



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



Top of the morning to ya, Friend!

We started the week with a long, ambitious to-do list -- and we've gotten some big checkmarks for the completed tasks -- hooray! But today is another day to check off more things.

With the sweet potato planting behind us, we had several other milestone events to tackle: potato harvest, garlic harvest, shallot harvest and hay. Oh - - and we can't forget the blackberries and tomatoes that need to be picked! We've been whittling away at these -- and there are some clear successes!

Our early blackberries declared that their season had begun and they were ready to be picked! When crops call, we listen! Elise and Emma picked nearly 100 pints this week -- and the berries are just getting started! We should have

some of these beauties at Cobblestone next Saturday.



Oh, and the tomatoes! Elise tamed our tomato jungle this week. It was overdue for some pruning and trellising.



These 'maters were planted in March and are starting to crank out lots of fruit. Even some that are as big as your face!



Our main season tomatoes in the big tunnel (Ajo) are also doing well. This tunnel has both grafted and non-grafted slicer tomatoes. What's interesting to see is that there are clear differences between the two. One of the grafted

varieties is very vigorous and the fruit is large and healthy while its ungrafted kin is diseased, and the fruit has blossom end rot. It's a pretty stark contrast! While grafting is time-consuming and adds an additional lag to seedling growth (healing time for the graft), it sure seems to pay off in plant vigor and disease resistance!



Grafted plant



Ungrafted plant

Tater Time!

Ray did a quick check on Sunday to see how the potatoes were doing and discovered that one of the varieties (Soraya) was ready to go -- NOW! He dug 137 pounds by hand (!) and our *PlumFresh* subscribers have enjoyed eating them this week! Yesterday, Ray and Team Plum Granny headed out to get more out of the ground. Success! We got an additional 241 pounds of Soraya along with 479 pounds of Nicola. The 2023 Potato Harvest has begun! Eight hundred and fifty-seven pounds down and hopefully a few thousand more to go!



Garlic Goals!

Today marks the beginning of the 2023 Garlic Harvest! The bulbs are getting more insistent about getting out of the ground. Music and Georgian Crystal are the first out. We have been harvesting quite a bit since April for spring garlic and young, fresh garlic but now is when we need to harvest it for real! Fingers crossed that the bulbs are big and beautiful, and that we don't have too many problems with the landscape fabric! This garlic in fabric thing is totally new for us.



Cobblestone Market Update!

We'll see you at [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) NEXT **Saturday, June 24. from 8:30-noon.**

It's been great to see so many of you at market! Last week Cheryl had the sweetest little visitor -- a curly-haired little angel! I don't know who she was, but she wanted to give me her sunflower. I told her that it was hers and she should keep it, but she insisted. Okay -- so in turn, I have her one of our big Elephant Garlic flowers. It was almost as big as she was! One of the most heart-

warming market experiences ever!



Thanks, Dad!

Sunday is Fathers Day. This is always an important day for me (Cheryl) because I was very close with my dad, Holt Ferguson. This farm is an extension of that bond. His is the voice I hear in my head as I plant seeds or harvest veggies. I joke that he's probably looking down from Heaven laughing at me and some of the ways we do things -- Lord only knows that we have given him a LOT to laugh at. But I also think that he is pleased with what we have "done with the place," as he would say. Daddy taught me a lot about the value of hard work, ethics and persistence. And he probably is the reason that I dislike motorized equipment so much (it was always broken!)

Here he is in 1999 with his pumpkin and winter squash harvest. See all those butternut squash in the bottom right? He planted those for me.



If you are fortunate enough to still have your father in your life, please reach out and let you know that you love him. Spend some time with him if possible. If

your dad is no longer around, take a moment to think about the good times you had together and the lessons that he taught you. And to all you Dads out there, thank you and please know how important you are to your children. You are creating indelible memories for them each and every day. Happy Fathers Day!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

