

Farm to Folk News January 2009

“a little extra info from the farms to the folks”

Website: <http://www.farmtofolk.com>

News from the organizers:

Happy 2009 to All!

We have updated our [website](#) with a new look and all the details for the 2009 season and are now ready to accept your 2009 membership requests. CSA shares are limited and members from 2008 will have priority for available shares **until Feb 1** at which time we will open any remaining shares to our waiting list. Our goal this season is to pay half of the funds due to the producers in February to help with their upfront production costs, so if at all possible please remit 50% payment with your membership order form. We do have some funds available for financial assistance, so let [Marilyn](#) know if you are interested in this.

We have also extended the a la carte ordering deadline to Saturday evening for delivery the following Tuesday. We hope this will make it easier for you to get your orders placed. We're looking forward to a productive 2009!

News from the growers:

Iowa Fresh Produce

I wish to thank all of you who took the time to fill in the recent questionnaire. These are valuable to us growers in trying to match our offerings closer to what you want to see in your shares and /or as an ala carte` item.

After reviewing your responses I thought I should address some of your remarks/concerns/ideas in what you would like to envision in the upcoming new year.

First off, it seems that everyone would like to see asparagus. Last year we began a new bed and will add to that this coming year. It takes several years to get established so this crop will be available in years to come although doubtful for the upcoming season.

As I had said during the 2008 season this was a very unique year. Hopefully broccoli will be available for approximately 4 or 5 deliveries in 2009 as well as 8 or so weeks of tomatoes. We have finally completed the greenhouse that has been a work in progress for several years now so that should help to lengthen the tomato season. Expect more cucumbers and zucchini (4 -6 deliveries anticipated).

We will probably cut back some on lettuce in favor of more of other items as it seemed this

was one item that the majority felt too much was received over the course of the season. Cherry tomatoes most likely as well will be decreased but will be available with ala carte or by special request.

All other crops you should expect approximately an equivalent amount as you received this year..... Perhaps a bit more or less depending upon the season.

Herbs and greens were purposely not included in the share planning . In past years these two particular items were under utilized by those 1-2 member households. In 2009 they will again not be included in the basic share planning but are readily available through the ala carte ordering system.

We now are awaiting our seed orders and will be starting plants in the next few weeks. We are planning a Mid May beginning once again this season and may have produce available prior to that via ala carte`.

I hope you had a favorable experience thru a somewhat trying year. I'm looking forward to a better season to come!

Stay well,
Bruce

Small Potatoes Farm

Hello All,

I hope you've recovered from the holidays, back to work regimes, 401K statement shock and travelling in ice/snow/freezing rain. We are all settled in at the farm, encouraging each other its not that cold and trying to cook a lot to keep the kitchen warm and the bread rising.

2009

On Dec. 30th we met with interested CSA members to go over the 2009 budget. Thank you so much to everyone that came. It was great to be able to show CSA members a more in-depth look into the decisions and challenges of the farm. Stacy and I also took the time to complete a whole farm planning exercise for the farm this winter, looking at not only our budget, but our ecological and social health as a farm. From this, CSA members and the farm settled on a small share price increase for regular (\$460), green (\$77), and extended shares (\$130) this coming season. We will also expand our egg production a little more and have budgeted for some sales to Wheatsfield Cooperative and Farm to Folk a la carte. Having completed this work, Marilyn is now able to start signing people up for 2009.

New for 2009

I've been working on the website and hope to have more recipes on-line by the time the season begins. We have updated some of the images and improved our description of the CSA and its operation. <http://www.smallpotatoesfarm.com>

We are planning for a better season for onions, peas, brocolli, cauliflower and shallots (although we will have to build up our seed supply again as we lost almost all of them last year). In addition we are going to plant some sweet potatoes and maybe okra. Our main production will shift according to the information you provided in the survey instruments. Thanks so much for doing that.

New plantings of asparagus and (hopefully) raspberries will be in production, as well as some more rhubarb. Although they won't be in full production, they will help add some spring crop yields for us all.

Capital

As you know from our end of year report, we decided to buy our capital from our members this year, rather than a bank. We hope to report income to our members of about \$2,500 next year rather than Bank of America. We'll be contacting people this next week to finalize purchases. If you are interested, but have not contacted us, do so this week.

That's all for now. Take care.

Rick, Stacy and Tillie

Berry Patch Farm

Thanks to all who took time to fill out the F2F survey. We appreciate hearing your comments and take them to heart. We want to know if you ever have any concerns about the fruit you receive, so please let the staff at the site know so they can pass your comments on to us.

For 2009 we will offer just one size of share (like the regular size share of 2008) and are limiting the number to 100. We had a bumper crop of apples in 2008 and have kept them in cold storage. Apples are still available for a la carte orders and folks that sign up early for a fruit share (before March 1) will receive a bag of honey crisp apples delivered in March.

We continue to experiment with our greenhouse and have some salad greens growing there now. We also will be trying tomatoes and hot peppers in the greenhouse to extend the season for those crops for a la carte orders.

Best to you all for 2009,

Dean, Judy and Mike

Picket Fence Creamery

Hope you all had a happy and healthy 2008 and are looking forward to 2009. We're happy to report that al of the "ladies" here at the farm are safe and snug in the barn, despite the frigid temperatures we're experiencing. We'll continue to offer our dairy products at Farm to Folk this year as either a dairy share or as a la carte. We will also have a monthly open house at the farm where you can bring your families to see a working farm and partake of our selection of Iowa grown products.

Jeff, Jill, Jenna and James Burkhart