



Newsletter, Oct. 20 – Oct. 23, 2015

Volume 12, Issue 20

Farm News

We have harvested almost all the vegetables out in the fields. The fall crop storage in our barn is emptying out. Frost has arrived, and there is a fire in our woodstove: this is our last newsletter for the 2015 growing season.

We had a very good growing season, despite an almost six week period without rain in the beginning of the season, and another stretch of very dry weather late August into early September. Most noticeably, the potato yields were affected by the lack of rain, but otherwise most crops met our expectations. It's always a pleasant surprise to see that a combination of careful planning, lots of experience, and a diversified crop selection results in outstanding and abundant shares!

Thank you! As we decided years ago to operate our farm almost exclusively as a CSA, our farming operation is truly carried by you and the other CSA members. Without your support, we would not be able to do what we like best: operating one of the best CSAs in the Capital District. We hope you're enjoying the fruits of our labor – and we hope you will continue to support our farm in the years to come.

End-of-season questionnaire. The winter is the time when we review and update our farm plan. We've always asked for your opinions in our end-of-season questionnaire – the sweet potato trail was the result of your input from last year. We'll be sending you a link by email by the upcoming weekend. We really value your opinions, and participating in this 5 minute survey is time well spent towards making our 2016 CSA season even better.

Early CSA membership renewal. If you have not yet returned the 2016 membership form, there's still time to do yourself and your farmers a great favor. It will ensure your participation in next year's CSA at the site of your first preference. And your support helps the farm to cover early season expenses for labor, greenhouse fuel, seeds and more. Don't forget about the benefits of our membership referral program: we love to grow for your friends!

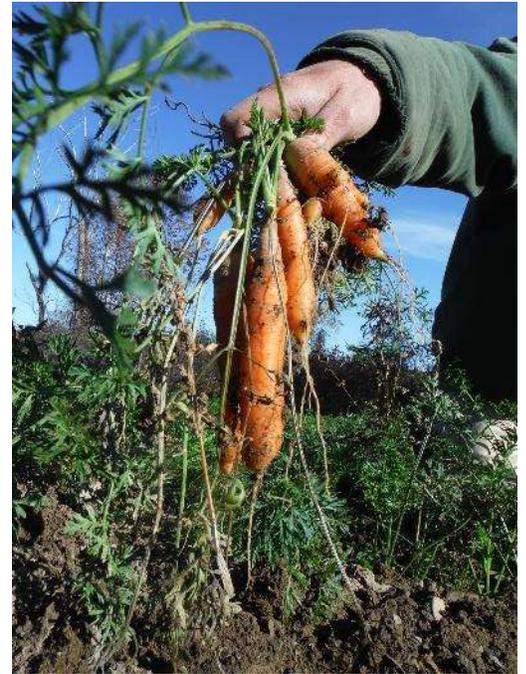
We're looking forward to growing again for you next year – meanwhile, enjoy this week's bounty, your farmers,

Raymond Et Sara

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In this week's full share:

Carnival Winter Squash
Nantes Carrots
Yellow Onions
Garlic
Potatoes
Sweet Potatoes (this is a first year experiment at growing this crop)

And in rotation:
Lettuce
Cabbage



Last chance! What's still in the U-Pick:

Cilantro
Chives
Parsley
Oregano
Sage
Marjoram
Thyme

Recipe for a Successful CSA from a Farmer's Perspective

Ingredients include Members who ...

- **eat their vegetables** ... membership means changing diets for the better.
- **visit their farm** ... get to know your farm and U-pick ... it's yours!
- **tell their friends** ... although we have a very high member retention rate, each year a portion of the members leave the CSA. Because of that, we always need new members. Most people won't commit without hearing first-hand from people they trust that *this CSA works for its members*.
- **reduce their farmer's winter stress!** Sign up early for next season. This helps us establish our farm plan and figure the extent of our outreach activities. It also helps us maintain the economic viability of this great family farm, because your deposit covers labor, seed, and other early season expenses. Your early commitment reduces our off-season stress more than we can say here ... Thank you!
- **express themselves** ... telling your farmers what you like or want to see changed about the CSA does make a difference. We've been adjusting our plans to our member needs for the last 12 years, and are proud of the results!



*Pictures: first page: harvesting carrots. Second page top: last weeks' CSA share. Bottom: Sara and Raymond pulling carrots
This page: "happy Halloween" (all pictures by Johanna)*



Directions to the farm: From Altamont: Follow Rte. 146 towards Gallupville. Approximately 10 miles out of Altamont, make a right on "Larry Hill". (*) Go up for ¼ mile (there is a blue sided house on your left). Just past the blue house, you'll find Fox Creek Farm Road on your left going in the woods. Follow this road to the end. From Rt. 443: Turn on 146 in Gallupville for approximately 2 miles. Make a left on "Larry Hill". Follow directions as above (starting at (*)).

From Schenectady: take Rt. 7 towards Duaneburg. At the light in Quaker Street, make a left on Darby Hill, then make your first right on Gallupville Road. When you cross the Schoharie/Schenectady County line, Gallupville Road turns into Larry Hill. Continue on Larry Hill until you can make a right on Fox Creek Farm Road. Follow to end (if you've gotten to Rt. 146 off Larry Hill, you have gone ¼ mile too far. Turn around and find Fox Creek Farm Road on your left).