

The Farm Weekly

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BLUEBIRDHILLS@VOYAGER.NET

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SEASON ENDS NEXT FRIDAY

Even though the temperatures are staying warm, next Friday will be the last pickup day for the 2007 CSA season. From my chair, it seems as though it has gone quickly, but Tim seems to think differently.

Please be prepared for a full box next week. We will do a final dispersal of all of the keepers so that you will have few things to enjoy for a bit longer.

We did have our first hint of cold weather last Saturday morning. Tim actually had to scrape frost off the windows as he left early to go to a bee conference in Troy. The frost was a surprise since there was no mention of the possibility in the weather forecast.

The mustard in your boxes was affected because we had not removed the row cover that keeps the bugs off. If the frost gets on the cover and is resting on the plant, it

does damage when normally it would not. I don't understand why this is the case, but you can see signs of it on the tips of the plants. You can just tear or cut that off and enjoy the rest.

As I am writing this, the temperature is over 70 and there is a tornado watch issued for our area. Consistent donning of shorts and shirt sleeves at this time of the year is just a bit disconcerting, but we know better than to complain for it won't be long and we will be wishing for warmer weather.

The insect pests are horrible now. Evidently there was not enough cold last Saturday to slow them down. Over grown gnats that I probably incorrectly call midge flies are all over your face when I go out to work with the alpacas.

There is a minor epidemic of what is being fondly called the "snots" all

across the United States affecting hundreds of farms even though they have had no alpacas move on or off the farm. Many of us are concluding that the flies are responsible for transmission. Fortunately it seems to be self limiting, but we wouldn't mind having a cold spell that knocks down the fly population to stop this.

Pie Pumpkins are the winter squash for the week. I highly recommend that you give these a try in place of the canned pumpkin that we all usually use. The same strategy for fixing other winter squash applies to these pumpkins.

You can soften them in the microwave after piercing and then cut them in half with a large knife. Once in half, scoop out the seeds and then place in the oven and bake until soft.

You then scoop out the meat and use it in your pumpkin bread or pie recipe. If you aren't in the mood for pie or bread, you can simply use the pumpkin as a regular winter squash. You could bake it cut and scooped as if it were being prepared for a jack-o-lantern and add some butter and brown sugar. Or instead of butter and sugar, stuff with something savory such as sausage stuffing or maybe some cooked wild rice that has been tossed with sautéed onions and peppers.

The carrots are the pot of gold at the end of this

year's rainbow. Carrots continue to be a challenge due to weed pressure. They are planted close together and it is very difficult to keep the weeds from overwhelming them. We think they are sweeter than most and hope that you enjoy them. Please take a close look below for the instructions for next Friday and have a safe weekend!

NEXT WEEK WE WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO BRING SOME BAGS OR A BASKET TO TAKE THEIR PRODUCE HOME IN SO THAT YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR BOXES BEHIND. TIM WILL STOP BY EACH LOCATION ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31ST TO RETRIEVE ALL OF YOUR BOXES FROM EACH PICKUP LOCATION. IF YOU FORGET TO BRING YOUR BOXES, PLEASE DO SO BY WEDNESDAY THANK YOU!

This Week's Box

Onions
Pie Pumpkin
Garlic
Green Peppers
Potatoes
Broccoli
Lettuce
Mustard
Eggplant
Carrots

Next Week

Lettuce
Onions
Spinach ?
Green Peppers
Potatoes
Assorted Winter Squash
Komatsuna
Kale
Broccoli