



October 2013 Farm Newsletter

Hello and happy autumn! As we are nearing the end of the 2013 season with 7 weeks of shares left to go, we'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has been a member of our CSA this year, and special thanks to our outstanding work share crew. We hope that you have enjoyed your fresh veggies thus far. We feel pleased with how the season has gone. While there was some crop failure (notably, the sweet corn, spring carrots, some of the squash, and the late summer lettuce) which was due to a shortage of hands needed for timely weeding and irrigating during the busiest, driest time, we so far have had a fantastic abundance of spring lettuce, turnips, cabbage, broccoli, greens, cucumbers, sweet peppers, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, beans, eggplant, garlic, and winter squash. As we get into late October and November, we'll say goodbye to tomatoes and peppers and get into some more fall greens - cabbages, kale, spinach, mesclun, bok choy, tatsoi, escarole, lettuce – and also broccoli, beets, carrots, more potatoes, parsnips and pumpkins, and a late crop of watermelons, which we've been anxiously awaiting.

Autumn for us means it's time to start thinking about next year. We have some improvements in mind -- top on the list is an extensive cover crop system already in action, which will help replenish soil nutrients necessary for building next year's crops. We also intend to use more biodegradable plastic mulch to help with weed suppression. And we have tentative plans to hire a part time worker during the busy summer months to help us keep up with the workload.

Also, a price increase for CSA shares will be in effect, due to our insufficient budget for both the 2012 and 2013 seasons, which failed to adequately pay the farmers' income for the entire year. After careful consideration and number crunching, we came up with share prices that more accurately reflect what it costs to produce the food and provide the farmers with a fair living wage, and a chance to begin saving money to eventually buy the farm. In order to achieve this, we are raising the cost of Single, Family and Work Shares by \$100 each, which equates to \$4 per week (multiplied by 25 weeks). Extreme Work Shares will still cost \$0, but will have an increased hour requirement.

But before the new prices take effect we want to extend an offer to our current 2013 members who would like to sign up for next year. For a limited time, current members may sign up with a \$50 increase rather than \$100 – please see the attached [Returning Member Commitment Form](#) for details. We sincerely hope that the increase does not cause anyone to be unable to come back next year. As always, if you need to you can email us and we can work out arrangements that work for you.

Also we would like to invite all our members, their friends and family, to come to our **Fall Potluck on Sunday, October 27, from 1:00 to 4:00**. Bring a dish to share, and Halloween costumes if you like, and come celebrate autumn with a great community of people. This will be rain or shine.

And, finally, to generate some much needed income, we are currently having Farm Markets at the farm on certain days, offering surplus produce grown entirely at the farm. Please help spread the word that we have great veggies and flowers for sale. Check our [Facebook page](#) for details on date and time for the next Market.

Warm blessings,

Robyn and Steve,
co-owners Asbury Village Farm

October 5, 2013 pictures, top to bottom:
A field with oats and peas for cover crop;
a bed of fall carrots looking lovely;
young Napa a.k.a. Chinese cabbage.

