Akha Farm's appeal is scheduled for April

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — More than a year after the first code violation citation was issued at Akha Farm in Falls City, the

court this spring for an appeal hearing.

city and farm will be back in

Matthew McDaniel is apwas convicted of last fall. The pretrial conference April 2 and a trial on April 29 in Polk County Circuit Court.

McDaniel was found guilty in Falls City Municipal Court on seven code violations Akha Farm owner from six citations issued from

March 18, 2014, to June 18, pealing code violations he 2014: illegal storage of tires, three counts of accumulation appeal is scheduled for a of objects (in this case, farming-related items such as hay compost), non-operational recreational vehicle, and non-caged chickens.

> Two counts of non-permitted accessory structures, one count of non-permitted sign

and two counts of noxious the farm is a commercial opvegetation were dismissed in the judgment issued in September. Each of the convictions came with a \$500 fine, for a total of \$3,500.

Akha Farm, located at 137 Sheldon Ave., also has been the subject of complaints from neighbors and other Falls City residents, who allege

eration running in a residential zone. However, the city has not addressed the possible zoning violation thus far.

In addition to the appeal, McDaniel said he plans to sue the city.

ing to put us out of business

"We will be seeking \$500,000 in damages for try-

and force us out of town," McDaniel said.

McDaniel said last week that he and his family — his wife, Michu, does most of the farming — have no plans on moving or closing the farm. He said they will again this year be selling produce grown on the farm at farmers markets in the area.

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