

October 6, 2010

Hi Everyone,

As we wrap up another season, it's amazing to think of the wild swings we've experienced over the past three years. We were very pleased with our first season, and I think the feeling was shared by most of our CSA members. But then there was 2009, the likes of which we had never seen and never wish to see again. A cold, wet spring ruined the spinach, delayed virtually everything else, and encouraged the spread of late blight, which ultimately killed our tomato crop. Not only was it a test of our mettle as farmers, but also of our CSA members and their commitment to the notion of sharing the risk.

Fortunately, 2010 has been the year to beat, bypassing even 2008 in terms of crop yields. Of course, the season did not come without its own challenges, mainly a mid-summer drought that was as dry as 2009 was wet. Fortunately, our system of drip irrigation proved up to the task, and we came through relatively unscathed. There were the usual pest problems—the shield bugs that discovered the kale just as kale chips were becoming popular, the Canadian geese that will go after just about anything. But again, no major losses to report.

So now we look ahead to 2011. We don't anticipate any major changes, just basic improvements to our current system. The share price will go up to \$900 for a full share and \$450 for a half. The berry share will go up to \$50. We expect to have blueberries for the first time, though their numbers will be limited—most likely what you can snack on in the field. We'll also be offering the egg share again through Makinajian Poultry Farm, though we'll have to wait until next spring to get a price.

As always, we are eternally grateful for all the support we receive from our CSA members. I think the growing popularity of the Saturday volunteer days and the potlucks are the most compelling example of the community that can emerge from something as simple yet essential as food. It is that sense of community that sustains us through the tough work of farming. So thanks again!

Sincerely,

Caroline, Dan, Ada, & Baby #2 (due April 2011—Surprise!)