

# The Farm Weekly

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## IRRIGATION IS RUNNING

While many of you to the north and south of Springfield have been inundated with rain, the farm has received less than an inch for the last 2 or 3 weeks. Since most crops require at least an inch per week, Tim has set up the pipes and prepped and moved the sprinkler. We also use drip tape under the rows where we use black plastic mulch to control weeds around squash, melons, and cucumbers, so all of this has to be connected as well.

Also this week, Tim worked on preparing ground for the fall crops to be transplanted into. Most of these areas have fairly high weeds that require a 3 step process with deep cultivation, and then two separate tillings about 2 weeks apart.

We don't have any alien vegetables this week in the boxes. We hope you enjoyed the kohlrabi last week, or at least gave it a try. Everything should be familiar to you.

The small onions are early Walla Walla on-

ions, the northern equivalent of the Vidalia. These would be great on a shish kabob roasted on a charcoal fire.

Our broccoli is always popular and Tim is very pleased with this batch. Spinach is still holding and we are hoping for some more next week as long as the weather does not get too warm, for it will bolt then, becoming bitter.

We have a cherry tomato plant in your box. Almost everyone loves cherry tomatoes, but from the growers perspective they are a nightmare. It is very tedious to harvest them and they usually split before making it to market. We think they are an essential ingredient to a summer salad, so we thought you would appreciate having them to enjoy all summer long.

The variety is Blondkopfchen which translates to "Little Blond Girl." They are a yellow type that is touted as being super sweet and grows in clusters. These will do best transplanted directly into



Ursula

Gallagher

the garden, but will also produce fairly well if placed in a pot, but make it a large one! This is an indeterminate variety which means it will continue to grow and bear fruit until the first frost. Use fertile soil and keep the soil damp and these will treat you well!

The newest excitement here is our newest security guards that arrived this Wednesday. We have been hearing and seeing coyotes here. If the fire department sirens go off, the coyotes feel obligated to sing along. We are a bit odd in that we do not mind the coyotes and appreciate their ability to help control some of the vermin.

The drawback to coyotes is that they can be a threat to the alpacas. One of the best deterrents to any predator are breeds of dogs known as Livestock Guardian Dogs or LGDs, and there are several types, most of which originate from Europe. These two are Great Pyrenees and at 12 weeks they are already

weighing in at 25 lbs. Just as border collies have instincts for herding, Great Pyrs and other LGDs have the instinct for guarding flocks and have been used to do this for thousands of years. They will stay with the alpacas 100% of the time, bonding with them, treating them as their charges, and working as a team to patrol the pastures.

Their names are Ursula and Gallagher and for right now, until the alpacas get used to them and aren't threatened by them, they will stay safely in the barn, coming out only when accompanied by one of us, so that some over protective mother doesn't try to stomp one to death. Once Gallagher reaches his projected size of 125 lbs. I don't think this will be a problem.

That's the news for this week. As always if you have questions or ideas let us know! Enjoy your first official days of summer!

### *This Week's Box*

Lettuce  
Early Onions  
Broccoli  
Cherry Tomato Plant  
Greek Oregano  
Early Garlic

### *Next Week*

Lettuce  
?Spinach  
Onions  
?Chinese Cabbage  
Kohlrabi