

Updates from

PLEASANT VALLEY FARM



WINTER, 2011

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Hello Friends!

We're hoping your new year is off to a great start! Although right now the days are short and snow covers the ground, we're still busy here at the farm. Besides the daily care of our animals, our biggest project right now is taking inventory of what seeds we have, re-viewing how different varieties performed last year, and putting together our seed orders for this year's garden. It's always an enjoyable task, and we look forward to offering new varieties and new veggies again this year!

Our biggest winter project so far however, has been setting up an online store! While we don't offer produce or meats for sale online, we do have a nice assortment of our canned goods, such as jams, mustards, and vinegars, as well as feathered jewelry and more. Check out the article on page two, and stop by our online store if your supply of Carrot Cake Jam, Blueberry-Basil Vinegar, or other favorite treat is running low!

We're also very excited to announce that Emily will be taking the farm on the road once again this year. Farm to Table Pittsburgh is coming up in March, and we will once again be offering a select variety of goods for sale in the exhibit hall. And just like last year, Emily will be one of the expert presenters! This year, her presentation is titled "Treasures from our Grandparents' Garden: Heirloom Seeds". We hope to see some of our farm friends there!

See you at the stand (or in Pittsburgh)!

-Emily



WINTER HAPPENINGS:

- ◆ Online Store now open— refined canned products and more anytime!
- ◆ Now offering handmade jewelry featuring beautiful feathers from our flock!
- ◆ Farm to Table in Pittsburgh— March 23 & 24
- ◆ Farm Stand reopens May 26, 2012.
- ◆ Pre-made & Custom gift baskets are available online!

Farm to Table 2012

We are excited to announce that Pleasant Valley Farm will be a part of the 2012 Farm to Table conference in Pittsburgh!

The 6th annual event takes place **March 23 & 24, 2012** at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Both days feature a variety of speakers and demonstrations, plus an exhibit hall filled with tables. There will be much to learn, much to see, and lots of farm-fresh products for sale!

Pleasant Valley Farm will be in the exhibit hall both days, offering a variety of products for sale. We plan on having lots of both our Carrot Cake Jam and Ginger-Garlic Mustard, as we sold out of both last year! We

will also have other jams & mustards, along with a selection of our home fermented vinegars, Apple Butter, Homemade Egg Noodles, and even some gift baskets. Emily has been hard at work creating earrings, necklaces, and hair extensions from feathers from our birds, especially the peacocks. She's even created an all-natural cat toy from feathers! All of these will be available as well.

In addition to the table in the exhibit hall, Emily will once again be speaking! As the topic of the conference this year is seeds, she will be talking about the impor-

tance of heirloom vegetables in a presentation titled "Treasures from our Grandparents' Gardens" Her presentation is tentatively scheduled for 11:30 AM Friday. We'll post updates on our homepage & Facebook as soon as they become official!

More information can be found on the official website at www.farmtotablepa.com. Also, if you order your tickets by the end of the January, you can get 20% off by using the code FB at checkout!

Hope to see you there!



PLEASANT VALLEY FARM

Dan & Emily Stevenson

4792 Sage Road
Tionesta, PA 16353

(814)755-3911

pleasantvalleyfarmpa@yahoo.com

www.pleasantvalleyfarm.weebly.com
www.localharvest.org/blog/27987

Critter Spotlight: Toulouse Geese

As the days get longer, the barnyard gets noisier! Our flock of Toulouse geese always make their presence known with the loud squawks and honks as mating season begins. These large birds reproduce naturally, and we find that they are more successful at hatching their eggs than we are when we put them in the incubator! The picture above shows a female goose on her nest with a just-hatched gosling. The males are colored exactly the same as the females. While the males do not sit on the nest, once the eggs hatch, both parents protect the babies around the barnyard and



in the pond. They even let us know not to get too close by spreading their wings and hissing, the only time of the year when they will act aggressively toward people. In fact, the Toulouse is known for being rather docile and has been a popular barnyard breed for many years. It originated in France from Greylag geese, and was brought

to England in the late 1700's. They were first brought to North America in the mid 1800's.

Our Toulouse geese are the production type, meaning that they are still a wonderful barnyard goose, able to forage for food year-round and reproduce naturally. The heavier Standard Dewlap strain of this breed is now used in foie gras production. We do not process our geese, however. There has been a small flock here for many years, and keep the flock at the desired size by offering goslings for sale in late spring & early summer.

a custom order is a good way to go if buying more than one of our delicious items, as we can calculate the shipping for you more precisely to save you money.

NEW! Our Online Store

Over the years, we have had so many people ask if we ship our products or sell at any location other than the farm. Up until now the answer was no, but we have decided to jump into the world of online sales. Now you can visit our farm store anytime!

We will be offering some of our popular processed goods as well as some original, hand-crafted feather art & accessories. Our current offering of canned goods includes both best-selling flavors and new ones. We have the following available: *Carrot Cake Jam, Honey Mustard, Ginger-Garlic Mustard, Cranberry Peach Conserve, Apple Butter, Red, White & Champagne Vinegars, Hot Peach Barbecue Sauce, Oktoberfest Beer Mustard, Thai Hot & Sweet Dipping Sauce,* and *Homemade Whole Wheat Egg Noodles.*

We're excited to have some new offerings online as well. Emily has produced a beautiful line of feather jewelry, all made from feathers collected from our very own birds! We have a variety of items for a variety of tastes. We currently offer *feathered hair extensions, earrings* and *necklaces*, all accented with a variety of materials ranging from jute twine to ribbon and beads made of metal, wood and/or glass. Each is truly a one-of-a-kind creation!

We also have some other items including *hand-woven wreaths, framed feather art* and an *amazing cat toy* made from a peacock feather that is sure to drive any cat wild! Puff loves it, and he's usually more fond of a nap than acting like a playful kitten!

One of the best parts of our online store is our ability to make custom orders. We can make custom gift baskets with a variety of items, and even ship them directly to the recipient for you. We can make feathered hair extensions to the length you desire, or make a custom piece of feather jewelry to compliment that special outfit.

Even if you don't want your farm purchases wrapped up for you, a custom order is a good way to go if buying more than one of our delicious items, as we can calculate the shipping for you more precisely to save you money. Local pickup is also a possibility if you contact us before purchase.

We hope you'll check it out the next time you're shopping online!

Here are some of the items we now have for sale in our online store!
Visit us 24/7 at www.etsy.com/shop/pleasantvalleyfarmpa



Feather Hair Extension made from Heritage Turkey Feathers



Peacock Feather Necklace



Thai Hot & Sweet Dipping Sauce



Hop Vine Wreath



Oktoberfest Beer Mustard



Original Feather Wall Art



Blueberry-Basil Vinegar



Carrot Cake Jam



Fantastic Peacock Feather Cat Toy Wand (approved by Puff & Itty Bit!)



Peacock Feather Earrings