



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



With a week of roller coaster weather, it was so wonderful to see this beautiful crocus in the yard. Such a lovely harbinger of spring and such a hopeful sight!

We've had other signs of hope around the farm this week! The greenhouse project is coming along quite well. Ray, Jonny and Elise finished installing the purlins and now we are waiting for the gravel and landscape fabric for the floor. The next steps will be getting the end walls built and installing the hip boards. We're probably looking at about 4-5 more weeks to move-in!



### **Saving Propane, Saving \$\$**

We also completed a key energy saving task this week in the greenhouse. We installed the drop ceiling throughout the house. It is amazing how much less the heater runs simply by hanging up a sheet of plastic -- but it works! We wish we had gotten it up before the super cold weather last month but better late than never. To see a fun time-lapse that Elise put together, check out our [Instagram account](#) -- it's hilarious to hear the little chipmunk voices in the background!



### **Weeding Works Wonders!**

Another key winter task is to get the bramble beds weeded and pruned. This week we started that process - taking advantage of a bit of sun. We started with our primocane raspberries by weeding the beds and cutting off the canes.



Next we'll weed and prune the florican raspberries. They aren't quite as easy because we're pruning, not simply cutting off all of the canes. But since we are cutting out the canes that produced fruit last year, it's not too hard to do.

We also took a minute to clear the remaining three flower beds in our front yard. Jonny and Elise were real troopers working in the drizzle and rain. They were able to divide a big patch of irises that had spread w-a-y beyond the bed's boundaries. The good news is that we were able to get some really nice rhizomes from the plants. These beautiful deep purple irises are all potted up and will be available at our [plant sale](#) this Spring!



It's not all playing in the dirt -- sometimes it's concrete too! Ray has been wanting to replace the ramp at the storage building (aka the Star), and we finally took care of it. First came the not so easy step of breaking up the existing concrete. Thanks to a concrete saw, a sledgehammer and strong backs, the job got done.





Then came the easier, but more exacting process of building the new ramp. Jonny and Ray were on that task too!



Now we are ready for our big upcoming order with Seven Springs Farm Supply! No more struggling with a pallet jack over a big hunk of concrete. Should be smooth sailing!

Just a reminder, if you would like to join in our cooperative order of soil amendments and supplies, we will be making our first order of the year to [Seven Springs Farm Supply](#) at the end of this month. It's a great opportunity to get the supplies that you need and not have to pay shipping! The order form and details are available at our [website](#). The deadline for orders is **Monday, January 30**. Help us all reduce our carbon footprint and save some money by combining orders!



That's the news this week. Before we head out, we gouda let you know about this very important holiday -- it's [National Cheese Lover's Day](#)! We place ourselves firmly in that [Camp-member](#). One of our favorite places to get cheese is from our friends at [Buffalo Creek Farm and Creamery](#) in Germanton. A local, family-owned farm that makes great, award-winning cheese! And you know, everything's betta with feta!



Until next week,  
*Cheryl & Ray*

---

