



Happy Friday, Farm Friends! Welcome to February!



Who dat? Is it an irate groundhog (February 2nd is an awful day for groundhogs!) trying to create a new tunnel? A skunk looking for a tasty treat? Or maybe a possum trying to find an evening meal?

These little holes that you might find across your yard are likely skunks. Although possums also dig these little divots. They are looking for a meal of grubs or earthworms.

We have tons of these holes in our yard as well as in the turf around the greenhouse. We've always thought the culprit was skunks or possums - and that's probably the case. A little research uncovered all kinds of interesting tidbits -- like a [skunk pivots its body around its nose when it is digging](#) -- that's why these holes are cone-shaped! There's a ton of info out there -- I was really going down a rabbit - er groundhog - hole!

### Let the Games Begin!

Our early season planting is off and running. First seeds in the soil were peas.



Jonny and Ray seeded ALL of Ajo (one of our high tunnels - it's 18' x 96') with sugar snap peas and snow peas! See Jonny w-a-y back there? That's a lot of yummy peas!



Raz House is ready for carrots and beets. Beautiful beds are prepped and waiting. Just a little more work is needed on the irrigation, and it will be ready to go!



While crops are going in, last year's crops are still coming out. Jonny tackled the okra. Despite the fact that we grow shorter varieties (Cajun Jewel and Burgundy), the stalk and roots are huge! Okra's taproot can be 2-4.5 feet deep with a diameter of 2" near the surface. The lateral roots can spread up to 6'. Wow -- that is a well-rooted plant! And Jonny will attest to that.



Here's the cleared field sans okra. By the way, the little green fuzz you see on the right side is a winter rye cover crop which was sown in late fall. As the weather warms, it will really start to pop out of the ground building lots of organic matter and suppressing weeds.



### **Greenhouse Happenings**

The greenhouse continues to be a hub of activity. More seeding every day -- this week we've been starting on plants for the [Spring Plant Sale](#). Maggie has been working on cleaning up some of our carried-over herbs, strawberries and brambles and dividing many of them.

It's always amazing to see how quickly many of these plants take off when they have good, nutritious soil and a warm, cozy environment. The strawberry plants have really jumped up -- in fact a few have gotten a bit too exuberant and are already forming flowers and fruit. It's a bit early, little one.



### **It's Seven Springs Day!**

Today is pick-up day for folks that ordered soil amendments and fertilizers as part of our cooperative order with [Seven Springs Farm Supply](#). We had a great response from the community and had 4 pallets of items to disperse. We have another group order coming up in March. We'll have information on our website and in this newsletter about how to join us. Orders can be in any size -- from small to quite large!



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That's the news for this week, friends! Today is National Wear Red Day. What is that you might ask?

February is American Heart Month, and this first Friday is National Wear Red Day — a day dedicated to raising awareness about women's heart health.

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the U.S., [according to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#), but it is largely preventable.

This disease hits close to home here. Cheryl's mom, Irene Ferguson, died suddenly of an aneurysm in 2004.

Learn your risks and work to reduce them! It may be the leading killer, but [you can do a lot to protect your heart](#) -- and your health.



**P.S. Did I hear there was a football game this weekend?**

**Be kind to your neighbors.  
Until next week,  
*Cheryl & Ray***

