



# My Minnesota Farmer CSA

## My basket this week may include

- ❖ **Radishes** – We are so happy to have a little spring treat in the boxes this week. The radishes are great, not too hot and so delicious. Remember if radishes aren't your favorite try them baked or broiled. So delicious and they lose their bite.
- ❖ **Tomatoes** – We are getting to the end of our tomatoes but we are going to try and get everyone one or two. I am going to miss tomatoes so much. I hope I got enough canned for winter. Too late now if I didn't!
- ❖ **Celery** – I think we will have enough celery for everyone this week. Then next week you will get celeriac instead. The celery that grows outdoors has a bit of a thinner stalk but a wonderful celery taste. This should stay well in your fridge in a bag in the crisper for a while. Enjoy this new treat. It needs to be appreciated it was planted in January, transplanted, weeded, watered and loved since then. Lots of love has gone into these plants!
- ❖ **Pumpkins** – We are sending out pumpkins to 100 of you and squash to the rest. The full shares will get pumpkins first and the half shares will get pumpkins or another kind of squash. The pumpkins can be carved but they are all eating varieties also. The one we grow most is Pick a Pie. This is a great baking variety.
- ❖ **Garlic** – Add your garlic to any savory recipe. If you aren't going to use it right away keep it in the refrigerator or on the cupboard. It stores very well. We have even had members plant their garlic cloves in the fall so they would have their own fresh garlic in the spring. That is what we do and it works great. ☺
- ❖ **Eggplant** – We sent out eggplant in the full shares last week so we are going to try and get it into the half shares this coming week. It is supposed to be pretty cold tonight but not below freezing. We will see how the plants fare in the lower temps. Eggplant is a tropical plant and loves heat so it never looks happy after a frost. We just have to wait and see what happens.
- ❖ **Hot Peppers** – Anaheims this week. We may have a few jalapenos to throw in too but not as many. Remember, throw these into your freezer for future use if you aren't using them now. We will have to see how the plants look after the frost Saturday morning.
- ❖ **Romaine Lettuce** – We are now harvesting romaine lettuce for the Minneapolis School District. We have so much planted we probably won't miss the 300 heads we will be sending out in shares. We are harvesting lettuce out of the field right now but we have a couple tunnels of lettuce to harvest yet for shares and the school district. We are so happy about having nice heads of romaine in the fall. We have had so much rain that they are muddy. We washed them but I know you will want to do it again.

❖ **Parsley** – This great herb is what we have left now that the basil frosted. Chop it up and use it with the celery in a soup. This will last in the fridge for a good week or you can throw it in the freezer for later.

❖ **Cucumbers** – I think it is a ‘one cucumber for everyone’ week. They are really slowing down so I think it is time that we rip out the cucumber tunnel and put garlic in. We plant our garlic now for beautiful little sprouts poking up in the spring and great garlic next summer. Garlic is about one of my favorite things to grow.

❖ **Sweet Peppers** – The orange blaze peppers have really slowed down but the red peppers are still big and beautiful! We have these in the tunnel also so they should go even past the cool weather we will be getting coming up soon. Some of the pepper plants are almost 4 feet tall. Way to grow peppers. Our Creator is amazing!

❖ **Onions** – We are going to send out a mix of onions in your shares this week. We have red, yellow and a few white onions too. They are all storage onions so keep them cool and dark and you will be able to not buy onions for a while. \

## Sad Year For Fall Crops

With all the water this year our fall crops did not do half as well as we expected. Our first crop that went down because of wetness was our potatoes. You never count your chickens until they hatch or your potatoes until they are dug. We lost about 1/3 of all of our plants in the early summer because of wet holes in the field. We not so affectionately called them potato lake. The remaining 2/3rds of the crop did pretty well except for our last 7 rows. We finally were able to dig them up this Tuesday. They were not worth digging because the majority of the potatoes were rotten from sitting in water. Sorry there are no potatoes in your box this week. I think we should have enough for everyone to get them in the last box and the extended season box. Bummer, we usually have about 2000 lbs to put into the cooler for Thanksgiving shares and winter markets. I guess that won't be the case this year.

The other crop that hasn't done great this year is our squash. The plants look smaller than normal and the fruit is tiny also (besides some of the butternut). It looks like the squash is small because of a fertility. Although this seems to make sense it doesn't add up. We added compost last fall, this spring, and had a cover crop on it. The one thing that was different is we kept our vines pretty well weeded in field three this year unlike years past but that seems like it would help the plants not hurt them. Maybe it just was too much water. Well, we will try again next year to get trailer loads of squash like we have had in the past. Each year is so different. We are blessed with or without squash, carrots, beets and potatoes

## Next Week's Box

Squash  
Celeriac  
Peppers  
Onions  
Cucumbers as available  
Tomatoes as available  
Parsley  
Potatoes  
Garlic  
Possibly Eggs

We thank you so much for supporting our farm through plenty and low fall crop years. We so appreciate your support of our family!

Next week is the last week of regular season. There is one week of extended season after that.

Stay tuned for changes in box set up for next year. Winding down this year has already made us start thinking and planning for next year. Here we come 2017 season! ☺