



Green Family Nut Farms LLC

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Hello Friends and Family,

Well! It has been entirely too long since our last newsletter back in December. As much as the time has simply flown by, we also have been very busy in this, our second year of operations. Please continue reading and see if you agree!

Farm News

Going into this year we knew that 2025 would be an important one in the family adventure that we call Green Family Nut Farms because it would be the first year that we could seriously begin searching for the property that will become our future farm and home. In January we didn't waste any time starting the search; in fact, on our way home from the Green family Christmas in Holland, MI we drove by a potential property and called our realtor to set up what would be the first of many property walks this year. January and February were full of meetings and phone calls with our bank, potential farm lender, realtor, MSU county extension officers and FSA agents in Michigan and Indiana that culminated in us making an offer on 49 beautiful acres just outside of Lawrence, MI. Ultimately our first offer was rejected, and we have the privilege of continuing the property search. Just this week we walked 2 properties, and next week we will begin putting together an offer on 69 acres outside of Decatur, MI with an amazing building site and 28 acres of ideal ground for chestnuts. If you think of us and our search, please pray that we continue to walk in wisdom and have favor with everyone involved in the process. Early in January God highlighted a verse for me that describes His sovereignty and that I keep coming back to when I am getting stressed about the journey. Revelations 3:7 says, "...He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens". As long as we continue to be diligent to follow His direction and leading, God is holding a door open for us and on the other side is the farm that He intends for us to possess and thrive on.

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Of course, the property search was not the only thing happening in early 2025. Inessa and I traveled out to Wisconsin Dells to attend the annual hazelnut growers' conference hosted by the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative (UMHDI). Over 2 days we heard presentations on a variety of hazelnut

related topics including: field trials of potential hazelnut cultivars for the Midwest, a prototype mechanical harvester being developed with the University of Wisconsin, the American Hazelnut Company (a grower owned company established to share post-harvest processing equipment and market its members' nuts and value-add products directly to consumers – www.americanhazelnutcompany.com), and the effects of coppicing on orchard health and productivity. We also met current growers and learned about how they are growing and selling their annual crop. One grower that we met is pressing his hazelnuts for their oil and then selling it as a skin care treatment to people suffering from eczema; according to him the hazelnut oil absorbs into the skin without leaving a surface film or

Hazelnut oil is high in oleic fatty acid and low in saturated fats

Oil Type	Monounsaturated		Polyunsaturated		Saturated
	Oleic	Linoleic	Linoleic	Linoleic	
Hazelnut*	81.0	7.5	0	8.5	
Hybrid Hazelnut	78.1	18.1	0	7.8	
American Hazelnut	77.8	15.8	0	6.7	
High-oleic sunflower*	75.0	18.0	0	9.0	
Olive*	75.5	7.5	1.0	14.5	
Peanut*	41.0	33.5	9	17.5	
Walnut*	16.0	59.0	12.0	11.0	
Coconut	58.1	28.0	4.0	11.9	

*Values are grams per 100 g of oil. Source: USDA, ARS, Beltsville, MD.

residue and is in high demand. We also met Lois Kemp from Regenerative Agriculture Alliance (www.regenagalliance.org) who is looking to add poultry farmers to their network of regenerative farmers who use silvopasture methods. Their system is a little different than ours in that they allow their poultry to free-range within an orchard, but they have an established market that would allow Green Family Nut Farms to scale up its poultry operation very quickly on our new

property without worrying about whether we have a market for 1,000 or more birds each year. We will be having follow-up conversations with Lois when appropriate. Suffice it to say that we walked away from the conference even more optimistic and confident in our farm plan.

This optimism was tempered by the realization in February that our preferred chicken hatchery was already sold out of chicks through August. When I placed our chick order at the same time last year, they had thousands of chicks available starting in March. Either more people are raising their own broilers this year or larger poultry operations were forced this spring to replace birds that had to be culled because of the avian flu outbreak. Regardless, we will be limited to a single batch of pastured poultry this year, and they will not be ready for processing until the 1st week in October. If you would like to purchase birds this year, you will want to get your pre-order in to reserve your premium pasture poultry while they are still available. An order form is included at the end of this newsletter; we also will be taking on-line pre-orders through our new website www.greennutfarms.com (more to follow on this).

