

**We'll be back at Cobblestone tomorrow with our chile roaster and lots of great stuff! Even bunches of TOMATOES! See below for more details.**



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!

As we move into the last week of October, our mornings are dark. We start at 7, so it's hard to see without some illumination. Jonny was even weeding the other morning by headlamp (how did we ever live without one?). Or we'll go to the greenhouse or the Tobacco Barn which have lights.

But give it a few minutes, and you'll be treated to some pretty spectacular views. Elise captured these for you. It almost makes it worth it to get up and out so early, huh?





But next weekend we'll gain an hour when we fall back to Standard Time. We'll enjoy our group sunrises while we can -- soon enough, we'll have sunsets during the work day!

### **Garlic Goals**

As we get closer to November, we are getting things ready for garlic planting. Last year's field prep was a disaster because of all the rain in October and November. We weren't able to prepare the field we had planned on using because the soil was saturated.

This year, the weather is cooperating, and we've been able to get in the field to get ready for planting. Ray has been doing the preliminary tractor work -- discing and fertilizing -- and now it's time to shape beds.



This is the field we planned to use last year. It's been waiting for us. And it's good to know that before long, we'll have lots of cloves of garlic tucked into these beds.

One good thing about last year's muddy mess was that we were able to experiment with planting garlic into landscape fabric. The only field we could plant was one that was covered in fabric. We weren't sure how it would work but it was a gamble we had to take.

It worked great! We were so pleased with the results that we decided to plant into fabric this year. Before long, these 9 beds will be covered in landscape fabric, and we'll burn about 8,000 holes in it for planting!



### **Buh Bye Tomatoes!**

Other seasonal chores continue. Our field tomatoes had pretty much played out. Blight and other disease had cut their production to a trickle, so it was time to get them out of the field. So, Jonny got 'er done!



It's good to get them cleared for many reasons but a big one is that this space is where we will be building a high tunnel in a few weeks!

## Critter Control

One thing that seems to have no season around here is keeping creatures that eat our crops out of our crops. You'd think with all the fences we have that we'd be good -- but there's always a new twist....

Something had developed a taste for fennel and was slowly devouring all of it. We were pretty sure it wasn't deer given what wasn't munched so it was likely something that crawled under the fence.

With some detective work, we identified a likely entry point and went to work. More deer fence is now installed -- complete with a "sweep" of fencing that lays on the ground. Fingers crossed. I really wanted some fennel this fall!



## Mo' Mowing

File this in the category of planning ahead. After a few years of trying to find a sickle mower that would work better for our fields, Ray found one!

The one we had was fine, but it was taking more and more time each mowing to get it ready for the task. Ray always worried that we would have a major break right in the middle of haying. It's very unusual for us to buy new equipment (2nd thing in 14 years!) but this is a pretty important part of our operation. And it's so shiny! Now we'll be ready for getting our hayfields

mowed next Spring!



### Happy Birthday, Mia!

Five years ago, we welcomed little Mia into our world. Such a little calf -- we had no idea how big she'd get! Our lives would be much more empty (and quieter!), without our lil' heifer. Here's to many more years and bales of hay, sweetie!



### Cobblestone Farmers Market Update

Cobblestone will be celebrating Halloween tomorrow and we'll be adding our special twist to the festivities. You'll have to come see what tricks (er, treats!) we have up our sleeves! There's a costume contest to raise funds for the [Food Access program](#) and we'll be participating! So come out and vote for your favorite costumed farmers.



Aside from all the fun and games, we'll have some seriously ghoulish, I mean GOOD, stuff for you! Ray will be roasting all kinds of PEPPERS -- we've got Green Chile along with Poblanos and more! Our Sweet Peppers also roast beautifully -- imagine having roasted Organic local sweet peppers in your freezer for winter cooking. Mmmm - what a treat!



You can get peppers roasted on site and we'll also have vacuum-packaged pre-roasted peppers (chile, poblanos and aji dulce) ready for your freezer. Ready to go -- no waiting required!

We'll also be bringing another new item this week -- ristras! These strings of beautiful Aji Dulce peppers will be a great addition to your kitchen decor. A pop of Fall color! Plus, they are edible!



We're not just about peppers. We'll have delicious **Sweet Potatoes**, our famous **Potato Bar** along with Garlic Powder and Granules.



And, no trick, we'll have **TOMATOES!** Yes, in the last weekend of October, we'll have a great selection of heirloom and fruit tomatoes for you. You'd better get 'em while you can!



We look forward to seeing you under the Purple tent tomorrow. You **HAVE** to come see what we've got in store for you!

Market hours are from 8:30-noon. [Cobblestone](#) is located in the parking lot at 1007 Marshall Street SW. Parking is available in lots surrounding the market and along the street. Please make sure not to park in reserved areas or to block entrances.

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That's this week's news, Friends!

Just to follow up on one of last week's featured events, we did make it to the Winston-Salem State University Homecoming Parade last Saturday. What a beautiful day and a great experience! Cheryl got up-close to the Red Sea of Sound drumline (we were marching along beside them for several blocks!) and we enjoyed seeing the variety other bands and community organizations participating in this great event. And boy, the community really showed up to support it!







It's supposed to be peak Fall Color this weekend -- better get out there and enjoy Nature's Show! The weather is supposed to be gorgeous!



**Be kind to your neighbors and let us all pray for peace.**

**Until next week,**

***Cheryl & Ray***

