



# The Farm at Miller's Crossing

Week of July 6th 2009

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## The Brighter Side of Rain!!!

When we were kids, whenever there were heavy rains, we could drive 2 miles up the road, and drop into the stream which runs through our farm. With enough water we would float down the stream through the back side of all the farmland.

Tonight, we could hear the hoots and howls of some local kids tubing down the stream. Thanks to all this rain, the water is deep and fast in our normally calm summertime stream. If the sun stays out this week, maybe we'll blow up some of our own tractor tire inner tubes and cool off in the creek... Hopefully we have turned the corner and reached summer!

June will go down as a record month of moisture with very little sun. The vegetables seem to have come through it OK, and some, like the cabbage, potatoes, onions, and carrots, look great. Thanks to the dry and warm March and April, we got off to an early start. The tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant are big and producing lots of fruits, which now need about 2 weeks of sun to ripen up, and all will be well.

In other happenings on the farm, we hope to bring in the final portion of our first cutting of hay. Because there are three consecutive days of sun needed to make good dry hay, farmers all across the Northeast have struggled

to find the right window of weather to get the job done. We aim to have about 250 round bales to feed our beef herd through 5 months of winter. Hopefully this week's weather allows this to happen.

I am addicted to the NOAA weather reports. In my observations it seems that with each new lunar cycle, the weather pattern shifts. Maybe meteorologists have a name for this, but July 7<sup>th</sup> is the full moon, so we're hoping that this is another sign that the weather will shift, and the sun will shine.

Besides the obvious things like muddy fields and wet hay, the rain will also rob fruits and vegetables of flavor, and sometimes in shelf life too. All the washing, drying and cooling cannot always change the fact that the sun has not shined enough.

As the fields dry out, we'll be focusing on weeding all the crops in the coming weeks. We hope to finish just in time to begin picking ripe tomatoes, melons, peppers, and eggplant.

Chris



**Last years tomatoes!!!!**