

Week # 20 Timken Farm Community Supported Agriculture

Dear Mark, Heather, B, Dana, Nate, and Mary,

I wanted to apologize for not providing more feedback during the summer months while we were so enjoying all your delicious food. I wish I had been better about expressing my gratitude on a regular basis (I blame my unexpectedly busy life with 2 kids!), but I thought I would take this opportunity to express to you how incredibly grateful we have been for your commitment to this endeavor.

We certainly have no negative feedback at all. I honestly can't think of anything that I would have changed or done differently other than have a really big and lovely potluck with all the members so we could thank you and celebrate the seasons and the gifts of nourishing food. I should have brought that idea up earlier on when the weather was so warm in the evenings. I had envisioned a really long table and all members dishing up a favorite dish with the produce from the week. Perhaps we can do that next year or find a venue to do it this fall?

Barney and I have talked at length about food this summer, the way it reflects so much who we are and our value system. Our choices in what we eat and the way we support the production of that food is a powerful way to make our impact in this crazy world. We often lament that the world at large is terribly misguided in the way the environment and it's citizens are treated. In returning to local farm based, organic, community inspired eating we gain a sense of power and satisfaction in striving to make the world more in tune with our hopeful vision. Thank you for being the catalyst for so many mini-revolutions! Even though we are only 20 families, rest assured we share our experiences with others and they in turn get excited and want some of the goodness we have found.

Besides fresh, vitamin rich, and delicious food, your boxes every week have given us a wonderful ritual. The ritual of excitedly anticipating the coming week's produce and heading over to the farm to collect it. It's always a pleasure to be heading down your driveway knowing a real present awaits! Our daughter has gained more appreciation for food and she'll eat veggies if we tell her that "Farmer Mark grew this especially for you!". I think she "gets" it that these gifts come from somewhere special and not just a package at the grocery store. That behind every lettuce leaf and each tomato is a human being who has worked hard and lovingly in providing these bounties for many to share. It is humbling and awe-inspiring to imagine the work that goes into each week's box and for that we are truly grateful. Feeling gratitude regarding food is really a new feeling for us. Of course we have always felt blessed to have food to eat, but the way we ate this summer bordered on the spiritual. It reconnected us to our planet, our community, our family, and ourselves.

We believe the value of what you create for us far exceeds the cost. We would be more than willing to pay more for our box and to help out others. I wish for the whole world that we could all be so lucky and fortunate to eat this way. Clearly, we are the lucky few as so many people in the world go without or eat food that lacks soul. Thank you Timken Farm for putting your heart and soul into what you do. It really does come through the food we eat.

One other idea..... perhaps CSA members could all work together at the end of harvest season to use leftovers like tomatoes or squashes and create some dishes for the food bank ... I don't know much about canning, but seems like it would be neat to use anything that is leftover (too much pumpkin or squash growing crazy!) to make some spaghetti sauces and other things and that way, community members that aren't a part of CSA can taste the riches as well.

We would be THRILLED to be on your list again for next year. Sign us up! And please, next year if you ever need help for harvesting, we would love to be a part of it. USE us; the members want to support you and we will!

Gratefully,

Jane, Barney, Stella, and Sam (The Gill Family)

We are so appreciative of our weekly CSA boxes. It has been very exciting to see what was in the box and read the informative and thought provoking newsletters. It also felt really wonderful to support some of our local farmers as well as eat such fresh, vibrant, nourishing food. The food from Timken Farm beams with vitality and nutrients. In addition due to it's freshness the shelf life at room temperature was fantastic! A much appreciated bonus when dealing with 20+ pound boxes of food without a refrigerator. My hope is that Timken Farm can be a sustainable farm for all involved. I find it very disheartening that vegetable farms operate at such a loss. I respect Timken's commitment to the environment of the earth as well as the farm workers and believe there is a way to make it a viable long term venture.

Blessings,

Jennifer & Suzanna

What's in your box:

Carrots- Bolero

Tomatoes- Sun Gold, Stupice, Mortgage Lifter, Oregon Spring, Sweet Million, Yellow Brandywine, Early Girl, Black, Green Zebra, Black Plum, Fantastic.

Winter Squash- WASH SQUASH- (2 out of 4) Delicata, Buttercup, Acorn, Snack Jack

Chard- Argentata, Bright Lights

Leeks- Lincoln TIP!- cut leeks lengthwise to clean.

Herb Pack- great for squash soup

Garlic-

Onion- Burgermaster

**THANK YOU CSA MEMBERS!! LET US
KNOW ABOUT NEXT YEAR.**

Timken Farm

Our family has felt so nourished by the wondrous produce from your farm! We particularly loved the salad greens, raspberries, tomatoes, and cauliflower. We really enjoyed the weekly newsletter with the stories, food facts and recipes. It would be lovely to add some eggplant into the mix of vegetables. You could also consider giving out a booklet of recipes at the beginning so that we could have these in a consolidated format for future use. Thanks to all the helping hands that contributed to growing our food with expertise and good energy.

With much appreciation,

The Enzian family

We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of the time: How much is enough?

Wendell Berry

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief... For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.

Wendell Berry

Manifesto:

The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

by Wendell Berry

Love the quick profit, the annual raise, vacation with pay. Want more of everything ready-made. Be afraid to know your neighbors and to die. And you will have a window in your head. Not even your future will be a mystery any more. Your mind will be punched in a card and shut away in a little drawer. When they want you to buy something they will call you. When they want you to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it. Denounce the government and embrace the flag. Hope to live in that free republic for which it stands. Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Praise ignorance, for what man has not encountered he has not destroyed.

Ask the questions that have no answers. Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias. Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest. Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the mold. Call that profit. Prophesy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus that will build under the trees every thousand years.

Listen to carrion - put your ear close, and hear the faint chattering of the songs that are to come. Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. So long as women do not go cheap for power, please women more than men. Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child? Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields. Lie down in the shade. Rest your head in her lap. Swear allegiance to what is highest your thoughts. As soon as the generals and the politicians can predict the motions of your mind, lose it. Leave it as a sign to mark the false trail, the way you didn't go. Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction. Practice resurrection.

We have really enjoyed the wonderful experience of the natural rhythm of food...how it comes and goes with the seasons. We would pay more for our subscription...it saves us money in the long run with less trips to the store, less gas consumed, and we buy less extraneous items. Thank you for growing our food!
Christine Goodall