

**We'll be back at Cobblestone Farmers Market  
TOMORROW -- Saturday (5/27) with loads of  
goodies for your Memorial Day Weekend  
gatherings. Can you say r-a-s-p-b-e-r-r-i-e-s?! See  
the details below.**



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

It's been a beautiful and berry-full week around the farm. Can you believe this weather?

And it's been a Good News/Bad News kind of week.

We'll take the bad news first.

Some of you may be wondering where the strawberries are this year. So are we! We have had a terrible strawberry season. We actually took out most of the plants this week – in peak strawberry season, no less! They are very puny and aren't producing much at all.



These are the plants that we received last fall from Cottle Nursery in Faison. They were horrible. Nearly all of the plants had the crown buried (a no-no for strawberries) and they were quite sad looking. You may remember this picture. Sad indeed.



Cottle is the largest grower of strawberry plants in the state but the quality of plants we got from them last year (as well as previous years) would not indicate that they know what they are doing. Never again. We have found some smaller strawberry farms in the state that we will be getting our plants from this fall. Here's to a better strawberry season next year!

But the good news is that we are having a fantastic Raspberry Season! It's been a long time! Our early season Prelude are cranking out the berries, and they are delicious! Team Plum Granny has been hard at work picking nearly every day just to keep up with them.



Our *PlumFresh* members have been enjoying them. And we are excited to be able to have a good number of berries to bring to Cobblestone Farmers Market on Saturday. So, you too can work on your perfect raspberry pucker! So good!



### **And Don't Forget the Potatoes!**

Our potato field has been getting some love this week. Unfortunately, the Colorado Potato Beetles (CPB) found the crop and started their destructive behavior.





Luckily, we caught the problem before it was too bad -- well-timed scouting of the field told us that we had a problem. Ray was able to apply [Spinosad](#), which is an organic pesticide made from a naturally occurring soil bacterium that is effective for CPB. We have found that scouting the field, some selective hand-picking of the pests, and just one application of spinosad is usually enough to protect the crop from significant damage. We don't have to kill all the pests -- just reduce the population. If left unchecked, CPB can completely defoliate a potato plant in no time which results in very poor yields.

After taking care of our pest problem, Ray set about to get the field cultivated, fertilized and hilled. Before (left) and After (right).



It's so great to have this little Cub to take care of cultivation needs in larger fields. There's a reason Cubs were so popular among farmers in this area during the heyday of tobacco.



While Ray was spending time in the field, he couldn't resist digging up a plant to see how it was doing. It's still got a ways to go -- but it won't be too

long! We should start harvesting potatoes in June. Potato Bar at Market is coming soon!



We've been flipping lots of beds in our high tunnels and raised beds to get ready for some big plantings next week. Lots of lettuce, celery, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes will get planted.

And speaking of tomatoes, look what Camille found!



This was an early riser -- but we hope to have oodles more in a few weeks. The plants in Raz House are loaded!

### **Cobblestone Market Update!**

We'll be at [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) this **Saturday, May 27 from 8:30-noon** and we'll have some great produce and plants under the Purple tent!

As we mentioned earlier, we'll have **Raspberries!** Need we say more?



In the veggie department we'll have **Carrots**, young tender **Collards**, **Fresh Green Garlic**, **Kohlrabi**, **Garlic Scapes** (and recipes!), **Lettuce Mix** with Edible flowers and more!



We'll also have a nice selection of plants for your Memorial Day Weekend gardening. We'll have popular **Strawberry Hanging Baskets**, beautiful and tasty **Patio Salad Bowls**, **potted deep purple Irises** and **thornless blackberries**.

Additionally, we'll have **herb plants** including Red Rubin Basil, Cinnamon Basil, Mrs. Burns Lemon Basil, Tulsi (Holy Basil), Sweet Thai Basil and more great Certified Organic plants for the garden.

Stop by and say "Hello!" -- you'll find us under the Purple tent along the fence on the Old Salem Road side of the market. The Market is located at [1007 South Marshall Street](#) (at the intersection of Salem Avenue). There is ample parking at The Enrichment Center and other lots just across Marshall Street and as well as parking along the street. Just remember to ONLY park in designated, paved spots...avoiding grass and landscaped or blocked areas.

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

---

That's all we have for this week!

We wish you and your family a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. Let's take a moment and give thanks for [those who have lost their lives in service of our Country](#) -- and not forget the true meaning of this [Holiday](#).



Image from USAA

**Until next week,**  
***Cheryl & Ray***

