

Green Family Nut Farms LLC

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Hello friends and family,

Here is a quick update on farm happenings as we head into early summer. We hope that you enjoy it and continue to follow along with us on our new adventure. If you would like to see any of these developments in person, please call or text us (see phone numbers above), and we can schedule a visit to the family farm. We will be there daily through June 27 and then again August through October and would love to show you around the mini operation. One of our goals for the farm is to help educate people about where their food comes from. Also, we are proud of how we operate and believe that being fully transparent about it will give you, our customers and supporters, confidence to tell others about us and our products.

This past week we celebrated the emergence of our sunflower plants which we planted between the rows on our hazelnut test plot in Millersburg. These and our red raspberry bushes are



the first of several different plants that we are experimenting with as complimentary orchard plantings between the rows of hazelnuts and chestnuts until the trees grow tall enough to block direct sunlight. We are looking for plants that can provide some income until the trees bear nuts and help to improve the orchard's soil health & fertility. If you have ideas on what plants we might test & how to best use the harvest from them, please let us know. Our original intention for the sunflower seeds was to press them into oil, but my brother Sam pointed out that they could also be dried

& fed to our pastured poultry as another natural feed supplement in addition to the nuts, bugs and grass that they are already getting. These kinds of ideas are what we are hoping and praying for!

Our pastured poultry continue to grow and thrive in their open-air tractor on the test plot. Their growth has in fact been faster than anticipated, so we are considering taking the largest birds to the processor a week early on June 20. Yes, this would add an extra trip and the costs associated with it, but doing so would relieve any potential overcrowding in the tractor as the birds reach their full size. We have been blessed so far to have experienced zero chicken fatalities which is surprising for beginners & their first batch; therefore, the space in our tractor will be less than ideal without a pivot from our original plan. Another process modification worth mentioning is that we will be moving the tractor more often than our original plan of once daily in an effort to keep the birds on fresh pasture (notice the fresh blade of grass in this bird's beak). It has been amazing how much they can trample & mow down in just 24 hr on the same patch of grass. Speaking of amazing, we are pleasantly surprised by how much nitrogen they appear to be adding to the



ground; the path of the chicken tractor through the orchard is marked by rich, dark green grass that pops up behind it. Soil testing in September will tell us how much of the nitrogen made it 6-8 inches into the ground where our tree roots need it.

We are very thankful for the response to our original newsletter! In addition to the comments and feedback from many of you, several of you have already placed orders for our pastured poultry. If you are still considering placing an order, please be sure to do so before **Saturday, June 15** to qualify for the pre-order deals. Many of the birds for June processing are already spoken for, but some are still available. Enough that you can still order 5 birds for June & 5 birds for October to qualify for the 15% bulk order discount without requiring freezer space for 10 birds at once. **Please see the last page of this newsletter for more info & our order form.**

I almost forgot! We would be remiss if we failed to talk about the headliners of Green Family Nut Farms which are the hazelnut trees! So... this spring we planted 27 trees from Z's Nutty Ridge Nursery in New York and from the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District. All but 2 have now sprouted & are adding new growth each week. We continue to water and care for the 2 that have not yet sprouted; however, I may have killed these bare root trees by allowing their root tips to dry out too much during the planting process. Hopefully, they only suffered a temporary shock and eventually survive, but this is why we are beginning with a small test planting of 50-55 trees. This photo is of Zach adding some compost with biochar around one of the trees. [Different methods of weed suppression are among the many things that we are testing.]



Finally, it has been a real pleasure and joy to work together as a family on this endeavor. Whether it has been planting and caring for the trees, building a brooder and chicken tractor or piling into the car early in the mornings to go feed and water the chickens, we have done it as a team. Hopefully the fun teamwork continues long after the newness and novelty of everything wears off. I leave you with perhaps my favorite photo from the past few weeks; here is the gang hard at work draining & winding up the hose after watering the trees, red raspberries and sunflowers last week. What a beautiful team we are blessed with!



Thank You!

The Green Family (David, Inessa, Merci, Ruth & Zach)

Pasture Poultry Order Info & Form

We have 2 different birds for sale, Freedom Ranger Color Yields & White Rangers; both are from a free-range hatchery in PA. Because this is a premium product, we are selling each bird at \$5.70 per lb; however, we offer the following deals to those who pre-order their chicken **by June 15** for pickup after one or both of our processing dates (June 27 and in mid-Oct.):

- Buy 5 of one bird & get 1 free of the other kind (Try both & tell us which is better)
- Buy 10 or more birds and get a 15% bulk order discount
- Pay with cash or check and receive an additional 3.5% off total sale.

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 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 more hearty than) the Cornish Cross chickens that most of us grew up eating from the supermarket; for more info see <https://www.freedomrangerhatchery.com/shop/product/white-ranger/>.
- The Freedom Ranger Color Yield chicken is a slower growing bird that forages well and is well suited for being raised on pasture. We chose it for its cold hardiness and its healthier meat which has more yellow Omega 3 fat and less saturated fat than a Cornish Cross. See <https://www.freedomrangerhatchery.com/shop/product/freedom-ranger-color-yield/>.
- 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.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of White Ranger whole chickens: for **June 28 Pick Up** _____

Number of Freedom Ranger Color Yield: for **June 28 Pick Up** _____ for **October Pick Up** _____

Number with Special Processing Requested: **8-pc Cut** _____ **Feet** _____

