

Middleton Farm CSA News

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Volume 1, Issue 1



It's Finally Here

Well, after being held up by a flu bug for a few days, I've finally had the energy to create and send out our new newsletter. For the foreseeable future, you'll probably see some changes as we tweak and improve the newsletter. As always, any honest input from our mem-

bers will be appreciated.

This newsletter will be sent out weekly during and just prior to the harvest season. Before and after the harvest, it will only be sent out monthly. Anyone on the mailing list who does not want to get the letter, should email me asking to be removed from the list. If there is anyone who is currently a member of the website, who would like to be removed from our membership, please let us know.

We would like to welcome all of our new members for 2011. For all of our returning members from last season, we would like to show you our appreciation

for choosing us as your produce provider. We will be giving you a discounted share price this season.

We would like to thank all of our CSA members for your support. Since starting this endeavor, our family has thoroughly enjoyed working in the gardens and with the animals. If it weren't for all of you, this would not be possible for us. Thanks to all of you.



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Trivia:

- *Corn is actually a grass.*
- *Porky Pig will be 76yrs old this year.*
- *Potatoes are members of the tomato family.*
- *Many flowers that bloom at night are pollinated by bats.*

CSA Changes in 2011

In order to provide maximum value to all of our members, we have made some changes to the way the shares are distributed.

For pick-up locations with 5 or more: We will pick varying amounts of the different crops that are

ready for harvest. The produce will be taken to the pick up location, where it will be laid out for the members. Each member will be given a basket that **THEY** will fill with what they want. The quantity of each item will depend on availability. It

will be very similar to a market, except everything is already paid for. What ever is left will be given to members who would like extra or donated to local food banks.

For pick-up locations with less than 5 people: A list of

Changes cont'd

what is ready will be published in the weekly newsletter. Members will be able to email us a list of what they want in their basket including the number of servings of each item.

Lastly, we will offer farm pick up. Anyone picking up at the farm, will have the option of getting what they want in any quantity. If you want a full basket of nothing but brussel sprouts, then it's all yours.



Because You Asked

Several times last year, folks have come up to us at the farmers markets and asked if we sold eggs. At the time, we didn't. But over the winter, we asked, "Why not?" And that set the wheels in motion.

Soon we will finish construction on a chicken house. We'll be raising a small number of laying hens and a couple of fryers. We are offering the eggs as an add on to the Harvest shares. Any extra eggs will be available at the farmers market.

In addition to the chickens, we will also be getting some turkeys for Thanksgiving, and a few ducks to populate the pond. Anyone interested in a turkey, can put down a \$5 deposit, and pay the balance in Nov. after the birds have been processed. Ducks will be available on request.

"Eggs for 2011."

Food Costs

I'm sure you've all heard that food prices are headed up. If you aren't buying it yet, you may want to reconsider. With ethanol, the slowly improving the economy, dollar devaluation, higher oil prices, and increased demand from China, increased pressure on anything that uses grains will be driving up the price of many foodstuffs. We are already seeing the cost of dairy prod-

ucts creep up. Some are predicting record hog prices this summer. Record high grain prices are causing many cattle and hog farmers to reduce the size of their herds.

This will affect our farm by increasing the cost of feeder pigs. But since we only use grain to supplement the diet of our hogs, we should be able to avoid any price increase. Grain fed



beef on the other hand will probably be going up this summer as the cost of feed increases.

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Naturally the best!

We raise and sell only the best meats, fruits and vegetables around. And we do it without using any synthetic herbicides or pesticides. We use integrated pest management and other natural methods to control pests.

We do not use any growth hormones or antibiotics on any of our animals. We are committed to bringing you only the healthiest product possible. Our animals are treated with kindness and respect and we strive to make their time with us as pleasant as possible.