

JANUARY GREETINGS FROM CROSS ISLAND FARMS

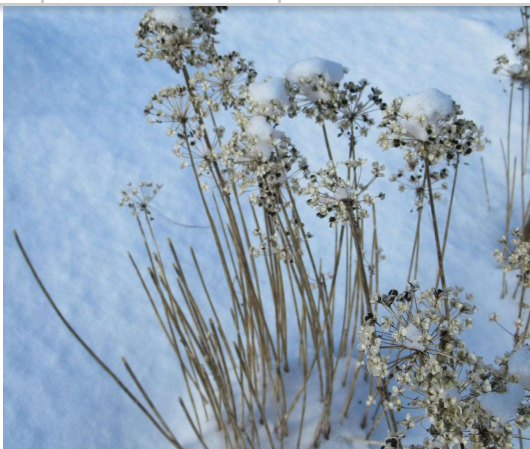


HOW DO WE FEED THE ANIMALS



During the growing season the goats and cows graze on pasture but in the winter they eat large round bales of organic hay, which Farmer Dave needs to bring them. This has been tough this year as the tractor has needed frequent repairs which Dave needs to complete outdoors, often in freezing weather.

WHAT'S ENCHANTING IN THE WINTER LANDSCAPE



The dried stems and flowerheads of garlic chives, embedded with black seeds and topped with dollops of fresh snow, delightful to behold; the sight of chestnut husks clinging to bare tree branches, an unexpected treat; garden furniture decorated with fluffy snow.

WHO'S VOLUNTEERING



Anna Xu, from Columbia, Missouri, arrived this month and is planning to volunteer on the farm until the end of March. She just graduated Yale with a degree in Computer Science but she is disillusioned by Big Tech and wants to explore other options. Shown above, Anna is stacking wood to keep the wood stove stocked for the cold days ahead.

HOW DO WE PROTECT THE PLANTS REVISITED



Here are two berry bushes: the one on the left is normal; the one on the right has been ravaged by deer, every growing tip chomped several inches. In my experience there is no such thing as a "deer resistant" plant. If deer are hungry enough, they will acquire a taste for anything and everything...



This year we are trying something new. A solution of Plantskydd applied with a backpack sprayer to every growing tip of every bush that deer have access to. This emulsion is supposed to deter deer, rabbits and voles for three months if applied when plants are dormant. Time will tell if it does.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO



Where deer are not a concern, we are trying something else new: a solution of castor oil, water and dishwasher soap sprayed at the base of trees and bushes to deter voles, mice and rabbits (moles are actually beneficial: they are carnivores and eat bugs, not plants).

WHERE IS DANI SCHEDULED TO SPEAK



Off-Site: PASA Sustainable Agriculture Conference

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, February 6, 2025

9 a.m.: **Hosting Beneficial Creatures in Your Farm or Garden**

1:30 p.m.: **Perennial Vegetables that Sustain Themselves**

3:30 p.m.: **Native Perennial Food Plants for Pollinators and People**

Off-Site: Ontario County Master Gardeners Symposium

Club 86, 86 Avenue East,

Geneva, NY February 8, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

What is a Forest Garden and How Can You Create One?

Zoom: Amherst New Hampshire Garden Club

February 13, 2025 7:05-8:15 p.m.

Native Perennial Food Plants for Your Edible Landscape

Off-Site: OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association)

Annual Conference

Saturday, February 15, Newark, Ohio

Perennial Vegetables for Your Plot

Zoom: Saratoga Springs Public Library

March 4, 2025 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Native Perennial Food Plants for Your Edible Landscape



GO OUTSIDE TO APPRECIATE YOUR WINTER LANDSCAPE

Dani Baker

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