

TWO NEW SCOOP TRACTORS!

This year both Martin and Daddy got new “scoop tractors.” Martin’s is a battery-powered Peg-Perego and Daddy’s is a 1967 JD 2510. They both have front loaders. We refer to the tractor as the middle-age back saver—for it can now dig, haul, and pull so we don’t have to!

Now comes the fun part—outfitting with implements—so far we’ve added a blade, potato digger, and large bale spear—mainly purchased at farm auctions. We’re getting closer to adding cattle to the farm mix.

We continue to work promoting and tidying up the farm. This year farm tours continue—this year the local elementary school, the Master’s students in sustainable agriculture from Iowa State, and students from Marshalltown Community College all visited. We were contacted by a

company providing bus tours and are hoping that may work out as well.

Next year we plan on offering more cut flower subscriptions and perhaps broker some products of other local farmers to try to build local food capacity. Mark also has some ideas for some farmer-oriented web sites that he hopes to bring online next year.

We’re going to try some season-extending structures next year. We’ve started getting some sod east of the berries ready for a larger hoophouse next year, but in the meantime we’re going to try some smaller structures in this year’s gardens.

You can check on daily updates from the farm and family at www.highhopesgardens.blogspot.com.



FROSTY

Early last winter was particularly beautiful with snow, fall, ice, and frost. Here’s only a couple of the pictures from around the farm. The rest of the winter was warm and dry.

June and July were abnormally dry, with virtually no rain in June before a normal late summer and fall.



A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF MARTIN



It’s been a big year for Martin. He got onto the school bus for the first time in August and a few weeks into the school year while cleaning out his room, he found a *Dick and Jane* book, opened it up and started reading! So far his favorite school activity was finger-painting with chocolate pudding.

He’s Grandma Jo’s beekeeping helper. For now, he holds the smoker and watches the work.

He likes to play with his train set, motorized toy tractor, gears, and until school started “Martin-Daddy” days—those MWFs he got to tag along with Dad all day long. So now Daddy’s down one helper.

He loves all the baby animals, especially the baby chicks and turkeys.



“Inquisitive” - my favorite picture of the year. Martin watching the hammers inside a piano.