



Spring 2020

Newsletter



Hog Building

At the time of our previous newsletter, construction was underway on a swine finishing facility at the old sow unit site. This is the finished product. The new barn has been operational since late fall 2019. Its exciting to see the changes in technology and the animals benefiting from the improved living environment.

“I know of no pursuit in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture”

George Washington
1794



Farm Focus

The world has changed in many ways since our last newsletter. Due to the covid-19 pandemic there is much fear and uncertainty swirling around, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to talk about some positives in agriculture. I believe this situation has brought a limelight to the value of farming.

When the nation starting shutting down, how long did it take for the sports events and movie celebrities to become irrelevant in our lives? Not long. Our priorities quickly changed, and as people starting rushing to the grocery store, food insecurity became a concern in the U.S.A. President Trump reassured the nation that we have enough food, and he named agriculture an

essential industry exempt from the shut down.

I think this moment in time (which is all this is) puts things into perspective for many Americans and will lead to heightened interest in farming. Our abundance of food may no longer be viewed as a glut, but rather a matter of National Security.

We will get through this time, and God-wiling, we will be stronger because of it. The lessons we can learn through these hard times can build character, unity and innovation.

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. - Mark



Prepping for Spring Planting

For a farmer there's no better time than spring. The smell of fresh dirt, the return of warm temps, and all the potential for a good crop are ahead of us. After months of planning, it's nice to see those plans turn to actions. We've

been adding much needed tile for the last several years due to the wet pattern we have been experiencing, and this will help to get the seed in the ground in a timely manner. The data shows that that crops, both corn and beans, yield better when

planted earlier. We started planting beans at the same time we planted corn last year, and we were rewarded with a good bean crop. Our plan is to continue planting beans in April, around the same time as the corn.



Travel

We enjoyed our first out-of-state family vacation with a trip to Texas in February. We visited Fort Worth, Waco, San Antonio and Galveston. Our favorite attractions were the Alamo in San Antonio and the beach in Galveston.

Family Tradition

A staple in our home is smoothies. We make chocolate, vanilla, coffee, peanut butter, and all kinds of fruit smoothies. When we enter the spring season, our strawberry smoothie is our go-to treat.

Strawberry Smoothie

1c. fresh strawberries
Half of a frozen banana
Strawberry yogurt
1 scoop of vanilla protein powder (optional)

Combine all in blender. Add water and ice to reach desired thickness.

We hope you enjoy this cool treat on a warm spring/summer day!

