



News from Shaw Family Farm

Spring 2009 Vol. 1

A lot has been happening on the farm. The Greenhouse Raising Party was amazing! The response from the community has been overwhelming, and that day we met so many wonderful people and got a really good jump start on the greenhouse and the outdoor garden. [See the link to the photos on our homepage.](#)

Due to several factors, we have changed the date for our farm party. We will be sending an invitation for a date later in July, so watch your email.



Greenhouse Raising Party

The greenhouse construction is complete and



Finished Greenhouse

we have begun planting and transplanting. We will get our dining room back someday! The irrigation system should be complete early next week and we have the drip system ready to tie in, so we should be in good shape. The outdoor garden is sprouting with lots of produce planted during the Greenhouse Raising Party. The outdoor garden is comprised of 15 raised beds planted with a variety of berries and veggies. We installed an 8 foot deer/bear fence and already had a bear try to climb it to get to our compost, but the fence did a good job of keeping it out. There is just enough slack in the mesh to fold a bit under LOTS of weight.

The compost is in various stages of decomposition. We currently have 8 bins going, and should have lots of good stuff to put on the garden this fall. We have been importing lots of horse manure from various locations in Truckee. Most people are really happy to donate their manure, and we sure appreciate the free fertilizer.



Gage with his bee friends

The bees are very active. Gage has been checking them each week to make sure they are doing the proper bee things, and he has been quite pleased. John and I have accompanied him, and are getting to know lots about brooding, etc. Lots of things are starting to bloom, including the rabbit brush here, so they are in good shape for food. In addition, we have planted lots of flowering herbs, sweet peas and roses for them.

The birds are doing well. We have put the first group of **chickens** out on the grass in a “chicken tractor.” These are 8 by 10 foot pens covered with wire mesh. They stand 2 feet high with an open bottom allowing the chickens to forage in the grass. They peck around eating bugs and grass and acting like chickens. They are really fun to watch and we love the sounds they make. One evening, we were entertained with a keep away game. One of the birds found a feather, grabbed it in its beak and proceeded to run around taunting the others with it. They all chased around the pen for a while, and one managed to steal the feather away only to have it taken back.

We should have eggs by September or October, broilers at the end of July continuing throughout the summer. Let us know if you want to reserve a certain number of broilers or eggs. The **turkeys** are growing slowly. We have a variety of five heritage breeds this year, and are taking orders for holiday birds. These turkeys will be between 12 and 20 pounds by November. Shoot me an [email](#) if you want to **reserve one**, and let me know what weight range you want, small (12-15 lbs.), medium (15-18 lbs.), or large (18-20 lbs.). They will sell for \$4/pound. They are fed only organic feed and are truly free range birds able to forage for a good part of their diet. We will be raffling one off at the Slow Food Movie Night next Friday. The event is at For Goodness Sake in downtown Truckee on Friday, May 27 at 6:30 pm. They will be showing three short films you won't want to miss. Hope to see lots of you there.



Chickens in their “tractor”



Special farm visitor

We've had some special visitors this week. A pair of storks is nesting somewhere nearby. We have seen them in the meadow and flying overhead from the river.

We would love more visitors. Come by and check things out sometime.