

## Where to Find Us

### Wake Robin Farm

177 Brutus Rd., Jordan, 315-689-0034  
Our farm store is open 7 days a week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



[Larger Map & Directions](#)

### CNY Regional Market

2100 Park St., Syracuse

Find us here every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., year-round. We are in "A" shed from November thru April, and "C" shed from May thru October.

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### Local Farms, Foods & Friends

[A Few Good Bananas](#)

[Better Brittle](#)

[Cayuga Pumpkin Barn](#)

[Cobblestone Valley Farm](#)

[Creekside Meadows Farm](#)

[Daily Harvest Farm](#)

[Early Morning Farm](#)

[Elderberry Pond](#)

[Flour City Pasta](#)

[Greyrock Farm](#)

[Grindstone Farm](#)

[Meadowood Farms](#)

[Monarch Farm](#)

[Mu Mu Muesli](#)

[October Rose Farm](#)

[On the Farm Discovery Center](#)

[Owen Orchards](#)

[Stones Throw Farm](#)

[Syracuse Soapworks](#)

[Tim's Pumpkin Patch](#)

[Wyllie Fox Farm](#)

[4 Tin Fish Farm](#)



July 27, 2012

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### Watching and Waiting

We are addicted to the doppler radar. Bruce has lost hours of sleep watching rain go north, south, and east of us on the computer screen. If we could buy rain, we'd gladly pay the asking price. The hot, dry conditions have caught up with us -we've been watching and waiting for rain for weeks. We've



been watching and waiting for our pastures to grow back, for our hay to grow, for weeks. As anyone with a lawn knows, the grass is brown and dormant. There hasn't been any pasture for our cows to graze since June 28, so we have kept the cows out in our "sacrifice paddock", and have been feeding them hay during milkings. We are feeding from our winter supply right now, which is not good, but what is even scarier is that we don't know how much more hay there will be to cut this season. We got about a half inch of rain this week, and if we could catch another half inch, that would make a huge difference. We'd still be way behind on total precipitation for the season, but it would green things up and get them growing again. Since we don't have any control over it, we keep watching and waiting, along with everyone else. This season has been particularly tough on farmers, but we are doing everything we can to keep our stress in check, including a few farmer style vacations (see below).

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### Farmer Style Vacations

This time of year, customers often share stories with us about their summer vacations, which I love to hear and live vicariously through. It is almost as if I can see a bulb light up in their mind as they pause afterwards to ask, "Do you ever get a vacation?". Since we milk twice a day, we can't get away together for more than 12 hours, so "No, not really", I answer, "but we knew this was part of the deal when we got cows".

Bruce grew up on a dairy farm, so he knew from his childhood experience that cows keep you very close to home. Thankfully, there are many things to do within an hour drive of our farm, so we sneak away for "day-cations" whenever we can, and last month we tried "speed camping" - we have to break camp very early to get home for chores, but we really enjoy it. Also, just this week, we discovered a nearby lake where we can kayak with a bald eagle overhead!



We love what we do, and we live in a beautiful place, but with our only child approaching 13, we want him to know that life is not all about work. Actually, we have an ulterior motive: if we show Hugh how great



farm life can be, maybe he'll come back to run the farm, so Bruce and I can take a

real vacation!

### Plenty Glad

One bright spot on our farm this year is our large patch of Gladiola flowers ("Glads"). It is becoming a beautiful rainbow of color, and we love watching as each new variety joins the spectrum. We have grown many different varieties of flowers before, but never this many of one kind- 5000 in total!

What inspired us to plant this many Glads? Who knows - maybe we knew we were going to need them to cheer us up in the middle of this hot, dry summer? Actually, we are trying to inspire some "agri-peneurship" in our capable young farmer. We are partners with Hugh in this little business - sharing the expenses, labor, and profits. So far, his favorite part is cultivating the plants with his tractor - and I'll be using my marketing skills for our joint venture.

You will be seeing these beautiful stalks of color at our farm and market stall in coming weeks, and hopefully they will give you something to be glad about too!



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