

The Farm Weekly

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JACK O' LANTERN HARVEST BEGINS

As you approach the top of our hill by the barns, you will be greeted by a ring of carving pumpkins harvested Wednesday by Tim. I can assure you, the price per pumpkin is better than anything you will find out and about, so if you are shopping for pumpkins in preparation for the Halloween or Fall Festivals. Perhaps Tim was forced into action by the arrival of the first day of fall, but it really does look nice.

As nice as last week was, this week stunk. Rain each day has made life sloppy around here. The up side is that it still looks nice and green. The down side is that it's pretty hard to make preparations for our Alpaca Farm Days, and as I type, it is raining harder now than at any other time this week. Phooey

Your boxes hold two new items this week. The winter squash this go around is my favorite, "Delicata", which I am guessing is Italian. It is absolutely delicious and easy

to cook. It's small enough to cut in half lengthwise, scrape out the seeds and cook in the microwave until it is nice and soft. The flesh is similar to a sweet potato, but even better.

The second item are the greens that are held together with a rubber band. This vitamin loaded "green" can be eaten fresh in a salad, or cooked. When fresh, it has a peppery zip to it, adding a short lived bite to a salad. Cooking will remove the spiciness, and you can add this to soup, casserole, or just braise it like spinach, although it will cook down to almost nothing just like spinach does.

Speaking of spinach, four different plantings failed in August, so there will be no fall spinach this year. We aren't sure if it was the seed, the variety, or the conditions, but the result is the same.

The tomatoes are winding down. Day length and cooler weather put them into retirement. Next week, Tim hopes to harvest

all of the green tomatoes next week for you to enjoy as fried green tomatoes. It would not be unusual to have a frost by this time, killing the peppers and tomatoes, so we should consider ourselves lucky to be enjoying them so late in the season.

The Wool Gathering was great fun last weekend and it was nice to have several CSA members come up and introduce themselves. I confess to being terrible with names and faces, so please forgive me if I didn't recognize you. We sold a fair amount of yarn and I was pleased that the yarn I dyed sold well.

Since I had some yarn left over, I decided to warp a smaller loom I have and try my hand at weaving again. It's been over 30 years since I last warped a loom. I had forgotten how tedious the process is, so we shall see how it goes.

This weekend is our annual Alpaca Event here at the farm. While the focus is on the alpacas, you are welcome to go for a walk to see the vegetable fields, although there is less to see.

The change of the seasons is more apparent now. The fields are yellow with goldenrod, the trees are changing, and clouds of starlings and blackbirds are floating above the trees. The lane has been an interesting study this week. As the walnuts fall, squirrels,

chipmunks, and smaller birds are taking advantage of the nut cracking we do as we drive up or down the lane. The crows enjoy them as well, but the Red Tailed Hawks come in hopes of dining on a distracted squirrel. The Crows dislike the Red Tail and a battle ensues. A pair of Cooper Hawks are also flying through the walnuts hoping to catch a small mammal or bird.

The tree trimmers are out here to take down a couple of dead trees and precipitous limbs too close to the buildings and alpacas. Tim and I had talked about it a few weeks ago, for a large ash tree had died a year or two ago and was making me nervous. When a limb fell a few days ago, the project moved to the front burner. All of the logs generated will go to warming the greenhouse next January when we start the onions and other plants. It will make life for Tim a little easier this winter so that he doesn't have to bring in as much fire wood. That's all the news for this week!

This Week's Box

Lettuce
Onions
Delicata Squash
Tomatoes
Peppers
Potatoes
Green Wave Greens
Broccoli

Next Week

Lettuce
Onions
Potatoes
Peppers
Green Tomatoes?
Winter Squash
Kohlrabi
Greens

ALPACA FARM DAYS

**Saturday, 1 to 5
& Sunday, 1 to 5
September 26th & 27th
Bluebird Hills Farm
Come and meet the
alpacas and see where
your vegetables
come from!**