

We've been planting, watering, heating, cooling, transplanting, and weeding since the first week of March. We love seeing all that work come together in boxes of beautiful produce!

The weather this spring has been like no other. We first had to deal with the cold spring. Then- there was the wind! We often have windy days here on the prairie, but the intensity and persistence of this year's wind has been difficult on our plants and us. The extreme heat the past few days has also been an obstacle. We are also needing rain. The wind has dried out the soil even quicker than usual. Many of our plants are feeling stressed.

Until rain comes, Mike's busy irrigating. He's often found in the field moving the sprinklers and hoses. I'm spending a lot of time weeding. Tonight I finished weeding the carrots- which was a 3 day project.

Despite these challenges, we feel pretty confident that we will be able to start on Thursday, June 23rd. Delivery will be to the following sites and times:

Somerset Somerset Rental 416 Main St. Contact Person: Jay 715-247-2800  
Boxes will be there by 9am and are available until the store closes at 5:00.

Hudson Hudson Hospital (loading dock area) 405 Stageline Road  
Contact Person: Kim Kiel Kim.s.kiel@hudsonhospital.org 715-531-6487  
Or Linda Beall Linda.J.Beall@HudsonHospital.Org 715-531-6025

Boxes will be there by Noon and available into the evening.

Threshing 2249 150th St. Star Prairie Contact person: Jody 715-248-7205  
Table Threshingtablefarm@frontiernet.net  
Farm Boxes are available from 11am – 8 pm

Please thank those managing the delivery sites. We are grateful for all they do!

Delivery days are always Thursdays.

We will also be bringing shares to Westfield's Hospital, Fairview Hospital Ridges, and Fairview Homecare and Hospice for those of you working there. We are still working out the details, but I expect that the shares will be at each site by Noon at the latest.

It's very important that you bring your own containers to the drop-off site. The boxes we bring your produce in may not leave the drop-off site or farm. This helps keep the boxes in good condition. This saves money and helps ensure food safety. Occasionally, you will get bright yellow mesh bags or cloth bags with greens, beans or other produce in. You may take those home. Please return them the following week. Again, this helps to keep costs down. (And it gives my mom a break from sewing all those cloth bags! J )

If you are unable to pick up your share, please find someone who can do it for you. Any boxes not picked up at the end of the day (without prior communication from you to the site manager) will be donated to someone who can use it.

New this year, are our goats! Come meet them! They live in our wooded area, happily munching on the weeds and brush that grow there. They're 2 pygmy goats, Tina and Cheyenne. They're very cute. We also have a flock of young Barred Rock hens (black and white) who will join our Rhode Island Red hens in laying by September.

We again have eggs available for \$2.50 a dozen. There will be a limited supply available at the Hudson Drop off site and on the farm. Pay at the time of purchase and they go on a first come, first serve basis.

Also- for those interested- We have farm friends with berries! Our friend Phil, recently purchased

"The Patch" outside of New Richmond. It will no longer be a Strawberry farm, but it will be a Raspberry and Blueberry farm. He hopes to have a pick your own farm going next year. For this year, he is offering our members pre-picked Raspberries for \$4 a pint. These are all raised without any sprays. I cannot promise a date- but when they are ready- we will have them available for pick-up on the farm or we will deliver to your drop-off site. This will likely be spread out over several weeks. We will try very hard to make sure that if you have a ½ share that they will come to you on "your" week. However, we appreciate your flexibility if we ask you to come on your non-week for your berries.

Please fill out the attached form for your Raspberry order (form is on the LEFT sidebar) and send it in with your payment. Phil will be able to provide up to 40 pints. So we will take orders until the 40 pints are spoken for.

Demulling Farms in Osceola, will also be selling pre-picked strawberries. Their berries are minimally sprayed and lovingly cared for. They only spray to help with weeds when other methods don't succeed.

The berries will come in 1 lb boxes. The cost is \$3.50 a pound. We will have them on the farm or will send them along with your share to the drop-off site. If you're interested, please fill out the form and send it in with your check. The berries should be available the first two weeks of the season (June 23rd and 30th.) If you want berries, please send your order form and check as soon as possible. I'll take orders for up to 20 lb of strawberries. If you're interested in picking your own, check out Demulling Farm's website at [www.DemullingFarms.com](http://www.DemullingFarms.com) or call their picking line at: 715-294-3742

For those of you who have ordered chicken or beef from Farm Sweet Farm, the meat should be ready around the first week of July. This can only be picked up at the farm, and you will need to pay at the time of pickup. We'll let you know when the meat will be here, closer to July.

#### Newsletters

One of the reasons that Mike and I decided to have a CSA farm, is that this farm model allows the farmer to have a relationship with the consumer. We find that to be SO important! We want you to see us as "your" farmer. Many of you come out to the farm and meet us, play with the chickens and walk through the fields. We love that! We also realize that many of you cannot do that. You live too far away, have lives taking you in other directions, etc. Whether you are visiting the farm or not, we want to foster a relationship with you. The best way we can do this is through our weekly newsletters.

Please, please read them! It's our way to let you know what's going on here at the farm. We can tell you what are challenges and triumphs are. If the broccoli is outstanding this year, we'll tell you. If the cucumbers have been taken over by cucumber beetles, we'll tell you that too. Our members often have questions about why there's more of this, or less of that- we try to keep everyone updated in the newsletters. We give storage tips, cooking tips and nutritional notes about the produce.

If you are receiving a ½ share, or are splitting a share, please go to our website each week, even when you are not receiving produce and read the newsletters. I try not to repeat news, so if I give recipes or storage tips on a type of produce one week, I may not do it again. If you are not reading the newsletters on your off weeks- you may miss some important info. that will be helpful to you when you get that type of produce the following week.

And no worries- the weekly newsletters are never as long as this beginning one! J

If you are sharing a share with someone, and I only have one e-mail address, please share this with your friend. We want everyone to stay in the loop. During the season, we will send one paper copy of the newsletter with each box of produce. We will also post it on our website. The website has all the past newsletters as well, so if you need to go back to find a recipe again- you can.

Thanks for doing your part as a member. We want everyone to feel that they are truly part of our

farm community.

We're always happy to have volunteers come out as well. If you feel like getting your hands dirty or showing your children how food is grown, come out and join us for a day. Give us a call and we'll set something up. I'm also excited about Bean Picking this summer! Here's how it's going to work...

#### Bean Day!

If you'd like to come out to the farm on Wednesday morning, around 10:00 and pick beans for an hour or so, we'll have a group of us joining together in the spirit of the threshing crews of past. (Hence the name- Threshing Table Farm.) These beans will be used in the CSA boxes. We'll finish with a potluck lunch (Because no respectful threshing crew would go home hungry) and as a thank you, we will plant an extra row of beans so that anyone who picks for the CSA boxes can pick additional beans for their own personal use. Perfect for anyone wanting to freeze or can some for winter, or share with the food pantry, etc. Children are VERY welcome, and we'll have a teenager on hand to keep an eye on them if they decide that they get tired of the garden. If this is something you want to be a part of, let me know. I'll keep you posted as to which Wednesdays are bean picking days. You can come once, twice or every time- you choose.

Those of you who have indicated an interest in being part of an advisory board for the farm, we will have a meeting in July. We'll keep you posted on that. If anyone else wants to be part of this board, please send me an e-mail and I'll be happy to chat with you more about it.

Okay... I think that's everything! Thanks for reading it all!

Please let us know if you have any questions,

Jody, Mike, Claudia, Malcolm and Jonas Lenz  
Threshing Table Farm