

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

Vol. 18
July 2017

Hello friends and neighbors!

Hope y'all have had a great month! It's been busy 'round our parts, with lots of veggies coming in, a new farmers market, and a nice heat wave to make working in the garden that much more fun. Our complete monthly rundown:

- ♣ We've had a lot of fun at the new Chapel Hill farmers market! It's great to have a new way to reach more customers and spread our produce around the community. We will be back every Sunday through August 13, 4-6 pm at Cedar Falls Park on Weaver Dairy Rd. Check out [this](#) newspaper article about the market!



- ♣ It's hot out there. And quite dry. Despite having two water engineers on our crew (Jake and Christy), we have yet to set up any irrigation system. So we've had to rely on our biologist (Anna) to keep our plants as happy as possible given the limited water recently. Through strategic weeding/mulching to keep the soil covered and cool, plus savannah-style planting of



of amaranth and sunn hemp to provide moderate shade in the heat of the day to keep our fruits and veggies from getting sun burned, things are still hanging in there (knock on wood).

- ♣ We've found success in keeping our plants happy with some beneficial bacteria, which is basically giving our plants a probiotic. Just as bacteria in your gut can help you to digest and absorb nutrients better, increasing the population of the correct bacteria in the soil can help plants absorb nutrients. This helps them to grow stronger and more resilient to stressors such as insects, diseases, heat, and drought, which is exactly what we've noticed with our plants since applying bacteria.



Unfortunately, it doesn't help when rabbits nibble right through the base of your watermelon vines!

- ♣ Chris and Keith harvested their first batch of honey! "Busy Bikes Honey" was a sweet success and the bees are back at it preping for next year's harvest!



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!

"You cannot get through a day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

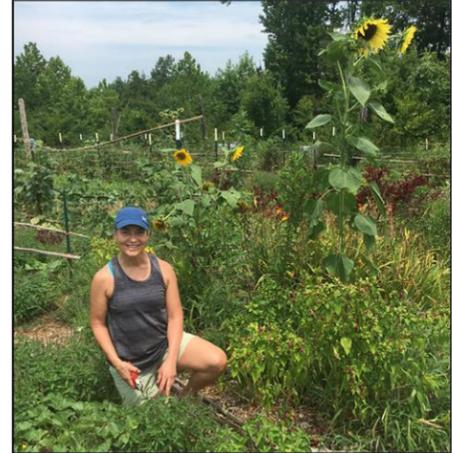
~Jane Goodall~

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JimmyAcresFarm>

Meet Our Workers

MOW

Kathy
(aka Mom)



Job Title: Mom

Job Description: Whatever Anna tells me to do— weeding, mulching, pulling up poison ivy, getting cardboard boxes from Dollar General, feeding other volunteers, assistant manager for the Sunday afternoon farmers market, babysitting plants in the greenhouse, Bowden Road farm stand landlord, manager of the Quality Control Department, tomato taste-tester (with expert super-tasting abilities!), and miscellaneous mom duties to the farm crew.

Hobbies: Gardening, yard work, working out, hanging out with friends and family.

Day Job: Nurse

Favorite Veggie: Sun gold tomatoes

Favorite gardening task: Picking sun gold tomatoes

Least favorite gardening task: hauling mulch

Who inspired you to love gardening? My parents, Hilda and John, who both grew up on NC farms. And my daughter, Anna, who has taught me that weeding is a skilled task, and she's taught me to be an expert at it!

Most influential thing driving you to do this job: Sun gold tomatoes. Plus being able to spend time with my kids, being outside after being trapped in the hospital all week, and having an endless supply of fresh veggies all summer.

Advice to other gardeners: Plant sun gold tomatoes. And don't get bamboo splinters stuck down your fingernail.

Future goals: When I retire, I want to spend more time using my nursing skills with plants instead of just with people! And be able to help Jake with cows (my favorite animal!) at Jimmy Acres.