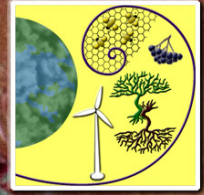


PLAYHAVEN FARM LLC & GREEN BUILDING PROJECT



STATUS REPORTS : 2015 THRU 2020

PLEASE NOTE:

Everything included in "Status Reports" has been transposed directly from the website. That includes references to the PlayHaven Farm LLC and Green Building Project (PHF&GBP) website pages, external websites, links to documents, etc. Because of how quickly things change on the internet, there are NO links from this document.

JANUARY 3, 2015

Happy New Year! Which is to say, the world-wide, agreed-upon calendar year, LOL... and isn't that amazing, there is something that we can all agree to abide by for the sake of keeping appointments with each other, remembering each other's birthdates, anniversaries, etc. And it doesn't take away anything from the calendar of each individual's culture, religion, or whatever view of the order of the universe you hold to. This Common Era calendar is something we all have in common in addition to using seconds, minutes, and hours to track the progression of the rotation of the earth. Wouldn't it be nice if humankind focused on our similarities instead of our differences.

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND ORDER FORMS - 2015

Now that the holiday rush has passed, I can focus on the Annual Newsletter that will provide an overview of 2014 and what to expect in 2015. I've gotten the first draft of the Chicken and Cowpooling Order Forms done, so hopefully I will have this ready to send out in a couple of weeks.

Everyone who has contacted me and provided their email address will be getting a notice via email regarding when the Newsletter and Order Form is ready to be distributed. That is your opportunity to reply and tell me:

- you prefer to get this info printed and sent to you through the US Postal Service, if so please provide your correct mailing address; or
- you no longer wish to receive emails from PlayHaven Farm LLC.

If I don't get a reply, the packet will go out digitally (in an Adobe Reader PDF) via email.

ALONE ON THE FARM FOR TWO (2) WEEKS

The hubby occasionally travels for work and he tries to keep the duration of each trip to a minimum so that I am not overwhelmed with farm chores. Now that we have begun meeting people who are interested in coming out to the farm to help, this should not be as big of an issue... Thankfully. Unfortunately, we are so used to doing everything ourselves, it's hard to remember to contact these people ahead of time to find out if they are available during these days. One of my goals in 2015 is to be more proactive about contacting these lovely people.

So, in December, the hubby was scheduled to work in South Africa and I figured I could handle things... so long as he contacted people to be a back up if I needed them. What I had thought was a one (1) week trip turned out to be 15 days and that was TOO long. Especially since the back-up turned out to have holiday travel plans and I was totally on my own.

If you follow the farm on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PlayHavenFarm>), you may have already read about my biggest adventures during this time. If not, you can read them on the blog entry here along with the “rest of the story”.

PHAERGHUS MEETS THE CHICKENS

Phaerghus (our Newfoundland Dog) met the chickens for the first time on December 3, 2014. Several of the Dark Cornish hens decided to go into the ‘Big Dog Yard’... I’ve put the story on the 2014 Chicken Page. Click here to go there.

MARCH 6, 2015

Gee, has it been TWO months already? Whoever said things slow down on a farm in the winter must be out of touch (OH wait, that was me, wasn’t it? LOL).

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND ORDER FORMS - 2015

The Newsletter and Order Forms were distributed mid-January. While the deadline is March 15, some things are already sold out. Which is great for me, but a bummer for you. :(You might want to contact me to see if what you want is still available.

SPRING IS THE TIME FOR EGGS!

The weather appears to be moving out of Winter into Spring. HURRAY! That SHOULD mean that the hens will be producing LOTS of eggs. This is an especially good time of year to stock up. More information about buying eggs/getting on the Egg List is found here.

TESTIMONIAL PAGE/WEBSITE CHANGES

I’m making some changes to the website and the first one is the addition of a Testimonials page. If you are a customer, don’t be surprised to get an email asking if you will supply a blurb for this new page. Thank you to those who have provided such nice feedback about my website contents and my products.

Other changes will include:

- the opportunity to make a Donation (i.e. if you benefit from something you learned about here and want to say “Thank You” in a tangible way)
- the ability to download Acrobat Reader (PDF) “books” of the Green Building Projects... this Farming Adventure... etc. (for a small cost)
- an Events page with information about (you guessed it!) events on the farm you can attend. This will include fun, party-type things in addition to workshops and please-I-need-help days
- and pages with my Artwork for sale and non-food items for sale.

APRIL 8, 2015

I meant to have this done on April Fools Day...No Fooling! It’s a monthly update! Hope your first day of April was fun, foolish and fabulous.

BEEF/COWPOOLING

As of today, I still have a couple shares available for Grass-fed/finished Beef. Please contact me by email or phone (you can find that info on the Resources/Links page, [click here](#)) if you want to get in on the Cowpooling.

If the Cowpooling shares aren’t sold by the time I take the animals in for processing in June, I’ll have beef to sell by the piece. I’ll keep you updated.

In case you haven't already visited it, here is the link to the Grass-fed/finished Beef page with LOTS of information about how healthy and good for the environment it is.

COW NEWS - 2015

I've added a new page for the 2015 story about the cows. There are entries about overwintering (with a link to the watering page to learn how we handle water), the first veterinary visit and weaning. Enjoy!

SPRING IS THE TIME FOR EGGS!

Spring has sprung... HURRAY! The hens are producing LOTS of eggs. This is an especially good time of year to stock up. More information about buying eggs/getting on the Egg List is found here.

It is also the time of year that the inspector comes by and delivers the news about my rating for this year. You can find out how my inspection came out here.

CHICKEN NEWS - 2015

I lost another hen recently. Hadn't had a hawk strike for a long time and on March 29th that long time ended when I saw some kind of bird of prey standing over a Buff Orpington carcass. You can read about it here.

The hens are finally moved out of their overwinter pasture! HOORAY! I don't have to roast cracked navy beans and reconstitute alfalfa pellets until next winter. Story and photos on the new 2015 chicken page (click here).

TURKEY NEWS

I've added a page for the Turkeys. You can check it out here. No, don't have any to sell in 2015. I have to build a flock first. Hoping to be able to sell them in 2016. The poult arrived on the 7th and there are pictures!

KANSAS CITY FOOD CIRCLE EAT LOCAL EXPO

I've written up a blog entry about marketing through venues such as the KC Food Circle Eat Local Expo where I'll be exhibiting on April 11, 2015 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. at Penn Valley Community College. Get info about the April 11th Expo here on Facebook. Or you can go to their website here.

WEBSITE CHANGES

The Testimonials page is available now. I'm always very grateful to hear from customers what their experiences have been with my products and/or visits to the farm. If it's good, then I want to share it! If it's been unpleasant, I need to hear about it so I can figure out what is going on and make any necessary changes.

The other changes listed below will be made as I can fit in the time now that there are more outside chores to be done:

- the opportunity to make a Donation (i.e. if you benefit from something you learned about here and want to say "Thank You" in a tangible way)
- the ability to download Acrobat Reader (PDF) "books" of the Green Building Projects... this Farming Adventure... etc. (for a small cost)
- an Events page with information about (you guessed it!) events on the farm you can attend. This will include fun, party-type things in addition to workshops and please-I-need-help days
- and pages with my Artwork for sale and non-food items for sale.

Believe it or not, I actually worked on the website update in May, LOL. I've adjusted a few of the sentences to make them past tense and kept them in for this update. This is a HUGE update because it's been so long. Sorry about that.

May 21st was Red Nose Day. I joined in the fun to support the Comic Relief organization and bring awareness in the USA about children living in poverty. Wore the nose to 24 Hour Fitness for my Aqua Cardio Class, it stayed on even in the pool! We all had a great laugh and it was a great way to get conversations started.

You don't have to wear the nose... and you can help any day with donations.

You can learn more about this fun event at <https://www.rednoseday.org/>



May 23 was the March Against Monsanto. You can find out more about that at <http://www.march-against-monsanto.com/>.

This isn't just about Monsanto... it's about GMOs, pesticides, herbicides and knowing what is in our food and OH so much more!

WEATHER

This has been an exceptionally rainy year! This Spring we were not able to get our hay cut and baled because there were not enough days between rain downpours for the field and/or cut hay to dry out. So I am having to purchase hay this year. Luckily, I found a fellow who uses no chemicals on his hay fields and fertilizes using worm casting tea. Plus he wants my beef, so we are working out a barter situation: beef for hay! YIPPEE.

The animals are fine when it comes to weather issues. The pasture with the meat chickens and turkeys is over used because the ground was just SO saturated. We'll have to do some seeding this fall.

The road in front of the property was cut badly from the run off of the heavy, heavy rains. The culvert under our driveway got blocked from the debris the road crew left after cutting back the foliage inside the road easement. This caused the water to cut a channel in the road itself. That was two (2) months ago and they still haven't repaired the road. The hubby used our tractor to gather some of the gravel that washed to the bottom of the valley and fill in some of it so we can actually get from our driveway onto the road.

BEEF/COWPOOLING

Please contact me by email or phone (you can find that info on the Resources/Links page, [click here](#)) if you want to get in on the Cowpooling.

The shares sold for the 2015 Cowpooling covered two (2) steers. So I decided to hold the 3rd steer back and let it grow up a bit more so that Filet has a friend. That means I'll have two (2) steers for 2016 and they will be processed in May or June of 2016. (The story about taking the steers in to be processed this June can be found [here](#).) SO, there are no shares left in beef for 2015.

If you want to purchase shares in the 2016 Cowpooling, that is grand. I've updated the page with the 2016 pricing and used that pricing in the example to make life easier for everybody, LOL. You CAN reserve your share in a 2016 beef NOW!

In case you haven't already visited it, here is the link to the Grass-fed/finished Beef page with LOTS of information about how healthy and good for the environment it is.

COW NEWS

I have a new cow: Domino. You can see photos of her [here](#).

The hubby went out to do cattle chores yesterday and found a CALF! Nike is a new momma! It is a boy calf so he will get a food-type name. Photos of Nike and the new calf [here](#). Plus, there was excitement! Read all about it.

THE RUSH IS PAST FOR EGGS

The hens went from laying lots of eggs to laying in lots of nests: being broody. Broody hens tend to have the same effect as a picket line and many of the other hens wouldn't lay eggs because they didn't want to cross those broody hens. AND then it got hot and humid here (it is summer after all, LOL) and the hens don't lay well in the heat. There are still eggs for sale... it's just getting closer to the 2 dozen maximum rule. More information about buying eggs/getting on the Egg List is found [here](#).

CHICKEN NEWS

The chicks are on pasture! We moved them the second week of May which was a couple of weeks earlier than we usually do and put heat lamps into their campers and "chick fence" around them so they have some room to start getting used to being outside.

The roosters are for sale! I am sick and tired of them. They are \$20 each and you catch the ones you want. The lead rooster jumped me from behind and drew blood. That was the last straw. They are out-a-here.

Stories and photos on the new 2015 chicken page ([click here](#)).

TURKEY NEWS

I like the turkeys. Blue has really taken to motherhood. Pictures and story on the NEW Turkey Page. You can check it out [here](#).

We finished the mobile Turkey Coop just in time to move Blue and the poults into it. Photos of the construction are [here](#).

HONEYBEE NEWS

Our honeybee hives are expanding! The hubby did a 'split' this Spring and then the original hive swarmed (which he captured) and then swarmed again (which he didn't capture). As of today, there are three (3) hives and the hubby has placed an order for a 'nuc' (which is several frames of brood with nurse bees and a queen) which he will get in early Summer. Story and photos [here](#)... soon! Really, I promise. I just have to get this update live now and will get this done as soon as I can!

PLANTS

We have been planting LOTS of flowering tree and bush starts this Spring. Black Locust trees and Button Bushes for the honeybees and Aroniaberry Bushes for people. I still have some of the Aroniaberry starts that I potted for sale... they are \$10 per pot and have 3 or 4 stems each.

I'm not quite finished getting my strawbale garden in place, but hope to grow a few things in it this summer. It is a test for me and you can follow along with the process. (Update... I DID finish it and will add a page about it after the growing season has ended and I have complete opinions.)

