



# My Minnesota Farmer CSA

## My basket this week may include

- ❖ **Fennel** – I will try and get fennel to more of you this week. Maybe everyone will get it. I will get a better feel after we get it out of the field and see how much there is.
- ❖ **Green and Yellow Beans** – The beans really slowed down with the cool weather. We will get the ones out that are ready. I am not sure that many of you will get them this week. If you don't we will get something else in the boxes so they are still equal. With the early frost the boxes will be a bit more mismatched than they have been in the past.
- ❖ **Potatoes** – There will be Yukon gold potatoes this week. The potato crop was not as amazing this year as it was last year. But the squash crop is a lot better. Each year brings different things. We know that for sure. We will send out a few different varieties of potatoes before the season is over.
- ❖ **Parsley** – Some of you got parsley last week too even though the newsletter said basil. We found that even the basil that was covered had been kissed by the frost. We harvested off the frost covered basil and hopefully it will regrow now that we have nice weather again. It looks like the 10 day forecast looks pretty nice. Maybe we will have more warm season crops than we had first predicted when the frost hit.
- ❖ **Big Daddy Onions** – This is a new variety of onions that we are growing for the first time this year. On one half of our onion patch the weeds won over the onions a bit more than we would like so they are not all as large as we would like. The other half grew amazing onions. When we were out picking my 4 year old and I were naming the onions little mamas and tiny teenagers instead of big daddys. You have to have fun when you are working right?
- ❖ **Tomatillos** – Not many more of these are out there this week. Many of these plants still look ok despite the frost. We will see how many I have to send out. They are such a fun addition to your boxes if you ask me. They are a great apple/tomato flavor combination.
- ❖ **Beets** – We have red beets and golden (yellow) beets. We have enough beets to send out large beets for Monday. We will see if we can get them to everyone on Wednesday too. If not we will sub something else in and get Wed people beets next week.
- ❖ **Kohlrabi** – This week will be field kohlrabi which is a bit smaller than the batch of kohlrabi we have going in the tunnel. The tunnel kohlrabi will come out in one of the next two weeks.
- ❖ **Acorn/Butternut Squash** – Last week we had Acorn squash on Monday and Butternut on Wednesday. This week we will switch that around so everyone gets some of each. I think we will go with buttercup next week.



The pictures below show 4 of my 6 children helping me harvest fennel in the field. With 6 children 10 and under and another on the way, we are 6 months pregnant, there is a lot of work to do around here and lots of little helpers around here to help me do it. We have a lot of fun working together as a family. The kids are much more involved now that our staff is smaller than it was mid-summer. More fun to be had!

## Quitting Time?

Farmers really work a lot. It is not unusual for us to work from sunup to sundown and 7 days a week. That is why God gives us a winter right? ☺

That is not always the case though. If you look at the picture above, which I took Saturday late afternoon, there are other things that make us quit before it is dark. On Saturday we experienced a light rain and continued to work through it. We then got a call from Dean's sister that told us the second wave of the storm that is coming through is a lot windier and fiercer than the first gentle rain. So we started to run around closing the high tunnels and 'buttoning down' the farm. With 12 tunnels this takes a while. Once I saw the cloud above in the field and heard the rain and fierce rain coming we all started running to the house in the rain which was now pelting us. It was awesome that Mr. Nate one of our helpers was there to carry my two year old since he was pretty frightened and I am 6 months pregnant. We all made it happily to the house and snuggled in the basement for a bit and took the rest of the night to do things closer to the house. The life of a farmer is very rarely boring. That is why we do what we do! Thanks for supporting our dreams, "To grow healthy food for wonderful people". Hope you are enjoying it.



## Next Week's Box

Cabbage  
Peppers  
Onions  
Cucumbers  
Buttercup Squash  
Tomatoes  
Kale  
Parsley  
Celery  
Potatoes

