



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Happy March!



It's here. The month that makes farmers' hearts pound a little harder. This is when it starts getting real, folks! There's a reason why March Fourth is called "Command Day" -- hang on for the ride.

While the greenhouse has been bustling since January, March is when outside planting starts in earnest. Carrots, sugar snaps and snow peas went in last weekend and potatoes won't be too far behind.



Jonny got the asparagus plants mowed Wednesday. Mowing lets the soil warm sooner and stimulates the growth of the spears. You don't want to clear them too early because they could freeze. We always rake off all the debris and get it out of the field so that there are no pests or disease hanging out in the fronds.



Now the biggest part of growing asparagus comes -- weeding! As much as we like growing asparagus, weeding is the most challenging part of the crop when you are growing organically. Conventional growers use herbicides and burn their fields (a splash of gasoline on your asparagus? No thank you!)



We have to weed by hand -- carefully. Hoes are okay at the early stage of weeding but when it gets closer to harvest, it's all on-your-knees work. You don't want to slice off the tips or damage the crowns. Whew!

With all of these tasty treats being planted and tended, it was time to make sure that we keep out the neighbors. Deer neighbors. The 8' deer fence that surrounds our blackberries, raspberries, asparagus, peas, and more had started to fall down in spots. It was time to strengthen the defenses!

First, Ray and Jonny had to get things mowed and cleared -- it's amazing how many trees and vines can pop up on a fence line. Then came time to get the fencing material better secured. UV light and weather can cause zip-ties to snap. We are considering adding some more height to the fence in order to avoid the interior double fences we have been using. Those double fences make it really difficult to mow and maintain the area -- but they have been effective at keeping the deer out. Hmmmm...



Three Weeks Until Our Spring Plant Sale!

Elise has been very busy getting our little transplants potted up into containers for the Plant Sale. We've got nearly 2,500 plants ready and even more to go! Check out the varieties that we will have at this year's sale -- we've added several new ones by special request. Here's [the list of the plants and other items that we'll have available](#). A wide variety of cool season plants to get you growing early! Don't forget -- the sale is on **Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25.**



We're also busy getting ready for the Summer Plant Sale. That huge sale will

be on **April 21-23!** That's when we'll have lots of heat loving crops like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and so much more. Stay tuned for more information on this event.



This sea of tiny tomato seedlings will soon be potted up for the Summer Plant Sale. We'll have 57 varieties of tomatoes this year!



See that tiny leaf with the rounded edges? That's celery! It is v-e-r-y slow to emerge and grow. This was seeded on February 6, and it is just now beginning to emerge and develop true leaves.

Get Fresh With Us!



Do you know where your food comes from? I mean, really know. Do you want make sure that the food you get is local? Really local (like no more than 50 miles away). Do you want to enjoy fresh veggies and fruits that tastes

delicious? If you answered yes to those questions, *PlumFresh* might be right for you!

PlumFresh is our spin on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). One of our goals with starting the farm back in 2009 was to help reconnect people with their food. It's so hard to tell anymore where food is grown. Grocery stores will mislabel the place of origin and even many farmers markets allow vendors to resell produce that they buy from big wholesalers.

With *PlumFresh*, you'll KNOW who your farmers are. That's another goal with this program -- to bring our members out to the farm for exclusive events such as pick-your-own, tours and potlucks. That way, members can meet their farmers and other like-minded folks.

PlumFresh is our customer-centered approach to CSA. Instead of requiring members to take a uniform box each week and pay for the entire season upfront, we offer flexibility. Members can choose what they want to get in their bag and pay weekly with improved payment systems. You can even skip a week for vacation! And we serve our very best (like asparagus and strawberries) to our members!

Registration is now underway, and we always sell out. There are FIVE pick-up options plus Delivery and, if you hurry, you can get EGGS every week! For more information about the program, [click here](#). Ready to sign up? [Here's the link](#) to register now.

We would LOVE to be your farmer this year!

That's the week's news from the farm. But before we go, we wanted to let you know about an important milestone.

Today is [Doc Watson's](#) 100th birthday. As a renowned musician, he brought traditional flat-picking guitar style of Appalachia to millions of people. This blind

man from Deep Gap, NC touched so many with his voice and his amazing guitar work. He won 7 Grammy awards as well as a Grammy Lifetime achievement award. We had the pleasure of seeing him perform in Albuquerque in 2008 -- what an incredible show.

After his son, Merle, was killed in a farm accident, he started [Merlefest](#) which is held annually at Wilkes Community College. This festival now draws over 70,000 people to Wilkesboro every April and highlights a wide array of bluegrass, country and folk musicians.

In honor of Doc's 100th birthday, there are several events planned in Winston-Salem. Fiddlin' Fish Brewing Company is hosting [Red Daisy Festival](#) at the Big Winston Warehouse. The Ramkat is hosting [DocStock](#), a festival featuring a variety of bluegrass and other musicians. And then there's the big [Billy Strings concert](#) at the LJVM Coliseum.

It's quite a weekend for Doc. Take a listen to some of his work -- here he is playing ["Up on Cripple Creek" with Earl Scruggs](#).

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

