

# The Farm Weekly

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## ALPACA OPEN HOUSE THIS SUNDAY

Earlier this summer we had an open house with the CSA as the feature, so this Sunday, we are having our alpaca open house to give folks a chance to spend time with the alpacas. Members of the CSA are most welcome to attend. There will be little to see in the fields of veggies, but you are welcome to walk out and enjoy the day.

We will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoon and will have fresh Schulers doughnuts and locally produced apple cider. It looks as though it will be a beautiful day, a bit cooler, so more representative of the first days of fall than the warm weather we are enjoying now.

If you can't make it to the open house, but want to take a look at alpacas, there is an alpaca show at the Champion Center at the Clark County fairgrounds next weekend, October 2nd and 3rd. It is free to the

public, so come one come all!

The winter squash harvest continues and the boxes this week contain acorn squash. Like all winter squash, these can keep for long into the winter. Their hard flesh demands care when cutting, so please be very careful. Acorn squash are popular for stuffing after you have halved them and hollowed out the seeds.

Dressing that is similar to what is placed in a turkey at Thanksgiving is an excellent base for stuffing squash, but often folks will add ground sausage to the mix, or some extra vegetables. It is hard to make a mistake with the ingredients, but if you are adding meat to the stuffing, be sure to cook it long enough to make it safe for consumption.

After packing the boxes today, Marco, Pedro and Hanter went to the bot-

tom filed to pick the remaining squash. The deer have been spotted in that field, munching on the squash leaves, and it won't be long before they start nibbling on the orbs themselves, so it is time to get all of the ripe squash outta there.

The warm weather is slowing down the growth of the spinach and the broccoli. These crops prefer cooler weather, so it will be a couple of weeks before they find their way to the boxes. On the other hand the lettuce seems to be very pleased with things. Actually, it should be since Tim has been irrigating it every few days.

The storm that moved through on Wednesday afternoon shook us up a bit. I was up at the barn and it was as though someone flipped a switch. Tim was plowing out in the fields while I was tending the alpacas and the guys were washing veggies.

I quickly opened our barn doors to keep them from being torn off the barn. When the rain began to pelt me, I ran for cover and watched the girls running for cover under the roof over a feed bunker. Suddenly a gust grabbed an 8 foot square section of the bunker roof and set it flying barely clearing the heads of 6 of the girls. A corner of the roof hit the ground and it flipped over the fence narrowly missing

a couple more of the alpacas before it was stopped by some brush and trees.

As I watched in amazement, Marco asked if he should go rescue Tim from the field. Off he went in the truck to fetch him and by the time he arrived, the rain and wind had all but come to a stop.

The night before was absolutely gorgeous, and when our oldest claimed the TV at 10:00 PM, I decided the full moon, 80 degree weather, and soft breeze warranted a walk with the dogs out to the fields. There won't be many more of those opportunities this year.

It was great to see some of you at the Wool Gathering in Yellow Springs. It was a banner festival with over 5000 folks attending on Saturday and around 3000 estimated for Sunday.

Honey production is on hold. We will have some for sale at the alpaca open house, but Tim ran out of labels and the new batch have not come in yet. Once they arrive, bottling will resume and hopefully completed for the year. Tim still has about 5 gallons to bottle up. Some of you have asked if we could bring some to the pickup locations, but unfortunately we cannot, so you will just have to make a trip up here to the farm to make your purchase!

Have an excellent first weekend of fall!

### *This Week's Box*

Onions  
Potatoes  
Lettuce  
Summer Squash  
Green Peppers  
Tomatoes  
Cucumbers?  
Acorn Squash  
Garlic

### *Next Week*

Lettuce  
Potatoes  
Onions  
Peppers  
Tomatoes ?  
Summer Squash ?  
Greens  
Winter Squash