

JUST THE WAY LIFE GROWS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FARMER

BY ANNEMARIE SULLIVAN



submitted photo

8:00 AM

I wake up at different times throughout the seasons, so it varies, although I've never been an early riser. I work till sunset or later most days, so I like my mornings slower. I usually take about an hour or more in the morning to make a solid breakfast and espresso. This time is also when I write, work on my social media, marketing, make online orders for chicks, fencing, or supplies I cannot buy locally, check emails, plan out tasks and think about projects. It is the most relaxed part of my day, but it plays an important role in my overall schedule.



submitted photo

10:00 AM

By mid-morning, I am usually headed out to do my daily routine with the livestock. I fill water tanks, feed all 150+ mouths, check fence lines and check all the animals for healthy performance. On a perfect day, this job can take half an hour. Depending on the maintenance required, it can be multiple hours on other days.



submitted photo

11:00 AM

Around this point in the day, the routine goes out the window. Every day is different. Some days I will have errands that require leaving the farm—picking up feed or supplies, taking a tire in for repair, meetings, delivering or picking up products for the Sullifarm Shop, etc. If I do not need to run errands, I stay on the farm—moving fences, doing tractor work, gardening, addressing the needs of the animals, loading animals for processing or repairing something. If I'm not too pressed for time, I make lunch, but I work through lunch most days. It's a bad habit. If I have Sullifarm to Table events on the schedule, I also prepare and plan those.



photo by Tiffany Griffin

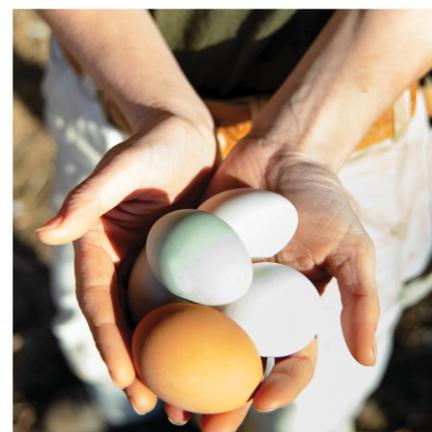


photo by Jayce Keil

3:00 PM

By this time on Sunday and Tuesday, I prepare the Sullifarm Shop, which is open from 4:00-6:00 pm twice a week. Washing eggs to sell, organizing dozens of meat cuts, stocking products and keeping the Sullifarm Shop up and running is an entire job by itself!



photo by Tiffany Griffin

6:00 PM

In the evenings, I usually catch up on things I did not get to earlier in the day and I finish up projects that need to be done before dark. I usually make something to eat in the late afternoon and then continue working outside until sunset. That means my days go longer in the summer and are shorter in the winter. ①

There are so many moving parts to running a farm and a business that it's hard to encompass them all. Every day is different, and every day there are trials you did not have the day before. It is challenging and evolving, and it is a beautiful and hard lifestyle. Still, I feel it should be mentioned that I maintain a level of freedom that is enviable. Once my animals are taken care of, I can go help a friend, go to the lake with my family or take a vacation in the middle of the week. Discipline and grit have led to my success, but a love and appreciation for life beyond my work keep me happy.