help to us. They have helped us diagnose all kinds of diseases and pests.

We always advise backyard gardeners to go to their local Extension agent for questions -- especially if you are dealing with plant disease or pest issues. They can be a huge help! When we first started farming here, it was hard to get information geared to organic growing from Extension ("you can't grow strawberries organically," we were told) but that is starting to change. One of the most [comprehensive sources of information](#) for organic growers comes from Debbie Roos at the Chatham County Extension office. Check out this amazing resource!

You Guys Crack Us Up!

This past Sunday, a group of *PlumFresh* members gathered in the warmth of one of our unheated high tunnels for a cracking party. No, it wasn't some sort of illegal activity. We were cracking garlic -- or breaking garlic into cloves. What a wonderful way to spend a cold afternoon that was warmed by the sun in a snuggly tunnel! Our friends were helping us get through the hundreds of garlic bulbs that we need to break into cloves for planting -- and they helped a lot! We appreciate you so much!





ISO New Home

Dear Hoover, one of the feral kittens that we got in March 2021, needs a new home. We love him and he's a really sweet, affectionate cat but he is a bully around our other cats. He is trying to take over Detroit's place as Top Cat and it's not going well. So, unfortunately it is time to find him a new home.



If you are looking for the world's most gorgeous barn cat, Hoover is your guy. Please contact us if you would like more information. Please help us find him a loving and more appropriate home where he can be the only cat.

That's all we've got for this week. We wanted to give you a heads up on a coming event over Thanksgiving weekend. [Mitchell's Nursery and Greenhouse](#) in King will have their annual Poinsettia Display and Voting on November 27 to December 5. This is an amazing display of a huge array of intense color and beauty! Make the trip out to Stokes County and participate in this very special event. It always tops our Holiday activity list!



And if you'd like to brush up on your bow-tying skills, they are holding a [Bow Making Workshop](#) tomorrow (11/19). Registration closes soon!

**Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray**