I love the Comfrey plants! They attract bumblebees and are so pretty. They also cover the entire flower bed so I don't have to do any weeding! I've added several more plants to the flower bed on the other side of the porch stairs. If you want Comfrey, I'll have starts next Spring. PLUS, I'm happy to sell you some leaves to dry for your personal use; just contact me about that.

YARD EQUIPMENT

I've added an update about the WORX trimmer. Don't want to spoil it for you, so click [here](#) to read all about it.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

I have decided to no longer have animals on the farm. That includes hens (to produce eggs), meat chickens, turkeys and cattle.

As you may (or may not) know, animals require daily attention and that makes going away from the farm for even a couple of days VERY difficult. Of course, if you have family, friends or help of some other sort that are able to cover for you then it's not such a big deal.

Neither the hubby nor I have family in the KC Metro area. What friends we have lead lives that are not compatible with coming out to the farm to help on a daily basis or farm-sit for several days. A few people have expressed interest in helping out on the farm but, to date, conflicts of schedules have kept that from happening. The one person we thought was going to intern with us for the summer backed out.

After giving the matter a great deal of thought and discussion, we decided that at this time in our lives, we would like to have more leisure time and be able to travel occasionally.

SO, I am selling animals, equipment, supplies, feed, etc. I will be creating a page on the website showing what is for sale and how much it is. Everything must be picked up at the farm. Transportation of everything (especially containment of the animals) is the responsibility of the buyer.

I am open to the prospect of someone who wants to do the kind of sustainable farming I do taking over the animal side of the farm. We would have to work out some kind of agreement that would be very clear that neither I nor my husband would take care of the animals... that the person managing the animals would have to other helpers to cover their absences.

Please contact me if you or someone you know would be interested in discussing this option. It will probably take me a couple weeks to get valuations done, photos taken, listing completed, etc. So this option is only available until I am ready to sell and the Status Report will change to let you know when that is.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

As you may already know, I have decided to no longer have animals on the farm. That includes hens (to produce eggs), meat chickens, turkeys and cattle. SO, I am selling animals, equipment, supplies, feed, etc.

You can read the original statement on the [Previously](#) page (September 4, 2015).

I am creating one page for Livestock for Sale and one for Equipment/Supplies for Sale on the website showing what is for sale and how much it is.

I reserve the right to sell these animals to people who are going to keep them on pasture and NON-GMO feed.

Payment is CASH or CASHIERS CHECK (made out to PlayHaven Farm LLC). I do not take credit cards and will only accept personal checks from people I know.

Everything must be picked up at the farm which is located just east of the Metro Kansas City Area off of I-70. Transportation of everything (especially containment of the animals) is the responsibility of the buyer.

I had hoped to work out a way for someone who wants to do the kind of sustainable farming I do to take over the animal side of the farm. Unfortunately, even though a few people were interested, it doesn't really work unless they live on the farm and we cannot accomodate that at this time.

BLUE SLATE TURKEYS FOR SALE

The listing for the turkeys is ready and on the Livestock for Sale page. I have also listed it on the Farm's Facebook page via the group 'Turkeys, quail, ducks for sale or trade in Missouri'.

BLACK AUSTRALORP PULLETS FOR SALE

The listing for the pullets is ready and on the Livestock for Sale page. I have also listed it on the Farm's Facebook page via the group 'Turkeys, quail, ducks for sale or trade in Missouri'.

WHEN WILL THE REST OF THE ANIMALS BE FOR SALE?

As I get pricing and photos, etc. ready, I will change this Status Report... so keep checking back. I will also put the information on the Farm's Facebook page and various appropriate sales venues and those will be listed here as well.

OCTOBER 1, 2015

As you may already know, I have decided to no longer have animals on the farm. That includes hens (to produce eggs), meat chickens, turkeys and cattle. SO, I am selling animals, equipment, supplies, feed, etc.

You can read the original statement on the Previously page (September 4, 2015).

NOW AVAILABLE are the pages for

- Livestock for Sale, *This page has been removed.*
- Equipment/Supplies for Sale, and *This page has been removed.*
- one for Combination Packages -- which I'm calling Whole Shebangs for Sale. *This page has been removed.*

Payment is CASH or CASHIERS CHECK (made out to PlayHaven Farm LLC). I do not take credit cards and will only accept personal checks from people I know.

Everything must be picked up at the farm which is located just east of the Metro Kansas City Area off of I-70. Transportation of everything (especially containment of the animals) is the responsibility of the buyer.

OCTOBER 22, 2015

As you may already know, I decided to no longer have animals on the farm. I put up signs at the local feed stores, MFA, Extension office, etc. I posted to the listserv's of the various organization to which I belong. I advertised on-line. Basically, I did everything I could to sell my animals.

While I was able to sell some of the poultry, I am ending up taking the rest of them in to be processed the end of October and that means the LLC will have sold them to my husband for our freezers. This is fine, we'll have chicken and turkey for the next year.

I had planned to sell the equipment at a Farm Auction locally if no one purchased it all... but have decided to keep it and store it in the event that in the future things change and I can put them back into use OR someone wants to purchase it from me at a later date.

What about the cattle? I am accepting offers and am willing to sell them to someone that wants to keep up with them the way I have; until then, they will remain on the farm and I will continue to

Cowpool the steers. AND I am still looking for people who want to farm-sit so I can take a vacation from time to time.

The information about the cattle is found here: Livestock for Sale *This page has been removed.*. I have removed the “whole shebang” pages and you can find the other for sale items here: Equipment/Supplies for Sale *This page has been removed.*.

Payment is CASH or CASHIERS CHECK (made out to PlayHaven Farm LLC). I do not take credit cards and will only accept personal checks from people I know.

Everything must be picked up at the farm which is located just east of the Metro Kansas City Area off of I-70. Transportation of everything (especially containment of the animals) is the responsibility of the buyer.

NOVEMBER 7, 2015

It's been busy around here.

On October 30th, we transported the turkeys and laying hens to the processor in Archie MO (just under 2 hours away) which meant getting up at 3:00 am to get them into crates and make it there by 6:30 am. It was sad for me. We took in 15 turkeys and 1 of them didn't pass inspection so we ended up with 14. There were 48 hens and 2 of those didn't pass inspection so we have 46. The processor is USDA inspected so all the poultry are OK to sell. If you are interested in a turkey or a few chickens, email or call me (contact info here).

Fall is always about cleaning up, preparing for winter and also for spring. This year I have extra work cleaning up all the poultry stuff and packing it away for possible future use (or future sale). I'm not sure what happened, but sometime on 11-5 while cleaning poultry feeders and waterers, something decided to take a bite out of my neck on the left side. I think it must have been a spider because it didn't hurt like a bee or wasp and it has a pretty good size hole unlike a mosquito. So I have a swelling and it is also affecting the gland that is just beneath the bite. Thankfully, I remembered to put warm compresses with epsom salts and Thieves essential oils on it to draw out any venom.

The extra work has also aggravated my plantar fasciitis so I'm trying to baby my foot as much as I can to take that pain down a notch.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016

I've been pretty much at odds about selling the cattle. Which probably explains why I haven't gotten any offers on them. What I've been hearing from people that initially said were interested is that the price is more than they want to spend. Huh? I didn't advertise a price. Which means they are interpreting the “value” I placed on the cattle as a price I wanted to receive. OK, I screwed that up and accept full responsibility for that.

I WILL HAVE 2 (two) STEERS TO COWPOOL IN 2016. The information about getting a share is found here.

Since I haven't had any offers on the rest of the herd, I am keeping the cow/calf pairs and am still debating about whether to keep Fernie the bull. I have made overwintering arrangements for them and all is well.

AND I am still looking for people who want to farm-sit so I can take a vacation from time to time.

JANUARY 22, 2016 (WITH JANUARY 29 UPDATE BELOW)

As you may have noticed, I'm revamping the website. Please forgive any missing or unfinished pages or missing links during the changes. I welcome your email letting me know when/if you find any.

The site has gotten rather -- HUGE! -- what with all the current information, the archived information, etc. etc. etc. So I decided to create Adobe Reader files (PDFs) of the older stuff and am making that information available for download for a small fee. In that same vein, I'm compiling PDFs by topic and they will also be available for download for a fee.

GENERAL STORE

Since I'm offering non-food items for sale on-line, I've created a "General Store" where you can either download files or place orders for the non-food items with payment through PayPal. I will ship NON-FOOD items ONLY. Food products must still be picked up at the farm. Of course, you are welcome to pick up the non-food items at the farm, if you prefer.

MONETARY DONATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

I'm finding that I spend more time educating which is GREAT! But it also means time that isn't paid for. SO, I've set up a way for anyone who feels the inclination to make a Donation to the Farm. These donations are NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE since the Farm is not a non-profit organization (even if it may seem like it from my end, LOL). Donations can be made from the Sponsors page.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016

I have a limited number of Cowpooling shares still available for the June 2016 processing. The information about getting a share is found here.

BUFFY, THE STEALTH CAT

Now that there are no more chickens on the farm, I felt comfortable bringing in a cat to help with the mouse population control. You can learn more about adopting a cat from a feral colony on the Pest Management page.

FRUITS, HERBS, VEGETABLES, PLANTS FOR SALE - NEW PAGE

In 2015, I planted an additional 75 Aroniaberry cuttings. Added to the fruit trees, blackberries, strawberries, and other plant products that will be available, I figured I should have a page that talks about how you can purchase it all and not just give you information. Click here to go there.

BOBBI'S BLOG

I've moved the previous entries (2011 through 2015) to a PDF available from the General Store. And there is a new entry... or should I say rant, LOL... about Why I Advocate Labeling of GMOs. It is located in the Sustainable Living section, but you can always check the Directory if you can't remember where a particular entry is located.

SEPTIC TANK MAINTENANCE

As I have been making the changes to the website, I found at least one page that I completely overlooked from June 2015! Meaning, I created it, but I never made any links to it (except perhaps from the Status Report at the time, but since I haven't investigated that, I sincerely doubt it). There is now a link to the Septic Tank Maintenance page from the Project List and you can click here if you want to check it out right away.

MARCH 23, 2016

As you may have noticed, I'm revamping the website. Please forgive any missing or unfinished pages or missing links during the changes. I welcome your email letting me know when/if you find any.

Don't worry if you are looking for a page you have visited before and it isn't there any longer. I have created Adobe Reader files (PDFs) of the older stuff and that information IS STILL AVAILABLE from

the General Store. You can open the file for free. If you decide to download it, please use the link to make a free will donation per file downloaded. I am happy to share my experiences with you and I hope you value the effort enough to help me make it possible through your donation.

MONETARY DONATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

I'm finding that I spend more time educating which is GREAT! But it also means time that isn't paid for. SO, I've set up a way for anyone who feels the inclination to make a Donation to the Farm. These donations are NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE since the Farm is not a non-profit organization (even if it may seem like it from my end, LOL). Donations can be made from the Sponsors page.

GENERAL STORE

I'm still working on this page, so please check back often for what has been added since your last visit.

This is where you can either download files or place orders for the non-food items with payment through PayPal. I will ship NON-FOOD items ONLY. Food products must still be picked up at the farm. Of course, you are welcome to pick up the non-food items at the farm, if you prefer.

I had a great time last weekend at the Rock and Gem Show in Kansas City. I invested in purchasing semi-precious stones to make things myself and other items already made by someone else to sell from the General Store. I'm hoping to have a few things with me at the Kansas City Food Circle Expos in April.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016 AND THE 2017 "EARLY BIRD" SPECIAL

The deadline for 2016 Cowpooling shares has passed. The farm WILL have beef to sell per package starting in July. I will post a list of what is available and for what price at that time.

Don't miss out on Cowpooling shares for 2017! Take advantage of the "Early Bird" special, send in your deposit now and be guaranteed the 2016 price. The information about getting a share is found here.

BUFFY, THE STEALTH CAT

Pest Management page has an update on Buffy.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A POULTRY PARTNER

All winter I've had to look at poultry coops that are empty and sitting in my field. I would very much like to help someone in the Kansas City Metro area get into raising poultry the way I did so that my customers (and I, for that matter) can find the kind of eggs and meat I was producing. Contact me to discuss creating a partnership wherein I supply mentoring and the equipment for compensation (be that cash, product or a combination of both).

