



Newsletter, September 14- 19, 2017

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Farm News

We hiked the cliffs above Kings Creek, gleaned 30 pounds of beans, and had another great potluck lunch, topped off with S'mores and an up-close visit with Tex, our Percheron. Although the scheduling of the first Farm Fun Day was probably not the best for most, we think everyone that came over to the farm greatly enjoyed themselves.

Garlic Barter. We have started packing up the garlic barter for the help with the harvest in July. If you were out on the farm helping with the harvest, look out for your share of the crop at your pick-up site. Please remember that although we are aggressively culling diseased garlic, it is impossible to do a perfect job. As a result, some of the bulbs in the barter shares could be showing signs of a starting botrytis infection. Our apologies for that.

About this growing season and the next ... By now we can surely say that this was the CSA season with the shortest amount of summer weather yet. Even with our steady farm crew, our years of growing experience, and reliable equipment, it is hard to counter the effects of vast amount of precipitation in the early season. Put on top of that the unusual low temperatures, and you can see that this has been a challenging farming season. In that perspective, it is comforting to see that we are still able to harvest enough to make for substantial CSA shares.

As we are turning under some earlier plantings to make space for cover crops, we are also working on our 2018 CSA proposal. For sure, a small family farm cannot put "all its eggs in one basket," as confirmed with this difficult season. Spreading the risk is a much better idea, and how to do that more than with a very diverse crop, grown for an equally diverse CSA membership? We've got some exciting ideas that we think could make the Fox Creek Farm CSA experience even better in 2018. We'd welcome your suggestions!

Still lots of flowers, herbs, and tomatoes in the U-pick. We continue to harvest this season's bounty. To creative culinary adventures,

Your farmers,

Raymond & Sara

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In this week's full share:

Garlic, Tomatoes. *And* in rotation to the sites as available; **Sweet Corn, Mesclun, Lettuce, Chantenay Carrots, Green Beans, Swiss Chard, Peppers, Eggplant, Kale, Basil, Parsley, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Onions and New Potatoes**

RECIPE: Spicy Tomato Jam

This makes for a nice spread to go with a fresh baguette and some brie (or another cheese). Or use it as a relish!

Ingredients:

3 red tomatoes
1 onion
3 cloves of garlic
One hot pepper
1 TSP olive oil
½ cup of (brown) sugar
Salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

Dice tomatoes and onions, mince the garlic and hot pepper. Heat olive oil in either a large sauce pan or heavy skillet (the Skillet has a larger evaporative surface, which makes the cooking down faster). Add the onions until translucent, then add the tomatoes, garlic and hot pepper. When the liquids from the tomatoes release, add the sugar (brown sugar makes for a darker jam). Boil down, stirring frequently, until the jam substantially thickens. Adjust seasoning with ground black pepper and salt if desired.



Pictures: Another perspective on flowers in the U-Pick, and Sara harvesting peppers and eggplant (pictures by Johanna). On this page, the gleaning crew at our Farm Fun Day (picture by John Sagendorf)

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).