

Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

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Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Between another hurricane and our first frost of the season, it has been tougher to find time to get in the garden! Thankfully, we had no damage from the storm—just lots and lots of rain (rumor has it 7 inches in an hour, but we're a bit skeptical of that). Amazingly, the garden handled all the rain quite nicely, with most of the water soaking into the soil relatively quickly. Our towering 10-foot okra plants did succumb to the wind, but that just made it easier to pick the next week!

Some other highlights from the month include:

- ♣ Mushrooms!! The sporadic and very wet weather may not have been great for veggies, but it sure was ideal for our shiitake logs. We had our biggest flush of mushrooms yet, with plenty to share!



- ♣ Sweet potato picking took place at our 2nd Annual Sweet Potato Birthday Party (happy birthday to Christy and Anna!).



Unfortunately, it was not a good year for the taters. Apparently it was a bit wet for them this summer, so while they put on the appearance above ground that they were doing well with their extensive vines and lush foliage, they didn't put as much energy as we hoped into their below ground tubers. We ended up with a decent supply to get ourselves through the winter, but unfortunately don't have enough to share this year. We'll take it as a learning experience and already have some ideas for how and where to plant them next year for better yields.

- ♣ With the first frost come and gone, many of the summer plants are officially done for the year. We were able to harvest the last of the peppers, squash, and pumpkins before they got too cold and are finishing up putting away food for the winter. We've spent some time this month cleaning up and using dead plants to compost and feed next year's plants. It's always sad to see them go...but it's also a bit of a relief to catch our breath in the winter season and plan for next year.

- ♣ We have begun our first attempt at perennial prograssive more-on strawberry farming (if the prograssive method isn't working, just keep putting more-on!). Given that strawberries are a very hardy, perennial plant, it seems crazy that they are grown as an annual on most farms—that means a lot of extra tilling, spraying, and manpower to get new plants in the ground each fall. We've been thinking about methods to take advantage of and support the biology of the plants, theoretically giving us healthier plants, more delicious berries, less time spent on maintenance in the long run, and increasing the health of our soil instead of depleting the ground with each till. First lesson learned is that deer like to pull the plants out of the ground, so adding a fence will be our first modification to our method. We're hoping to get a larger plot started this year to be able to bring more berries to the farm stand in the spring!



- ♣ The first frost may have already hit, but the second one was nowhere in sight. That made it hard to get motivated to get our hoop house up! We have prograssively prepped the area where it will go and have gotten some of our fall/winter greens into the ground, but they'll be happier out in the open air until the temps start dropping. Anna and Jake are looking forward to learning more about hoop house gardening next weekend when they attend the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association annual conference in Durham—hopefully we'll have more to share about what we learn in next month's newsletter!

- ♣ As the days get shorter, the new seed catalogues start coming in, and we learn new things and get new ideas from fellow farmers next weekend, now is a great time to give us your input! Our goal is to eventually provide delicious, prograssively grown food at a year-round farm stand, but we can't get there without your input and support. If you have any suggestions for new veggies you'd like to see, favorite veggies from this year that you definitely want to see again, different days or times you'd like to see the farm stand open, new methods for delivering info to you, or have ideas for anything we can change or modify to make your local food buying and consuming experience better, please let us know!! We cannot grow unless we know 🌱



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!

“Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.”

~Wendell Berry~

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