2015 CATTLE PAGE FINISHED!

Agh! All this archiving of older pages has had me so preoccupied. Here I was making the Adventures in Cattle PDF and I discovered that I hadn't done an update to the 2015 page since Nike had her calf. The arrivals of Domino's and Button's calves were announced on Facebook at least. Well, now the photos and all are here on the 2015 Cattle page with the rest of the 2015 adventure!

HAY BALE SETUP FOR OVERWINTERING MY CATTLE

So sorry this has taken so long. I've finally gotten the 2016 Cattle page updated with pictures of how the hubby and I decided to provide access to the hay by the cattle. We've had a mild winter and that is probably why we still have six (6) beautiful bales of hay left. The cattle are spending very little time at the hay these days.

HUNTERS AND MY LIVESTOCK

A new entry in my Farming Blog. No, I'm not going to give you a hint beyond the title. LOL

PORTABLE CATTLE PANELS

I have invested in my on Portable Cattle Panel with Trailer setup. The story and photos are on the 2016 Cattle page.

BLACKBERRY CANE MANAGEMENT

The hubby did a fabulous job constructing the structure for managing the blackberry canes. See photos and descriptions on the 2016 Crops page.

MAY 25, 2016

Spring arrived on the farm earlier this year. I thought not having chickens would provide me some extra time, but alas, that time has been taken with figuring out other ways to bring in income. Evenings have been spent pouring through my rock and gem collections and stringing beads to sell through the General Store. The early Spring also means getting back to yard work and that has caused an upheaval in my daily routine that I still have not quite worked out. Yes, it happens every year... doesn't make it any easier. Plus, since taking over the house cleaning, my non-farm chores have increased. Luckily, this week was rainy and I had gotten all but some minor trimming done last week as pertains to yard chores. I opted to put off house cleaning and work on this website. Which means there is finally an update!

GENERAL STORE

I've had to do a bit of organizational shifting and put a directory on the General Store page that links to separate pages for the Archived PDFs, the NEW Art for Sale page, the NEW Rocks/Gems for Sale page and the Used Equipment page. I welcome your comments and suggestions. For one thing, it's been difficult to figure out how to handle shipping and handling for the Rocks/Gems because while they are small, they still require postage and at least a padded envelope to ship.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016 AND THE 2017 "EARLY BIRD" SPECIAL

The deadline for 2016 Cowpooling shares has passed. The farm WILL have beef to sell per package starting in July. I will post a list of what is available and for what price at that time.

Don't miss out on Cowpooling shares for 2017! Take advantage of the "Early Bird" special, send in your deposit now and be guaranteed the 2016 price.

CATS COME TO THE FARM, AGAIN

I received a call from the feral cat rehome organization this week. They have two (2) adult males who are buddies and they want to place them together. This should be perfect for our needs. Cross your fingers and toes for me that they decide to stay. (By the way, I think I saw Buffy a few miles down the road yesterday. She may have found a friend. I certainly hope so.)

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A POULTRY PARTNER

I put this out there last update and I am putting it out there again! I had a nibble on this topic, but there appeared to be some confusion, so let me clarify: I'm looking for someone to move the equipment to their own land and use it in their own chicken operation. I am not looking for someone to finance me getting back into chickens. The egg production and meat birds pay for themselves just fine. If you want to do the work, I am happy to do a reduce sale price, barter for eggs/meat, etc. so that you don't have to pay retail for the equipment and I (and my former customers) will have a resource for healthy eggs/meat that are pastured and not fed corn, soy or wheat. Contact me to discuss creating a

partnership wherein I supply mentoring and the equipment for compensation (be that cash, product or a combination of both).

KANSAS CITY FOOD CIRCLE EXPO 2016

As many of you know, I was able to participate in the Kansas date of the Kansas City Food Circle Expo at Johnson County Community College on April 2nd. It was a lovely event and I thoroughly enjoyed talking with everyone that stopped by the booth. I was so looking forward to the following weekend when I would get to visit with folks at Penn Valley Community College, but alas, I fell ill and was unable to attend. Besides missing out on talking with people I already know, I missed out on connecting with new friends and prospective customers... not to mention the wasted fee to participate. So, it was a very expensive illness because I didn't have anyone to attend in my place. One of the hazards of being a small farm without employees.

Why am I sharing that? Because it's a truth about owning a small business that everyone should know before they get into it.

VET VISIT AT THE FARM

May 2nd was the annual Veterinary Visit to the farm. Check out the photos of the new portable canal panels in use and the story from the day here.

WEANING!

Hard to believe it's been a year since we did our first weaning. Read all about this year on the 2016 Cattle page.

COMPOST HAY

It's not a very interesting topic, but free fertilizer to make gardens is exciting to me! See photos of what happens to the fertilized hay after the winter on the 2016 Crops page.

JUNE 23, 2016

Happy Solstice! I was excited to see the full moon on the Summer Solstice, but alas and alack, we had clouds and didn't get to see it. Heavy Sigh. But, we were blessed with a thunderstorm overnight that left 2.5 inches of rain on the pastures!

JAPANESE BEETLES

The Japanese Beetles are back with a vengeance! The early hot weather brought them out a couple of weeks early and I appear to have missed the slow build up period and got the traps/bags out just in time. Hopefully, this will get them out of the way a few weeks early as well. I can dream, can't I? LOL

Since I don't have chickens to feed the beetles to and my freezer is FULL of beef FOR SALE... I'm working out how to dispose of the things. My most recent thoughts are to stun them in the freezer for a couple of days and then pour them into a bucket and put neem oil/soapy water over them and cover that for a day or two. It SHOULD drown the hungry critters. I'll let you know how it goes. I'm also planning to use some to make a "tea" to spray on plants as a repellent, will also let you know how THAT goes.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016 AND THE 2017 "EARLY BIRD" SPECIAL

I picked up the processed beef yesterday and will have it ready to sell retail starting in July. I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Don't miss out on Cowpooling shares for 2017! Take advantage of the "Early Bird" special, send in your deposit now and be guaranteed the 2016 price.

CATTLE PAGE UPDATED (2016)

Nike's Heifer Calf (June 2016) -- If you follow us on Facebook, you already know that Nike gave birth to a heifer calf on June 14th! Lots of photos!

Dannon Goes to Her New Home (June 2016) -- As you may know, I had planned to keep Dannon. But, for reasons expressed on the full article, I decided to sell Dannon.

Moving to Fresh Pasture (June 2016) -- Some lovely images of what fresh pasture looks like on the Summer Solstice. My that pasture has improved over the last few years!

The hubby has a new camera and has been getting used to it by taking lots of photos of the cattle. The photos of the new calf and herd are by the hubby. Click [here](#) to quickly get to the 2016 Cattle page and then use the links at the top to visit the entries of your choice.

CATS LIVING IN THE BIG RED GAMBREL BUILDING

Hurray! The two barn cats LIKE IT HERE! Rueben and Gus are settled in and we even see them from time to time. The hubby sees Gus (the black shorthair) outside of the building occasionally, but so far we have only seen Rueben (the ginger tabby) inside the building. Once, I left the door open and happend on Rueben as he made his way down the stairs and apparently heading for the open door; when WHOOSH! he turned right around and went straight back the way he came. Startled me (in a good way) and made me laugh.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A POULTRY PARTNER

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POWELL GARDENS - POLLINATORS

I've been invited to Powell Gardens on Friday, June 24 from Noon to 3:00 pm to chat about pollinators and why they are so important and how to invite them to your garden. Stop by if you can!

WATER

Once again, water problems on the farm. I am really tired of the field hydrant breaking down (and the hubby even more so since he does the digging and replacing). First we replaced it thinking it was just old, then repaired the new one (at least twice) before putting the old one back in after repairing it. Obviously, the repair kits aren't worth the effort. Read the story [here](#).

AUGUST 8, 2016

I'm a couple weeks late getting the "monthly" update done... ah well, it happens.

POKEWEED VS. ELDERBERRIES

I keep meaning to add photos of the elderberries in comparison to pokeweed berries. I finally remembered to take photos today and it is now on the Crops in 2016 page. I've also put up the photos of the Witch-Hazel plants and seed pods. Click [here](#) to go there.

JAPANESE BEETLES

I've added an update to the Pest Management page with the results of my "tea" testing and disposal issues. Not to mention some other helpful insights I learned this year. [Click here](#) to get to the Pest Management page.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016 AND THE 2017 "EARLY BIRD" SPECIAL

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CALVES ARE SO CUTE!

Almost a month to the day after Nike gave birth, Button had her calf! AND, I guess Domino was waiting for me to do an update, because she had her calf the next day. I just couldn't wait a month to share the photos, so an updated update, LOL.

[Click here](#) to quickly get to the 2016 Cattle page and then use the links at the top to visit the entries of your choice.

GOTTA LOVE BARN CATS!

We are SO enjoying having Rueben and Gus living in the barn. They are even worth the chore of cleaning a litter box, LOL. I finally ran out of the food that came with them and MAN O MAN do they like the stuff I replaced it with! Not to mention their wet food bribe every week or so. The other day I noticed one of them had regurgitated their dry food meal and there was also some undigested mouse in it. I'm sure he just ate too fast... but it was nice to know for sure they are mousing! Photo of the cats on the Pest Management page with their story.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

I hope ya'll had a lovely Labor Day Holiday! On the farm, it is difficult to tell the holidays from the non-holidays. We take days off as the cycle of weather, animals, plants, and everything else allows; not so much by the date on a calendar.

BERRIES FOR SALE

I have updated the "Fruits, Herbs, Vegetables, Plants for Sale" page with updated pricing, harvest yields, the deadline dates to contact me so I can contact YOU when a particular fruit/berry will be ready to harvest and schedule your farm visit (to pick yourself especially).

Look for the "September 2016 Update:" under the different berries for more info about this year's season harvest, etc.

NEMATODES

If you've read the updates about the fruit harvests, you'll have noticed that I'm feeling a bit "tetchy" about people complaining about the price of food grown without the "icides". Well, be forewarned that this is mainly because of what it is costing me to treat the soil with beneficial micro organisms (in this

case, nematodes) that will prey on Japanese Beetle larvae and (hopefully) reduce or eliminate any infestation of those beautiful, really hungry beetles in 2017. The story and the PRICES are on the Pest Management page here.

WELCOME WILDLIFE!

The farm has a new addition! A volunteer to help maintain/reduce the population of small rodents and other taste bits. No, not another cat... this volunteer has wings! Read about the Barred Owl on the Pest Management page.

PAW PAW SIGHTING!

OMGoodness! I am SOOOOOO excited!!!! (But if you follow the farm on Facebook, you already know this.) There is a fruit on one of my Paw Paw trees! This Spring was so wet, I didn't think the flowers had been pollinated... I was WRONG! Never been so happy to be wrong. I posted ALL OVER Facebook (in the various Groups I follow) asking for help knowing when it is ripe. Thank you to everyone who pointed me in the right direction to find out! Turns out it should give like a ripe peach when you gently squeeze it. It may change color from green to a more yellow-green, but it might not. It may get spots like you see on a ripe banana, but it might not. As of today, it's not ripe yet. So excited at the prospect of Paw Paw custard straight out of the skin!!

SAD NEWS REGARDING HONEY

Sorry, to break it to you. There will be NO honey for sale in 2016. Even though we ended last year with several hives, we only had one this Spring that looked strong enough to put supers for honey on. We lost the other hives and have gotten a few 'nucs' to replace them. When my beekeeper hubby went to inspect the strong (remaining) hive late this summer, he discovered the bees had not even drawn comb in the super. No honey for humans this year. Yes, we are sad. Cross your fingers and toes for next year!

PAPER WASPS!

There are a great many wasps, hornets, etc. out here on the farm; but generally we keep out of each others way and get along just fine. Not long ago, the hubby forgot to put on his gloves working around some bee equipment that was outside for a long time and came away with a paper wasp sting in his finger. Thank goodness for Smoky Hills Farm's Drawing Salve! Such a difference - a good difference, that is!

Anyway, I opened the Roman Shade on one of the bedroom windows to let in light (hadn't done that for quite a while) and discovered a very large paper wasp nest between the CLOSED storm window and the CLOSED interior sash window, below the sash. Not sure how they get in and out of there. Thankful that they weren't getting in and out of the bedroom! (Photo on the Facebook page.)

