

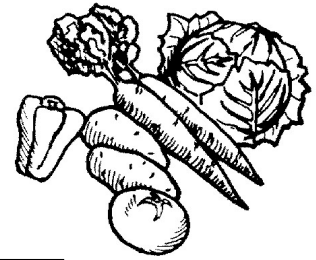
# CSA Newsletter

## WALTHAM FIELDS COMMUNITY FARM

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE 1995–2005

*A project of Community Farms Outreach*

240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02452 • 781-899-2403 • [www.communityfarms.org](http://www.communityfarms.org)



### Notes from the Farm

Well, folks, it's over. As certainly as the shadows lengthen and the trees change, the season is winding down. This has been a challenging season, as I know you've all heard me say over and over, in writing and in person, over the last five months. The weather played tricks on us all year long. At one point it was so dry that Alex literally got one of our tractors stuck in the dust in the field. At another, the same tractor sank up to its axles in the mud. The wild storms of May and the incredible heat of July and August are all past us now, giving way to the inexplicable sense of optimism that I feel every October when the weather changes and the growing season draws to a close. Sure, I'll do it again next year—that wasn't so bad after all!

The truth is, though, that it has been a very positive season for our farm in many of the truly important ways—our farm crew was dedicated and hardworking and inspiring to be around (and we still like each other, too); our volunteers were kind and committed and put up with us even at our most despondent, bringing food to share and topics of conversation to distract us from our worries; and the land remained healthy and productive, evident even as it grows cover crops this time of year.

And we had your support for the work that we do. As Trina said the other day at our Third Sunday gathering, it is incredible for us as farmers to have a group of people who, like all of you, recognize that taking the courageous step of sharing the risk of a growing season with the farm is a step in the right direction in our very confused agricultural society. This year may have tested your faith in farming—there were definitely times during the season when it has tested ours.

And the reality is, you have all become true shareholders in our farm this season, taking the

October 23–27, 2005 (Distribution #20)

**THIS IS THE LAST PICK-UP**

risk even when the result, from what Matthew calls the 'capitalist' perspective, may not show a 15% or a 20% or even a 10% return on your original investment. This is the seemingly counterintuitive (and therefore, inherently faithful) kind of act that *does* make a difference in the world. The truth is that, as many of you who have been shareholders for years know, to become truly engaged with community supported agriculture takes a multi-year experience. Most years are great, some are truly challenging, and *all* of those years are part of our shared long-term commitment to doing agriculture, being part of the agricultural process, and re-connecting the nourishment of our families directly to the health of the land, along with the families in need who eat our donated produce.

Over the past few weeks, things have been so busy in our little organization that it has been difficult for all of us to step back far enough to think about our larger mission, the work that excited us all so much that we were willing to commit much of our time and energy to it. And that, for me, is it—it's the re-building of relationships that have been lost, between people of all means and their food and the land. We do it on a very small scale, with very great love. That is really what it's all about, and that is what you continue to enable us to do with your membership in our farm. You can't write that in a mission statement, but you can say it with gratitude in a CSA newsletter.

*Thank you, thank you, thank you. See you in the spring.*

*—Amanda, for Ellen, Matt, Trina, Alex, Aviva, Becky, and the rest of the farm crew.*

### CFO's Annual Appeal is Underway

Make a donation to support the farm and our hunger relief and education programs. And come to our potluck Annual Dinner Sunday, November 20th.

***Please fill out the attached member survey and mail it back to the farm (address above).***

<b>Veggie</b>	<b>More, please</b>	<b>Less, please</b>	<b>Comments and Thoughts</b>
Arugula			
Braising Mix			
Tatsoi			
Mizuna			
Broccoli Raab			Should we grow it?
Bok Choy			
Swiss Chard			
Spinach			
Lettuce			
Collards			
Kale			
Turnips			
Radishes			
Daikon Radish			Should we grow it?
Carrots			
Beets			
Parsnips			Crop failure this year – we'll try again
Celeriac			
Rutabaga			Crop failure this year
Potatoes			
Sweet Potatoes			
Onions			We know – you want MORE!
Leeks			Crop failure
Garlic			
Scallions			
Tomatoes			
Peppers			
Eggplant			
Broccoli			There is lots more in next year's plan...
Cauliflower			
Kohlrabi			
Cabbage			
Napa Cabbage			
Winter Squash			
Pumpkins			
Summer Squash			
Cucumbers			
Muskmelons			
Watermelons			
Corn			
Strawberries			
Beans			
Peas			
Tomatilloes			
Cherry Tomatoes			
Hot Peppers			
Cilantro			
Parsley			
Basil			
Fennel			
Not on the list? Write-In your favorite veggie here!!			

Please rate:

**Overall quantity of food in your share (if you split a share, please let us know that):**

- Way too much, couldn't eat it if I/we tried
- About right
- Not enough, always had to buy more in between pickups

Comments:

**Overall quality of food in your share:**

- Outstanding, makes me wonder how I ever ate grocery store produce
- Average quality, nothing special but solid and tasty
- Poor quality

Comments:

**Distribution set up or process:**

- Pickup was smooth, information was where I needed it, I felt welcomed and knew my way around and pickup times were convenient
- In general, distribution was fine, but I could have used more information or more guidance and I couldn't always make the pickup times
- Distributions were often crowded and/or there wasn't enough information, and/or pickup times were not convenient for me
- Other:

Comments:

**Pick-your-own crops (check as many as apply):**

- Too much
- Just right
- Not enough
- Too weedy
- Easy to get to
- Hard to get to
- Instructions were clear
- Instructions were not clear

Comments:

*Continued on back*

**Newsletters:**

- Read them every week, helpful and informative
- Not useful/ didn't read them
- They would have been better if: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering on the farm:**

- I loved it
- No interest
- Times don't work for me/my family

Comments:

**Will you return as a shareholder next season?**

- Yes
- No

**Why or why not?**

**Please rate the following in order of their importance to you as a CSA shareholder, with 1 being the most important:**

- Price/share value
- Convenience of farm location and pickup times
- Being part of a farm that supports hunger relief
- Supporting local farms
- Knowing your farmer
- Food quality
- Environmental conservation and organic production methods
- A sense of community

**Would you be interested in purchasing other types of shares of locally produced items (egg share, cheese share)?**

**Any other suggestions for us:**