

The Farm Weekly

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The dry heat continues. Rain has fallen to the north, south, east and west of us. We look at the radar on our most frequently watched satellite station, the Weather Channel, with less frustration, for moving irrigation is an accepted part of the routine.

The farm has had less than an inch since July 1st. Minimally most crops require an inch per week, and the stress on the plants is becoming more apparent. Even with irrigation, the tomatoes are producing less. Two weeks ago, the vines produced more than a ton (2000 pounds) of fruit. This week it looks as though the yield will be half that.

So at least for now, we will have to rescind our offer of extra tomatoes. There should still be half a dozen in each box for this week, but we're a little wary of what to anticipate over the next month.

I have to print a retraction in the newsletter this week. I was gently corrected by my better half that the transplanter had not been put away. You see, we have two, one is for the larger plants such as melons, tomatoes, peppers and such. It is used with the black plastic mulch, and this was the transplanter that was mothballed for the fall and winter.

The transplanter used for the lettuce is still in use, and will be for another two weeks or so. There are still a few batches of lettuce left. I will work on being more accurate in the future,

and my apologies to all, including my boss!

And now for my soapbox. Springfield is in the midst of two major construction projects. One is on the west side, the other is on the east. We are about to be blessed with two Wal-Mart Super Centers! For myself these symbolize the top of the food chain in retail marketing. SHARKS.

As you shop and make purchases in your part of the Miami Valley, ask yourselves where the profits of your purchases go.

At the annual meeting for the Springfield Foundation a year or two ago, I looked around the room of people gathered there. The vast majority of folks had worked most of their lives in our community, running or involved in small businesses here such as restaurants, office supply stores, manufacturing, etc.

These men and women represented the core of everything good about our community, having volunteered not only their financial support for numerous charitable efforts throughout the area, but also their time, which often was, in reality, more valuable.

I couldn't help but wonder where their replacements would come from as they retired. Who would intercede with similar energy, commitment, and resolve to make our community a better place? It certainly won't be the executives from Wal-Mart, Office Max, or Applebee's, who likely don't even know where Springfield is.

The next time you go to make a purchase, perhaps you can take a look at the big picture and instead of saving a few dollars at one of the "Big Guys", consider supporting the business whose owner supports different activities in your community.

By shifting our purchases to super stores and franchise restaurants, we are helping to put these valuable members of our communities out of business, sending our dollars out of town and encouraging the loss of owners and

upper level management who are the backbone of our communities.

The business owner who sits on the local school board, the baker whose kids attend your school and helps with soccer, the restaurant that sponsored your child's Little League team, all lost. You may pay a bit more, but think about how you are helping keep an asset in your community.

REMINDER...

***Pickups are between 3:00 and 6:00, show up early at your own risk!**

***Please be careful opening and collapsing your boxes. We are getting back several that have been ruined.**

"ABOUT" SLAW

From member Cathy B.

About 1/2 large head of cabbage, chopped

2 organic red delicious apples, chopped

About 1/2 to 2/3 bottle Annie's Naturals Cowgirl Ranch Dressing

Mix it all together and enjoy! I don't know how much it makes because we were sampling out of the bowl.

Annie's Natural Dressings are available at Kroger, Trader Joe's, and any health food store.

This Week's Box

Lettuce
Onions
Peppers
Summer Squash
Tomatoes
Melon
Potatoes

Next Week

Onions
Summer Squash
Green Peppers
Lettuce (?)
Tomatoes
Potatoes
Basil