The hubby bravely maneuvered the storm window open (from outside) and the next morning very early, he sprayed to saturation the nest with EcoSmart Organic Wasp & Hornet Killer. I checked the nest from inside several hours later and all the wasps were dead.

It always makes me sad to kill anything. But... I always put it out there that anything other than humans and invited critters that enter my house are essentially committing suicide (by me or the hubby).

STRAW

Again, this was posted on Facebook. There is a photo there. I was bummed to be late last fall searching for affordable wheat straw to make my straw-bale garden for 2016 and come up empty handed. BUT, I did discover a source to get straw this fall! He is a what we consider out here to be a neighbor (his house is about 5 miles away).

He delivered 50 small square bales of wheat straw to the farm on September 2nd. He has more and the only application of herbicides was a product called Harmony back in March. My research shows a fast breakdown so the straw shouldn't be a problem for growing stuff/cover. Obviously, it doesn't qualify for organic certification. I am happy to facilitate orders for a small percentage. Contact me for more details.

I will be using the bales to make the new strawberry beds, my personal straw-bale garden, and to make 'peaks' under the tarps of the big round bales of hay that we will again provide to the cattle. (The hubby shouldn't have to shovel snow of those tarps.)

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016 AND THE 2017 "EARLY BIRD" SPECIAL

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STILL LOOKING FOR A POULTRY PARTNER

I put this out there last update and I am putting it out there again! I had a nibble on this topic, but there appeared to be some confusion, so let me clarify: I'm looking for someone to move the equipment to their own land and use it in their own chicken operation. I am not looking for someone to finance me getting back into chickens. The egg production and meat birds pay for themselves just fine. If you want to do the work, I am happy to do a reduce sale price, barter for eggs/meat, etc. so that you don't have to pay retail for the equipment and I (and my former customers) will have a resource for healthy eggs/meat that are pastured and not fed corn, soy or wheat. Contact me to discuss creating a partnership wherein I supply mentoring and the equipment for compensation (be that cash, product or a combination of both). FYI, I have sold some of the used poultry equipment. Check the page to see what is still available.

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Happy President's Day. It has been five (5) months since my last Status Report and normally I would apologize for the lengthy time away, but not this time. I have been busy with many things these last several months and mostly they have been non-farm related. (Rant Alert!) I have added "Activist" to my chores list because the U.S.A. is under attack from within to un-do 70 years of progress to care for its citizens at the Federal level. Money is now the only constituent of the majority party and everyone else is a casualty. Gone are the days when citizens could not vote as a form of protest... all that got us was an extreme minority in power. We have to vote, we have to be loud and obnoxious to get attention, we have to force the representatives who are not paying attention to anything other than money to pay attention to how the things they are UNdoing is affecting each and every one of us... and will eventually affect them as well. (End of Rant.)

I also have aging parents that are requiring more of my time and energy. The stress level in my house has been pretty high for the last several months.

Thankfully, I also received an Art Commission over the Holidays and working on it is like meditation for me.

WINTER ON THE FARM

Farm activities are pretty boring during the winter. Mainly the hubby and I are engaged in keeping the cattle watered and fed, keeping the cats watered, fed, and litterbox cleaned, checking on the honeybees and making sure they have food, and doing whatever maintenance is required in preparation for Spring.

PAW PAW UPDATE

Do you remember how excited I was to see a paw paw fruit on the tree? Well, I missed my opportunity to eat it. One day it was still unripe... the next it was ripe and on the ground and half eaten by some critter. Consarnit all. (LOL a little old timee cursing.) At least I've learned from this and I'll know what to look for next fall.

HONEYBEES

I certainly don't want to jinx anything, so I'll just say that we've had several days of abnormally high temperatures which have lead to the honey bees coming out to do cleaning flights AND search for food. It's really TOO early for them to be this active which means they are eating even more. So the hubby made patties for the hives and the bees went through them in a week. Since it looks like we will have warm temps for a while, he also made nectar and is back to feeding the bees through this odd season. All three hives have survived to this date and we are crossing our fingers that they remain alive and well.

We did see some of the bees on the witchhazel bushes (*Hamamelis vernalis*)! Witchhazel blooms in February around here, which usually means something other than the honeybees do the pollinating; but this year the honeybees were able to partake of the wonderful nectar and pollen! Photos on the honeybee page.

UPCOMING EVENT

I will be at the Kansas City Food Circle's "Eat Local and Organic Expo" with non-food items for sale. Stop by and say HI. They have combined the Kansas and Missouri events to a SINGLE EXPO... info on the Events page.

STRAW-BALE RAISED BEDS

I am using straw-bales to make the raised beds among which will be the new strawberry beds, and my personal straw-bale garden. See how it is going on the 2017 Crops page.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2016 AND 2017

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JUNE 1, 2017

Once again there has been a long time between updates. This time the reason is also not farm related and while I still encourage you to participate in telling your local and national government representatives how you want things run, that is not my reason for being busy.

Perhaps you will remember I mentioned that I also have aging parents that are requiring more of my time and energy and that the stress level in my house has been pretty high for the last several months? Well, it has gotten more and more time consuming because they live in another state and I'm the closest of their kids. I am happy to help them and do not begrudge a moment or the effort... they did the best they knew how and that was pretty darned great! Helping them now is my opportunity to return the favor... doing the best we know how and making their remaining time pretty darned great!

It just means that the hubby has had to take on more responsibilities at the farm and in house because I have been traveling quite a bit. By the way, have you checked out your local library on-line? Mine uses an app called "Overdrive" and it is super because I can download audiobooks to my phone and listen to them without needing an internet connection during my drives. I am ever so thankful for this.

SPRING ON THE FARM

Spring brings its own challenges in addition to beauty at the farm. Unfortunately, it means increased varmint activity and since we have catfood in the garage and the cats aren't responsible for chasing opossums and racoons off, we have seen more of them in the live trap than we would like to. Because it is bad form to move your problem and make it someone else's problem, the hubby dispatches the critters and offers the carcasses to the turkey vultures. Circle of life is not always pleasant.

CROPS

The berry plants are looking very healthy this year.

Strawberries are ripe and plentiful!! Come out and get some before the end of the season (should still be going for a few more weeks).

Lots and lots of flowers and unripe berries on the blackberry bushes! Should start seeing ripe ones in a few weeks. The flavor of these berries makes the adventure of avoiding the thorns worth the effort (or so my hubby tells me, LOL).

The comfrey is spreading beautifully and so I have plants and roots that I am happy to sell! This is the native type and so it spreads by root and seed. I am excited to see it spreading throughout the farm, but you might want to curtail it somewhat (like you would horseradish plants, for example). \$1.00 per root cutting or plant.

I saw blossoms on the pawpaw trees, but at this point I have not seen an budding fruit. Fingers and toes crossed. BUT, I have planted 25 additional seedlings for the future anyway!

The aroniaberry bushes look great and had a mass of blossoms all at once this spring. Barring any issues (knocking on wood) it should be a great harvest late this summer. I also planted a whole bunch of seedlings this spring gearing up for the next decade! By the way, I was excited to talk with a nice lady in Omaha who already knows about aroniaberries and was excited that I grow them. It was a surprise because I'm still in the teaching mode when it comes to aroniaberries, LOL.

The rhubarb is looking healthy and is harvestable. I'll be moving most of the strawberries to new beds once they stop producing which will leave more room for the rhubarb to spread!

HONEY

The hubby has certainly been busy with bees this year! He has added several colonies (which required feeding during the early spring so they could concentrate on building comb and laying brood) so now there are LOTS of bees on our lovely clover, flowering trees and bushes and plants. The two (2) colonies that survived the winter even have filled the a super (each) so we WILL HAVE HONEY! I'm in the process of getting containers and have chosen inverted squeeze jars (so you will get even the very last drop of honey!) in the 12 oz. size. That means the price per jar will be \$7.50. If you are interested

in larger quantities of honey, I will need to know that so I can get additional packaging. Contact me to reserve honey for you. I'm not sure when harvest will be, so will have to let you know.

EXCITEMENT ON THE FARM

Farming is not the place where you expect to find or even desire to find excitement. Unfortunately, we had some excitement a couple weeks ago when we were getting the steers loaded for processing. I don't really enjoy reliving the experience, so please accept this very short version of the story: Once upon a time we had a routine for loading the steers into the stock trailer. The routine was not followed this year and -- lo and behold -- after 2 hours of herding cattle and re-herding cattle, we ended up with the steers NOT in the stock trailer and missed our appointment with Paradise Meats. Since there is high demand for processing appointments, the rescheduled date is August 25th. I have already apologized to the owners of the Cowpooling Shares in those steers since the meat will not be ready until September instead of June. Silver lining is that it gives all ya'll some time to purchase shares in the 2nd beef steer and so...

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2017

NOTICE! Because we missed the May processing appointment, I can still sell shares in the 2nd beef steer! The new processing date is August 25th. Get your Whole, Half or Quarter reserved by July 15th and take home your beef from Paradise Meats (in Trimble MO) in September. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share. The information about getting a share is found here.

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DISCOUNTED PRICES ON THE USED POULTRY EQUIPMENT

It's been two (2) years now of hoping someone will want to raise chickens and eggs the way I did and no takers. So I've decided to stop hoping and just sell the rest of the equipment. I have discounted everything deeply and if it doesn't sell this summer, I will take it to auction this fall. Check the page to see what is still available.

SELLING LIVESTOCK

I had planned to trade my two (2) heifer for calves bull calves this Spring, but that fell through and so I have two (2) heifer yearlings for sale. ***NOTICE: The heifers are SOLD.*** Information about selling my livestock is found here. And, yes, I have listed the rest of the herd for sale as well. I don't really need to sell the rest of the herd, but if someone is interested in purchasing them, I am interested in talking with that person.

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

I just finished my second piece of commissioned artwork. You can see them here.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Once again there has been a long time between updates. This time the reason is also not farm related and while I still encourage you to participate in telling your local and national government representatives how you want things run, that is not my reason for being busy.

Perhaps you will remember I mentioned that I also have aging parents that are requiring more of my time and energy and that the stress level in my house has been pretty high for the last several months? Well, it has gotten more and more time consuming because they live in another state and I'm

the closest of their kids. I am happy to help them and do not begrudge a moment or the effort... they did the best they knew how and that was pretty darned great! Helping them now is my opportunity to return the favor... doing the best we know how and making their remaining time pretty darned great!

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SUMMER ON THE FARM

Summer is our busiest time... that is to say, there are things that must be done every day and then there are bursts of high levels of activity for extended periods. The cattle get moved through the pasture day by day following the rotational plans (with modification for unforeseen situations) that have been pre-planned... this is why it is called "management intensive grazing", their water and minerals are kept filled. The honeybees are monitored and inspected for the timing of adding supers to collect the excess honey (which is what we sell), propolis traps (to collect propolis to sell), etc. and then again for the timing of removing such items. Plants are watered (if there isn't consistent rain -- which hasn't been a problem this summer, by any means), mowed, trimmed, pruned, etc. Fruit, vegetables, herbs are inspected and harvested as appropriate. Marketing is on-going and pick-your-own visits are scheduled.

AUTUMN ON THE FARM

Now it is officially Autumn... the fruit crops (except the persimmons) are all harvested and frozen is available for sale, retail beef is available for sale, most of the honey has been filtered and bottled for sale.

The cattle are still moved through the pasture day by day, water and minerals kept filled. Honeybees are still inspected and adjustments are made to help them prepare for and thrive through the winter. Plants are fertilized, trimmed/pruned and separated/replanted as necessary.

It is a beautiful time to visit. Things feel like they are slowing down, the colors start to change, leaves rustle louder.

There is also work to be done: fences mended, wood cut, equipment repaired, cleaning, painting, etc.

CROPS

The aronia berry harvest was amazing! I thought it had peaked out the last couple of years, but I guess the rain must have kept the berries nice and plump and prolific. There is still some left over from the 2016 harvest which I am contemplating making wine out of (for personal use and that of guests, of course). I have added another area of seedlings for the future.

