

# Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

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Hello friends and neighbors!

It's been a month of lots of planning and big picture thinking, which has left us even more excited about this year's opportunities to take some steps forward with our farm and business. After last week in the polar vortex and temps in the 70's this week, we're ready to get back outside and start making our goals a reality! Some of the things we've been working on this month include:

- ♣ Jake put a lot of work into getting our website up and running—check us out at <https://www.jimmyacres.com/> (mobile site may still have a few kinks in it, so use a desktop for the full effect). We'll do our best to keep things updated as the year progresses.
- ♣ Between website design and poultry/pig planning sessions, Jake had time this month to get outside and start working on his pig pasture. He has cleared a fence line to enclose a five acre area of pasture/forest to use to rotate his pigs starting this spring. Next step is getting the fence up and making some chicken tractors!
- ♣ We have gotten out in the garden some this month and onion plants are in the ground. Onions are dependent on day length to form bulbs, which makes them a little tricky to grow at our latitude. Some varieties grow best with shorter summer days (farther south) and some with longer days (up north); we're right on the border between the two zones. So like most of our veggies, we're growing lots of different varieties to see which kinds are happiest in our garden.
- ♣ We're still enjoying the new hoopouses and low tunnels, and the plants seem to be too! Growth is slow when it's so cold out, but they are surviving and looking relatively happy. The greenhouse has also been busy as lots of new seeds have been started on their journey to provide us with food.
- ♣ Last week, Jake and Anna attended a FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act) training workshop. This new act was signed into law in 2011 and is in the process of being incrementally rolled out across the country. The aim of this legislation is to take a more proactive approach to bringing safe food to your table, especially among large farms. While we are small enough to be exempt from most of the regulations, we still learned a great deal about harvesting practices and what factors to be aware of to minimize the risks involved in each step of production. We saw how the risk of contamination increases as the size of the operation increases, strengthening our view that buying from your small local farmers is best!



*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!*

*"Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized."*

*~Allan Armitage~*

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