

# Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

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Hello friends and neighbors!

As we transition into summer, we'd like to take a moment and update you on our current projects and happenings around the farm...it's been a busy spring!

- ❖ We realize that spring produce is not as exciting as summer veggies, so we're really happy with the interest we've had the past few weeks in our lettuce, radishes, kale, turnips, and even the bargain bin cabbages. Thank you for bearing with our sometimes limited supply and not-always-perfect-looking produce as we work out our methods and shift from being gardeners to farmers...it's a big jump! But one that we are very enthusiastic about.
- ❖ With the warmer weather brings more bugs nibbling on the plants. We are committed to staying away from ALL pesticides, not only because we don't like eating poison, but also because they degrade the soil ecosystem that we are trying to build and they harm beneficial insects—did you know that for every insect pest, there are 1,700 beneficial insects?! So instead of killing off all the insects that can do work for us, we'd rather support the biology and ecology of the system to control populations of the few species that cause problems.
- ❖ As every gardener knows, warm weather also brings weeds. But after learning that maximum soil benefits are reached when there are 8 species and 3 families of plant roots in the ground simultaneously, we're learning to embrace them and experimenting with

incorporating weeds into our system...if you can't beat 'em, use 'em to build soil!

- ❖ Outside of the vegetable garden, we've been busy continuing to restore areas neglected by a previous owner post-



*Meet Our Workers*

## **MOW**

In our first MOWing edition, we meet our most distant worker, Jake! He may live 2,000 miles away and not help with weekly chores and maintenance, but we still consider him a vital part of the farm:



**Job Title (on Jimmy Acres):** Livestock and Soil Consultant (for now)

**Other Job Titles:** Grass Enthusiast, Brother, Son, JimmyTheCar Driver

**Education:** Yeah, maybe too much. Tar Heel Born. Tar Heel Bred.

**Dream Job:** I've always loved grass. So I guess being a grass farmer who happens to raise and grow food would be living the dream!

**Where the hell you been??** Been out in California going to school then working on a cattle ranch about an hour south of San Francisco (stop by if you're ever in the area!). At this ranch, I've learned about optimizing grass and soil growth using cattle as a tool, learning stockmanship, raising a few turkeys, and listening to as many farming perspectives as possible.

**How are you retaining your southern heritage while living in CA?** Well when I'm not talking about biscuits, I'm ranting about "real bbq," always spreading the gospel of pulled pork doused in vinegar.

**What do you miss most about NC?** Humidity- I've gotten soft out here working in California...and I guess I miss friends and family too.

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timbering 8-10 years ago that have grown back as unhealthy, overgrown fields. After mowing, spreading a mix of mostly rye, fescue, and clover, and periodic mowing thereafter, we have seen a dramatic change in soil health. We're beginning to re-grow topsoil that was lost with timbering and associated erosion, organic matter content is increasing, worm populations are increasing, water is beginning to infiltrate better into the soil...plus Lance can leap around more easily without getting brambles in his feet and Anna's barefoot-friendly zone is continuously expanding!

- ❖ Our 100+ year old farm house got a new addition this month—porch #2! (left side, picture on the right). Great for watching afternoon thunderstorms roll in.

2014



2016



### **MOU** (continued from pg 1)

**Hobbies:** Woodworking, speed eating ice cream (1.6 quarts/8 min 53 sec, 2011).

**Favorite veggie:** Cucumber, onion, tomato, cabbage

**Favorite part of farming:** There's life everywhere. All over the place. In the air, on top of the ground, in the ground, in the poop on the ground...everywhere you look. You don't see that in your everyday cubicle.

**Least favorite part of farming:** Weeding or feeling guilty not helping with the weeding.

**Biggest goal for the farm:** I want Jimmy Acres to be a place that people rely on for supplying the best tasting food, food that happens to be bursting with nutrients. And I want our customers to taste a huge difference between what we grow and what we typically find in the grocery store. And on top of that, I want our customers to know that they can come to expect a higher quality flavor from their food all the time and not just see great flavor as a luxury.

**Most influential person/thing in driving you into this career:** My grandparents and their stories of growing up on farms in North Carolina and Iowa.

**Most interesting thing you've learned from farming/ranching:** Interacting with people is both one of the best and most complicated aspects of farming.

**Favorite quote:** "The grass is always greener where you poop on it!" Christy R. Nelson, Californian

As always, feel free to pass along and share with your friends and neighbors. And please let us know if you have any questions, comments, concerns, critiques, ideas, suggestions, or thoughts—we'd love to hear them!

*"I say, if your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life." ~Bill Watterson, via Calvin & Hobbes*



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