

**Look for us at Cobblestone Farmers Market next  
Saturday (12/9) with an array of veggies and herbs  
for your Holiday feasts! More details next week!**



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome December!

We've missed you! Sorry that we've been MIA in your inbox for the past couple of weeks!

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, friends and good food! Unfortunately, we have been dealing with respiratory infections around here that kinda hampered our holiday celebration. First Cheryl, then Ray -- but we are hopeful that we are through the worst of it. It's been a slog! Be careful out there, friends!

But we still we able to get stuff done, thanks to Jonny and Elise. Go team!

A lovely (and tasty) Thanksgiving Bag went out to our *PlumFresh* members to close out the season.



Photo courtesy of Anastasia Higbee

As we move into the last month of the year, two main priorities have been on our radar: planting garlic and building our final high tunnel. And we've been making some progress on both objectives. Let's take a look, shall we?



It was time to refresh some of our garlic stock this year, so we ordered a couple of hundred pounds from one of our favorite suppliers, [Filaree Farm](#). Quite an investment, to be sure, but we find that it is important to get new seed every few years to support a healthy crop instead of always using our own for seed.



The next step is cracking the bulbs into cloves and sorting them by size. You always want to use the largest cloves for planting -- bigger cloves=bigger bulbs!

This year we are using landscape fabric to cover the beds. It worked so well last year, we're giving it another whirl! The beds are prepped, and the irrigation

is in place. Now we just need to place the landscape fabric and burn 8,000 holes in order to plant. Oh yeah, and we need about 350 rock bags to hold down the fabric! Easy-peasy.



Our second key project is the construction of another high tunnel. This is our big boy -- Lil' Abner (named after one of our Great Pyrenees visitors). This tunnel is 34 feet wide by 96 feet long -- a whopper! But it will be the perfect space for growing crops that like protection from the elements such as tomatoes, lettuce and peppers.

The space has been prepped (it was one of our fields this year) and we are getting the corner posts set and plumb so that we can the drive the 30 ground posts along the sides of the structure (they have to be 3' deep!). Good thing that we have experience and that [the manufacturer](#) put together a great how-to video with lots of useful information!

We've gotten two of the four corner posts placed. Then we remembered a secret weapon that has been out of use for a very l-o-n-g time -- a propane hammer. This thing is amazing and speeds up the installation process dramatically. Although it does sound like a small cannon going off though when it fires!





This week we got all of the steel parts staged at the site and started marking them to make assembly of the bows easier. It was a tight squeeze getting these parts down Plum Granny Lane -- Ray only had about 5 inches clearance on either side of the load!



### **Kitty Korner**

Oh yes, the kittens! They are doing great -- and getting SO big! Tuxie weighed in at 4.5 pounds today and Dusty was 3.75! But the really great news is that last week, Ray and Jonny re-established Kitty Park! Now the kittens can be outside and play in the grass and climb the tree and have a really great time -- and be safe! Needless to say, they are loving it!



**Buh-Bye 'Maters**



It seems that the moment has finally come. Lows in the upper teens this week finally took down all of our tomatoes. Elise isn't the only one who is sad!

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That's the catch-up edition, folks! As we move into the Holiday season, there are so many great things to do in our area. Tomorrow is the first of [Salem Saturdays at Christmas](#) and then at 5 pm is the [Winston-Salem Ambassador's Holiday Parade](#) Downtown. Sunday is the last day to vote for your favorite poinsettia at [Mitchell's Nursery and Greenhouse](#) in King. This is always one of the highlights of our Holiday traditions! And it's only the first weekend in December, so there are lots more great things ahead!



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**Be kind to your neighbors and please pray for peace.**

**Until next week,**

***Cheryl & Ray***

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