



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome December!

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, good food, along with some time to reflect and give Thanks. We got to do a few of our favorite things over the holiday -- The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the National Dog Show and visiting our friends at [Mitchell's Nursery and Greenhouse](#) for their Poinsettia display!





The amazing array of plants grown by Jim, Judy and Jay Mitchell and their team did not disappoint! Make sure that you head over to visit them soon -- their display and voting for your favorite varieties, ends on December 5.

While we were there, we loaded up on more pansies and finally started getting our flower beds ready for tulips and pansies. Farmers can't stop farmin' even on their days off!



### **Sayonara Slicers**

Our high tunnel tomatoes exited stage left this week. We had squeezed about everything out of them that we could! It was time to cut and compost the plants and then remove the twine, hooks and clips -- oh, and that was just for the plants trellised from the ceiling! The other ones were trellised using our variation on the "Florida Weave" method and had to come down another way.

From this (3 weeks ago):



To this (yesterday):



Now we'll amend the beds with compost and manure. Then it's time to sanitize the inside of the tunnel to make sure that we don't have any nasty pathogens waiting on next year's crop!

Speaking of manure, we did some harvesting this week from the barn. Our little hay-burners generate a lot of rich organic matter that has really made a big difference in our crops. And the earthworms seem to agree!



Even as we cleared out the tomatoes in the high tunnel, we were working on continuing the crop for next year. We saved seeds from about a dozen heirloom varieties. Tomatoes are about the only seeds that we save because it's easy. Plus they are usually true to type if they are an open pollinated or heirloom variety. We don't save hybrid seeds because they won't produce the same as their parent variety. We've found a couple of good resources for tomato seed saving [here](#) and [here](#).



We don't save many other crops because they cross-pollinate too easily and are hard to segregate to produce pure seed. Some crops have to be separated by a half-mile or more!

Other beds are also getting cleared and we finished pulling all of the snow pea vines from South 1. To the critters go the spoils!



### **Featured Pro Tip**

Here's a new feature for our Weekly Update -- Pro Tip! We'll share hints and tips from our hard-learned lessons in farm life.

First up: Make sure that you empty your rain gauge BEFORE it freezes!



### **Help Us Find a New Home for Hoover!**

Did the Thanksgiving holiday remind you that you really want a barn cat to make your family complete? Do we have the purrfect cat for you! Hoover 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. Our email address is [farm@plumgrannyfarm.com](mailto:farm@plumgrannyfarm.com)

Please help us find him a loving and more appropriate home where he can be the only cat.

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That's the news for this week. We will be continuing our quest to make the Holidays festive and fun. Tonight we will be going to one of our favorite kick-offs to the Holiday Season -- [Tuba Christmas!](#) It's free and it really gets you into the Christmas spirit. I mean, who can't smile when you are hearing dozens of tuba and euphonium musicians wearing Santa hats and playing their hearts out on Christmas standards? We hope to see you there!



Next up is the [Winston-Salem Jaycees Holiday Parade](#) on Saturday evening. A parade! At night! Can't wait!



Our Santa hats are really going to get a workout this year.

Until next week,  
*Cheryl & Ray*

