

Newsletter



John Deere Sprayer

Your eyes aren't mistaking you- we bought our first John Deere. It comes with a lift kit, so we can spray fungicide in the summer when the corn is at its tallest. A special thank you to the sales team at the Hampton John Deere dealership for their customer service.

"Put that baler twine back in your pocket, son. This fence is beyond fixing."

SAID NO FARMER EVER



Farm Focus

The farm economy has done a complete reversal from last spring. Grain prices have been on a steady climb since last August, fueled by increased exports and lower than expected production.

Along with the higher grain prices has come higher input costs. Fertilizer, in some cases, is up 50% in just the last six months. Fortunately, dry weather last fall allowed us time to get all the fertilizer applied for the 2021 season before the price hike.

We were also able to hit the ground running with our custom anhydrous application business. In our last newsleter I was hopeful to find enough customers to keep

the wheels turning all fall, and as it turned out, we had more than enough to do. The anhydrous rig was running until the ground froze. Starting this year, we will be able to email our customers the completed field maps as soon as we pull out of their farms, using climate field view.

Though ground conditions last fall were dry, we have picked up enough beneficial rains this spring that we should be looking at excellent planting conditions. With every new season comes hope and opportunity.

I wish you a happy & healthy 2021.

Sincerely, Mark







New Addition to Our Team

While we were in Alabama in February, we received word that our adoption of Andrew was finalized. Everything was done on paper; no court hearing in person due to covid. We had a small celebration back at home in March to mark

the event. It was race car themed, since Andrew loves cars. Andrew is 2 ½ years old and full of kisses, hugs and smiles. He loves climbing on things, swimming in the bathtub and playing with cars. His favorite foods are anything

with cheese (grilled cheese, mac-n-cheese, cheese cubes). We wanted a strong family name for him, so we chose "Andrew" after Mark's middle name. We are blessed beyond measure to be Andrew's lifetime family.



Vacation

We decided to skip out on February in Iowa, and we headed south for vacation in Alabama. We rented a house and enjoyed the beautiful ocean view, soft beach sand and daily walks in the fresh air.

Family Tradition

Strawberry Iced Tea
1 pint strawberries
4 c. cold tea
1/3 c. sugar (or stevia to taste)
1/4 c. lemon juice
Ice cubes

Set aside 5 strawberries. Puree the rest in a blender. Strain into a pictcher. Stir in the tea, sugar and lemon juice until sugar has dissolved. Chill. Serve over ice and garnish with remaining strawberries partly sliced and hung on drinking glasses.

If you prefer not to use cane sugar, you can substitute with stevia. Add a little at a time until you reach your desired sweetness.