There were FOUR pawpaw fruits!! Not enough to sell this year, but the hubby and I certainly enjoyed them. Sure hope there will be plenty to sell in 2018.

I'm expanding the strawberry plants into several raised beds this fall so that the rhubarb can spread out fully in their current location. I'm open to selling some of the plants if you want to add some to your garden; now is a great time to do that.

Persimmon fruits are on the trees but are still green. Looks like it will be October and then the first frost before they are edible.

Elderberry cuttings can be taken during the winter... contact me so I can schedule when and how much for you.

HONEY

Honey has been harvested! All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there.

We already have quite a bit of excitement building about this year's honey, so be sure to get yours before it sells out. Being new to pricing multiple sized jars, you get the benefit of my inexperience and so don't pay more for a small jar than you do for big jar (per ounce of honey weight, that is) -- even though it turns out to cost me more to provide the small jar option. Live and learn, as they say!

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2017

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available! Whether you just want to buy some tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef or you want to see what it tastes like before you commit to a Cowpooling Share, I have cryo-vac sealed beef for sale! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm.

You should also be aware that there will be one (1) steer to Cowpool for the 2018 processing and he (Prime Rib) will be taken for processing at Paradise Meats in Trimble MO the first of June (which means the meat will be ready before the 4th of July). Seems that birth rates of girl (heifer) calves in 2016 was high and I was not able to trade out my heifer calves for bull calves... which leaves me with only the one steer in 2018. That means there will be more competition for those shares. I highly recommend reserving your share as soon as possible. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share. The information about getting a share is found here.

As for the 2019 processing - so far we have two (2) bull calves (Brisket and Pizza -- yes, there is a reason for that name, see below) and are waiting for Button to give birth. So there will be at least two (2) steers for 2019.

As you may already know, all our meat animals get food names. So their names (preceded by their Mom's name) are: 2018 steer, Button's Prime Rib; and 2019 bull calves (they are not castrated yet), Nike's Brisket and Domino's Pizza. Yes, we do share a strange sense of humor. ;)

DISCOUNTED PRICES ON THE USED POULTRY EQUIPMENT

LAST CHANCE! CONTACT ME BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER IF YOU WANT ANY OF THE POULTRY EQUIPMENT.

It's been two (2) years now of hoping someone will want to raise chickens and eggs the way I did and no takers. So I've decided to stop hoping and just sell the rest of the equipment. I have discounted everything deeply and what doesn't sell by the 1st of October, I will take it to auction in Lexington (Adkins Auctions). Check the page to see what is still available.

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

I am working on another commissioned artwork. You can see examples here. Winter is the best time for me to concentrate on art... please contact me to schedule a piece for you or as a gift for someone else.

MARCH 27, 2018

Half a year has gone by... it was just after the beginning of Fall when last I was able to update the website and here it is a week after first day of Spring. It seems like the time just flew by now... but it sure moved at a crawl for me while it was happening. I've been working on a new Blog post about Aging and Death. I had no idea it would be so long and have broken it up into several posts. I hope you find it enlightening and helpful.

GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS IN 2017 AND 2018

We were finally able to scrounge up enough money to get a few necessary projects going! There is a separate page for each of them as they are finished. Check out the Project List page for easy navigation.

As of this date, the north porch has been replaced, WOO HOO! That page is ready for viewing and is found [here](#).

Also as of this date, the fiber cement siding has been installed on the remaining three (3) sides of the house and it has all been painted, WOO HOO! Details will be provided as soon as I can get to it.

And, last but not least, a recommendation from my Yoga instructor has landed us an excavator who is going to fix the drainage around the garage in the next few weeks. YIPPEE! Details for that will also be provided as soon as I can get to it once it is finished.

SPRING ON THE FARM

The cattle are getting frisky and it is so much fun to watch them frolick and then get down to the business of finding the new grass among the stockpiled, cured grasses. Right now they are where I can see them from my office window.

We had an unpleasant experience with our neighbor to the east regarding the fenceline and our lovely trees. Click [here](#) to read all about it.

The Annual Newsletter has gone out via email. If you are already a customer and did not receive it, please contact me. The New Customer Packet has been updated as is available on this page, scroll up before the Status Update.

I'm working on getting the raised beds ready to receive plants and seeds. If you don't have a spot to garden at your place and want to use a corner of my place, contact me about doing that!

CROPS

As always, harvests will depend on rainfall, sunshine, etc. I don't see any reason for this year to be any different from last year. I have not added any new types of fruits, although I am looking for some other native species to add for future harvests.

HONEY

As of today, I still have a few jars of honey for sale. All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click [here](#) to go there.

I also have raw propolis for sale! I had no idea how expensive it is. I've priced mine below the market pricing I found on the internet and you know where it comes from.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2018 AND 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available! Whether you just want to buy some tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef or you want to see what it tastes like before you commit to a Cowpooling Share, I have cryo-vac sealed beef for sale! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm.

You should also be aware that there is one (1) steer to Cowpool for the 2018 processing and he (Prime Rib) will be taken for processing at Paradise Meats in Trimble MO the first of June (which means the meat will be ready before the 4th of July). Seems that birth rates of girl (heifer) calves in 2016 was high and I was not able to trade out my heifer calves for bull calves... which leaves me with only

the one steer in 2018. That means there will be more competition for those shares. {SHARES ARE COMPLETELY SOLD OUT FOR 2018} Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share. The information about getting a share is found here.

I am accepting deposits for the 2019 Cowpool Shares - we had two (2) bull calves and I am able to do a swap for the heifer calf so all in all there will be three (3) steers for 2019.

AUGUST 26, 2018

It has been a long 5 months since the last Status Report. There are several reasons for the delay... one of which is that I'm using the Farm's Facebook page more often to post stories and such. But primarily, it boils down to that I just haven't had the heart to try to be upbeat about much of anything. Daily, my hope for humanity wanes. I am watching the country of my birth become what generations have fought against; while knowing that the same generations have been through much the same kind of atrocities. It all makes me wonder if humanity will ever become and stay the enlightened beings I know we can be and it makes me sad to my core. On good days, I pledge to do my best to BE love and compassion and tend my piece of the earth and interact with others sowing love and compassion. Other days are not so good and I just want to retreat from reality.

Also, the farm is going through tough times. While other areas of the USA fight fires and floods, we are dealing with drought. Because we farm sustainably, our little piece of the earth can withstand a year of drought pretty well. The yard is made up of whatever grows during each season without added water (including bushes and trees). The pastures are the same BUT they are being irrigated and fertilized by each cow as it eats the plant matter, drinks the water from the trough and then urinates/defecates as it moves through the management intensive grazing system. Add to this that we have more acreage per animal than is required (translation: we are slightly understocked) and we end up with pastures that improve with each rotation. The result of this is that, this year, we will have plenty of grass/forbs/foliage for our cattle to eat until winter in spite of the drought conditions. Other cattle producers, who aren't doing what we do, have had to start feeding hay in August when they normally don't need to feed hay until November. The hay season was bad this Spring and there was already less hay to be harvested. Combine the low supply of Spring hay to the early feeding and you get prices for existing hay that is up to 5 times the normal price... if you can find hay at all.

My hay guy has no hay for me for the winter. I won't need any until November and so I am in good shape for now... but come November if I have not found hay for my cattle, things are going to be difficult. Hindsight is 20/20 and I wish I had baled the areas of grass that during the Spring I was mowing for neatness since the livestock can't access them (outside a permanent fence and/or over the septic system). I AM looking into alternative protein sources to supplement whatever plant matter is left in the pastures this winter. Usually our cattle come out of winter as fat and sassy as they went into it, but this year they are likely to lose some weight (as is usual with other cattle). I am working hard at not having to sell off any livestock to get through the drought.

If you pray or put out intentions or the equivalent of those things, please specifically ask for rain in drought stricken areas (so the places that are flooded don't get even more flooded). Thanks.

SUMMER ON THE FARM, CATTLE

The cattle are happy at the moment. While this has been a REALLY HOT AND DRY summer, they always have access to shade and plenty of water (we don't rely on our stock ponds for water, we always provide them a trough with rural water*). Domino was the first to calve this year -- on the Summer Solstice (June 21) -- and so her heifer calf (black with a full belt) is named "Summer". Being "Firefly" fans, we decided to stick with female actress or character names for any other heifer calves born this year. Therefore, when Nike gave birth to a heifer calf that is RED** with a full white belt a few

weeks later, we named her “Saffron”. (Don’t worry if you don’t get the joke, LOL.) Button has not calved as of today, but is showing all the signs of doing so in the next couple of weeks. At this point, we have experienced an unusual trend regarding the gender of the calves... in that the gender has alternated each year for each cow. SO, we are very curious to see if Button will have the male that would follow the trend or a girl which would break the trend.

We’ve been saying that if the cows have all girls in a single year, we will have to say good-bye to Fernie so we can keep them for breeding purposes (we don’t want to breed them back to their father). I’m not sure we will do that this year (if it happens)... time and the drought will tell.

*This is unusual, most of the cattle people we know rely solely on water they don’t have to pump or pay for. So having to pay for water is an additional expense of the drought for them.

**Red is an accepted color in Belted Galloways. It is considered a recessive gene color (like blue eyes), so we were thrilled to find out that both Nike and Fernie carry that recessive gene.

THE FENCE SAGA

Remember that unpleasant experience with our neighbor to the east regarding the fenceline and our lovely trees? Well, it took him seven (7) months, but his crew finally finished getting his portion of the fence between our properties back in place. [Click here to read all about it.](#)

CROPS

In spite of the weird Spring we had, the rhubarb and strawberries did great! Then the Japanese Beetles arrived, as did the heat/drought and that was the end of the Spring season. The blackberry plants are doing just fine and the birds really enjoyed all the blackberries that were left over... quick season due to the drought. The aroniaberries were affected by the heat/drought as well and only produced a third of what I’ve come to expect. I AM watering all the fruit saplings and bushes to help them survive the year (it takes about five 5 hours using the hose to make sure they get the equivalent of an inch of rain per week). Irrigation system, you ask? Sure, it’s 300 feet of hose with a nozzle, me, my chair and a good book.

HONEY

The hubby invested in our own extractor this year! Plus he installed a double sink in the basement and now has everything he needs to do the extracting here at the farm. We won’t have to beg our mentor and friends to use their equipment (knocking on wood, of course). He expects to be harvesting honey any day now. Cross your fingers and toes that there is enough for all of us and the honebees as well. Drought affects everything!

As of today, I still have a few jars of the 2017 honey for sale. All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, [click here to go there.](#)

I also have raw propolis for sale! I had no idea how expensive it is. I’ve priced mine below the market pricing I found on the internet and you know where it comes from.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2018 AND 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available from the 2018 processing! Whether you just want to buy some tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef or you want to see what it tastes like before you commit to a Cowpooling Share, I have cryo-vac sealed beef for sale! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm.

I am accepting deposits for the 2019 Cowpool Shares - there are three (3) steers for 2019. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share.

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting a share is found here.

BY THE WAY, if you know anyone who works leather and/or tans hides, please have them contact me! The steer named Pizza has a black heart shaped spot in his white belt and that hide would be worth keeping!

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

I am working on another commissioned artwork. You can see examples here. Please contact me to schedule a commission or get a limited edition print for yourself or as a gift for someone else.

DECEMBER 6, 2018

As I write up this status report, I can look out the window and watch the delicate falling of snow that has been going on most of the morning. Thankfully, it's not much of an accumulation and the weather is supposed to be warmer the next several days. In November we had a total of just under 8 inches of snow... which is the total we had during the entire 2017/18 season.

GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS

See the info just above the Status Report for links to the most recent project. There is a separate page for each of them and, as always, you can check out the Project List page for easy navigation.

SUMMER AND AUTUMN ON THE FARM, CATTLE

Button had her calf on the hubby's birthday in August (the 27th) and it was a girl! That means the alternating gender streak has ended AND that we ended up with three (3) heifer calves this year. We've always said that if we got all heifers in a single year, we would trade out our bull so we could expand the herd since we prefer to NOT breed back to "daddy". However, I'm more and more inclined to get out of cattle (yes, I know I say that every year and then don't), so I'm looking at multiple scenarios for the future. More on that as things become definite.

