

Jessica:

There has been a lot of growth and learning going on around the homestead! The little chicks are growing nicely, with several starting to get some tail feathers! I have planted most of my salad greens and made a chicken fence around the bed in order to keep the rogue chicken out. I had this very interesting hodgepodge netting/ scrap hardware cloth, rocks, garden décor, old tomato cages, and yard sign stakes keeping her out until I could get the fencing and carbon fiber stakes for a more respectable fence. I'll be planting my dock and herbs in there shortly.

Our newest skill is canning broth and raw chicken. I was able to find several pasture-raised chickens at the store for 50% off! While I wish we were able to buy locally, or even better produce our own meat, we are not able to right now and this was a great opportunity to practice canning and creating some much needed stock for our pantry. Our locally raised cow should be going to the butcher within the next month and then we will be able to can some beef as well!

Charlie:

Spring is quickly approaching and so is the first mow of the season. You put on your Saturday morning yard work clothes and go to start the mower just to find out that it won't start. Now what? The most common reason your mower won't start is because it has bad gas in it. Yes, gas goes bad. In fact most non-ethanol gas only lasts for 4-6 months in a sealed container and 10% ethanol gas lasts only 1-2 months. Although non-ethanol gas is better for small engines it will still oxidize with time and potentially clog your carburetor. This can be exacerbated when you add fresh fuel as it can cause the old gas to instantly gum up. Ethanol fuel is no better. Ethanol is an alcohol and alcohol is hydrophilic. This means that ethanol enriched fuel will absorb moisture from the air. When enough moisture is absorbed a phenomenon called phase separation occurs. At this point the absorbed water falls out of suspension with the fuel and will clog the carburetor. So before you start your mowers this season, be sure to drain your fuel system and add fresh non-ethanol gas to the tank. Then you'll be on your way to greener lawns.

Our Podcast is now on Spotify and Fountain! Be sure to rate and review us so others can find us as well. This week's podcast is available now and is about Communication and our journey with our son and his Apraxia of speech.

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