



## This Week's Word From the Farm

### Week of 10/6/08

#### What's In Your Box?

- Kale or Collard Greens
- Carrots
- Salad Mix
- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Eggplant
- Summer Squash
- Potatoes -Cranberry
- kGarlic
- Beets

#### Dear Friends,

With this week's box, the season comes to an end. We hope that you have enjoyed the experience of coming to the farm and watching the progress of the season. We also hope that you have enjoyed the food we have grown for you these many months. It has been a real pleasure to get to know those of you who are new to us, and a pleasure to see those who subscribed last year and joined us again this season.

Farming is a bit like childbirth: if you really remembered all the details, you just might not do it again. But, like having a child, there are aspects to farming that make it fulfilling and cause us to start contemplating the future—even before this season is over. Standing back from time to time and being able to look at what we've accomplished over these years, or seeing the beauty of this place reflected in your eyes, we find ourselves planning for next year.

We'll do much of the same, only with a commitment to doing it better. We'll add some crops, such as celery and winter squash. We'll increase the frequency of certain items like broccoli and melons, and try to decrease the frequency of some others, such as summer squash. We may also add raspberries and some variety of blackberries.

We're considering lengthening the farm season by starting earlier and continuing a little later into the fall with several fall crops like cauliflower, winter squash, Chinese cabbage and more. We're also likely to offer a winter subscription next year and provide you with locally grown veggies and fruit into December and then again during February, March and April.

We also hope to be able to offer other farmers' fruit, such as Bierwagen's peaches. We had made arrangements to do that this year, but the April freeze ended that prospect in one night.

We're planning to offer one in-town pick-up each week in Nevada City, probably mid-week.

We'll start accepting subscriptions for 2009 in February, and you'll know to go to our website to subscribe when you receive an email from us announcing that we're ready. If you have friends that you think might be interested in participating next season, refer them to our website and suggest that they get on our email list. That way, when we send out our announcement in February, they'll be notified as well.

This season was very successful for us in terms of the quantity and quality of our produce in your boxes. That's no small accomplishment in itself. What we still have not accomplished, however, is to stabilize the economics of this farm such that we are making a modest but acceptable wage for our work. It's difficult to work this hard and be so challenged to make it work financially.

There are many good reasons to continue farming. We like what we do and we believe that many aspects of industrial farming are not sustainable and require an alternative; community based farming is one such alternative. We want to provide good, nutritious and locally grown food for our community, and we want to preserve this place as a farm for our and future generations.

We'll do what we can to fulfill all those reasons, and we'll endeavor to continue providing you with the highest quality food that we can grow. What we need from you—especially in these early years of this farm—is to continue as subscribers, if you can. The more stable our subscriber base is the more we can focus on the work of farming and other aspects of our vision for this lovely place, such as establishing a conservation easement to preserve this farm as a working landscape in perpetuity.

We know that for some of you yearly participation is more of a commitment than you can make. We understand and thank you all the same. If you find that you cannot continue with us another season, we ask that you consider finding a replacement for yourself. That will go a long way towards ensuring the future of this farm in this community.

And so, in addition to taking home with you the last of this farm's produce for the season, take home with you our sincerest thanks and gratitude. We could not do this without you. And, more than anything, you are what has made this season a pleasure.

We hope to see you around town in the coming winter months. We hope that your winter is filled with family, friends and food. Most of all, we wish you peace.