

**Oops. I goofed last week! Our Plant Sale is
September 8 and 9 -- NOT Labor Day
Weekend. Please update your calendars -- and
sorry for my error!**



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Happy Foggy Morning!



The fog had cleared quite a bit before I snapped this picture -- it was a pretty dense soup this morning.

Are you familiar with the weather lore about morning fogs in August? Here's what the garden columnist at [The Stokes News, Ray Baird](#) has to say about them:

"With the arrival of August comes the mornings of fogs. Are the fogs of August harbingers of the coming snows of winter? My grandmother in Northampton County always thought they did, and so did my mother. They kept accurate

records of each August fog and whether they were light or heavy. They rose early every morning, so they were in a good position to observe and record results of the fogs. A heavy fog represented a heavy snow and light fogs represented light snow falls. Some of their observations turned out to be fairly accurate compared to many of today's weather observations."

Have you heard this before? It seems that we haven't had a very foggy August this year, so maybe we won't have a snowy winter.

But our decorating committee is already getting some of our evergreens ready for the Holidays...



Coddling Cucumbers

This has not been the best year for our cucumber crops. Our first round this spring was only okay and the subsequent rounds have been terrible. We've had so many pests, particularly cucumber beetles and spider mites. In the greenhouse, the sidewalls are rolled up to provide ventilation and airflow but that also allows pests easy access to crops.

We decided to try creating a net-house to surround the plants and hopefully exclude the pests. Once again, we are using tulle for the project since it is so much less expensive than higher tech materials like [ProtekNet](#). We are grateful that our friend, Matt Mayers told us about tulle so many years ago!



Fingers crossed -- but so far, so good. We've even planted nasturtiums with the cukes so hopefully that will be another line of defense against the critters. [Cucumbers and nasturtiums are supposed to be ideal companion plants.](#)



Oh -- maybe this lil' guy will help, too!



Plant Sale Prep!

As I mentioned earlier, I put the wrong dates for the **Fall Plant Sale** in last week's newsletter. The correct dates are **Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9th** - from 10-3 both days.

We've been getting the Pavillion ready for the sale -- gotta make room for LOTS of Fall plants! Like most all open spaces at farms (or houses...), open space quickly becomes filled with stuff! Stuff that doesn't belong there. Jonny, Emma and Elise have been working this week to get it cleared and the shelving set for our array of plants.



The sale is just TWO weeks away! So, mark your calendar with the (correct!) date and plan on a little visit to the farm. We will also have Seed Garlic available for sale as well! Snag the list of the available plants [here](#).



Farewell, Emma!

Yesterday we said "goodbye!" to Emma Johns, who has been working with us this summer. Emma is a sophomore at West Stokes High School, and she recently moved here from southern Georgia.

She brought her can-do spirit and toughness to her work at the farm. She especially liked physical tasks like picking up hay and moving big things. And she probably pulled more weeds than she thought existed!

Good luck at school, Emma! And may you have a great season on the Softball Team!



That's the news for this week, friends!



Just wanted to throw out a little public service announcement in closing. If you see a tractor, slow down! And pay attention!

Yesterday, Ray was bringing a round bale to the cows, and he had slowed to turn left into the driveway. He had his left arm extended indicating that he was turning left. There was a car behind him that decided to speed past him on the left. The car hit the lift arm of the tractor (thankfully not hard) then crashed into our neighbor's mailbox and careened on up the road (where a Highway Patrol Officer found him hiding behind the church about 1/2 mile away).

Thank goodness what happened was not more serious. The driver's car was pretty messed up, but Ray and the tractor are okay (we think). It could have

been far worse. According to the [North Carolina Farm Bureau](#), studies have found that 82% of farm equipment crashes involve a non-farm vehicle. Roadway collisions are extremely dangerous for tractor operators, but these accidents are also deadly for non-farm vehicles. In fact, fatalities are FIVE TIMES more likely in accidents involving farm vehicles.

Make sure we all get home safely. **If you see a tractor, please be patient and slow down.**

**Until next week,
Cheryl & Ray**