Yes, I finally found some hay... it's alfalfa hay so we can't free-feed it like past years (it's too rich and could cause problems). We'll be hand feeding it all winter from the small square bales I was able to purchase. Here's hoping for a mild winter with more rain than snow.

I entered the American Royal Steak Competition this year and, drum-roll please!, placed 5th in a field of 15! Read about it on the 2017/2018 Cattle page (see below). FYI, the Retail Beef is from the steer that the competition steaks came from... so you can taste for yourself why we did so well. :)

I finally finished the 2017 and 2018 Cattle Page on the website! Wow, I had completely spaced out on creating pages for 2017 and 2018. As you can imagine, it took me quite a while to compile the photos and remember what happened each year. Click here to go to the shared page: both 2017 and 2018.

HONEY

I helped the hubby extract honey this fall. I had hoped to have at least 3 times more honey to sell this year (we had 3 times more mature hives going into the Spring), but between the CRP next to the farm being torn out (so many mature flowering trees destroyed), climate change and drought; we harvested only about 1/3 more honey than 2017. Not to worry, though! I am NOT increasing the price you pay.

There IS 2018 Honey for Sale! All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there. I dropped the 1/2-pound glass jars (didn't sell well at all) and added a 4-pound glass jar option to the other keepers: 12 oz. bpa-free squeeze bottle, 1-pound glass jar and 2-pound glass jar.

I also have raw propolis for sale! I had no idea how expensive it is. I've priced mine below the market pricing I found on the internet and you know where it comes from.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2018 AND 2019

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I am accepting deposits for the 2019 Cowpool Shares - there are still a few more shares available in the three (3) steers for 2019. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share.

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting a share is found here.

BY THE WAY, if you know anyone who works leather and/or tans hides, please have them contact me! The steer named Pizza has a black heart shaped spot in his white belt and that hide would be worth keeping!

JANUARY 13, 2019

This writing finds me overlooking an 8+ inches of heavy, wet snow (after a 12-hour bout of steady rain). Temps should hover around freezing today... so will I be able to make my evening meeting in Higginsville? I wonder.

I'm working on the Annual Newsletter and it will go out soon.

CATTLE

I added a few more images to the 2017 and 2018 Cattle page. Click here to go to the shared page: both 2017 and 2018.

I finally received official information from the American Royal Steak Competition so you can find the Press Release, the ranking information etc. pretty much wherever the word "cattle" or "beef" appears on this website, LOL. The most obvious location is the Beef for Sale page.

The mild weather has left more grass green in the fields than expected, so the cattle are doing just fine between the alfalfa hay and foraging. The hubby opened the last area that had been "reserved" for winter forage just before the rain/snow started on Friday (2019Jan11). They are fine with ploughing through the snow to get to the grass, but we are also giving them an extra ration of alfalfa during this snow event.

As you may remember, we ended up with three (3) heifer calves in 2018. That means no meat animals for the 2020 processing (unless I buy steers from someone else). I have been back and forth on how to proceed regarding the cattle. The problem is there is only one half-way resolution that I can think of where the hubby has time enough to devote to other things while we offer healthy beef options: someone wanting to do the day-to-day work with the cattle here on our land using our methods and equipment for a share in the profit. Otherwise, we either get out of cattle entirely or continue on the way we have been. I know I've said this before and gone so far as to advertise the cattle, but unless the profit-sharing or some other solution arrives before they are sold... I'm selling out. The Cowpooling steers are, of course, already sold via shares (and there are a few shares still available) so the 2019 processing will take place as planned. I'll keep you posted.

HONEY

2018 Honey is still available! All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there. I dropped the 1/2-pound glass jars (didn't sell well at all) and added a 4-pound glass jar option to the other keepers: 12 oz. bpa-free squeeze bottle, 1-pound glass jar and 2-pound glass jar. There is also raw propolis and beeswax for sale.

I've been talking with a shop in Odessa who wants to sell our honey, so supplies may not last as long as they have in the past (if all goes well, LOL). They understand that the price from me directly will be lower than what they have to sell it at... when I have that arrangement in place, I'll pass along the information. It's a great shop and I'm sure you will want to visit it!

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2018 AND 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available from the 2018 processing! This is the same beef that took a 5th place in the American Royal Steak Competition! Whether you just want to buy some tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef or you want to see what it tastes like before you commit to a Cowpooling Share, I have cryo-vac sealed beef for sale! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm.

I am accepting deposits for the 2019 Cowpool Shares - one (1) steer is completely sold, but there are shares available in the other two (2) steers for 2019. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share.

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting a share is found here.

FUTURE PLANS IF THE CATTLE LEAVE

Part of making a decision regarding whether or not to continue with cattle has been what to do in the event they leave. I received a notice from the American Tree Farm System of an event in Columbia in March (you may recall that I am a REAL tree-hugger). When I researched it, I had one of those light-bulb moments because it lead me to the American Forest Foundation and their My Land Plan application (or "app" as you young whipper snappers say, LOL). For a change, other people have done the hard work and I don't have to "re-invent the wheel" when it comes to figuring out how to best be a steward of our piece of the earth.

The land to the east of ours WAS in a conservation program and NOW has hundreds of cattle on it instead. SO, it only makes sense to me that if our land doesn't have cattle on it, it should become a natural habitat oasis regardless of whether it earns any money for me as part of a conservation project. Of course, if I can come across grants, etc. to help it happen, that would be nice. SO, I am investigating what it takes to convert this for-profit (cough cough, excuse me, because profit is not a word I associate with a small farm) into a not-for-profit entity. I'm pretty sure that I would still be able to grow fruits and have an apiary to sell produce, honey products, and other non-food items as a revenue source in addition to donations etc.

MARCH 14, 2019

Happy Pi Day! It's been a LONG winter and we have been blessed with abundant moisture (luckily we didn't have any 15 inch snow falls) that should get this year's grass and other plant growth back to normal. The pastures are still looking pretty beige/brown but we can see little shoots of green finding their way out of the ground.

CATTLE

The cattle are doing just fine between the alfalfa hay/foraging and the few big round bales we were able to get in February. I had anticipated having to create hay "bunkers" for feeding the alfalfa but the cattle did not spoil any of it and were fine eating it off the ground/snow. The hubby did a fantastic job doling it out so that everyone got their share and even got into the habit of giving it to the cattle first to distract them before heading over to the two (2) big round bales to shift that hay as the bales became sculpted.

As you may remember, we ended up with three (3) heifer calves in 2018. That means no meat animals after this 2019 processing. I have been back and forth on how to proceed regarding the cattle...get out

of cattle entirely or continue on the way we have been. I know I've said this before and gone so far as to advertise the cattle, but this time it is certain: I'm selling out. The Cowpooling steers are, of course, already sold via shares (and there are a few shares still available) so the 2019 processing will take place as planned. As usual, if there are any unsold shares, I will have them USDA processed and sell that beef retail.

Here is the page with all the information about the sale of the cattle herd.

HONEY

2018 Honey is still available! All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there.

You can now also purchase our Raw Honey at the Mercantile of Odessa.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available from the 2018 processing! This is the same beef that took a 5th place in the American Royal Steak Competition! Whether you just want to buy some tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef or you want to see what it tastes like before you commit to a Cowpooling Share, I have cryo-vac sealed beef for sale! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm.

I am accepting deposits for the 2019 Cowpool Shares - one (1) steer is completely sold, but there are shares available in the other two (2) steers for 2019. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share.

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting a share is found here.

PAW PAW SEEDS

I saved the seeds from all the paw paw fruit that wasn't sold last fall and they are ready to be germinated!

I've looked at prices on-line and they are ALL OVER THE PLACE... as low as \$0.35/each when sold in large lots to \$5.00/each. The problem with buying them on-line is you don't know if the seeds ever dried out and if they did, they won't germinate.

My seeds spent the winter in the refrigerator in a bpa-free plastic zip bag with perlite and moist paper towels. You can purchase seeds right now at 4 for \$1.00.

I am getting ready to plant some so I'll have seedlings to plant once the weather turns warm. I don't know if I'll have extra seedlings since I'm expanding my paw paw orchards. Contact me if you are interested in purchasing seedlings... make me an offer.

MAY 31, 2019

It's been a wet Spring and while the ground is saturated and there is flooding around us, this little farm is doing fine. A load of gravel was added to the driveway into the west pasture, so we shouldn't have any more trouble getting in and out of there (fingers crossed).

The raised beds are surrounded by grass, so if you want to come pick your own strawberries, you don't have to worry about mud. And YES, the strawberries and rhubarb are ready to harvest! The initial strawberries are HUGE and I'm hoping the rest will grow to like size. They are sweet and juicy.

The only reliable route to the farm (due to flooding) is from I-70 at the Bates City exit (#31). Call, text or email to schedule your farm visit!

CATTLE

The steers go to be processed on June 21st and the breeding stock will be transported to their new home not long after. You can find them at Farrar Family Farm and that is where I suggest you also turn to for your local, sustainably-farmed meat products. I am happy to see the bull and cows going to a like-minded farm. Here is the page with all the information about the sale of the cattle herd.

HONEY

2018 Honey is still available! All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, [click here](#) to go there.

You can also purchase our Raw Honey in Odessa at Stormy Acres Trading Co. (formerly the Mercantile of Odessa). There are also a few bottles at Sargent Auto Repair at the Grain Valley exit off of I-70 and the Hometown Yoga Studio on Action Road in Odessa.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available from the 2018 processing! This is the same beef that took a 5th place in the American Royal Steak Competition! Whether you just want to buy some tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef or you want to see what it tastes like before you commit to a Cowpooling Share, I have cryo-vac sealed beef for sale! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm.

I am accepting deposits for the 2019 Cowpool Shares UNTIL JUNE 14TH - two (2) steers are completely sold, but there are shares available in the remaining steer for 2019. Contact me to reserve your cowpooling share. Everything you ever wanted to know about getting a share is found here.

JULY 21, 2019

Summer is in full force here. Heat and humidity mean outside chores are done early in the morning or late in the evening. One would think that means lazy days in between, but not so much.

BERRIES AND FRUIT

The Japanese Beetles arrived just as the strawberries played out AND I have several pounds of frozen strawberries in the freezer ready for you that were picked before they arrived!

Thankfully, the blackberries are hardly effected by the beetles and there is a HUGE harvest this year! The hubby has been picking blackberries early in the morning every other day or so and they are frozen immediately after being cleaned and rinsed. They are also ready for you in our freezer. If you get here in the next week or so, there will still be some to pick yourself.

The aroniaberries are turning dark purple and, while not quite ready to harvest, are likely to be ready a bit earlier than usual. The Japanese Beetles (while annoying pests) do a good job making lace out of the leaves and thereby make the berries easier to find and the beetles should be gone by harvest time. Contact me (if you have not already) to get on my list and I will let you know when they are ready. You can pick your own or purchase them frozen as well.

The pawpaws are looking FABULOUS! Even the younger trees have fruit on them this year. We are expecting a large harvest! Contact me (if you have not already) to get on my list and I will let you know when they are ready. We aren't offering any discount for picking your own since the window of opportunity is SO short. Last year I froze some of the pulp as an experiment and we ate it during the winter. IT WAS GREAT... just like fresh! So, this year, I'll be freezing pulp in small batches to sell as well.

The apple trees, peach tree, and pear tree did not bloom this year, sadly. BUT the root stock of the apricot tree (which I let grow just to see what they used for the graft) was COVERED in blossoms this year and there is actual FRUIT now. It is tiny and looks very much like apricot; so once it is ripe, I'll let you know what it tastes like and you can decide if you want to share in the harvest. My guess is it will be tiny and sour. Aren't experiments FUN! :)

CATTLE

All went well getting the steers to processing on June 21st. Thanks to everyone who put out good vibes, prayers, intentions, etc. because Brisket (the "who cares about electrified polywire when I want to go to a new pasture" steer) broke OUT of the alley leading to the portable corral and then BACK IN on his own to be with the rest of the herd. WOW.

About halfway to Paradise Meats in Trimble we drove into a HUGE thunderstorm with driving winds, rain, lightning. Good thing the steers were in an enclosed trailer. We drove through the storm and by the time we arrived at our destination it was just drizzling and the steers were grateful to get out of the trailer and into the building! We picked up the resulting beef last week and it is safely stored in our freezers. The Retail Beef is ready for you to come get some! [Click here](#) for that information.

