

# The Farm Weekly

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## SIGNS OF FALL ARE STARTING

It's been easy around the farm to pretend that summer is endless this year at the farm. The regular abundant rains have kept the grass green and the weeds growing making it feel and look more like June.

But the walnut trees are the first to whisper that fall is around the corner by turning yellow and dropping their leaves several weeks ahead of all the other trees. The honey locusts are often next and as the soy beans yellow in the fields, the corn shocks yellow and quickly dry into brown.

Usually mowing comes to a halt, but this week I had to again mow one of the fields that is fallow this year, and next week I will be mowing the pastures again, which I have never had to do this late in the season. Fortunately, driving the tractor to till or mow is one of my favorite chores. There are few jobs where you have such instantaneous results and

have the uninterrupted opportunity to solve all of the world's problems. And you can accomplish this out in the fresh air watching the barn and tree swallows dive and swoop to take advantage of any insects that take flight to escape the mower! Who needs a vacation?

Farm oddities this week include a great blue heron carcass lying under the high tension power lines. We think it may have been electrocuted as its wing tips each touched a line. Some of the eggplants have protruberances. Interestingly all of the females here think they look like noses while the males think that they resemble other parts of the anatomy.

Last of the oddities was a Corno de Toro pepper that was perfectly pierced by a blade of grass that had been flung by the mower. By the way, the Corno de Toro peppers are longer and pointed which makes sense since Corno de Toro means horn of the

bull.

Tim wanted me to write about the potatoes. The unusually wet weather this spring caused many of the potatoes to rot in the ground drastically affecting yields. The potatoes dug last week totaled around 400 pounds, but it took 12 100 foot rows to get that much.

This week Tim dug the Purple Majesty potatoes which are great fun to serve to the unsuspecting. Their purple skin and flesh makes for great conversation along with excellent flavor! Again the yields were way below expectations and Tim suspects that the same will be true for those that still need to be harvested.

This beautiful and unseasonably cool weather has helped the spinach to germinate. The first plantings failed, but the most recent appear to be doing better. Early in the week, Tim planted another round of spinach as well as some of the Japanese greens that do well in the cooler weather. These are cousins to spinach and are packed with good flavor and vitamins.

The tomatoes and their cousins the eggplants and peppers are continuing to do well, although as the weather cools their production will slow and come to a halt with the first frost. Hopefully that will be several weeks from now.

**PLEASE RETURN ANY BOXES YOU MAY HAVE. WE ARE MISSING CLOSE TO 300 BOXES! AT CLOSE TO \$2.00 PER BOX, THIS IS A SUBSTANTIAL SUM! PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING ANY THAT YOU HAVE BACK NEXT WEEK.**

**THANKS A BUNCH**

On the alpaca front, there is a new cria in the pasture with only one more left to birth.

I do want you all to know about the upcoming Wool Gathering behind Youngs Jersey Dairy, just north of Yellow Springs. There will be two big tents filled with close to 80 vendors selling all sorts of fiber related items from yarn to looms and spinning wheels. There are also kids crafts and we will have our alpacas there. It all happens on September 19th and 20th and there is no charge! So mark the date and we hope to see you there!

### *This Week's Box*

Lettuce  
Onions  
Summer Squash  
Egg Plant  
Potatoes  
Tomatoes  
Green Beans  
Peppers

### *Next Week*

Lettuce  
Onions  
Summer Squash?  
Peppers  
Tomatoes  
Garlic  
Spaghetti Squash?