

Angela Zimmerman



April/May 2024



Planting

Yesterday I received the gift of rabbit manure. It had been tempting me ever since I moved into the ag house here in Maximovca. The old collective farm across the road now houses a few ag enterprises, one being a rabbit farm. You can't see the rabbits, but on the end and the side of their barn there are manure unloaders, and a big pile of bunny poo. Perfect fertilizer.

So yesterday when I heard they were cleaning up the manure, I went over to look. The owner knew me (I begged for a few wheel-barrow loads already) and said that they were just moving the piles, and if I asked the guy with the tractor, he might give me a few loads.

I took a picture of the 6 bucket-loads of bunny honey sitting on the ½ of the garden that isn't planted yet. Then I started spreading the manure out over the ground.

Today I knew I needed to get some desk-work done, so I worked in the office until I felt fried, and went outside to finish spreading the manure. And just while finishing, a thunderstorm rolled through, the first rain we've had in weeks. It was as if God had planned it all.

My last newsletter talked about looking to God for direction when I'd prefer to take control of things. This newsletter should probably just focus on not drowning in the bunny manure. Amidst getting the greenhouse and irrigation up and running, having Herb and another dairy nutritionist, Jerry, here to visit for a few weeks, and preparing for three girls to come live with me for the summer, I have lost sight of God a bit. People call or things happen and quiet time gets the short end of the stick. But knowing and walking with God is the point of life.

So I must take a step back and reconnect. I feel challenged to take this Friday to spend in retreat, and trust that God will bring the rain and the bunny manure and the opportunities to plant Gospel seeds at the right time.

He is enough. He is the real source of joy. And to bring fruit, I must remain in the vine.

Praises:

- Two local guys were able to finish welding and enclose the greenhouse in time for planting.
- Herb and Jerry's visit—they were a blessing.
- The 2nd floor is almost ready for occupancy!

Prayer Requests:

- Three college ladies coming to work this summer on the farm
- Herb and the Board as they look at next steps for the ministry in Moldova and Kenya
- To find time to rest and recharge
- Stas and Aia as they engage the community



A couple farmers at a no-till discussion we held at the house



Herb and Jerry fix things. Here at a home for single moms.



Over 60 birthday cards—thank you all for the encouragement!