

Bear Hill Farm CSA, Mike & Anne Gagnon

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Farm News

The first pick up will be next week, the week of June 16th. We didn't have any late snow this year, but it went from low 40's at night to over 90! It's also been very dry, but the rain last week helped a lot. Last year we started on the 18th, so we are right on schedule.

Mike has been busy this spring welding a transplanter together. We now have about 10 thousand transplants in the ground thanks to this new piece of equipment. The first couple weeks will be slow, as usual, but after that it looks great.

We're trying sweet potatoes again this year. We planted them last year, but lost them to the drought and weeds. We're also planting a few different kinds of melons, which should be a treat. We planted corn at the home farm this year, first time in 11 years. The tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, etc are in Westford on conservation land off Graniteville Rd.

As all the old members know, this will be our first season start without our beloved Missy dog. I'm sure a lot of you miss her, too. Our daughter, Michalle (aka Blondie), is back, as is Paul, who came to live with us last year. Our nephew, Patrick, will be back as well. We have two new part-timers, Marissa (whose parents have been CSA members for 11 years) and Patti. Member Anna Barker will be back to help with the newsletter on a part time basis. Volume 11 this year. We'll try to continue to post them on the website as soon as possible. As always, we encourage you to consider this "your farm" and to come visit anytime. Directions can be seen on our website at bearhillfarmcsa.com. I've trimmed the established plants in the pick-your-own herb bed. The chickens are laying so we have eggs. We were planning on raising some more pigs like last year and we'll have pork for sale later in the summer. Old members will be impressed with the new land we now have in production.

Homeless Shelter

For quite a while members have contributed towards donating shares to the Pawtucket House, a family shelter in Lowell. You can contribute as much or as little as you can. We can provide you with the info so that it will be tax deductible. Over the years we've had 2 to 4 shares donated, which adds up to a lot of food.

Pick-up

The first pick up is the week of June 16th, **rain or shine as always**. We don't take holidays off either. At the beginning there won't be a lot, and there may be some short weeks even after we've started, so please be patient with us. 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. You can have friends pick up for you as long as you explain to them what to do. That way we won't waste your veggies if you don't show up on your chosen 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.

One of the only rules is no dogs, please, 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, particularly on stone walls. Be careful! The only other rule is no kids down by the pond without a grownup that can swim, for obvious reasons. The area around the irrigation pond has been cleared, so we need to be more careful. Park anywhere but in the bar ways (which look like dirt roads within the farm).

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. Please cross your name off first so we know you've been by. We have a full share listed, so people who split shares should pick out 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 and feel free to leave them notes on the sign in sheet. Please bring your own plastic or cloth bags since the veggies are often wet. We'll also take your clean egg cartons to reuse. Looking forward to seeing you soon!