

The Farm Weekly

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THE AUSSIES ARE HERE!

This evening 34 residents of Springfield's sister city Casey, Australia arrived by bus from the Columbus for a 10 day stay with several families in the area. The majority are students that will be competing in soccer and basketball against area teams.

We are happily hosting the Goodwin family, whose eldest son is staying with another family and competing in basketball. The youngest son, Rhys, and mum and dad, Lorraine and David are staying here with us. Lorraine and I bonded instantly sharing with each other that neither of us are good housekeepers, David is a volunteer with the fire department just as Tim was, and Rhys and Ian have found that they are both Lego Maniacs, so this should be a great 10 days!

Together we will be travelling to a Dayton Dragons game, watching the outdoor drama "Tecumseh", and visiting Kings Island. Mixed in between all of this are the games that the kids will be playing. Typically, with the demands of the

farm, we usually don't get out much, so this will be a forced and welcomed break.

The weather has been a challenge with the excessive rain. Tim was finally able to till this evening after packing the boxes, but now it is raining, so there will be no planting tomorrow. Luke hasn't been able to cultivate to eliminate the weeds for over a week, and unfortunately, just as the rain helps the crops to grow, it has the same effect on the weeds.

Weather will always be our biggest challenge. While tilling today, a task that allows the mind to wander, Tim calculated that the weeds this year have grown approximately 3.8 inches per week. While this sounds pretty boring, it demonstrates how just being delayed a few weeks can make cultivating a terrible challenge.

Tim did have enough time to get some of the squash transplanted today. I am assuming that he was referring to winter squash, but I am not sure.

You can look below for an updated version of the pickup times. Just to keep everyone on their toes, we have adjusted them yet again, making each pick up a little bit earlier. So take a look.

I want to thank everyone for the recommendations for preparing the fennel. The consensus was that cooking the fennel will dramatically lower its licorice-like flavor, while increasing its sweetness. Many just placed it in the oven with a little olive oil drizzled over it and baked it until slightly softened.

This week the boxes contain kohlrabi again, as well as lettuce and broccoli. The garlic harvest has begun, so there is a bulb in each box. The rest is hanging by its leaves in the barn, slowly curing.

The onions have started to form bulbs. They do this in response to the length of the day. Vidalia are short day onions that form a head when the days

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are shorter. This is why we can't grow Vidalias successfully here. The Walla Walla onions in your box this week are long day length onions, forming their bulbs when the days are longest. The Walla Walla is the northern counterpart to the Vidalia, and is just as sweet and mild. These would be great on the grill, especially on a skewer as part of a shish kabob. They are great in a heart healthy salad and also are wonderful as onion rings

In the clerical department, please set your email preferences to allow email from us. I have had a couple of emails rejected even when responding to posts from members with questions. I am slowly getting caught up with the book-keeping, just in time to receive your 3rd CSA payments.

Have a great Independence Day!

This Week's Box

Lettuce
Kohlrabi
Broccoli
Walla Walla Onions
Garlic
Squash?

Next Week

Onions
Lettuce
Squash
???

Yellow Springs 8:30

Fairborn 9:00

Beavercreek 10:00

Rahn Road 11:00

Bellbrook 11:30

Centerville 12:30

Lebanon 1:30

West Chester 2:00

Miamisburg 2:30

Rogge St. 3:00

Salem Ave. 3:30

Tipp City 4:00