

November 19, 2024

Grateful Season is Here

The vegetables are picked, the chickens are all in the freezer, and the turkeys are all ready for the big dinner. We have so much to be thankful for this season.

Are you one of those that use the month of November to think of all the things that you are grateful for? It is that time of year where people start to reflect on how their story was written for the year. Here at the farm, we do the same thing this time of year. We reflect on

how our year went and what we can change in the coming year. This is the time of year where we place our orders for the next year of chickens, turkeys, and more. We go over what we learned and what could be done better or differently next year. There is so much that we have to be thankful for this year and we thought we should reflect a little bit with all of you on not only our accomplishments, but yours as well.

When we started out the year, we only ordered three rounds of meat chickens. Our plan was to process 450 chickens. Well after we sold out quickly on the first round, we immediately ordered a fourth round making our ground total of 575 meat chickens raised here at the farm. We also opted to raise more turkeys this year and our total for turkeys was 62. Now imagine just doing that for the year? That is not where our story ends. We also raised our lambs and have 18 males available for processing. We now have half and whole lambs available for sale and you don't want to miss out if you enjoy lamb. Our biggest accomplishment for the year though was the cows. We may have lost two calves but the knowledge we gained from those experiences were valuable. We also are currently raising two calves and have been working hard to have our first cow processed in the fall of 2025. We might not have had our goal of raising two cows for our retail store next year, but we still know that we are providing for our community in a special way. Not only is our pasture raised meat an accomplishment, our subscription and delivery system is something we are extremely proud of.





We took a huge gamble this year and opted for the task of putting out forty subscription bags this year. Twenty bags a week and boy was it a moment of praying that things grew in time and plentiful enough. Our milk deliveries continue to grow and our online store use is on the rise. We are so happy about these changes and we think that the community is as well. We are continuing to grow and it's all because of YOU! You as the consumer has chosen to take a look at what you eat and where you get your food from. The ability for you to know the who, where, how, and why we do certain things to raise a quality food product has become important and it reflects in what we are doing. Our farming story may have started in 1900 with a small dairy operation but each generation has the ability to take things and move the farm differently. A small farming operation

like ours feeds around 166 families and we are working to surpass those numbers as we provide for many on a weekly basis. Thank you for the continued support of our family farm and we hope that you find quality products that you enjoy.

The Changes are Always Present!

Raising kids really makes you appreciate certain moments and really want to slow time down. However, time is thief and it takes over. Well when we planted the potatoes this year, the first thing my dad said was he wanted to remake the picture of him and Garrett. We utilize rotational crop planting so our soils stay healthy, so it has been ten years since the potatoes were last in this spot and while the field landscape hasn't changed too much, the people in the pictures really have. Garrett now does most of the digging so even though we redid the picture, we also did the current look. Most of the time my dad now watches Garrett do the work which is how my grandpa did things also. Once we got old enough for him to take it easy, he did. The boys learn so much on the farm and sometimes it's great to have a little fun too.





Cows and Teenagers

The other day, the calves were once again in the wrong pasture, and while it's often not a huge deal, the horses have recently transitioned to their winter routine and they were ready to go out. So with anxious horses, and an early morning time, this mom took to waking up the teenager, which is apparently against their code. Well the teenager became grumpy that he had to get up and help and as a mom we just gotta keep pouring salt on that open wound. So I reminded the boys that the cows were here because they desperately wanted to start raising cows again.

While that didn't help the grumpy teen attitude, it was a quick way for them to realize that they were part of the planning of the farm. Our hope is to continue to grow

the farm and set it up so that the boys have a successful business and the ability to work it without having to work off the farm too. So even though Garrett was grumpy, it got him motivated to figure out the problem and why the fence was not working correctly. So far, the cows have stayed in and the fence is working great! Maybe cows are great motivators for teenagers? We might be onto something with this.

Fresh Food as A Gift This Holiday Season

It's hard to believe that we are in the holiday season, but we are and it is a year where many want to buy practical gifts. There is no better gift than food that families and friends can enjoy throughout the holiday season and beyond. Gift baskets, canned goods, or gift certificates are available here at the farm and can also be purchased on our online store. We will have a sale on some great items throughout the coming weeks and you don't want to miss the chance to purchase great food items for your family and friends this year.



Did You Say Home Delivery?

If you can believe it, we have been doing a delivery type of setup for four years. We started out as just our subscription program and in the last two years we have gone into full blown shopping experience online with home delivery. If you are a subscriber and miss our products, you can still get them on our online store. We work hard to ensure our products are there and you can find great products. It shows the amount of deliveries we are doing weekly. To balance out deliveries we now have a new drop point at Hometown Chiropractic in Brockway. You can also pick up items at Bennett's Valley Honey Company if you are in the valley. These drop points help more people receive the benefits of items getting delivered to your home. Our delivery is on Monday's and we hope to see you on the next route.



Canned Goods Galore



The importance of offering value added products on a farm is becoming more and more beneficial not only to the community, but to the farmer. Over the years, we would see the veggies be wasted and it was heartbreaking if we got more of something than another. As we looked for ways to grow, we wanted to make sure that we had products for people to have year round, which led to canned goods. This year we wanted to aim big and go for 1,000 jars of canned goods on the shelf. Well we concluded the season with 1,300 and have a great stock of canned goods for you and your family to try this year. One of our best sellers is our pasta sauce and it sells out fast, so if you haven't tried it yet, we encourage you to take a chance and buy a jar before it's gone.

Christmas Cookies are the Best!

The farm has been home to Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies for 10 years in March and the program has done great things in that time. They are on a mission to enhance the quality of life of individuals through positive equine interactions. Over the years they have helped autistic kids build confidence with sensory issues, verbal cues, and more. People have gained muscle strength to walk, and individuals with anxiety have found a safe space with the horses. This program would not exist with out fundraisers, the dedicated volunteers, and the community who supports them. One of their big fundraisers is Homemade Christmas cookies. For \$10/dz you can get homemade Chocolate chip, no bake, or Iced Sugar Cookies. We hear they use farm fresh eggs for their cookies too! If you would like to purchase cookies you can visit www.bignaplefarmnt.net or call Amanda at 814-335-0804. Help support this awesome program today and help them get ready for their 10th season!

