

Fair Fields News

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On the Farm

Thanks to everyone who made it out to the BBQ and potluck. There was a good turn out and we had great weather, food and conversation. The only hitch was the epic number of flies... it was right out of a Hitchcock movie. It felt as though they blotted out the sun!

The fly situation was not helped by the fact that we have two manure piles on site... The one near the barn is fully composted and fairly stable, not very attractive to flies. We will use this pile for next year's main field as well as our garlic, fruit and flower patches.

There are also a couple of rows of fresher manure at the top of our west-most hay field. This manure was generously donated by my neighbour Don Foerster, across the road, who needed to get it out of his barn. It is fresh, very attractive and comes with its own fly population... It is also very generous as good shit doesn't come cheap these days! We probably spend about \$1000-2000 annually on composted manure. Hopefully we can bring this down when we start producing more of our own manure.

Drought like conditions are persisting for us. We have finally had a little rain in the last week, however the fields are drying fast as there is very little moisture down through the topsoil and upper subsoil layers. Ideally we would have a 2-3 day rain event that slowly dropped 2-3 inches. At this point, we would take a few thunderstorms.

Enjoying some food and conversation in shade (and sun...)

Despite the lack of soil moisture, we have had plenty of humidity. The combination of drought with high heat and humidity has led to some disease issues for us. The corn has a lot of Common Smut (I am not making this up...), a fungal disease that occurs more in drought conditions and causes galls (like mushrooms) to grow out of the tassels and ears. There is also some mould in the beans and we are seeing downy mildew in our cucurbits (cucumbers, melons, squash, etc.).

Despite the disease pressure we are very happy with the corn harvest so far. We will be giving it this week and probably next week as well. After that there may be some available, but it will start to dwindle.

This issue, we wanted to give a shout out to my father in law, Wayne Boyd. Born in Hamilton, ON, Wayne worked for many years as a plumber and pipefitter. Him and my mother-in-law Lynn



have retired and in June of last year, moved to Hanover. Even before they moved they were a big help to Nicole and I. Wayne does a lot of the property maintenance around here, from lawn mowing and wood splitting to dump and scrap metal runs. He has also helped out with plumbing and some small building jobs. You have Wayne to thank for helping things look so tidy around here!

Harvesting

- Beets
- Carrots
- Corn
- Cucumbers
- Eggplant
- Flowers
- Garlic
- Lettuce
- Herbs
- Kale
- Melons
- Peppers
- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Zucchini

