



Happy Friday, Farm Friends!



These beautiful Winter sunsets have been magnificent! Who needs a movie -- these natural events really put on a show.

It's hard to believe that February is almost here. Even though in some ways it seems that January has been the longest month ever -- but it's still gone too soon!

Here at the farm, we are starting to pick up the pace. Seeding and planting schedules are being prepared as February kicks off those efforts in earnest. February and March are the busiest months in the greenhouse for seeding and potting up plants. The first seeds will be sown in Raz House next week (carrots and beets) and snap and snow peas won't be far behind! It's GO time!

With all of the seeding in our future, we needed to make sure we were ready. There was a ginormous stack of dirty seed trays, pots and flats left from last season so we had to get them cleaned and sanitized for this year's plants. Jonny to the rescue!



We also had to make sure that we were well-stocked with [Purple Cow seed starter](#) to keep our trays filled. It was time to break into our new bag that Santa delivered in December.



We've been using January as a time to evaluate many of our processes and see if there are ways to improve. One area of improvement was our tray filling station. While it was more than adequate, it could use a few tweaks. We've been looking at what some other farms have done and got some ideas.

Voila! Our New and Improved Filling Station!



The new set-up lets us fill trays from the tub on the left and then tamp them down (to remove air pockets) on the table on the right. The table will also give a place to store filled trays, so they aren't placed on the ground before going to the potting bench. We are also trying to make our systems more [Lean](#) by making sure that all the tools and supplies that we need for a task are in the right place. We're looking forward to working with this new station!

Warm as a ...Cucumber!

Our greenhouse planting of cucumbers is all done and is taking off! It won't be long until we'll be trellising these lil' babies.



Check out the row of cukes on the right side of this photo -- and what about all the strawberries on the left side?!



We plan on having cukes available by the start of the main season [Cobblestone Farmers Market](#) in April.

Tomato Fanta-Sea

The tomatoes are all potted up and are growing so quickly! They will be ready to plant in high tunnels in early March. We've got both slicers and fruit tomatoes in this rotation.



Pretty in Purple

Our gorgeous irises got some long overdue love this week. Jonny dug up and divided two large

plantings of them. After replanting them in the farmhouse beds, Maggie potted up some for our [Spring](#) and Summer plant sales. They will make a wonderful to your garden.



Birthday Boy!

If you happen to see this guy around town this weekend, wish him a Happy Birthday! Another year around the Sun!



That's all we've got for you this week, friends! Sunday is [Groundhog Day](#) -- and you know what that means! Will we get six more weeks of winter, or is spring just around the corner? According to the [Farmers' Almanac](#), this year's forecast suggests that winter is here for the long haul, but we're all happy to have an early taste of spring warmth this week. No matter what the groundhog decides, let's make the best of the weather!



**Be kind to your neighbors.
Until next week,**

Cheryl & Ray

