



OCTOBER 2017

Newsletter

Hello and happy Fall to you! It's been a great year thus far, despite some of the weirdest weather we've ever experienced – we had a dry spring; a windy, wet, chilly summer; and a hot early fall. But the farm is thriving anyway! We had some great greens, peas, fava beans, scallions, garlic, cabbages and squash early on, followed by plenty of tasty tomatoes, sweet peppers, lots of potatoes, nice onions, several varieties of beans, delicious melons, gorgeous flowers, sweet corn, leeks, amazing beets, chard, fennel, salad mix, turnips, radishes, pumpkins and more. Our last leg of the season is going to be just as nice, with more potatoes on the way, a great crop of sweet potatoes, parsnips, more beets, fantastic carrots, broccoli, bok choy, tatsoi, lettuces, cheese pumpkins and butternut squash, plus more of the sweet salad turnips, Asian greens, crisp salad radishes, spinach, mesclun, lettuces, and escarole. The final share will be the week of Tuesday, Nov. 28 - Saturday, Nov. 25.

Some of the most notable bonuses this year have been the vast amount of great potatoes we've yielded, which we will still be distributing right up to the final share week. The peas were prolific and delicious this year, thanks to a new and better variety of pea seed we experimented with. And the melons were amazing – the sweetest juiciest cantaloupes, and mouthwatering watermelons. Our onions, tomatoes, beans and peppers have been great too, though we are nearing the end of their season now and the onions are limited. The pick-your-own garden did well also, and it was bursting with beautiful flowers all summer.

Some of the crops that suffered a bit were the garlic, of which we were only able to harvest a fraction of what we had planted, and some other crops that did not do well due to a biodegradable plastic mulch we used which was ineffective at suppressing weeds (it was a little *too* biodegradable – meaning, non-existent in a matter of days after planting!) Nearly everything that we planted into this mulch did poorly, including several rounds of the corn, the cucumbers, and some squashes. It was a live-and-learn situation, and we will not be using the biodegradable mulch again in the future. However, despite this issue we did have some great corn (though less than we had planned for) and we hope you enjoyed yours! We planted our chili peppers late and they are not in the greenhouse like they usually are, so they have been slow to grow. We should get some chilies in the next couple of weeks during this unseasonable warm spell. The eggplant had germination issues and we did not get many plants from our seed supply, and also it was transplanted a bit late. We do have some eggplants maturing and they will be distributed this week.



There are a few announcements. Firstly, we had great success with a mid-September work party which focused on a mass harvest of storage potatoes, and we are planning to have another work party on

Sunday, October 29 (or Sunday November 5 rain date) from 9:00am – 4:00pm, in lieu of our usual Fall Potluck. We extended the last work party to the work share members, who have been working hard all year to help us plant, weed and harvest. This upcoming work party is open to all our members and their friends and family, to come to the farm, volunteer and help with our fall harvest. We will work from 9:00-noon, then have a potluck lunch from 12:00-1:30 (bring something to share if you can – we can store cold dishes in the cooler, and we can heat up anything that needs heating in the farmhouse kitchen). Harvest will then continue until around 4:00pm. You are welcome to come for an hour or two or the whole day, or just stop by for the potluck lunch, whatever suits you. We hope you can make it! Children of all ages are of course welcome, and we will have some simple fun kid activities to do to keep them entertained while we pick carrots, beets and parsnips.



Our 2018 Commitment Form has some changes, and it is available now for membership for next year. Mostly the changes involve new work share options, which are designed to take the place of split memberships, which we are no longer accepting. The new share options will make administration work easier on us and help us to organize better, and also will hopefully better serve work share members who have trouble fulfilling the Family share hours or feel that a Family sized share of produce is too much. The 2018 Commitment Form is attached to the end of this newsletter, and can also be found at our website (www.asburyfarm.org) and there will be a link to it on our facebook page. The farmers wholeheartedly encourage you to sign up early for next year, since our fall and winter budget far exceeds our means at the present time. Thank you so much to all of our members, for your support, past, present, and/or future! This is a community supported farm, and we cannot do it without each of you.

In other news, AVF is currently a vendor at the Chatham Farmers' Market which runs every Saturday until the end of November. Once this ends, which also coincides with the CSA season ending, we want to turn our attention to restarting our winter farm stand here at our farm. We are tentatively going to do first and third Saturday mornings in December and beyond, with freshly harvested greenhouse greens and storage crops available for purchase. Possibly we will again be vendors at the Easton Winter Market as well. Updates about this and more will be posted on our facebook page. If you do not use facebook and would like to be kept

informed, it's ok, just send us an email request and we will be happy to send you updates via email.

Thanks so much to everyone for your support this year. We love you and are very grateful for this fantastic community. It makes us happy to feed you healthy homegrown produce and we truly thank you for being a part of the CSA.

~ Robyn and Steve

