

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

Vol. 12
January 2017

Hello friends and neighbors!

We hope your year is off to a great start—ours sure is! While the weather has been...well, typical NC winter weather of snow and 0° to sunny and 70° over the course of a week, we've still managed to accomplish some goals. We're also happy to report that our leafy greens (lettuce, spinach, kale, mustard) and radishes survived the chilly temps and have started growing faster with the warmer weather. Keep your eyes peeled, we may have enough to share before too long!

Can you believe it's already time to start thinking about summer crops?! We've picked out and ordered our new seeds for the summer and are getting things ready to start some transplants next month. While we will still be planting a large variety of tomatoes this year, we've decided to pare down the selection of transplants we offer to you guys, both to simplify things for you and for us. HOWEVER, special orders are definitely welcome if you bought a variety from us last year that you would like to order again. Also new this year, we will have a few hybrid tomato varieties available as well.

Pre-ordering now for plants on the list below is not necessary, but if you think you'll want to order plants later this spring, it would be helpful if you let us know what you might be interested in so we can gauge interest and be sure to plant enough seeds. ***If you'd like something that is not on the list below, please let us know ASAP!***

Click hyperlink for more info on each variety

- ♣ [Big Beef](#) (hybrid)
- ♣ [Early Girl](#) (hybrid)
- ♣ [Arkansas Traveler](#) (heirloom)
- ♣ [Cherokee Purple](#) (heirloom)
- ♣ [German Johnson](#) (heirloom)
- ♣ [Mortgage Lifter](#) (heirloom)
- ♣ [Red Siberian](#) (heirloom)
- ♣ [Reisetomato](#) (heirloom)
- ♣ [Fruit Punch](#) (heirloom cherry)
- ♣ [Gardener's Delight](#) (LARGE heirloom cherry)
- ♣ [Sun Gold](#) (hybrid cherry)
- ♣ [Red, Yellow, Orange](#) sweet bell peppers
- ♣ Hot peppers (Cayenne, Jalapeño)
- ♣ [Long Purple Eggplant](#)
- ♣ Basil (assorted varieties)
- ♣ Cucurbits (cucumbers, squash, melon)



Why's that moose riding a go-kart??



This month, let's take a closer look at the Jimmy Acres logo. Designed by up-and-coming cow-related graphic artist, Jake Tommerdahl, and polished by graphic editor, Anna Tommerdahl, the new logo illustrates the junction of the rustic and the modern, the union of nature and technology.

Here on the farm, we aim to facilitate as many natural processes as possible: allowing cattle to fertilize and mow the grass, encouraging plant roots to aerate the soil, and increasing our plant diversity in order to promote a healthy balance between pest and beneficial insect populations. The Jimmy Cow riding the tractor depicts these relationships. Not only do cows convert grasses into steaks or cheese or ice cream (what a miracle!), but their grazing acts as a tool for us to manage our land. Along with other animals and used correctly, cattle impact can build fertile soils from which we can grow highly nutrient dense fruits and vegetables. The plants in turn grow a lush canopy above ground that provides protection for the soil and an abundant network of roots below that support trillions of microbes, as depicted by the grass, tomato plants and roots in our logo. Finally, the Möbius Clover as the "I" in Jimmy symbolizes how these plants and animals function as an eternal, cyclical network, while also reflecting our use of nitrogen-fixing plants to help build and enrich our soils. Animals and plants have evolved to rely on one another. In exchange for optimizing the plant-animal symbiosis, we're just harvesting a little bit off the top.

One more thing to note that may be hard to tell from our black and white logo: the cow is wearing a ball cap. This feature pays homage to the fact that the fellows in the Tommerdahl family (excluding Lance) collectively share half a head of hair...at best. Our hats are our most important piece of clothing.

Over Christmas, we got a chance to see how the Jimmy Acres tractor cow looks on t-shirts and hats (thanks, Dad!). We thought the apparel turned out pretty snazzy. If you agree and would like to give the Jimmy Acres fashion line a try, shoot us an email. And if you think of another item that you'd like to see the Jimmy Cow on, let us know!



If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see at the farmstand this year, or have other 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!

"you have brains in your head. you have feet in your shoes. you can steer yourself in any direction you choose.

—Dr. Seuss