

The Farm Weekly

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LAST TOMATO HARVEST THIS WEEK

You may have noticed that the headline from last week is being used once again. Last week was a false alarm, but we really mean it this time! There were a few green and red tomatoes left on the vines, so all were picked and put in the boxes. Next week, the tomato trellising will be taken down and so we can say that these are definitely it, the last, finito!

The dry weather continues, but there is less to irrigate now and much of it is on drip irrigation so the plants are all doing pretty well. Lettuce is back in the boxes this week now that it has put some size on. Lettuce is fairly frost tolerant, so we hope to have it until the end of the season.

Speaking of the end of the season, so far it looks as though the last pickup will be October 24th. If we have some really cold, ie freezing weather, we may shorten things by one week,

but so far, this is the plan.

This week's boxes include some cilantro, an ingredient used in Mexican fare, especially salsa. It is sometimes referred to as Chinese parsley, although I do not remember ever tasting it in a Chinese dish. This is one of my least favorite herbs, in fact, I really dislike it. It turns out that this is a love it or hate it herb, with folks' tastebuds generally at one extreme or the other.

Cilantro is the plant bunch that has leaves that resemble parsley. It is mild enough, like basil, to be used fresh mixed in salads or salsas, or in casseroles and soups. Just be sure that everyone likes it before you go overboard with adding it to foods.

The greens seem to be getting a little bit milder now that the weather is cooling. I suppose that like radishes, the warmer the weather, the spicier

they get. We should be able to provide greens until the end of the season.

Just like everything else, the winter squash production has been very disappointing. The pie pumpkins seemed to do the best, but still not good. Last year we filled several of our bulk containers that hold hundreds of squash each, but this season none of the containers are full. Because of this the winter squash will only be distributed in the last two boxes, and since we don't have enough of any one variety, everyone will get something different.

We had a few CSA members visit last weekend for our alpaca farm days. The weather was a bit iffy on Saturday, but Sunday was wonderful and brought the most folks. Thanks to those who came to visit.

This week marked the launching of our new website. I have been plugging away at this, rather inconsistently, for the last year, so it was wonderful to finally get the dern thing up and running with just a few glitches. There is really not that much different in copy except that it definitely looks different and a bit more polished. The greatest change is to the alpaca pages, and the overall structure with the CSA having it's pages and the alpacas having theirs.

The newsletters are still there for you to access

and I am trying to keep up with getting them posted there, but don't think that you have gone to the wrong site since it looks different.

On the alpaca front, we have one straggler still to give birth, the last of the year. She is due to deliver in the next 2 or 3 weeks, and we are hoping for a nice, warm day. I am going to Indianapolis for my first apprenticeship to become an alpaca judge. I am hoping to learn a tremendous amount and am excited to have the opportunity to get my hands on so many alpacas and fleeces.

When I return, we will do the pasture shuffle moving animals back to the pastures adjacent to the barn and if it ever rains, we will reseed the pastures left open in hopes that we can have a nicer stand when spring comes.

So the busyness continues at Bluebird Hills! Enjoy your weekend!

This Week's Box

Japanese Greens
Lettuce
Onions
Potatoes
Tomatoes
Broccoli
Spinach
Cilantro
Peppers
Garlic

Next Week

Onions
Lettuce
Broccoli
Spinach
Potatoes
Broccoli
Greens
Peppers

**PLEASE
RETURN
YOUR
BOXES!**

**The season is ending
soon and you don't
want those taking up
space in your garage!**