

The Farm Weekly

LAST BOX OF THE SEASON

The season is finally coming to an end, but the tomatoes and peppers have not figured that out yet. It's been a mixed up season, with grass growing better now than in May, the peppers producing more than in August, and the snow falling before we have even had a frost.

The weather has definitely taken a turn for the worse. Everyone here is wet and miserable tonight with the cold, blowing rain. Since fall has taken a while to arrive, we feel less prepared and can't quite seem to get into the cold weather mode. We have no hay on hand, nor straw for bedding, but we did get the female alpacas moved last Friday into winter quarters with barn and lush pasture.

Marco, Pedro, and Hanter are making preparations to return to Mexico. They are leaving this Saturday, bright and early. Some of the things Tim hoped to have them do before departing may turn into one man jobs. Some of the garlic still needs to be planted, the tomato trellises need to come down, and plastic mulch under the peppers has to be pulled up.

How about those tomatoes and peppers! We are still amazed by the production. Over 500 pounds of tomatoes were picked last week. This will probably be one of those things we talk about when older, grayer, and confined to our rocking chairs.

After New Years ,

the application information will be mailed to everyone. An application will also be on the website for you to use if that is more convenient, and the referral discount will exist again for members to take advantage of.

Tim is considering making a major change to the pickup schedule. We are thinking of going to a single pickup day on Saturdays. This would create numerous efficiencies on the farm, would save gas, and lessen wear and tear on our delivery truck. It would require us to purchase a larger truck, but we are at the point where that is going to be a necessary expense anyway.

Our thought is that this would be more convenient for our customers since most have Saturdays off. Additionally, if you couldn't manage to pick up your box, it would be easier to find someone who could. Pickup times would begin in the morning with staggered starts as the delivery truck makes its way south and west.

We would like to know how you feel about this. If you feel strongly one way or another, please let us know. For that matter, if you have any comments, ideas, or suggestions, please drop us an email or send us a note.

Thanks so much for being a part of the CSA this year. We truly appreciate the support you have shown to us and hope you have a great winter.

Portuguese Kale Soup from member Marjo V.P.

- 1 pound Kale
- 1 cup chopped Onions
- ½ cup chopped Carrots
- 1½ cup cooked Kidney beans
- 1 lb new Potatoes washed and cut in half
- 1 lb. Smoked Sausage (use pre-cooked, robust) cut into ½ slices
- 2 qt. Chicken or Beef Broth
- 3 lb. seeded and chopped Tomatoes
- 2 tsp chopped Garlic
- 2 Tbsp. Olive Oil
- 2 Tbsp. Butter

Strip the leaves from the kale stems and cut diagonally into wide slices, making 6 to 8 cups loosely packed. In large pot sauté onions, carrots, & garlic in oil & butter until softened, about 5 min. Add broth and potatoes and simmer for 15 minutes until potatoes are softened. Mash some of the potatoes against the side of the pot. Stir in tomatoes and kidney beans and simmer 10-15 min. Add kale and sausage and cook 5 to 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and fresh ground pepper. Serves 6 to 8.

The season ends this week!

MANY BOXES ARE STILL MISSING!

**If You Have Forgotten Your Boxes,
Please Bring Them To Your Pickup
Location In The Next Day Or Two, Or
You Will Have To Return Them To
The Farm In Springfield**

This Week's Box

- Lettuce
- Kale
- Spinach
- Peppers
- Tomatoes
- Pie Pumpkins
- Potatoes
- Carrots
- Assorted Squash

Next Week

- Nuttin'
- At
- All

Dear Friends in Centerville,

It has come to our attention that someone has been going through boxes and removing vegetables from some of them. We are hoping (with a fair amount of skepticism) that this is just someone who does not know any better, perhaps a substitute picker upper.

Members have seen someone going through the boxes, and others have noticed over the summer, that they have had some things missing from their boxes that were listed in the newsletter to be inside.

If you feel that you are missing any items from your box, please contact us immediately by email or telephone (listed below).

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE ONLY TO TAKE WHAT IS IN YOUR BOX. YOU ARE NOT TO OPEN ANY OTHER BOXES. ALL OF THEM ARE PACKED WITH THE SAME ITEMS. IF YOU ARE SEEN DOING THIS, IT WILL BE ASSUMED THAT YOU ARE STEALING.

It is our sincere hope that this will not happen again and would appreciate all members helping us to prevent it. For those of you who share a share, please be sure to give this information to your co-shareholders. As always, do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact info is also on the front of every newsletter.

Thanks for your help with this, and sorry to be so grumpy, but this is terribly upsetting to Tim and I.

937-206-3936 (cell)

937-390-6127

bluebirdhills@voyager.net