



# ONE STEP at a TIME GARDENS

*Raising healthy food, raising hope*

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February 4, 2012

Friends,

When hours of daylight drop below 10 hours per 24 hour period, plant growth stalls. We've overwintered a bit of spinach, for example, in our hoophouse. That crop has been in a dormant stage for some months now. But we are crossing that magic threshold in February to more than 10 hours of daylight. My research shows we are at just under 10 hours as we enter February and just over 11 hours by the end of the month. Not only will we see the spinach respond, but we all begin to feel the shift. We invite you to join us in our reawakened anticipation of the 2012 season of fresh, delicious food straight from our farm!

On the second page of this letter, we've summarized some data from our 2011 season. Overall, we were pleased with last season and look forward to this upcoming growing season. As farm members, you benefitted from the farm's bounty. We remember the succulent, early lettuce, the spectacular taste of the cherry tomatoes, the juicy sweetness of watermelon, and the sweet comfort of the winter squash. Fresh, fabulous flavors from the farm – this is a top reason members join. Your membership is very important to us and we continue to be committed to producing high quality, delicious farm fresh food.

## **Changes for this season?**

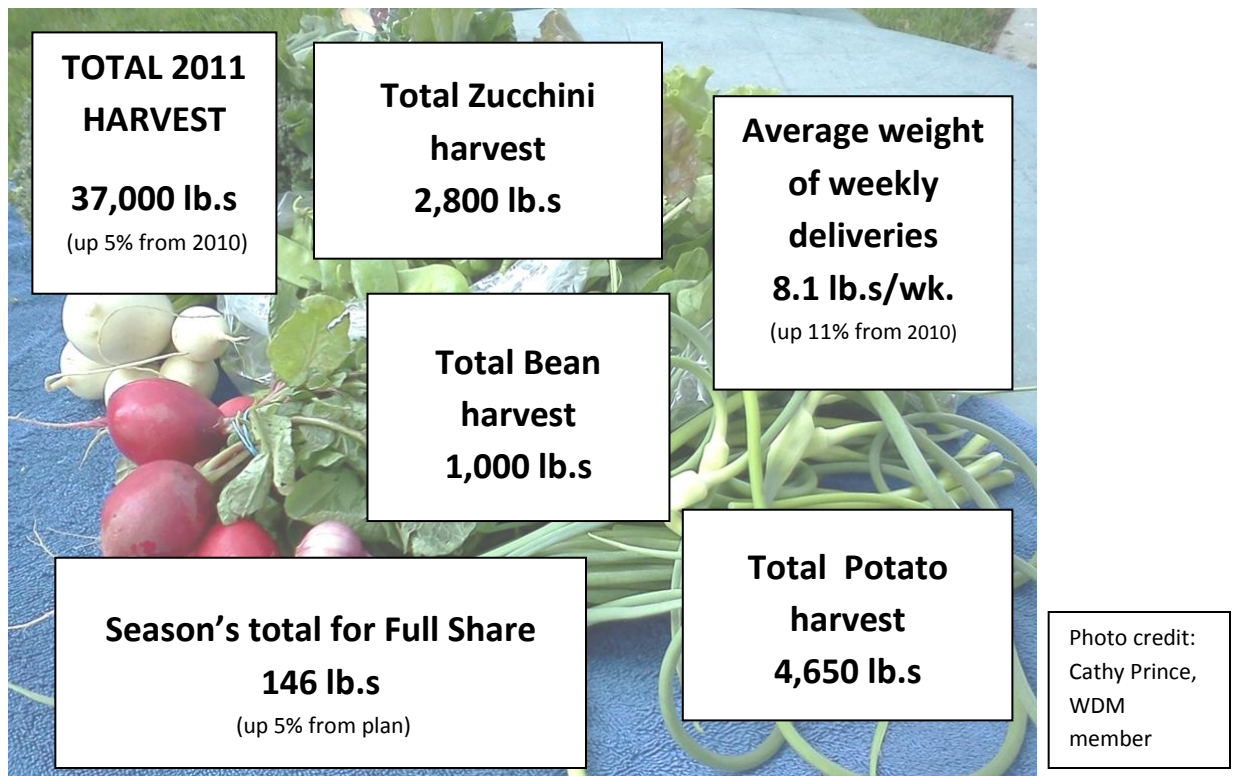
- **Price** – Hardly at all. We added \$5 to the Winter share price and increased chicken price to \$3.45/lb. whole and \$3.65/lb. cut up.
- **Vegetable mix in the share** – we took your comments from the fall member survey and have made adjustments in our planting plan – a little less zucchini, broccoli, and beans, more onion, add fennel, shallots, move beets up in the delivery season.
- **Access to your account information** – we will be posting a google document of member share selection available only to members and coded by your member number (which we will email to you). This way you can view what you selected through the season. This document will also list delivery schedule information.

## **More daylight, reawakened anticipation. It's time to sign up!**

A membership form is being mailed to directly and available on our website.

- Remember, our **Early Bird Discount runs through March 1 - Sign up now and save \$15!**
- Give yourself credit for your 2012 deposit. The hard copy form will include this status.

2011 was a pretty productive year at One Step at a Time Gardens...



As members you benefit from bountiful years. You also support achievements beyond the produce.

2011 was a 2<sup>nd</sup> season for two aspiring farmers, Genesis & Eli. Since leaving the farm in October, they have put up two hoophouse at their new farm base in Indiana. They anticipate first sales from Full Hand Farm this coming spring. You have helped to launch these new beginning farmers through your membership in One Step at a Time Gardens.

In 2012, we will welcome Julia Slocomb and Ben Olson to our team and you will again have the opportunity to support aspiring farmers.

Food safety is a huge issue, and our 2011 farm field day showcased our Farm Food Safety practices and wash station. We've developed systems to provide high quality, nutritious and safe produce for our members that we're happy to share with others.

We trialed some mid-season cover crops as an additional strategy to feed the soil during the season – a practice we hope to continue to refine in 2012. Heading into 2012, we anticipate doing more careful analysis of our farm energy use.

Thank you for your past membership. Join us again in 2012 and join our commitment to *raise healthy food, raise hope.*

Cheers,