

February 27, 2020

Hi Folks,

Finally, a sunny and warm day in the Negev. I personally have never been in Israel where I had to wait for 3 days to see the sun. However, even with clouds it seems so much brighter than home on the south side of Lake Ontario.

We did see our first little groups of white storks near Ofakim today. The largest was around 100 and the 2 others much smaller. They were just having fun soaring up in the sky. Beautiful to watch. Does everyone remember what triggers the migration in birds? It is caused by an enzyme in their brain reacting to either the increasing sunlight in the northern hemisphere as summer comes on and the decreasing sunlight as the year moves toward winter. In Israel the passthrough can start as early as February 20th. However, it intensifies as the month of March loses its days. That is the same year after year because the sun is its master except for short delays based on bad weather.



Next, we have a picture of one of our traditional vineyards. At the end of a 12-month year it always has buds and leaves popping out. We have passed over 60 vineyards to date with no sign of any life emerging. Every intercalated year to date for us has had no grapes budding. That is a good pattern to follow.



As many of you know we have not entered an intercalated year with figs budding as well. Every normal 12-month year has had grapes and figs “blooming.” We will continue to watch for both on our stay here.

Some wanted a close up of the field from last year that qualified for a wavesheaf. Here is a picture of the most advanced in it. It is all within a week of each other in age development as it should be. No sheep have defiled it with stomping around and such.



We have some videos which are loaded with info if we can get them to Bridget and Brenda to put up. One is of sheep with some lambs. The other is of a field we are watching and following its maturing process. Some want a close up of a barley head with florets. It follows.



For you folks who consider domestic we have a video of the most advanced field we have found. Many heads are just coming out of the boot. Here is a picture of what most of the domestic barley looks like in the Negev. Notice no heads emerged yet, but lots of Tillering taking place because of all the water from above.

