



Cultivating *Progress*

A SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO KEEPING OUR PARTNERS UPDATED ON OUR FARM'S GROWTH.

Planted in the Dust...

Will the Bins Bust?

The old adage in farming is: “Plant in Dust and the Bins will Bust”, meaning that if we don’t force the crop by seeding into muddy conditions, we will experience high yields. This is, of course, assuming the rains will come after planting is complete. Due to a long winter with heavy snow levels, the 2023 planting season did not get off to an early start by any means. Planting did not start until May 3, and in some areas it appeared we would need to dodge snow drifts in the groves along some field edges. Fortunately, warm and dry conditions followed, and the planting schedule proceeded almost without a break as less than an inch of rain fell during May. As this goes to press, we are in the middle of a drought and much in need of rain. There was just enough subsoil moisture to get the crop off to a good start with good germination on most fields, but already some of the crops are showing stress without any significant rain in June.

Sugarbeets

Planting started on May 3 and was 95% complete by May 12. The last 100 acres had to be planted late due to wet conditions from snow melt ponding and spotty rains. We saw some of the best emergence we’ve ever seen on our farm as the seeds were planted into moisture and did not have any pounding rains to

cause ponding or a crust to form over the top of the

seed. We expanded our sugarbeet acres this year to just over 1,500 acres.



Picture from
sugarbeet field
7/7/23

Corn

Corn planting also started on May 3 on our sandy soils near Belgrade and was complete by May 23. We did see some poorer germination on the last couple of corn fields as the soil continued to dry out in hot, windy, rainless conditions. Corn acres are also up this year to about 3,200. About 8% of our corn was planted in a no-till system. Another 7% is in a minimum tillage system, which means no deep tillage in the previous fall and one pass of shallow tillage in the spring. Roughly half of the corn will be harvested for grain and half will be chopped for silage for Meadow Star Dairy.



Corn growing under irrigation 6/30/23

Sweet Corn

This year's sweet corn crop will go in across two plantings. Our first planting of 250 acres took place in the Murdock area on May 22. Another 130 acres will be planted following the pea crop in the Belgrade area on June 27. Good agronomics wouldn't be possible for this scenario this late in the year in drought-like conditions if it weren't for our irrigation system. The peas will be harvested, tillage will take place immediately, and the sweet corn will be seeded within 24 hours. We will then apply an inch of irrigation water to assure proper germination and a quick start in the warm weather for the sweet corn. It will need this quick start to assure it matures in time to avoid a killing frost before harvest.

Kidney Beans

Our dark red kidney beans were planted starting on May 30 and concluding on June 3. Dry beans like warm soil temperatures, and so we usually plant these beans last. This year, all 460 acres of kidneys are seeded under irrigation. Being able to control the water and the sandy soils allows for greater quality control at harvest. Kidney bean margins are highly driven by grain quality at harvest and the Belgrade land with irrigation has proven to be an important asset in this regard. It also makes for good, dry, firm seeding conditions for the planter, which is critical since kidneys need to be planted shallow at no more than 1.5" deep.

Soybeans

675 acres of soybeans were planted this year, starting on May 24 and ending on May 26. In very dry conditions, the beans went in quickly, but every field had some slow emergence. Luckily, we caught about 0.5" of rain on each field after planting that got all of the seed going.



Later planted soybeans pictured 7/6/23

Hemp

We planted 70 acres of industrial hemp this year starting on May 17 and finishing on May 19. It was drilled in 7" rows. Half was planted on heavy soil near our home farm, half was planted on irrigated sand by Belgrade. The end use will be fiber for things like car parts and building materials.



Hemp field pictured 6/30/23

Alfalfa

No new alfalfa was seeded this spring. However, we did have 200 acres that got seeded in the fall of 2022. We experienced some winter-kill in low spots, presumably due to water and ice at snow melt. We reseeded these areas and the new crop looks good. It had developed enough to allow us to take a first crop on the normal schedule at the end of May. 75% of our alfalfa is chopped for dairy feed at Meadow Star Dairy. The other 25% is baled for our beef herd.



Merging alfalfa 6/30/23

Farmers Market Whirlwind

Nothing beats the fresh, local and high-quality products found at farmers markets!

Quickly proving to be our busiest market season ever! Over our short history of participating in farmers markets locally we have grown our base and worked to support markets in many ways including, as vendors, customers, board members, advisors, and support!

Each week we attend 6 farmers markets:

Mon	Clara City	4:30pm – 7:00pm	City Park
Tues	Kerkhoven	3:30pm – 6:30pm	Pillsbury Shelter
Wed	Hutchinson	2:30pm – 5:30pm	Depot Shelter
Thur	Benson	3:00pm – 5:30pm	Railroad Parking
Fri	Rockford	3:00pm – 5:30pm	Main Street
Sat	Willmar	8:00am – 12:00pm	Robbins Island

At these markets we meet dozens of unique farmers, growers, bakers, creators, artists and more, that have their products for sale. If you aren't near any of the markets we attend, a great resource for finding a farmers market near you is www.mngrown.com there is a online map that shows registered markets all across the state.

Stop in at any of our markets and say hello!



Beef Shares: Filling your freezer before fall

Don't worry about shopping with a stocked freezer this winter!

With all the summer camping, barbecuing, and holiday cookouts it is likely your freezer is running low on stock. No need to fret, we do still have a few spots open for ¼ beef shares in the fall. All of which can be tucked into your freezer before the first snowflake falls!

Despite the price savings over buying the store (upwards of \$200 per share) there is nothing better on a cold day than pulling an all-natural, farm raised chuck roast out of the freezer. Dicing up some carrots and potatoes to put all together in the crockpot on low for 8 hours – filling your home with a delicious aroma of a scrumptious family supper.

Don't wait, as spots are filling quickly, head over to our website www.hultgrenfarms.com or call into our office at 320-316-0292 (ext 0 beef).



Wild West Beef Hash

Quick & easy supper recipe!



Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground beef
- 3 cups frozen potatoes O'Brien
- 1 jar (15oz) thick and chunky salsa
- 1 can of corn
- ¼ cup chopped cilantro (optional)
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions:

1. Heat large skillet with cooking spray at medium heat until hot.
2. Add potatoes, cook 10 to 12 minutes until lightly browned – remove and keep warm
3. Brown ground beef in same skillet over medium heat 8 to 10 minutes, season with salt/pepper as desired.
4. Stir in salsa, corn, cilantro, cook 5 minutes until heated through.
5. Add in potatoes and cheese until melted, serve!

Contact Us!

Our offices are 5 miles west of Willmar on MN 40.
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Order our farm-fresh, pasture-raised beef online:
www.hultgrenfarms.com or stop by anytime for
the best ground beef in the state of Minnesota!

Call us! 320-316-0292

Check out our Facebook page!

