



## Homeward Bound

As many of you know, we started building a new house in the spring of 2023 on our home farm, and we're happy to report that one year later, we have moved in.

We found that many of the pitfalls you hear about of building a new house are real, but we made it to the finish line.

We are blessed to be back and grateful for all our family and friends who helped us over the past year.

“Worrying is like paying a debt you don't owe.”

Mark Twain



## Farm Focus

Winter is typically when agriculture companies and farm groups have conferences to discuss future products and programs. This year the hot topic is carbon. While there is much more I need to learn, my goal is to explain what I know so far. CI (Carbon Intensity) scoring is a measure of how much carbon is emitted when raising the corn crop on any given farm. The current industry standard in our area is estimated at 29.1. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes tax credits to ethanol plants for supplying airlines with low carbon fuel. There are efforts being made to help some of these financial incentives to be passed onto farmers who can raise a crop for a CI score of 29 or below. The CI can be

lowered in many ways including minimum or no till, using manure instead of commercial fertilizer, and planting cover crops. The tax credits are to take effect January 1, 2025. So the crop that we're about to plant will be the first one sold under the new law and will be subject to CI scoring. A couple thoughts might come to mind, like: Doesn't this give an unfair advantage to ethanol plants when it comes to buying corn and disadvantage feed mills? If a farmer is affected by drought and only gets half a crop, then his CI score doubles due to less output (the farmer loses both yield and all premiums). How will all this be regulated? Much more is to come on this. Stay tuned. I wish you a happy and healthy 2024.  
- Mark



## Farming for Hire

To help diversify our farming business, we've turned to some custom hire opportunities. These include grain hauling, spraying and anhydrous ammonia application. This has helped to increase revenue while lowering machinery costs on our own acres, and the timing of these

jobs provides work for us year-round. We spray in the summer, apply anhydrous in the fall and haul grain in the winter. Back in the day (referring to Mark's memory of the 90s), most farms did everything from A to Z on their own. There is a shift in ag to more custom hiring as machinery has

gotten more expensive. We're very careful about only taking on the work we know we can get done while still being able to focus on doing the best farming job possible for our own operation. There are certainly plenty of opportunities in the countryside, and we are thankful.



### Welcome Maguire

We are pleased to have Maguire Flint as our newest member of Rogers Family Farms. He is a local guy from Hampon and loves nothing more than driving a semi. Maguire started with us last November when harvest was in full swing. This winter he's been doing custom and on-farm grain hauling.

## Family Tradition

### Chicken Bacon Ranch Skillet

- 1 lb. Chicken, cut into bite sizes
- 1 lb. Brussel sprouts, quartered
- 4 slices bacon, cooked & chopped
- ½ c. Diced onion
- 2 T. Oil, divided
- 1 t. Minced garlic
- 1 t. Dried dill Or 1 Tb. Fresh
- ½ c. Ranch dressing
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook chicken, onion and garlic in 1 Tb. oil until fully cooked. Remove from pan and set aside. Add 1 Tb. oil, brussel sprouts and 1 Tb. water to the pan and cook 6-7 minutes. Combine all and serve.

