

ANNIE ACRES

4610 Eatons Creek Road, Nashville, TN 37218

“Soil is a living ecosystem, and is a farmer’s most precious asset. A farmer’s productive capacity is directly related to the health of his or her soil.” ~Howard Warren Buffett



FARM UPDATES

Spring is here and hopefully April showers *really* do bring May flowers!

Around our place we keep thinking of all the good moisture that will be in the soil, come the hot dry days of summer in the not-too-distant future. The animals are all quite happy on pasture this year with the lush forage emerging and they are getting to eat their fill.

Our cows had three calves in March: *Dolly*, *Explorer*, and *Freddy* who were all born unassisted and very healthy and who have since been purchased by other farmers and homesteaders in the middle TN area. The cows are now beginning to regain form and refresh with the spring forage.

Our bull, *Champ* has developed nicely and is starting to get very interested in the females across the field who are starting to come into heat. This is his first season, so we are optimistic of his breeding abilities, but pragmatic enough to plan for a ‘backup-bull’ if he is not up to the task this year. Physics are not yet on his side as he is slightly

smaller than the females due to his age. He is a cross between American Milking Devon and Jersey. All our females are registered Jerseys, so calves will provide efficient milkers or steers that will develop in tone more beneficially than a straight Jersey offspring.

MORE ABOUT SOIL: Each year the fields are increasing in fertility which is so exciting! Just last week while milking, I spotted about 4 earthworms digging around in the soil right by my feet. That indicates enormous activity in the soil and encourages us that the rotating animals paddocks to prevent soil exposure, no chemical fertilizers, sprays, etc., high stocking rates in short durations on each piece of the property, and biological diversity within the fields really has propelled this farm’s capabilities beyond expectations.



PRODUCT OFFERINGS

CHICKEN

\$5.50/lb - Fully dressed in vacuum-sealed packaging

Meat chickens will be ready for pick-up at the beginning of July.

We are now accepting pre-orders.

DAIRY

\$6/gallon - whole or skimmed

\$6/lb - butter (available with or without added salt)

\$4/qt—heavy cream

\$3/qt—cultured buttermilk*

*available beginning in June 2015

EGGS

\$4/dozen - Blending of white-brown in color.

\$28 - 50lb. of organic layer ration

We love receiving egg cartons from customers, so if you don't currently have a resource for re-using them, please send them our way!

Beginning January 2015, we converted our feed to non-GMO and organic rations! This was such an exciting move for us, because it is what we wanted to use all along, but were unsure of resources, prices, and quality. We now have a great regional source and hope that it becomes more local every year. The rations include corn, barley, flax, oats, alfalfa, sorghum, kelp, Nutri-balancer, and additional vitamins. It is a wonderfully balanced ration that the animals absolutely love. We are excited to make this change and are thankful that so many of you have been excited and encouraged us to make the shift.

NEW ADDITION - SAVE THE DATE



As many of you know, we have been in the process for the last year of constructing a barn in the woods of our property. We hope to be able to gather friends, entertain events, and a myriad of other scenarios not yet conceived. But we wanted to go ahead and have everyone be planning to attend a dinner in **early September** to get to know one another, say 'thank you' for your patronage, and have fun! Please keep this in your plans and more details will come later this summer.

Our farming methods center around raising livestock on pastured forage, in small groups, and enabling them to have access to unlimited sunshine, exercise, and fresh air. We offer treats of bruised fruits, over-ripe vegetables, and excess dairy to poultry and molasses and sweet-feed to cattle.

All our livestock are cared for by Robert, Hunter, Lilly, and me on a daily basis and we'd be happy to discuss any and all aspects of our production model.

Please email to discuss any questions you have. If you have any suggestions or orders, our contact information is below. Thank you for your support!

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