

STUDENT ORGANIC FARM CSA NEWSLETTER

October 28, 2004

In your share this week:

- *Quattro Stagioni* leaf lettuce OR baby salad mix (your choice)
- Carrots
- Broccoli OR Cauliflower OR Romanesco (a funky variety of cauliflower that looks computer-generated—prepare just like cauliflower)
- Brussels sprouts
- Acorn OR Spaghetti squash (your choice)
- Sweet onions
- Tomatoes – red and/or green
- Parsley or other herbs
- U-pick herbs: parsley, oregano, chives, thyme, lemon balm, mint (I know we said U-pick season was over, but the herbs are still there – come on back!)

Announcements

1. You are invited to join the student farmers at a nation-wide conference all about CSA farming, “**Growing Together: A Conference for Community Supported Agriculture**” happening here in Michigan, **Nov. 12-14**. The conference is aimed at CSA farmers, active members, small farm and community health advocates, and educators and extension personnel. Several of us will be presenting a workshop about the initiation and growth of the SOF thus far – come hear the story of your farm! If you’re interested in learning more about CSA, meeting some visionary and inspiring leaders in the CSA movement, sharing your ideas and experience, and eating good food, please join us in Tustin, MI (near Cadillac) at the Kettunen Center. Some of our farm family, including Laura Delind, professor of Anthropology here at MSU, and Susan Houghton, farmer at Giving Tree Farm in Lansing, have organized and helped make this conference happen—thank you so much, Laura and Sue!

I believe there was a late fee, but they’ve decided to wave it – you’ve still got time to register. For more information, call 1-877-526-1441, and/or email csafarm@jackpine.com. See the web page at <http://tcf.itgo.com>

2. **Share balances were due Thursday, Oct. 21.** You should have received emails this past week if you still owe a balance – sometimes you’ll even get

an email if you paid – there is a lag time between checks dropped off at the farm and Gena, our student secretary on campus, receiving and processing the checks. If you receive a late-payment notice by email, and you dropped off a check at the farm, just email msufarm@msu.edu, and let us know that your check was dropped off at the farm – then we'll stop bugging you, and you'll get your receipt in the mail soon.

All members who did not pay their \$350 share price in full should have received a letter in the mail with your balance owed. If you did not receive a letter, or don't know how much you owe, please email msufarm@msu.edu and ask for your balance. Checks should be made out to MSU, with "Fall 2004 CSA" on the memo line. Mail checks to Michelle Ferrarese, MSU Dept. of Horticulture, A288 Plant and Soil Science Building, East Lansing MI 48824.

If you split a share with someone and owe a balance, please send in only one check for the total balance; simplify our records. ☺ Thank you!

3. Thanksgiving dinner invitation: Friends of the SOF (that's you if you're reading this) are invited by two local farmers, Janet and Mark, to join them for a healthy Thanksgiving dinner at their suburban farm just outside of East Lansing. If you're free for T-day dinner, they'd like to host you at their place. Please RSVP to Janet and Mark at hypnoangel@juno.com
4. Volunteering: Many Saturdays we will be at the farm in the morning. If you've always wanted to volunteer but couldn't make it during the week, now's your chance! There is lots of **weeding** to do, irrigation **tape** to take out of the fields, **greenhouse plastic** to replace and repair, **herbs** to bunch and dry, **garlic** to clean, **signs** to paint, and more. If you can do any of those things, please give the farm phone a call during the week (517-230-7987), and let us know when you can come out! Don't limit yourself to weekends, however; feel free to drop by any weekday but Thursday, from 8-5. If you want to volunteer on Thursday (harvest and CSA day), please call first so we can plan accordingly.
5. *Still* another VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We need to **pick up a truckload (pickup truck) of wooden crates** from a farm in Tipton, near Adrian. It's the home and farm of Beverly Ruesink and Oriana Bosma, two SOF alumnae, who are generously donating old, no longer used apple crates to the SOF. If you have a mid- or large-sized pickup truck (or van, or trailer), and would like to visit some former SOFers while doing the farm a huge favor, please send an email to Michelle, and/or call the farm phone.

The whole trip will probably take 3-4 hours, including driving, loading, and unloading (and probably touring their farm while you're there!).

What's up at the farm?

Real quick (this is just a note to say I haven't forgotten about you all; not a full-fledged newsletter) – garlic got planted last week (thanks so much, RISE student volunteers and SOF CSA members!), potatoes got dug (thanks to Bill Q. and Chris L. for the loan of the digger!), the heated greenhouse was prepped for our last round of winter planting (it still had a few stray tomato plants in there – pretty soon it will all be lettuce, fennel, choy, cilantro, spinach, etc. for your winter shares), and we started weather-proofing and critter-proofing the hoopouses for winter. I think winter might finally decide to come this week, after last week's nutty 60-70 degree, sunny days! How bizarre. It's time to get out the longjohns, wool socks, fingerless gloves, and other winter farming tools.

Remember, though, if you're looking for a warm place to be outdoors this winter, on a sunny day our unheated hoopouses can be 60 or 70 degrees inside! There will be plenty of weeding, harvesting, and transplanting to do during the cold Michigan winter days, and it's a treat to strip down to short sleeves in January and February and work in those houses when you know it's freezing outdoors (this is on a sunny day; on a cloudy day, it's still warmer inside the houses, but not short-sleeves-warm.)