



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! We missed you last week!

Sorry that we weren't able to chat last week. Your editor has been under the weather for the past week and just wasn't able to pull off writing a newsletter in her sleep. Feeling much better now and ready to jump on our late Winter to-do list ... well, maybe not jump (Ray's orders).

Another thing that didn't get done during the Great Sleep was thanking so many of you that wrote in with ideas about our new truck's name! What wonderful ideas and creativity! We still haven't decided on what it will be -- for now it's known as LBT (Little Bitty Truck), but we don't think that will stick. We'll be mulling the suggestions and making a decision soon -- stay tuned!

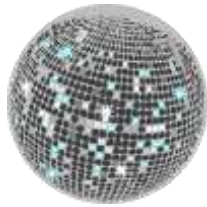
Just because one person on the farm snoozed through the past week, doesn't mean that nothing got done. Au contraire! Team Plum Granny was super productive and checked some big things off the list. Let's take a look, shall we?

Progress continued on the Greenhouse extension. All of the groundcloth floor has been installed along with the front and sides. The attachment posts have also been attached. Next up is the endwall, hipboards and covering!



Not to be satisfied with ONE greenhouse project, the overachievers here at Plum Granny Farm have TWO underway (actually 3, but more on that later...)

Raz House, our very first high tunnel, has been without a cover since January 2022 to let Nature's rain freshen the soil. Our crop plan has tomatoes going in there on March 15 -- so that house needs a top. It's been interesting to see how the deer have been hanging out in the tunnel. It had become a virtual Deer Disco this winter -- all it needed was a glitter ball!



The hipboards had rotted out, so Ray replaced them with [double-channel hip rail](#). This will be a great improvement -- no more wood to replace! There were a few more structural fixes that needed to be taken care of before the house was re-covered but they were pretty minor.

First came the end walls and then the top. The key for putting the top on is to have a calm day with no big wind gusts. Thankfully Tuesday turned out to be a great day. As Jonny said, "We've never had plastic go on so easily!" Hooray!





And just like that, the house was all re-covered -- all by Wednesday! Way to go, Team Plum Granny! Who needs Cheryl?!

Lots of other things are happening as well. The greenhouse is quickly filling up. Today our cucumbers (seeded on 2/6) were planted into grow bags in the greenhouse. The early tomatoes have been potted up and our main season tomatoes for grafting were seeded. Along with lots of greens, herbs and more - - it's beginning to look like the 2023 Season is well underway! Almost all of the Spring Plant Sale seeds are sown, too. Don't forget to mark your calendar for **March 24 and 25** for the sale here at the farm!





A perennial problem in the greenhouse is mice. But hey, we've got barn cats, right?



Right. Every now and again they do some hunting but it's more in the field than in the greenhouse. When Elise saw a tiny mouse skittering across the heat mat the other morning, we knew it was time to bring out the World's Best Mousetrap.



This is a [Tomahawk Live Trap](#) and we've used them for years. We were overrun with mice during their spring and fall migrations when we lived in Albuquerque and that's when we discovered this one. Bait it with peanut butter

on the back wall and the mouse walks in and the door closes behind. Then you just take the mouse to a wooded area at least 1 mile away and release it (no mouse touching is required). Take it back and reset it. We caught the first mouse in the greenhouse within a couple hours of setting it! The Mouse Taxi service has begun.

There's so much more that we could show you about what we've been doing, but we best stop now before the newsletter goes on for pages! Let's close with some of the signs of Spring that we are seeing around the farm this week. It's been so wonderful to have several sunny days in a row. The Earth is responding to the sun and warmth. The first daffodils, flowering maples, birdsong and [even the peepers](#) are making an early appearance this year. Enjoy every moment of this late Winter/early Spring wonder!



Have a great Presidents Day weekend. Here's a way you can treat yourself for the holiday. Visit our friends Chad and Thomas and [the teahouse they've just opened](#) on Liberty Street (in the old Winston-Salem Chronicle building). [Chad's Chai](#) makes some of our favorite teas -- and the best chai that you'll find anywhere. Stop by for a lovely afternoon cuppa. We had a nice date there during their soft opening a couple of weeks ago-- what a beautiful space!



Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

