



# Naturally growing food for a better tomorrow



August has been the month of plentiful harvest which is crazy because last year August was the month of the dead. It just goes to show that Mother Nature has a mind of her own. We finally have the peppers – jalapenos, banana, anaheims, cayennes, and fresnos. Soon we'll have the always coveted bell pepper too! Being from Colorado, we've often complained that Kansas is

missing the green chili that we've always smothered our burritos in, so we're on a mission to find a recipe we can perfect and market to the public. Fair warning – as soon as we get the farm up and running with some type of efficiency, we will start making and selling salsa and green chili. Kansas definitely needs a little more spice in my opinion!



And two of the other crops that are giving us good fruit are the okra and green bean plants. But we have one particular business that has been buying us clean out of product – [Urban Prairie](#). Urban Prairie has delicious

pickling products, and I would highly suggest you try. Karen Glenn-Miller is the owner of the business, and she is an absolutely beautiful woman with a heart of gold. She often visits the Firefly Market, and if we're lucky, her booth can be seen directly beside ours. She has been our biggest customer where cucumbers, okra, and green beans are concerned.

And I know I've been talking about it for over a year now, but we've finally planted more fruit. In addition to having watermelon, we planted strawberries. We got the plants for a pretty good discount from [Plant Kingdom](#) because of their condition. We expect to have some fruit from them next fall. Super excited! But as you can see, Josh made me do the planting. See what happens when I complain too much? He puts me to work.



I actually pushed Josh earlier this year about fruit, and he ordered goji berry plugs which I am ashamed to say we did not get in the ground in time. (Just goes to show that I should not always be pushing the envelope.) Regardless, I was practically in tears when we took the plugs out and they were mostly dead. I was so distraught about it that I made my son, Ashton, plant them anyway in the hopes that we might be able to save a few of them. And lo and behold...we have ONE goji berry plant coming up beside the house. The miracles of the Earth never cease to amaze me. It's true what they say about the smallest seeds of hope blooming bright and beautiful both literally and figuratively.



And although the plan was to have the electricity in the hoophouse all done by now, we had to move our resources around a bit for two very important reasons: 1. The small fridge we bought to keep our seeds cool, decided to frost over and leak on everything, and 2. We had to spend a little more money on automating our



irrigation system so we could go on vacation for a few days. I'm going to do my best not to rant and throw a drag about the seeds. (Grrr....) The drip irrigation, however, was a disguised pleasant surprise. What a time saver! Since Josh has a background in plumbing, all he had to do was run the well water into the hoophouse via a manifold which filters the water and reduces the pressure. Now the plants only get water at the roots where the drip tape essentially leaks it to them (which is great for the tomatoes, but now we need to start thinking about overhead water for the lettuce). The improvements are never-ending!!