

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

Vol. 21
October 2017

Hello friends and neighbors!

Things are pretty much wrapped up for the season and we capped it off with a sweet potato picking party last weekend! We narrowly avoided two frosts this month, but with the cooler night temperatures and shorter day lengths, our summer veggies are pretty much done anyway. Time to move on to the next season with new plants and new challenges to conquer!

- ♣ We finally got (most) of our broccoli, cauliflower, and brussel sprout plants in the ground this month and had a nice surprise patch of volunteer lettuce come up. Cabbage, kale, and spinach are still making their way to the garden, but with a warmer-than-normal winter expected, we're not too worried about getting them in late (knock on wood!).
- ♣ Our dwindling chicken population got a boost this month with the addition of 22 new chicks! They've been adjusting nicely into their new home and we hope not too many of them end up being roosters.
- ♣ Our first (hopefully annual) sweet potato picking/Anna's birthday party was a great success (how else would you want to spend your 30th birthday?), and as you can see, fun times were had by all! We even got Grandma to the farm for the first time, and after pulling sweet potatoes on her parents' farm growing up, she got back to her roots (pun intended). Lance had a busy day of supervising and was sure to keep a close eye on everyone to keep us all on track. Jake really embraced the task and was up to his armpits hunting for sweet potatoes—we go to great lengths to bring you the best produce possible! We ended up with a nice harvest of both orange and purple varieties of all shapes and sizes, which are currently drying and curing to enrich their flavor and shelf life. Keep an eye out for updates in the coming weeks about how you can get some for yourself!
- ♣ Anna took advantage of all the help in the garden to get some other tasks done as well including picking the rest of our green tomatoes and peppers in anticipation of the frost that didn't happen. We also threw out some cover crop seeds to get new roots in the ground where the sweet potatoes were pulled out, then covered with sweet potato vines as mulch to prevent the seeds and soil from washing away and to retain water in the soil.
- ♣ Out in the orchard, we're getting ready to plant the next batch of apple trees! We'll be visiting Century Farm Orchards during their open house this weekend to pick up our order and we're looking forward to touring the farm, tasting their homegrown apples, cider, and delicious apple turnovers. We started planting trees 3 years ago and once the new ones are in the ground, we'll have 120+ varieties. After getting a few apples from the first group of trees this year, we're looking forward to picking more apples and more types of apples in the coming years!



If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see in future newsletters, or have any ideas for how we can improve our customer service or your produce-buying and -consuming experience, please let us know! And as always, please feel free to pass this along to all of your produce-loving friends and neighbors!

*"The biggest barrier to agricultural progress is between the ears."
~Kristine Nichols~*