

GREETINGS FROM CROSS ISLAND FARMS



WHO'S THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK



We needed a new buck to make baby goats for next spring, so Dave visited a neighboring farm to adopt a buckling named Cinco because he was born on the 5th of May.. Currently being isolated to make sure he is healthy, he will be very busy (and happy) in a few days when it's time for him to join the girls.

WHAT'S COOKING



In the middle of October Dani harvested some “Firecracker” Crab apples whose fruits look like miniature delicious apples, with dark red skins and rose-colored flesh. She cut them in quarters, put them in a deep bowl, and nuked them in

WHO'S VOLUNTEERING



Tami Canell, a local school teacher, has begun volunteering on weekend days this fall. She loves spending time outdoors and is learning techniques for managing an edible forest. On a recent Saturday she helped Dani wrap the stems of berry bushes with metal screening to keep mice and voles from eating the bark under cover of snow in the winter. Without this protection, the damage can be extensive. - see below. . . .



WHAT'S READY TO HARVEST





In the vegetable garden Winterbor kale and rainbow chard are flourishing in the cooled-down weather. In the edible forest, the absence of frost thus far has allowed raspberries to continue ripening. Goji berries which can withstand frost are ripe as well, and two American persimmon trees are loaded with ripening fruit that get sweeter after a few frosts..

HOW DO WE PLANT THE GARLIC



A garlic clove is a bulb like a tulip, and like a tulip the best time to plant it is in the mid-fall so its roots can become established before winter sets in, readying the plant to grow vigorously as soon as the soil defrosts in the spring. This week Dani planted a 70 foot long row of garlic from heads she saved from this past summer's harvest. The cloves were pushed down just below the soil enriched with goat poop, then covered with two inches of shredded leaves and a cloth row cover. The leaves keep the soil from heaving up the bulbs, and also keep spring weeds from germinating, while the row cover protects the plants from the invasive leek moth.

WHAT'S COMING UP



Dani has applied to speak at numerous conferences this winter. She's been confirmed at two in the mid-Atlantic states. Stay tuned for announcements.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON

Dani Baker

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