

The Farm Weekly

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STORMS INTERFERING WITH HARVEST

Well we have never experienced this problem before. The afternoon thunderstorms of the last few days have interfered with picking. We pick in the heat, we pick in the cold, we pick in the rain, but we can't pick during a thunderstorm and it was very obvious on Wednesday why we don't.

Storms trained over us dumping 2.7 inches of rain, but more importantly we had lightening strikes directly on the farm on Wednesday, first around 3 PM and then around 5:15. It didn't matter when another round of storms soaked us later in the evening, but the lightening was all around us then too.

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this point, Tim was really struggling with the persistent dry weather and our yields were drastically affected in spite of irrigation. No irrigation equipment will be running for at least a week here at Bluebird Hills!

The point of this

weather report is that the weather interfered with picking so that there are fewer tomatoes in the boxes than we had hoped. Tim was also hoping to include any watermelons that were left over, but lack of time has prevented that.

I survived the whirlwind trip to Estes Park, Colorado returning on a red eye early Sunday morning. It was amazing how green the Ohio countryside looked as we came in for a landing. Having attended Colorado State for two years of college and now my recent visit to Estes Park, I really am quite content with living here. I much prefer our welcoming countryside and if I were to transplant myself to any mountains, it would be the Alleghenies, which are much more inviting for walking and exploring, but I think I might be in the minority.

Tim hired a new worker this week. Tricia will primarily be helping with cleaning and packing the

veggies, and she started this Wednesday. This was necessary since all of our part time employees are returning to school.

We are two of the few parents who dread the kids going back to school and this year is going to be exceptionally tough with Hannah leaving for the first time for college.

It certainly seems as though only 5 or 6 years have passed since I took her to preschool for the first time. Tears happened then, and even more will fall this time. It would be so much easier to drop her off at the dorm if she was a twit, but she is far from that, in fact she is a gem, and we will all miss her tremendously. In fact, I am writing this newsletter a day ahead of time anticipating that I won't be in any mood to do so tomorrow evening. So love and cherish them while you have them close!

We are still working on cultivating when the soil conditions are favorable, sometimes by tractors and the implements they pull, and sometimes by hand hoeing. The ample moisture keeps the weeds germinating and growing perpetuating the challenge of man versus weed.

Tim transplanted lettuce this week and also planted another round of spinach. The first round did not germinate well in the warmer weather, so hopefully this planting will.

Two crias were born this past week a boy and a girl. The little boy had a problem we have never had before called fly strike. Due to the damp weather, flies landed on his fleece and laid eggs. The eggs hatched a day later and migrated to his skin and began munching away. We didn't notice anything wrong until Ian pointed out he had a wet spot on his side. When I checked him out the fluid was blood tinged and further investigation revealed the maggots.

I brought out the clippers and gave him a lousy haircut discovering several other nests of maggots that hadn't had the chance to do damage yet. I then treated the dime size sore where they had been affected with a sulfa and pine oil medicine that has antibiotic properties as well as vermin killing qualities.

A day later he is doing just fine although looking much less purty than he did before I got the clippers out. I applied some special fly spray today and then watched carefully to be sure that his dam would allow him to nurse, for if she doesn't recognize his scent, she might kick him off and ignore his attempts or outwardly reject them. No problems with that though, since his mom welcomed him to the milk bar readily. 2 more cria births to go and then we are done until next year!

Stay dry and hug your kids while you can!

This Week's Box

Lettuce
Onions
Summer Squash
Cucumber
Potatoes
Tomatoes
Green Beans
Peppers
Eggplant

Next Week

Lettuce
Onions
Summer Squash
Peppers
Tomatoes
Potatoes
Green Beans
Cucumbers