We are making some changes to our pastured poultry offering this year based on lessons learned in 2024. First, we have decided to raise exclusively White Ranger birds instead of a combination of White Ranger and Freedom Ranger Color Yield. While we preferred the taste of the slower growing Freedom Ranger Color Yield birds, the extra week that they need to reach full processing weight is cost prohibitive at least for right now. Once we are living on farm and not driving 20+ miles each day to care for our pasture poultry, we can reevaluate our choice of chicken breed. In 2025 we are also increasing our batch size by building a second chicken tractor. This will allow us to run fewer birds in each tractor which will result in healthier and happier birds while still spreading our fixed costs across more of them. Because of these and other improvements in 2025, we were able to reduce (and hopefully simplify) our pricing when compared to 2024. Our price per lb in 2025 is \$5.35, and the order quantity required to qualify for our 10% bulk order discount has been reduced from 10 to 8 birds per customer.

Did I mention that we were launching a Green Family Nut Farms website at www.greennutfarms.com? Yes, I did, and yes, it's going to be amazing! This spring our friends Eric and Ann Fink have been working with us to create a new website where people will be able to learn more about our story and products, read back issues of our farm newsletter, purchase delicious, nutrient-dense food from

our on-line store and follow the entertaining Green Kids' Blog. The plan is to officially launch the site during the upcoming 4th of July weekend before we start a month of camping, county fair and hard work preparing for the arrival of our chicks in August. Be sure to check it out! We will be adding more content to the site this fall and winter after the growing season is done.

New Product & Process Development

Here are some of the new products and production processes that we are testing in 2025:

All-Natural Dog Treats

A new value-add product that we have been experimenting with this year is a chewy, all-natural dog treat made by dehydrating the feet from our pasture poultry. When properly processed to remove any potential pathogens, dehydrated chicken feet are an excellent source of protein for your pet and a tasty snack that cleans your dog's teeth while helping to maintain his or her mobility and healthy joints. Pre-orders will be accepted on our [website](#) after it launches with our initial batch of all-natural treats expected to be available in late July/early August. Treat your dog today!



Orchard Cropping System

In the orchard we continue to evaluate the potential of interplanting annual and short-term perennial crops between trees as a way to provide a cash crop until the nut trees mature and begin to produce an annual crop. Last year we started with a small planting of sunflowers and black raspberry bushes. This year we added more raspberry bushes and planted out 2 rows of sunflowers. The sunflowers are planted to the north of the hazelnuts and the shorter raspberry bushes to the south in order to maximize the sun exposure to each plant. By planting 32" away from the hazelnuts we still allow room for our 7' chicken tractor to pass down each row. This year the 2 rows of sunflowers will help feed our pasture poultry, and the raspberry bushes will provide a tasty snack to the Greens as we work in the orchard. In future years additional rows of sunflowers could be cold-pressed for their oil, and we hope to offer U-pick raspberries to our customers. Stay tuned for how this year's experiment goes!

Fully Charged Biochar

I have written before about how we produce our own biochar, mix it with our compost and then add both to the orchard either directly in the hole with newly planted trees or as a top dressing to established plants. The reason that we mix it with our compost first is to inoculate it with the compost's microbial activity and nutrients; if we were to add the biochar directly to the orchard floor, it would act as a strong

sponge and temporarily steal nutrients away from the soil and nearby plants. This year we will be experimenting with making compost tea from our compost and then inoculating biochar in the compost tea. If this works, it would be one way to monetize our increasing expertise in making both compost and biochar and provide a premium soil amendment to our customers for their gardens at home. For those who buy pasture poultry from us this would be another way to make full use of your bird since your chick helped enrich the bedding in our chick brooder with nitrogen before it was added to the compost, which then produced the compost tea and ultimately came home with you as Fully Charged Biochar (trademark pending) to fertilize your summer vegetables and flowers. Pretty cool!

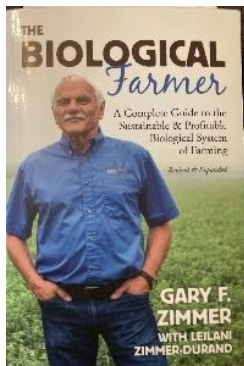
Heard on the Farm

“Dad! Are those nuts?” – Zach during a recent workday at the farm (Unfortunately they are not nuts but are instead swollen buds that are infested with the big bud mite, a known hazelnut pest. So far, they are present on 2 bushes of the Cortland cultivars that we are evaluating in the Millersburg test planting. We will now have an opportunity to see how the bushes respond to the infestation and to experiment with different control methods. If the bushes succumb or never produce a good crop of nuts, we will have eliminated one potential cultivar before investing thousands of dollars in planting out acres of them in our future orchard.)

