

Farm News

The season is fast approaching. Thanks so much to all our “old” members for rejoining - we can’t wait to see you guys! Thanks also to all our new members this season. Introduce yourself to some well-seasoned folks - they have all kinds of storage tips and recipes to offer.

It’s a completely family operation this year - no interns. Instead our kids, Michalle & Matt will be working full time with us. Maybe the grandkids will help a bit, too!

It’s been a very cold spring and the veggies are growing very slowly. We had a hard frost on May 12th that nipped some veggies that we had transplanted in the field. We need some sun and warm weather to get them going. We have a lot in the ground & the greenhouse is overflowing. Hopefully the last of the really cold weather is behind us.

Member Anna Barker will be back to help with the newsletter. I can’t believe this will be volume 8! I’m going to try and email it to everyone to cut down on copying. It will also be easier for people who forget to take a copy & for people who split shares. We’d also like to do more with the great website that members set up for us last year.

As always, we encourage you to consider this “your farm” and to come visit anytime, even before pick up starts. Directions can be seen at our website at bearhillfarmcsa.com. We’ll trim the established plants in the pick-your-own herb bed so they will be ready for more cutting. I’m in the process of adding more. The chickens are laying so we have lots of eggs for sale now. We were planning on raising some more pigs like last year but we’ve had trouble finding any. We may end up getting some more sows to raise piglets ourselves again.

Homeless Shelter

For the past few years members have contributed towards donating shares to the Pawtucket House, a family shelter in Lowell. Some members in the past have donated full shares, but we also take donations of any amount to add together to make up shares as well. We can provide you with the info so that it will be tax deductible. So far we already have one share to donate, thanks to the donations of returning members who remembered the program.

Pick-up

We hope to start pick-ups the week of June 13th, rain or shine but we will let you know. We will make up for the late start in the fall. At the beginning there won’t be a lot, mostly greens, but, as mentioned above, as soon as the warm weather sets in things will pop out of the ground.

Pick-up is any time between 3 and 7 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. Feel free to call if you don’t remember which pick-up day you’ve chosen. If you go on vacation & would like to switch your day for a week PLEASE let us know a week ahead of time. That way we won’t waste your veggies if you don’t show up on your assigned day. We can’t donate shares to the shelter that aren’t picked up because we have no way of getting them there unless we know a week ahead.

The only rule is no dogs, please. While our farm dog, Missy, might enjoy the company, there are too many small children. Speaking of which, please make sure they are extra careful around the road since some people drive fast. There is also quite a bit of poison ivy on the farm, adjacent to paths. Be careful!

The farm stand is up a short path next to the shop on the same side of the road as the house. All you have to do is read the board to see what a full share is and chose your veggies. We have a full share listed, so people who split shares should get a whole share and then divide it up to prevent confusion. If your share partner is also coming to the farm separately make sure their bag is labeled so they know it’s theirs.

Please bring your own plastic or cloth bags since the veggies are often wet. We’ll also take your clean cardboard egg cartons to reuse. Looking forward to seeing you soon!