

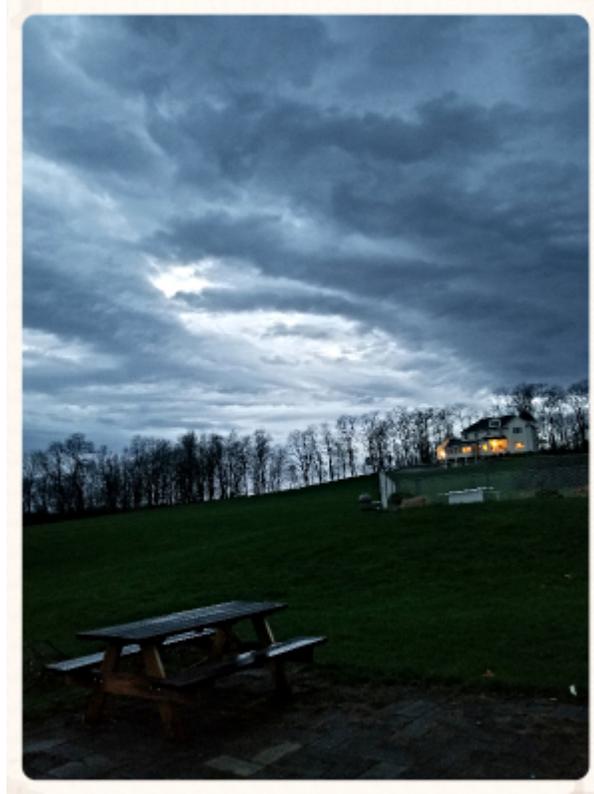


If you haven't been following us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), you missed a sad update on our homestead. We had our first run-in with predators and lost four of our chickens to a fox. That made us reevaluate our projects for the summer with completing our chicken run as a priority. Our kids cried, I cried and then used it as a life lesson. After explaining the cycle of life with a very real example, I am pleased to say that the older girls have become understanding and accepting of what happened. After all, Mrs. Fox was probably just finding food for her babies. She got a freebie this time, but we learned a valuable lesson from it!

Beyond our chicken tragedy, we've been making progress on some of our other projects. We finally got fallen trees cut down, split, and chipped. The brush has been almost completely removed, chipping of the branches and vines still needs to occur. Those vines are EVERYWHERE!!! I'm waiting for the day when we won't have to fight with them anymore.

This week our area also had its first thunderstorm of the season. Here in NY, thunderstorms are rarely destructive which makes them so much more enjoyable! We moved into our home in the fall, making this our first spring/summer to experience the wonders of nature. I'm always left feeling unfulfilled when a

quickly passing storm goes by. I could sit and watch storms all day! I would take rain and thunder over snow any day!



Mother's Day is this weekend and my hope is to relax and enjoy our hard work. And maybe convince the family to do some greenhouse hopping. A girl can dream!

If you're still looking for a gift for the mom in your life, consider giving her a gift she can use all summer. Our [Culinary Herb Companion Planting Guide](#) is just what you need to get her gardening experience started!



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