

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

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Hello friends and neighbors!

We may not have much produce coming out of the garden yet, but that doesn't mean it hasn't been a busy month! Some of our highlights include:

- ♣ We finished the greenhouse! Just in time for our 80° spring days...we didn't think being too hot would be a problem in February, so as is the case with most of our projects, we're still tinkering around with getting it to work.
- ♣ Our pepper and eggplant seeds have been started, and tomato seeds will be going in soon. We're upping our diversity this year and are excited about watching the plants grow over the next few months. Transplants will be available for purchase by early-mid April. It's not too late to order interesting tomato varieties! If you'd like anything other than [Big Beef](#), [Early Girl](#), [Arkansas Traveler](#), [Cherokee Purple](#), [German Johnson](#), [Mortgage Lifter](#), [Red Siberian](#), [Reisetomato](#), [Fruit Punch](#), [Gardener's Delight](#), or [Sun Gold](#) let us know ASAP and we will send you a list of all available varieties.



- ♣ Egg production has finally surpassed our own needs, and we have a limited supply available for purchase. *Send us an email to order!*
- ♣ This month, we've worked on adding a new crop to the mix: shiitake mushrooms! As we cleared new space in January, we set aside logs to inoculate with shiitake plugs. We ordered six varieties because that should allow us to harvest during a wider range of seasons. It will take most of the year before the first mushrooms appear, so keep an eye out for them starting this fall!



- ♣ In the garden, our cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, beets, swiss chard, lettuce, radishes, turnips, rutabagas, mustard greens, peas, garlic, and cover crops are coming along nicely. We've been busy working on our soil (i.e. lots of mulching!) and trying to get as many roots in the ground as we can to get our soil community ready for the summer crops.



- ♣ Despite what the calendar says, it sure has been feeling like summer around here recently. Unfortunately, our trees aren't good at reading calendars and have already started blooming. We're crossing our fingers we don't get another hard frost and lose the blossoms like we did last year.



- ♣ Last but not least, we celebrated our 3rd birthday this month! It's amazing how much different things look now than 3 years ago as it's transitioned in our minds from being "the property" to "the farm." The land had been timbered and neglected, overgrown with brambles and invasive plants that even Lance had a hard time walking through. We still have a long ways to go, but we are proud to say that the soil is improving, water infiltration is increasing, runoff is decreasing, worm and bird populations are up, invasive plant populations are down, and even the hardest of orange clay soils have gotten a little organic matter worked into them. We're excited about continuing to make progress, learn new things, add new plants and animals, and meet new people. Thanks to all who have supported us!



April 2014—starting the garden Note that our rows are measured exactly so that Lance fits in them to supervise.



June 2016—view of the garden from the water tower.

If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see at the farm stand 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!

"Get up and be somebody!"
-Whoa