The Weekly Note

One Step at a Time Gardens

Jan Libbey & Tim, Andrew, & Jess Landgraf

Week of September 1, 2008 – Box #14

In This week's Box: Zucchini, Cucumber, Tomato, Radishes, French Green Beans, Carrot, Garlic, Green Pepper, Yellow Watermelon - for Kitchen Collage members on Tuesday

News

How many more deliveries?? We're beginning to hear this question. Our season runs through the last week of September, putting final DM delivery on Tuesday, Sept. 29 and final North IA delivery on Wed, Sept. 30 (Clarion) and Thur., Oct. 1 (all other No. IA sites)

Add-on orders – a number of you ordered from our Add-on options. We will be in touch in the next couple of weeks to update you on those items.

Web update – have you visited our website lately? Andrew has recently posted a new loop of photos from this season at the farm. Check it out.

Last week's Note – The expanded version of last week's Weekly Note is now posted on our website, complete with a delicious recipe for chicken, a profile of the Center for Rural Affairs and a description of our sub-soiling and fall fieldwork. A photo of sub-soiling in action is in our new website photos.

Veggie Notes

Tomatoes of many colors – For five weeks now you've been receiving tomatoes and have discovered they are not always red. We grow a variety of tomatoes - heirloom as well as common red slicing tomatoes. You may receive red (Big Beef, Celebrity, Early Girl), pink (Brandywine, German Johnson), yellow with a bright red/orange blush on the bottom (Pineapple), fuzzy and yellow (Peach tomato- new this week) orange (Goldie), green with stripes (Green Zebra), green with pinkish blush on bottom(Aunt Ruby's German Green), dark red to purplish (Cherokee Purple or Black Krim). Sizes may vary from more than a pound to golf ball size. If you can pick your way through this list of names and descriptions, try to identify the tomatoes in your box this and in the coming weeks. We expect the tomato supply to increase a bit in coming weeks and continue through our remaining deliveries (as long as it doesn't frost).

Connections – In place of a specific introduction this week, I want to talk about the power of our farm membership overall. Our membership is an amazing body of people who care intensely about the environment, social justice, their community, responsible personal choices, education, and health. Within the membership of this farm is a powerful collection of people. Through the topic of food and agriculture, we have a powerful convergence of many of today's most important issues. I am inviting you all to take this farm and food experience one more step. As the name of the farm suggests, your membership not only delivers you food fresh from the farm; your membership also delivers you a new perspective on and connection to agriculture itself.one step at a time. As the farming community demographics change, the collective voices to speak to agriculture must also change. As we envision what a more locally based food system can do for our families, our communities and our region, food advocates such as farm members must speak up along with farmers. This fall presents us with a unique opportunity to try out this new voice. Whether it be a local or national election, the issue of appropriate food and agriculture policy has a place in the discussions. Your voice matters whether you care about carbon footprint, water quality, nutritious foods, or local economic development – all of these and more have a connection with policy makers and realizing a vision for a sustainable agriculture and future. With Ariane's help, we will be providing you with some local food policy talking points and resources that can help you take a step into this part of the food experience. Think what weight your voice could carry at a candidate meeting when you say "I've invested in Iowa's local food system and think we should see more of this as a state priority."

From the Ground Up – Watch next week for an introduction to The Iowa Network for Community

Farmers' Footnote – A laboring Labor Day here at the farm. Thanks to Becky Ahrendsen, we assembled a great crew for morning harvest, took a break to enjoy the Kanawha Labor Day Parade – featuring one of our regular crewmembers, Christa Hanson…this time on unicycle with her talented family. After a great lunch feast, during which Clarion farm members Fayne and Leon Szabo joined us, some took our kayaks out to the lake and the rest resumed…laboring. This helped get a good jump on the week so Tuesday won't be quite so crazy.

Our Contact: Phone: 641/495-6367 or libland@frontiernet.net, Cell: 515/571-3383, Web site: www.ostgardens.com