

# The Farm Weekly

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## 2010 CSA SEASON ENDS TODAY

It's hard to believe that 12 years of being a CSA have rocketed past us, and that another year is under out belts. Relative to seasons of the past, we would rank this one as average or slightly above average. As with every year, certain things do very well and others flop pathetically. Such is the life of a farmer. Some years are up, and some are down, most are inbetween.

The Mexicans will be climbing onto an airplane on Saturday for their trip home, anxious to see their spouses and children. I am sure it has been a long 6 months for them, and over the last few weeks the spring in their step has definitely increased.

Special purchases have been made, and in some cases dismantled, such as the small bicycle Hanter purchased for his daughter. They have taken it apart to distribute the

pieces among their luggage. A big jug of Red Cell, a vitamin liquid commonly used for horses and other livestock, is also going to get packed into a suitcase.

Almost all of their money has been wired home every other week via a small grocery on the south side of Springfield. Any cash they carry back to Mexico with them will be hidden away in the soles of shoes, or sewn into their clothes so that it doesn't get stolen by the customs police as they enter Mexico. This is another reminder of how different life is for them when they get back to their home country.

We will definitely miss them, although Tim will appreciate not having to work through the day in broken Spanish. Each year Tim's Spanish improves, while their English seems to get worse! Hopefully, late next spring, Tim will be able to get back to improving his

Spanish again with the same 3 tutors.

The final boxes are packed to the brim. Broccoli finally made its appearance in spite of the late summer flea beetle attack. There still wasn't much, for the warm weather has kept it from growing and going to flower. We were hoping that the fall cabbage would have grown enough to accompany the broccoli, but again, the weather has defeated it.

A bag of garlic should keep you content for a couple of months. You need to store it in a cool, dark place to keep it from either sprouting, or going bad. The garlic and potatoes were two of our success stories this season.

The next several weeks will be spent putting the fields to bed. Hanter, Pedro and Marco have been planting garlic for next season, and yesterday and today have worked on getting all of the tomato stakes down along with all of the twine Hannah worked so many hours to put around each vine to keep the plants upright.

The light frosts this past week foretell of the cold and snow to come, and soon alpacas will have to be shifted around to allow access to the barn for shelter from the winter rain, snow, wind, and cold. I am going to have to rig up some temporary tarps to help provide additional shel-

**THIS IS THE LAST BOX. PLEASE BRING ALL OF THE CSA BOXES BACK TO YOUR PICKUP LOCATION BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH. TIM WILL BE PICKING THEM UP ON WEDNESDAY THE 27TH.**

ter for the boys who aren't allowed in the barn.

The drought has demanded that we use some of the hay that we laid up to use a few months from now, so we will have to get a few more tons to be sure we have enough to hold them until next spring.

Tim will spend a good part of the winter working on tractors and getting firewood to keep the greenhouse warm enough for starting seeds in late January. There really is no break except for a day or two here and there for the holidays. Just as with the summer months, his workdays will keep with the rising and setting of the sun, but with a lot of extra clothing!

Thanks so much for participating in our CSA this year. We hope that you have been satisfied. If you have any suggestions to improve our program, please drop us an email, or a note. We wish you and your's the best for the coming months and hope to have you back next year. God's Peace to you.

### *This Week's Box*

Onions  
Potatoes  
Lettuce  
Broccoli  
Green Peppers  
Vitamin Green  
Assorted Winter  
Squash  
Garlic  
Spinach

### *Next Week*

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