Unfortunately, the storm dumped A LOT of water and made the pasture TOO soggy for hauling out the rest of the herd that day. We rescheduled the transport for a week later and were happy it was warm and dry that week. The herd, in the meantime, spent their week by the pond and good grass. Moving them through the alley (again) was uneventful and they loaded easily. We were even able to shift them once in the trailer so that Domino and her calf were in the back section by themselves (less likely that the calf would be hurt). There is a photo provided by Farrar Family Farm of the herd unloaded at their new home and heading to the shade and their new herd-friends on our page on Facebook.

Today, Gabe texted us a photo of Nike and her new calf (girl with a full belt) which was born today! How very thoughtful of him to think of us. It really lets me know we waited for the right home for the herd.

You can find them at Farrar Family Farm and that is where I suggest you also turn to for your local, sustainably-farmed meat products (once our beef is sold out, of course, LOL). I am happy to see the bull and cows at a like-minded farm.

HONEY

2018 Honey is still available in the glass jars! We have sold out of the 12 oz BPA-free plastic squeeze bottles. All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, [click here](#) to go there.

I've pulled our Raw Honey from Stormy Acres Trading Co. (formerly the Mercantile of Odessa) and am looking for a Kansas City seller. There are still a few bottles at Sargent Auto Repair at the Grain Valley exit off of I-70 and the Hometown Yoga Studio on Action Road in Odessa. And, of course, you might as well pick some up here at the farm while you are getting the rest of our good stuff.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available! Even though I'm biased, I have to tell you this beef is SO delicious! This will be the last year we offer this tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef and when it's gone, it's gone. It is all cryo-vac sealed and will easily be just like fresh for at least 2 years in a good freezer! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm. I DO text now, so use the phone number found on the Contact page to call or text me or send me an email at the address provided.

Welcome Autumn! Summer held on here until the very last minute with 90 degree (F) temps all last week, followed by a BIG rain storm over the weekend. Then Monday, the 23rd, the Autumnal Equinox arrived with 60 degree (F) temps and a nice breeze. Well, if that is a foreshadowing of this Autumn, bring it on! (Although, it would be nice to have the rain during the week instead of on the weekends... I'm just saying. ;)

I, unfortunately, came down with either a sinus infection (from allergies) or a head cold... it is really difficult to tell the difference and I treat them both the same way, so does it really matter? Thankfully, my immune system is working well and it was kicked to the curb in about a week's time... that week being this past really HOT and HUMID week, so I would have spent it working inside anyway. Now I'm just behind all the INSIDE chores.

I've finished transferring the Cattle Info Pages to PDF and they are now available via the General Store Archived PDF section. The 2019 Cattle page is created and available for your pleasure.

Also, I've received several requests to add links to the Resources Page and so I've added several links that I have already looked into myself. I think you will find more useful information.

BERRIES AND FRUIT

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! the PAW PAWS are RIPE!! Now is the time to contact me to reserve your share. Price is \$0.625/ounce (by weight) and you can read all about paw paws here. Message me, call me, text me. The window of opportunity is SHORT because they only ripen ON the tree and the "shelf life" is only a few days even in the refrigerator. ALSO, I am collecting the pulp from the paw paws that aren't sold and will have frozen pulp for sale at the same price of \$0.625/ounce (by weight).

It was a great year for berries! There are frozen blackberries, aronia berries, and strawberries available for sale. Contact me to get some of these big, juicy berries! I freeze them the same day they are picked and then double freezer bag them for storage.

The elderberries are all picked (either by humans or birds) and they were especially juicy and large this year.

The only thing after paw paws are the persimmons. There are quite a few on the trees this year and I expect them to be as big and juicy as everything else has been. They will be available after the first freeze. Contact me to put you on the email list for when they are ready.

That reminds me, I send out an email notice for each crop to anyone who has expressed an interest in that crop. Send me an email or shoot me a text and let me know for what you want to receive notification.

HONEY

2018 Honey is still available in the glass jars! We have sold out of the 12 oz BPA-free plastic squeeze bottles. All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there.

I've pulled our Raw Honey from Stormy Acres Trading Co. (formerly the Mercantile of Odessa) and am looking for a Kansas City seller. There are still a few bottles at Sargent Auto Repair at the Grain Valley exit off of I-70 and the Hometown Yoga Studio on Action Road in Odessa. And, of course, you might as well pick some up here at the farm while you are getting the rest of our good stuff.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2019

NOTICE! There IS retail beef available! Even though I'm biased, I have to tell you this beef is SO delicious! This will be the last year we offer this tasty, local, grass-fed AND finished beef and when it's gone, it's gone. It is all cryo-vac sealed and will easily be just like fresh for at least 2 years in a good freezer! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page. Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm. I DO text now, so use the phone number found on the Contact page to call or text me or send me an email at the address provided.

NATIVE PLANTS

A few weeks ago, I learned via the Missouri Native Plants group on Facebook that the Non-Native *Mirabilis* genus is used as a trap plant for Japanese Beetles. We are all wondering if the native *Mirabilis nyctaginea* works the same way. I have a bunch of these Wild Four O'clocks growing in the fence line of my yard and didn't know what they were. So, I'll be collecting seeds this year and spreading them around my strawberry bed(s) to start this experiment. Check back for more on this exciting) development.

Anyone who wants to come out and help is always welcome. Just email or text me to set up your visit.

JANUARY 2, 2020

Happy New Decade! I like to celebrate as much as possible, so it's a no-brainer to celebrate the Calendar New Year in addition to the Lunar New Year and that means my New Year's Day is January 26th (it is also the Chinese New Year). I also celebrate many other culture's New Year's Day... but you don't really care about that, do you? LOL

There is so much unpleasantness going on around the world these days, why haven't people learned to be kind to one another? My intention for 2020 is KINDNESS, JOY, and GRATITUDE. So I'll be doing everything I can to spread those around.

FIRST EVENT OF THE YEAR/DECADE

Winter is a great time to prune (and is actually the PREFERRED time to prune fruiting trees and bushes) and I definitely need to prune this year. I mentioned that I will be pruning Elderberry plants via the Facebook page and offered the cuttings free of charge and there has been some interest. SO, the first event is Pruning Elderberries for Propogating. Info and link to the Facebook Event is found here.

BERRIES AND FRUIT

There are still frozen berries and pawpaw pulp for sale!

I collected the pulp from the paw paws that weren't sold and have frozen pulp for sale at \$0.625/ounce (by weight). I've packaged most of it in 4 oz. bags because a little goes a long way.

It was a great year for berries! There are frozen blackberries, aronia berries, and strawberries available for sale. Contact me to get some of these big, juicy berries! I freeze them the same day they are picked and then double freezer bag them for storage.

The elderberries were all picked either by humans or birds (and they were especially juicy and large this year), so no frozen elderberries.

The persimmon trees were surprisingly non-producing this year. Well, one tree had some, but not enough to even advertise and what fruits there were have gone to the wildlife.

I've started paying more attention to the orchard trees and hopefully did a good job pruning them so they have a better start in the Spring. I'll be applying nutrient sprays (never pesticides or fungicides) later to give them an extra immune boost against invasive issues.

That reminds me, I send out an email notice for each crop to anyone who has expressed an interest in that crop. Send me an email or shoot me a text and let me know for what you want to receive notification.

HONEY

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We did not harvest honey in 2019... we lost all but two (2) hives over the 2018/2019 winter and the remaining hives were pretty weak, so they got to keep what they stored. Hopefully, the wet 2019 will have been a benefit and we will be able to expand to at least a few more hives next Spring. I see that the hubby has been putting out protein/nectar on the warmer days when he sees bees flying since a warm winter is actually worse for the hive than a cold winter because there is much more activity flying around without the rewards of finding food sources.

I've pulled our Raw Honey from Stormy Acres Trading Co. (formerly the Mercantile of Odessa) and am looking for a Kansas City seller. I'm still keeping a few bottles at Sargent Auto Repair at the Grain Valley exit off of I-70 and the Hometown Yoga Studio on Action Road in Odessa. And, of course, you might as well pick some up here at the farm while you are getting the rest of our good stuff.

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Please note that I have reduced the prices!

Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm. I DO text now, so use the phone number found on the [Contact](#) page to call or text me or send me an email at the address provided.

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GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS : CHIMNEY CLEANING

As you may know, one of the first projects we did after we bought the farm was to have the chimney on the house repaired. See the archived pages in PDF for that story. Hard to believe that 2008 was 12 years ago! We ended up hardly using the fireplace for most of the intervening years... until the winter of 2018 when we had a fire almost daily. What a joy! With so much use last winter, it was important to have the chimney inspected and cleaned to be sure this winter's use would not bring any problems.

Thankfully, the company that came out to repair the liner in 2008 is still in business (although, they are not accepting new customers) and was available to come out to do an inspection/cleaning. They arrived promptly (even a bit early -- which was just fine on our end) and had their coverings and equipment set up lickety split! Then they pulled the woodstove insert out of the way with just a bit of chipping of the brick lip (aw shoot!) of the raised hearth. In less than 30 minutes, the chimney was cleaned and it and the area around it are once again spic and span (gratitude for that highly filtered

vacuum). They put the insert back without any further issues and we are ready for a winter of lovely wood fires made from the downed limbs of the trees on the farm.

Now all that is left is to borrow, barter, or rent a log splitter for the Osage Orange wood... hmmm.

See the info just above the Status Report for links to 2017/2018 projects. There is a separate page for each of them and, as always, you can check out the Project List page for easy navigation.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE : REPLACING STUFF

Wouldn't you know that as soon as I decided it was time to replace the SavvyRest Mattress (not because there is anything wrong with it... I just needed a different type of mattress which will work better for me), other necessities came to the end of their life cycles. GRATEFULLY, we have not had to go into debt to replace them this year.

Here is what has been/is being replaced and what I have chosen as a replacement:

- SavvyRest Mattress -- replace with a Happsymattress. Learn about my reasons for this selection on this Sustainable Lifestyle: Mattress, King-size: Replacement page.
- Sony LCD HD television replaced with an LG LED - 4K UHD television. More info about that on the Sustainable Lifestyle: Television, Flat Screen: Replacement page.
- Bosch Canister Vacuum replaced with a Simplicity Wonder Tandem Air Premium Canister Vacuum. That decision is documented on the Sustainable Lifestyle: Vacuum Cleaner, Canister: Replacement page.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE : SMARTCAR FORTWO PURE

I have the GREAT pleasure to share with you the newest edition to the farm: my Smartcar Fortwo Pure. I have wanted one of these since I first learned about them back in the 1990s. You can read all about it on the Sustainable Lifestyle: Smartcar Fortwo Pure page.

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

You can see examples here. Please contact me to schedule a commission or get a limited edition print for yourself or as a gift for someone else.

MARCH 14, 2020

It's Pi Day! (As in 3.14) Hope you are able to get a piece of YOUR favorite pie... even if it's pizza pie. ;)

Please stay healthy, don't panic, and use precautions when you must be in public. Covid-19 is real and the best thing we can do is to #flattenthecurve! Social distancing works. Buying out everything in sight doesn't help. Get what you need for a 2-week period (to minimize your trips to the grocery store) and leave enough for everyone else to do the same. Wash your hands! Who else thinks we shouldn't have to tell people it is important to practice COMMON hygiene? Cover your expulsions (sneezes, coughs) even if they are from "only allergies". Use 60% alcohol wipes before you touch an unknown surface and wipe down anything you will touch that has touched an unknown surface. This isn't rocket science, folks; but it IS science and therefore, tested and proven to be effective.

There is so much unpleasantness going on around the world these days, why haven't people learned to be kind to one another? My intention for 2020 is KINDNESS, JOY, and GRATITUDE. So I'll be doing everything I can to spread those around.

The 3 inches of rain we had this week has made the ground soft and squishy and LOTS of full ponds even where we don't intend for there to be ponds (LOL). The mower is back from it's yearly maintenance so I'm ready to keep the grass tidy.

BERRIES AND FRUIT

There are still frozen berries and pawpaw pulp for sale! Pricing on the berries page here.

