



Updates

May 19 Deliveries

Iowa Fresh Produce
-butter crunch lettuce
-spinach
-rhubarb

Small Potatoes Farm-
No Delivery on May 19

Fruit Shares will begin in a few weeks when strawberries are ripe.

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Small Potatoes Farm News

Hello Everyone,

I hope you didn't go out of your way to listen to the CSA program on IPR last Wed. It was a bit disappointing for me in its lack of depth and coverage. I'm glad it had rained the night before, or I would have felt even worse to take the time to participate. One statistic they quoted was there are 1300 CSAs in the U.S. Local Harvest actually had over 2700 listed as of April (about 60 - 70 in Iowa). The USDA asked about CSAs for the first time ever in the latest Ag. Census and found over 12,000 farms participate either directly or indirectly in marketing farm products through a CSA. Quite astounding.

Early Deliveries

We completed our first harvest and delivery to our Ames members on the 12th. Stacy and Brian spent a lot of time getting the packing shed cleaned and ready. We had a few glitches, but nothing major. Hopefully, by early June, we will have lettuce ready and begin regular weekly deliveries.

At the Farm

We've been gathering supplies, such as twine for pea trellising and stakes for tomatoes. All our tomatoes, peppers and eggplant are in. Although a little late, we've been moving some trees and other plants around to better locations and mulching them. A few long neglected grapes now are close by the house for better care. The weather cooperated for weeding last week and we made great progress hoeing garlic, onions, lettuce, spinach, potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower. I planted the first planting of summer squash and will soon begin winter squash, cucumbers and melons. The soil temperature hit about 60 degrees this week - a minimum for these crops to germinate and emerge well.

Hope you are all well.

Rick, Stacy and Tillie

Iowa Fresh Produce News

Greetings from the soggy fields of Iowa

As if the rains aren't enough to add an adequate amount of moisture to the soil this week we had a small cavern erupt in the field. I knew a county tile line went through some place but wasn't sure until this latest event unfolded. Seems a 28" county tile had ruptured so we had a small "sinkhole".... nothing extravagant to make the news such as one that swallows up cars and whole houses but still a problem. The county has been out in the meantime and fixed a 13' length of line now and all that remains is a rather large dimple in the ground which will take a load of dirt once the county begins their annual ditch digging. We were fortunate that we haven't had much rain as the fella fixing it said it was 3/4 full the way it was and had we gotten a good hard rain of several inches we would have had a permanent pond out there all Summer long. This is a rather hectic week with graduation and luck wasn't entirely on our side. The other day I turned on the cooler in anticipation of getting it ready for when we would need it and I was treated to a spectacular display of sparks..... Not quite as spectacular as the 4th of JULY BUT when you aren't expecting that it can be just as exciting!

I was fortunate in that it was only a motor on the refrigeration unit so therefore a self fix and no expensive service call...always something to knock the smugness off one's face I guess.

I finished putting out broccoli and cabbage plants now and hopefully will be able to recruit some new help this weekend in beginning the pepper planting. Jen and her friend Jake both like the idea of messing around the garden (Jen now more than when she lived here as it is something new and novel again- not a daily routine) OR maybe she just knows it will only last a day or two? Put Jake on a tractor though, and he will happily work the whole day long SO if its too wet to plant at least I should be able to get my yard mowed ! :)

The propagation house is slowly emptying out. With the pepper plants on flat racks to harden off about all that is left in there are flats of melons. I've gotten through a few crops with a second cultivation already and the rest should get some attention this week yet (if it stays dry enough).

What's coming this week?

buttercrunch lettuce
spinach
rhubarb

Don't have a lot of luck making pie shells... try the family approved rhubarb crumble in the recipe section.

Bruce

Cotton bag drive

Thanks to everyone that brought bags for our canvas bag roundup! We have had an overwhelming amount of donations and I think we are set for bags for the season. We still hope you all will remember to bring your own, but do have extras available to borrow for a \$1 donation.

Recipe

Bruce's Rhubarb Crumble

4 1/2c cut up rhubarb(you can fudge this a bit either heavier or lighter just adjust sugar accordingly)
1 c sugar
1/4 tsp cinnamon
bits of butter
2/3 c flour
2/3 c oatmeal
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 c sugar
1/4 c melted butter

Mix together rhubarb, sugar, cinnamon and butter. Put in 9 inch pan. Mix together flour, oatmeal, soda, sugar and melted butter. Put over the rhubarb mixture. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.