



May 2015 Farm Newsletter

Hello! We hope this newsletter finds you well. Thank you for joining the CSA this year! We are excited to be embarking on another great year of growing veggies for this wonderful community.

A few important notices: Firstly, due to the unusual spring weather we've had this year we need to move the start date for share pick-ups to the second week of June. This means that if you signed up for Tuesday/Wednesday pick-ups, your first share will be Tuesday June 9th/Wednesday June 10th. If you signed up for the Friday/Saturday pick-up, your first share will be Friday June 12th/Saturday June 13th. We will still provide 25 full weeks of produce; the season is simply being moved



forward one week. So, the final week will now be the last week of November. We are very sorry if this presents any inconvenience. **Work share members:** we are still beginning the work crew schedule first week of June. Steve will contact the work shares directly.

Pick-ups are fairly straight-forward. You come to the farm during your pick-up day. For Tuesday/Wednesday people, this is from 12:00 noon on Tuesday through 12:00 noon on Wednesday. For Friday/Saturday people, it is from 12:00 noon on Friday through 12:00 noon on Saturday. When you arrive in the parking lot, you'll see three sets of barn doors facing the parking lot. Through the doors is our Distribution Center, where all the freshly harvested vegetables for the share will be placed in bins for pick-up. First please find your name on the sign-in sheets on the table just inside the doors. Highlight your name on the list, and help yourself to a free recipe sheet that we make for our members, with ideas on how to use the produce we're giving out.



Next gather your share. Each item will be marked with a sign displaying how much of each item to take. If you have a Single Share, take the amount listed for "Single," if Family Share or Work Share, take the "Family" amount. Some items are pre-bunched; others must be weighed on the hanging scales. It is recommended for first-timers to arrive between noon and 3pm their first couple of weeks, so that our Greeter in Distribution can help them get the hang of it. Also, we try to provide plastic shopping bags for anyone who came without bags, but they do run out quickly. We highly recommend bringing reusable bags with you each week, and donated bags are always welcome. If you need reusable bags we have sturdy canvas bags for sale.

Greenhouse photos: This page: top right, summer squash; left, eggplant. Next page: top, basil; lower right, corn; lower left, ducks.

After you've gathered your share, some weeks there will be pick-your-own items for you to take as well. The pick-your-own field is around the barn and through the corner gate in the non-electric fence. The pick-your-own field will be open as items become ready, and will be announced on the board in the Distribution Center.

Secondly, we have started a new email account for all farm-related correspondence. Please use AsburyVillageFarm@gmail.com if you need to contact either of the farmers, Robyn Weber and Steve Zwier. We still have the phone line, but as many long-time members have discovered, we are not sitting in the office very often, and we miss most calls. If you leave a message we will get back to you, but email is the way for a speedier response.



Also, we are looking for a part-time farm hand to help with general garden work. If you or anyone you know seems to be a good candidate, please send them our way! Experience is not necessary, but a willingness to work hard in all weather is a must. Email us for an appointment.

As for what's going on at the farm, we had one of the coldest and driest springs on record – not great gardening conditions. We couldn't plow on time because the ground was still frozen, well into April. And our irrigation system was not prepared to be in full use so early in the year, since normally spring is a rainy season, which further set us back with field readiness. But despite these drawbacks, we're still looking good. We have finished planting all the onions and leeks, the peas and fava beans are growing strong, our garlic over-wintered marvelously and is looking better than any crop of garlic we've grown thus far! We are now focused on the huge job of transplanting our greenhouse plants out into the field. The greenhouse near the pick-your-own field was partially destroyed by a fierce wind storm earlier this year, and we are taking it as an opportunity to rebuild the greenhouse elsewhere on the farm and using the space for more pick-your-own crops. We're thinking raspberries for next year.

And lastly, we have not sold out yet with shares, so please help spread the word! If you still owe us on your share payment, please send us an installment or the balance as soon as you are ready. We like to have shares paid off by June 1, unless you have set up a payment plan.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Robyn and Steve, Asbury Village Farm