I've finished pruning the trees and bushes. Hoping the weather allows for a good crop of everything this year!

I'm working on transferring the strawberries to different beds right now. It shouldn't interfere with the 2020 crop -- but I'll keep you informed.

That reminds me, I send out an email notice for each crop to anyone who has expressed an interest in that crop. Send me an email or shoot me a text and let me know for what you want to receive notification.

HONEY

2018 Honey is still available in the glass jars! We have sold out of the 12 oz BPA-free plastic squeeze bottles. All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF IN 2019

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GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS

We are working on projects in and around the house right now. I've met a lovely handyman (Chad) who is into our way of sustainable living and is interested in helping us when we need a third body. Not to mention doing some jobs when we need them done.

The first one is getting the ceiling up on the north porch. The hubby has removed the light fixture so the Phoebe (birds) can't nest in it this year. Chad is due this week and, between the three of us, we should have it up in a day. (Fingers crossed)

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

I just finished a really up close portrait of a Newfoundland Dog. Great image but the dog's eyes were so much in shadow you couldn't hardly see them. But that is the beautiful thing about drawing... I was able to adjust things so you can see those eyes and their expression. As soon as I get the drawing back from being professionally scanned, I'll post a photo of it in the examples section.

You can see examples here. Please contact me to schedule a commission or get a limited edition print for yourself or as a gift for someone else.

JULY 20, 2020

I can't believe we are back to square one in the U.S.A. when it comes to covid-19. Why are there so many people who don't care about how what they do affects others?

So - here is your reminder that as a farm, we are able to continue working and selling product. You are welcome to come to the farm BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (AS USUAL) to pick up your food. When you schedule your visit, it will help if you know what you want so I can have it ready for you. I do accept checks or cash. We work from home and therefore our exposure to the outside world is minimal. I will still wear mask and gloves to pack your order and have it waiting for you (at a distance) in a cooler and ready for you to put in your cooler.

- Please stay healthy, don't panic, and use precautions when you must be in public. Covid-19 is real and the best thing we can do is to #flattenthecurve! Social distancing works. Buying out everything in sight doesn't help. Get what you need for a 2-week period (to minimize your trips to the grocery store) and leave enough for everyone else to do the same.
- Wash your hands! Who else thinks we shouldn't have to tell people it is important to practice COMMON hygiene?
- Cover your expulsions (breathing, talking, sneezes, coughs -- even if they are from "only allergies") by wearing a mask over your nose and mouth while in public.
- Use 60% alcohol wipes before you touch an unknown surface and wipe down anything you will touch that has touched an unknown surface.
- This isn't rocket science, folks; but it IS science and therefore, tested and proven to be effective.

SOAP BOX SERMON

There is so much unpleasantness going on around the world these days, why haven't people learned to be kind to one another? My intention for 2020 is KINDNESS, JOY, and GRATITUDE. So I'll be doing everything I can to spread those around.

And, in case I haven't been clear; we are liberal environmentalists. We think that EVERY THING is interconnected and what is done to ANYONE or ANYTHING ELSE affects EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. For those who believe in "God, Our Father", this should be obvious since God is IN EVERYTHING because God IS EVERYWHERE. Which is where the "what you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto me" comes in to play. Every religion has their version of the Golden Rule which is: treat others as you want to be treated.

Science is Real. Water is Life. Black Lives Matter. Women's Rights are Human Rights. Evil triumphs when good people do nothing. Love is Love is Love is Love.

"Superiority" and "Race" are constructs created to justify treating others badly. They are not real. We are all unique and still we all have SO MUCH IN COMMON. Stop, just stop, being hateful. Be Unconditional Love.

BERRIES AND FRUIT

Like the rest of 2020, things have been a roller-coaster as far as berries and fruit.

The crop of strawberries was super in spite of transplanting and I have LOTS of frozen strawberries available. Pricing on the berries page here.

The elderberry canes REALLY came back strong after the winter pruning and, even after harvesting some of the flowers, there will be SO MANY elderberries later in the month! If you want me to notify you when they are ready to harvest, use the contact page to email me. Contact information is located here.

The aronia berries are looking good. Probably not as big a crop as most years, since I did cut the bigger bushes back substantially. But there WILL be berries. If you want me to notify you when they are ready to harvest, use the contact page to email me. Contact information is located here.

Unfortunately, the Japanese Beetles arrived en masse in June and while it's not a problem for this farm (because I leave nature to manage itself by encouraging beneficial/predator insects to balance out infestations of problematic insects) it was a problem for the farms around us who have mono-culture row-crops. They have hired crop dusters to spray their fields with insecticides. This, of course, is their right to do so. And that is the reason this farm is listed in DriftWatch which is supposed to show crop dusters where they need to avoid spraying so as not to impact OTHER fields/farms who DO NOT want their land sprayed.

As a result of a crop duster spraying a field across the road to the northeast while there was a 3-5 mph wind FROM the northeast, at least 3 acres of our farm has been sprayed with insecticide. We contacted the company doing the dusting to find out WHAT was sprayed and to ask them to spray early in the day near to us so the bees won't be out and about in the fields. (We assume we lost a substantial number of honeybees due to the time of day --11:30 am-- the field was sprayed.) And in the process have become the subject of aerial harassment. The apiary and the house have been buzzed multiple times and we have contacted our attorney about Air Space Trespassing pursuit.

Because of that crop duster, I cannot sell the remaining crops as "untreated". Luckily, I was not intending to sell this first year of apples (we actually HAVE a bunch). Also, the insecticide they used IS rated for food products (for whatever that is worth).

And now the bad news about the blackberries... while they appear to NOT have been treated by the insecticide, I know this because they appear to be the ONLY food source left for the remaining Japanese Beetles. What I took, at first glance, to be big, plump blackberries turned out to be swarms of Japanese Beetles feeding on the berries. So -- there is NO BLACKBERRY CROP this year.

The Paw Paws, on the other hand, because of their thick skin, should NOT be affected by the insecticide. As always, they should be washed thoroughly before being cut into. (By the way, there is still frozen pawpaw pulp for sale from 2019! Pricing on the berries page here.) If you want me to notify you when they are ready to harvest, use the contact page to email me. Contact information is located here.

HONEY

The hubby spent this last weekend extracting honey from several of our supers. There are more to do next weekend, but the good news is that THERE WILL BE RAW HONEY FOR SALE IN 2020!

I have ordered packaging now and had to make some changes due to limited availability. We will have 12 oz. BPA-free squeeze bottles, 1-pound and 2-pound glass jars. The shape of the jars is a bit different, but it is the content that counts! It may take a bit longer than usual to get the order (what with the pandemic and all) -- so if you want me to let you know when it is ready, just contact me.

I also have Crystallized Raw Honey for sale in 1-pound and 2-pound glass jars. (I personally find the crystallized honey easier to work with.)

There will also be beeswax this year! I have two (2) choices for cosmetic grade beeswax: 1-ounce ingots and 1-pound blocks.

All the info about pricing etc. is on the page devoted to honey and honey-products, click here to go there.

GRASS-FED AND FINISHED BEEF FROM 2019 - GOING, GOING...

This is the last of our local, grass-fed AND finished beef and when it's gone, it's gone. It is all cryo-vac sealed and will easily be just like fresh for another 2 years (at least) in a good freezer! I have put a list of what is available and for what price on the Grass-fed and Finished Beef For Sale page.

Repeat customers get special pricing, so contact me for that information if you have purchased our beef before.

Contact me to place an order and schedule your appointment to pick it up at the farm. I DO text now, so use the phone number found on the Contact page to call or text me or send me an email at the address provided.

GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS

Gratefully, the pandemic has not stopped our ability to keep working on the house.

- We have replaced the ceiling on the north porch and have just a few last things to do there.
- The company that put our roof on was available between other jobs to come out and fix/repair the fascia and soffits (among other things) that are just regular maintenance stuff.
- The hubby and I (with some help from the guys doing those other repairs) have replaced the french patio doors to the south porch.
- The company that sided and painted the house in 2018 will be coming out in September to paint the exterior trim and the north and south siding to match the "Svelte Sage" in addition to painting the ceiling of the south porch and the railing/skirt of the south porch.
- Also, I'm looking at gutter companies to come out after the painting is done to put gutters on the north and south porches.

In the meantime, INSIDE I am removing moulding in the living room and learning to repair drywall in anticipation of painting the living room ceiling, walls, trim. Then comes updating the kitchen and the upstairs bathroom. And whatever else I notice. Busy, busy, busy.

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

You can see examples here. Please contact me to schedule a commission or get a limited edition print for yourself or as a gift for someone else.

OCTOBER 2, 2020

This is my favorite time of year! Even with the dust and mold stirred up by harvesting of row crops downwind of us. ;)

The air is crisp, the leaves are changing... there is just something magical about autumn to me.

We've had a good summer (all things considered) and without needing to take care of livestock, many OTHER things have been accomplished. Of course, it never seems like everything is done. We still have work to do on the raised beds, a few things left to harvest, honeybee chores, trees to trim, mowing, etc.

I stepped out of my comfort zone and posted political signs along our road (inside our property line, of course). I was sure they would disappear or be vandalized since the area in which we live tends to be very ... how shall I put this nicely ... nationalistically conservative and we are quite liberally minded. And local friends have reported problems when they posted similar signs to ours. It has been over a month now and I am surprised and pleased to report that nothing has happened to our signs. (Knock on wood that continues.)

I've decided to leave my "Soap Box Sermon" in place here. The more we say the words and feel the feelings, the stronger the actions of Kindness, Gratitude and Joy become.

SOAP BOX SERMON

There is so much unpleasantness going on around the world these days, why haven't people learned to be kind to one another? My intention for 2020 is KINDNESS, JOY, and GRATITUDE. So I'll be doing everything I can to spread those around.

And, in case I haven't been clear; we are liberal environmentalists. We think that EVERYTHING is interconnected and what is done to ANYONE or ANYTHING ELSE affects EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. For those who believe in "God, Our Father", this should be obvious since God is IN EVERYTHING because God IS EVERYWHERE. Which is where the "what you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto me" comes in to play. Every religion has their version of the Golden Rule which is: treat others as you want to be treated.

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UPDATES

As I added new information, I realized that several things needed updating on the Integrated Pest Management page.

- how the Bugzooka is working for me all these years later.
- pictures of the barn cats and their stories.
- Japanese Beetle tea and nematode treatment.

BERRIES AND FRUIT

Things continue to be a roller-coaster as far as berries and fruit are concerned.

The aronia berries were looking good and there were more than I expected after having cut back the most mature bushes. But the yield was abysmal. Less than ten (10) pounds of berries. After customers came out and picked their own, all that was left a 1.2 pounds for the freezer (and this year, that means for me). I thought the small, younger bushes had many more berries than that; but I was wrong. Heavy Sigh. So no frozen aronia berries to sell this year.

The Paw Paw harvest was excellent! It came in two (2) parts this year probably because the temperature outside dropped dramatically and then went back up a few days later. Or maybe the younger trees dropped their fruit first (smaller) and the older trees waited (really big fruit!). Regardless, the demand for paw paws has increased and they are completely sold out. Not even any frozen pulp for sale this year.

The final harvest this year will be Persimmons. The hubby has already discovered a ripe persimmon and we are experiencing cold temps this week, so contact me if you want to come out and get persimmons! Pricing and information is found [here](#). Contact information is located [here](#).

HONEY

The 2020 Raw Honey is available here at the farm (or for delivery under the restrictions posted, but not shipped) AND at a local boutique in Odessa Missouri: Marmee's. Prices are the same whether you go to Marmee's (which is a LOVELY boutique and I have gotten several lovely plus-size clothes there in addition to other items) or get it directly from me.

There is also be beeswax this year! I have two (2) choices for cosmetic grade beeswax: 1-ounce ingots and 1-pound blocks. Contact me for more info on this.

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- The hubby and I (with some help from the guys doing those other repairs) have replaced the french patio doors to the south porch.
- The company that sided and painted the house in 2018 finished and it looks marvelous (if I do say so myself).
- The gutters are done on the north and south porches.
- Screen curtains have been added to the doors.

COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

You can see examples here. Please contact me to schedule a commission or get a limited edition print for yourself or as a gift for someone else.