

# The Farm Weekly

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BLUEBIRDHILLS@VOYAGER.NET

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## WEEKS WHERE DID JUNE AND JULY GO?

The lightening bugs are far less frequently seen illuminating the night now, and the cicadas song tells me we are into August, but that doesn't mean I have to be glad about it! Like you we have our unwritten list of things we want to enjoy during the kids' summer vacation time and it seems as though we barely get started on it. And I wouldn't be sad that summer was moving along so quickly if we weren't enjoying it.

So, in the next 20 days, we will try to make a bigger dent in the list and simultaneously shop to get ready for school along with everyone else. A Cincinnati Reds game will be at the top, as will a visit to see Tecumseh from start to finish.

Next week I will be traveling down to Nashville for a "Total Immersion Fleece Clinic" as part of my training to become an alpaca judge. For 4 days we will be evaluating both huacaya and suri fleeces to

train our hands and eyes for both the show ring and the fleece room. Alpacas can be judged either in full fleece (completely dressed), or their fleece can be evaluated once they are shorn.

The consequence of my being gone next week is that the newsletter will only be available on line on the website. We realize that this is an inconvenience to those who do not get on the internet, but we felt having it there was better than nothing, and I can publish from the hotel internet.

We have resolved the issues with our phone line and internet connection. We are now online at 52 kilobytes per second instead of 9. I felt like Ian's Russian Tortoise and would go do a chore as each page would slowly download.

The tomatoes are finally starting to produce and are appearing in your boxes along with one lone green pepper. Tim has been catching up on the

cultivation and mowing to interrupt weeds going to seed in the finished or fallow areas of the garden. Hannah is still stringing up the tomatoes as the vines continue to grow, hopefully their late start will translate into a late finish.

The last of the "spring" broccoli is in some of your boxes this week and a few folks may get some summer squash. The weeds really interfered with the first planting of squash since the wet weather kept Tim from being able to cultivate, but the second plantings should be coming along.

Tim transplanted lettuce on Monday late in the afternoon and then soaked it in well. I think he will go to late afternoon transplanting as long as we have this intense heat and sun.

One of our members wrote with a suggestion for saving garlic. If you can't use all of your garlic you can peel the cloves and place them in a bottle of good olive oil to hold them until you are ready to use them. This will also flavor the oil for use in salads and cooking. I will caution that in the recesses of my mind I have heard that you need to be careful and not store this for too long or it will spoil. Perhaps refrigeration would be in order although it wasn't mentioned.

The potatoes this week are freshly dug, so

**PLEASE TAKE ONLY ONE NEWSLETTER PER SHARE SO THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE!**

once again, please store these in the fridge, or dry them and store them in a very dry, dark place with some ventilation.

Trudy Mohr wanted me to tell folks that she is planning a pickup for their meats in south Dayton because of the interest that everyone showed. You can give her a call at 937-484-5950 for more details and perhaps to order. Remember when you buy locally, your dollars stay here. Support your local economy by eating at local restaurants instead of chains, and buy at locally owned shops. Chances are the food and the products will be better than what you get from the big chain stores anyway! And eat your vegetables! ☺

**THERE WILL BE NO PRINTED NEWSLETTERS NEXT WEEK 8/8/08. PLEASE GET YOURS FROM OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BLUEBIRDHILLS.COM**

### *This Week's Box*

Lettuce  
Broccoli ?  
Summer Squash ?  
Walla Walla Onions  
Green Pepper  
Potatoes  
Garlic  
Tomatoes  
Beets

### *Next Week*

Onions  
Lettuce  
Squash  
Tomatoes  
Potatoes