

Newsletter, Oct. 21 – Oct. 24, 2014

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Farm News

This is the last Fox Creek Farm CSA newsletter for the 2015 growing season. We've almost harvested all the crops that were out in the fields, and the supply of storage crops in our barns is being reduced by filling up your shares. We think we had an outstanding growing season, despite a relatively late start because of the very long and very cold winter. Thanks to our extensive irrigation system we did well during this remarkably dry fall as well. The season brought no untimely frosts, no torrential rains, no freak snows (knock on wood, please). You've been witnessing the effects of this smooth weather combined with careful planning and lots of experience: 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.

Winter plans. Next week, we'll be delivering the winter storage shares (if you signed up for this, you should have received a reminder email), and our farming season will truly come to an end. It gives us an opportunity to start the work on our propagation greenhouse, so by next spring we can start all transplants right here on-site. We'll also break ground for our farmworker housing. This winter we hope to build the foundation and first floor – and continue this project through *next* winter. By doing most of the work ourselves, we'll be able to keep the construction costs within reason, which enables us to keep our CSA share prices in check!

End-of-season questionnaire. The winter is also the time when we review and update our farm plan. We've always asked for your opinions in our end-of-season questionnaire, but this year will be the first time that this questionnaire will be on-line. 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 2015 CSA season even better.

Early CSA membership renewal. If you have not yet returned the 2015 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 & Sara

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Pictures: top – hauling straw to cover the 2015 crop of garlic. Center – harvesting carrots – bottom – Angelica and Ana Clara unloading spinach.

In this week's full share:

Winter Squash or Pumpkin
Brussels Sprouts
Nantes Carrots
Yellow Onions
Garlic
Potatoes

And in rotation:

Spinach
Kale
Swiss Chard

Please note that Medium share members will be getting a variation on these items.



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

Cilantro
Chives
Parsley
Oregano
Sage
Marjoram
Thyme
Lemongrass

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 11 years, and are proud of the results!



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).

*From our unlicensed farm truck driver: “Happy Halloween!”
(picture by Johanna)*

