

# Jimmy Acres: A Tommerdahl Family Farm

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Hello friends and neighbors!

It's been a productive month around the farm and we're ready for summer to get here! Thanks to all who have helped give us a great start to our season. We look forward to being able to expand our reach throughout the summer as our production continues to increase. Highlights from this month include:

- ♣ We had our first (hopefully of many!) workday with the whole Jimmy Acres crew...things sure do get done a lot faster with more hands working! Pictured at right (left to right), Jake, Christy, Brie, Anna, Lance, Keith, and Chris following the day in the garden. Brie seemed a little out of place with no cows to heard, but she quickly learned the ropes from Lance and had a great day snoozing in the shade.
- ♣ Summer is almost here! We've spotted our first cucumbers, squash, zucchini, and peppers, plus the tomato plants are loaded with green 'maters and the beans are in full bloom. It will be tasting like summer around here before you know it.
- ♣ The start of summer doesn't necessarily mean the end of spring crops—we still have lettuce, kale, swiss chard and radishes coming in, and the broccoli, kohlrabi, cabbage, and beets are almost ready as well.
- ♣ We're still working on getting pest populations under control and things are looking a lot better after a dose of parasitic nematodes. Our approach to pest management is to let biology do the work for us, which means establishing healthy ecosystems where the pests are balanced by beneficial predators (like toads!). Unlike spraying pesticides, this approach takes time and trial and error to figure out what works, so we appreciate your understanding and willingness to have a few bug holes in your leafy greens sometimes—remember, a bug hole is just a sign that you're NOT eating pesticides!
- ♣ Outside of the garden, we have some good looking fruit on its way (knock on wood). Blueberries, blackberries, apples, and grapes are all enjoying all the rain we've had recently. With any luck, we'll have a few to share later in the season!



- ♣ We're excited to announce that we have the opportunity to provide grassfed beef! While not raised on our farm, it was raised by Jake and Brie on [Summerfield Farm](#) (click hyperlink for more info). Keep an eye out for an email later this week with details and let us know if you're interested!

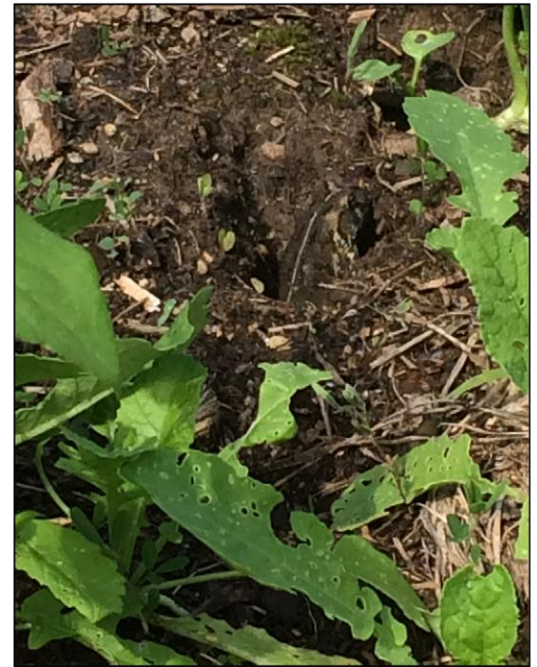
*If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see in future newsletters, or have any ideas for how we can improve our customer service or your produce-buying and -consuming experience, please let us know! And as always, please feel free to pass this along to all of your produce-loving friends and neighbors!*

Meet Our Workers

## MOW

*It's been awhile since we've done any MOWing, but the grass is growing again so it must be time to start back. This month's employees worthy of recognition have been especially abundant in the garden this spring, so let's take a moment to get to know*

**TOADS!**  
*aka Anaxyrus spp.*



**Job Title:** Insect Eliminator

**Job Description:** Eat 100+ pests/night, including mosquitoes, slugs, snails, cucumber beetles and squash bugs, plus aerate and loosen the soil with burrows

**Favorite Vegetable:** Any that have bugs on them.

**Hobbies:** Giving people warts, hanging out with witches, going on adventures with our good buddy, Frog.

**Favorite part of your job:** The great work environment at Jimmy Acres! As toads, we are super sensitive to any sort of poisons in the environment, and we need moist conditions to keep our skin from drying out (we're actually quite needy). Jimmy Acres' gardening methods of not tilling, keeping the soil covered, and controlling pests with biology create the perfect environment for us to do our job.

**Least favorite part of your job:** When Lance finds us and chases us around the garden. Or when Anna fills in our burrows because she thinks it's a mole hole.

**Most influential thing driving you into this career:** Yummy bugs.

**Advice to other gardeners:** Stop tilling your soil! It ruins our burrows and compacts the soil, making it hard to make new ones, especially if we get caught up in the tiller in the process. And don't spray toxins on your pests—let us take care of them for you!

**Favorite Quote:** "Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day of your life." --Confucius

*"If we were to wipe out insects alone on this planet, the rest of life and humanity with it would disappear from the land. Within a few months."*

*-E.O. Wilson*