“It’s like climbing a sand dune!” – Merci while walking a potential property with many sandy (and eroding) hills which is perhaps why it was listed at only \$5,020 per acre.



The Farmers’ Library



The Biological Farmer by Gary F. Zimmer

I highly recommend this book for anyone looking to run a profitable and sustainable farming operation using a minimum of chemical inputs while building soil life for the next generation. As Gary says, “Biological farmers work with nature, feeding soil life, balancing soil minerals and tilling soils with a purpose.” Not strictly organic, biological farming’s focus is on using natural inputs whenever possible to balance the chemical, physical and biological components of your soil so it becomes a living factory that quickly cycles organic matter and makes previously inaccessible nutrients exchangeable with and readily available to your crop. The book includes case studies from farmers in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Tennessee who are successfully using the principles of biological farming on a variety of light, medium and heavy soils without sacrificing yields when compared to their neighbors who are using conventional farming methods. - **David**

Pasture Poultry Order Info & Form

In 2025 we have White Ranger birds for sale from our free-range hatchery in PA. This year we have reduced the price for our pasture poultry to \$5.35 per lb. A 10% bulk order discount is available for those who pre-order 8 or more birds **by August 4** for pickup the first week in October.

Please fill out the order form below & return it with a \$10 deposit per chicken. When paying by check, please mail your check & order form to our address above. To use PayPal please scan the appropriate QR code(s) below & then text a photo of your completed order form to 574-327-5995. The QR code will direct you to PayPal's website where you can complete your transaction. Note:

- Our hatchery is Freedom Ranger Hatchery (<https://www.freedomrangerhatchery.com/>).
- The White Ranger chicken is a cross between a heritage breed and a Cornish Cross and was chosen because it is a fast growing bird that is similar to (yet healthier than) the Cornish Cross chickens that most of us grew up eating; for more info see <https://www.freedomrangerhatchery.com/shop/product/white-ranger/>.
- Our processor is state inspected so we can sell our chicken direct to consumers like you.
- Our target finish weight is **4.5 – 5.0 lb.**, but we will have a range of weights available because the chicks were straight run (i.e. a mix of male and female).
- Whole chickens can be cut into 8 pc for an additional processing fee (\$1.50 per bird)
- Chicken feet can be requested but will cost an additional \$0.50 per bird; additional feet can be ordered for \$1.50 per pair (assuming availability).
- Chicken giblets (heart, liver & gizzard) can be requested from your bird; the additional cost per bird is \$0.50; additional hearts & livers can be ordered and will cost \$6.50 per lb.

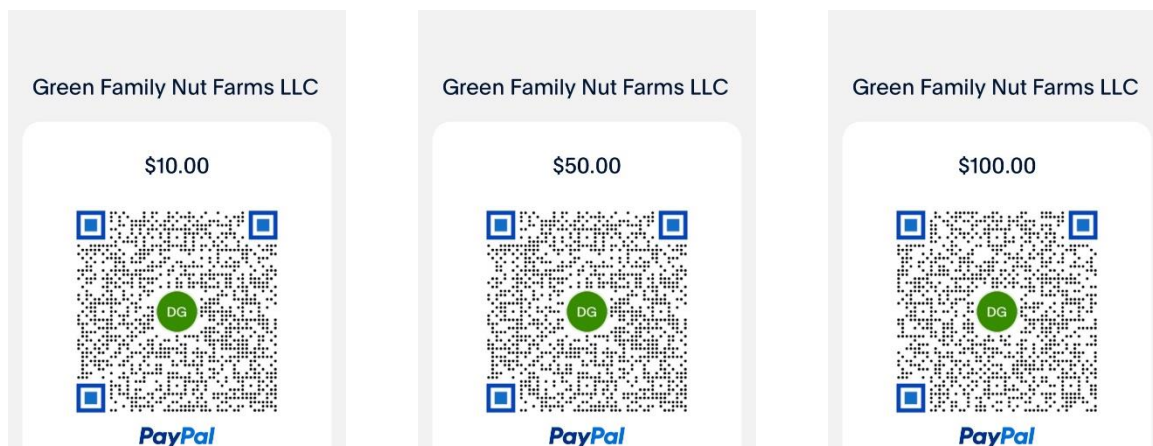
Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Pasture Poultry: _____

Number with Special Processing Requested:

8-pc Cut _____ **Feet** _____ **Giblets** _____

Extra Feet (pairs) _____ **Extra Hearts** _____ **Extra Livers** _____



Bonus Photos (Thank you Ruth!)

