

**We're back at Cobblestone Farmers Market
TOMORROW -- Saturday (7/8)! Bringing oodles of
TOMATOES, POTATOES and lots more Organic farm-
fresh goodies. See the full list below.**

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Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome July!



This month always brings one of our favorite flowers to the front beds -- Stargazer Oriental Lillies. The first of the 2023 vintage just opened this week.

Planted in April 2010, these were one of the first bulbs we tucked in the ground when we moved back to the farm. We had done the unimaginable -- we created flower beds in the front yard where there had only been lawn for decades! Although Holt and Irene never took that step, we don't think they would be too upset by the heavenly fragrance of these flowers!

A FRUITFUL 4th!

We had such a grand time in our blackberry field on Tuesday! A terrific turnout came to celebrate their independence from store-bought blackberries! At check-out, we kept hearing plans for cobbler and ice cream and jam -- good thing because over 70 pounds of berries went home with these good people!

It's always so great to see kids and families in the berries. So many smiles, so much laughter -- and a fair amount of healthy competition between the pickers ("I'll bet my bucket weighs more than yours..." was heard more than once at the weigh-in!) Here are just a few of the happy faces spotted on Tuesday.





Keep watching this space -- we may have another berry-picking opportunity in a couple weeks!

OPERATION: SAVE THE SWEET POTATOES!

It's been about a month since we planted our sweet potato slips and we are happy to report that they are growing quite nicely. And so are the weeds. Yikes! The field we are using for the sweets hasn't been in production for a while, so it had a really nice bank of grass and weed seed. That healthy seed population along with all the rain we got after planting caused an explosion of growth -- unfortunately what was growing the fastest was the grass! And the week of rain and mud kept us from timely weeding.

This was the week to get something done about it -- or lose the crop. Thanks to our great team, serious progress was made! It sure wasn't easy -- especially with the heat this week -- but Jonny, Emma, Camille and Elise got in there and got 'er done!



The sweet potatoes share the field with okra, so they were liberated from the weeds as well! I know several of our readers are very happy to hear that (the rest of you, probably not so much!)



The good news is that we have had only minor deer incursion in the field. We spotted a few tracks inside the fence and saw a couple nibbled leaves. Regardless, Ray raised the height of the fencing, and we will be electrifying a nose-level line on the fence. You have to deal with the problem before it becomes the neighborhood buffet. Oh. I think they already found that.



This bed was full of beautiful lettuce just the day before. We had gotten a little slack on exclusion in this area because we weren't seeing any problems. That'll teach us!

SPUDS R US!

More potatoes came out of the field on Thursday -- over 900 pounds! This makes for a **grand total of 3,352 pounds!** And we still have 10 rows (~155 feet long each) to go! We are hoping to hit our target of **4,000 pounds** by the time we finish up next week.



Our new walk-in (which doesn't have refrigeration yet) has become our default storage room for the taters. And it is getting VERY full!

Cobblestone Market Update!

We'll be back at [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) tomorrow, **Saturday, July 8** from 8:30-noon!

The **Potato Bar** has been a HUGE hit! It will be fully stocked with SIX varieties of freshly dug potatoes for your dining pleasure. We'll have everyone's favorite **LaRatte Fingerlings**, the low-glycemic **Nicola**, a new favorite **Norwiss**, the beautiful purple **Harvest Moon**, the golden German heartthrob **Soraya** and another new variety, **Strawberry Paw**. So many opportunities for deliciousness!



Our heirloom tomatoes are starting to come in! They will be joining our early season Galahads and Defiants to give you many choices for tomato-y goodness.



And even though the 4th of July is in the rearview, don't forget our Fireworks on a Stick Elephant Garlic Flowers! A delicious pop of flavor for your tastebuds.



Our garlic is curing nicely in the barn and we are starting to bring out the "real" stuff now! We'll have Red Toch, Inchelium Red, Music, and Chesnok Red on the table this week.



We'll also have beautiful **Fennel**, Frisse, Italian Flat-Leaf Parsley, and more!



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). We look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

That's all we've got for this week, friends!

But before we go, did you know that Saturday marks a very bright astronomical spot? [At 7:15 a.m., 99 percent of the world's population will be able to see sunlight in the sky](#) (as long as it isn't cloudy). In fact, this moment occurs every July 8th at 7:15 EDT! So go out and soak up some rays -- while it is cooler -- but remember, don't look directly at the sun!

Stay cool and hydrated, Friends!

Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray

