



Hi Neighbors!

With 2018 crops secured in the farm bunks, our farm families can take a deep sigh of relief. All this rain made our corn harvest challenging. With the support of our farm teams working long hours, we were able to get our crops harvested. The unusually wet weather caused delays in harvesting, reducing the nutrient value of this year's corn.

Thank you for your patience as our slow moving equipment spent a lot of time traveling back and forth from our farms. Despite our best efforts, some of the wettest fields left our truck tires covered with mud.

You may have noticed the harvested fields have transitioned back to green as our cover crops take root. We manage the farmland to optimize soil health. We depend on the land to provide the forages we feed our cows, year after year. How we manage and protect this farmland has everything to do with our ability to continue farming sustainably.

We are grateful for good neighbors and fertile ground.

Sincerely,

The farming families from Freund's Farm and Laurelbrook Farm



Corn Harvest 2018

We chop corn into small pieces and truck it to our farms where it is packed, naturally fermented and preserved to feed our cows all year.

Random Acts of Cheddar



Doug Carlson, Farmer and Friend



This summer we lost a member of our farming community. Doug was a strong advocate for dairy and agriculture. He was passionate about engaging youth, was an active supporter of FFA, 4-H and a staple at the local agricultural fairs. His contributions to his family farm, our farming community, the Cabot Cooperative and the next generation of agriculturalists will be felt for many years.



Thank you to all our volunteers!

We served mac & cheese with Extra Sharp Cabot cheddar to the Canaan Fire Company and Norfolk Fire Department.

#cabotgratitude #farmlove



Did you know?

Every acre of corn harvested removes
200 lb Nitrogen
100 lb Phosphorous
200 lbs Potassium

Our cows' manure provides the majority of these nutrients.



The Freund & Jacquier Families

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East Canaan, CT 06024

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Soil Tests

Each year we test for nitrogen levels and every three years we test for macronutrients, phosphorous, potassium and pH. We use this data to make management decisions about how much fertilizer to apply so that the soil has just the right amount of nutrients to grow a healthy crop. Soil testing helps us grow a better crop while reducing the risks of nutrient overload.

Cover Crops

The grass you see filling our corn fields is a mix of wheat and rye, these are our cover crops. We plant the winter hardy seed on our fields as soon as we finish the corn harvest. We have just enough time for germination before the colder temperatures arrive.

Cover crops are a conservation farming technique to reduce soil erosion, retain nutrients, prevent weeds, add organic matter and improve soil health. These fast growing plants absorb the manure applied in the Fall and store the nutrients through the winter. In the Spring we will terminate the plants. The cover crop continues to serve an important purpose as it slowly releases the stored up nutrients throughout the growing season to feed the corn crop.

Manure application

It's the ultimate in sustainability, recycling the byproduct from our dairy farms to maintain thousands of acres of open space to grow our crops. We monitor soil fertility, weather, and crop uptake to determine when and where to spread manure. We use a range of systems to best deliver those nutrients: dragline hoses, manure injection and field spreading.



Sustainability is Soil Health

We manage our farmland as a scarce and valuable resource so that it will always be available to produce food. We are committed to:

Maintain soil health

Reduce erosion

Improve water quality

Keep vegetation on soil surfaces

Use nutrients effectively

Increase soil organic matter

Sustain water recharge areas



Have a question about dairy farms, dairy foods or something you read in this newsletter?

Let us know, we're happy to answer your questions.

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