



Bob writes...

First off, please see the reverse side for information regarding one of the great programs that the Angelic Organic Learning Center has been administering—farmer training, run primarily by Parker Forsell.

We are all still coping with the major change in our lives and the farm due to Lora's passing, and Diana's injuries. I, for one, am very appreciative of the outpouring of support that has come from many directions. In particular I would like to thank, Stacey Swanson, Tom Spaulding, Parker Forsell, Raul Casique, Joanne Mandt, Shelly Anderson, Farmer John, everybody else at the farm and many shareholders who all came together to keep things moving and to comfort one another including me. I am easing back into my daily roles and am trying to integrate this event into my life. I now intend to further include Lora's impulses into all of my efforts here at the farm. From using individual biographical insights to support myself and all our coworkers, to working towards a more complete biodynamic farm organism, including of course the bees, to carrying on Lora's selfless giving and loving impulses. With all of the help of everybody in our community, I imagine that our farm and our CSA will grow from these experiences. Thank you.

Now, regarding the watermelons: usually the watermelon vines die from blight well before any possibility of second wave of watermelons can occur. This is the first time we have ever seen a second wave of watermelon. We wish there was enough for every shareholder (please do not wade through boxes). And while these are not the perfectly summer sweet watermelons, they are still quite good. There are only enough for all Wednesday shareholders, and some Thursday shareholders. Next year, if we have them, all Thursday and Saturday boxes will get one. We hope those of you who get one enjoy them. Yummers!

As a reminder, the early \$50 sign up discount for 2008 will be expiring on 9/30/07. Currently, the 20-week share is \$530 (\$580-\$50=\$530). The 2008 winter shares are \$100, so the total to add one of these is \$630. There is also a \$20 discount on 10-delivery fruit shares (\$420-\$20=\$400), making them \$400 through November 1st. Then, to add a winter fruit share, add an additional \$84.

By the way, the replanted greens in the carrot field are looking quite good, and in a couple of weeks you can anticipate receiving more spinach than usual as well as other goodies. See you next week.

What's in Your Box

Brassicas

Broccoli, and/or **Cauliflower**

Kohlrabi - maybe-purple or white

Root Crops

Sweet Potatoes or **Beets** - maybe

Celeriac-with tops; cook the tops as you would celery

Potatoes - likely

Fruiting Crops

Winter Squash - butternut, sweet dumpling, delicata &/or acorn

Peppers - likely

Eggplant - maybe

Watermelon - see above

Cooking Greens

Spinach, **Collards**, **Stir Fry mix**, **Baby Choi** &/or **Kale**

Herbs

Thyme

Cilantro- maybe

Alliums

Onion(s)

Leek(s)- maybe

Garlic - likely

Salad Greens

Lettuce

Coming Next Week

More of the same, but potential new items such as popcorn, arugula, rutabaga, cabbage, radishes, baby chard, radishes, including Daikon radish, dill and scallions (just kidding—scallions are an early season crop!).

Vegetable Week 16, September 24-29, 2007, Angelic Organics, CSA@AngelicOrganics.com, www.angelicorganics.com

ANGELIC ORGANICS *Learning Center*

NEW FARMERS GROW FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

By Parker Forsell, Farmer Development Coordinator, Angelic Organics Learning Center

Driving east from Roscoe, Illinois, toward Angelic Organics farm one sees a familiar site: hundreds of new tract homes gobbling up rich agricultural land. It is a worrisome trend when viewed alongside daily stories of tainted imported foods. If we lose the farmland and continue to lose farmers, where will our food come from?

If you pass the tract homes and keep driving east, two bright signs crop up on the right hand side of Elevator Road: one reads “Pine Row Farm – vegetables, eggs” and the other “Margie’s Grass Kickin’ Chickens – vegetables, chicken, pork.” Hungry for fresh, local food, neighbors are downshifting and entering these two driveways in droves.

While the daily papers pose questions for us all about where, when, and how food ends up on the grocery store shelves, more and more people are looking for signs like these along the road and in the farmer’s market stands—and for CSAs like Angelic Organics.

The Learning Center launched the Stateline Farm Beginnings® program two years ago to prepare the next generation of sustainable

farmers for our local food system. Since then, more than 20 new farms have walked the path from dream to reality, with the support of experienced farmer mentors. We are seeing a great snapshot of the new face of agriculture. It’s a younger and more creative agriculture than twenty-five or thirty years ago, it’s distinctly more female, and it’s peopled by ex-engineers, lawyers, bond traders, college-age idealists, and more than a few artists, writers, and musicians. Only a minority has farm experience or was raised on a farm, but they have passion for it.

Don Larson, one of our new neighborhood farmers, is a music professor and jazz saxophone player in several area bands. He and his wife Tresea, a potter, learned about Stateline Farm Beginnings® through their neighbors Mark and Margaret Nelson of Margie’s Grass Kickin’ Chickens – graduates of the 2006 program. In 2007, the Larsons started Pine Row Farm.

Don and Tresea’s pasture-fed chicken eggs have become something of a sensation. Enough so that it led one customer to lean in toward Don one day and in a lowered voice exclaim, “You better watch it Don, you run out of eggs around here and you might have a revolution on your hands.”

Look for Farm Beginnings® graduates throughout the region and support them with a purchase and encouragement (farming is still one of the most demanding and difficult vocations). Graduates of the program are selling at Logan Square, Wicker Park, Deerfield, North Park, Lake Bluff, and Green City farmer’s markets in Chicago, in Geneva, Rockford, and directly from their farms.



STORM HITS AREA FARMS

As you’ve heard from Bob Bower, August brought record-breaking rains. As coordinators of the CRAFT farmer training alliance, the Learning Center has received many reports from farms throughout the region facing tremendous crop losses due to the storm, including a few farms that may have to close. Severe weather is a sobering reality on sustainable and organic farms, especially since these farmers lack the supports (such as crop insurance) that are available to conventional farms. We hope to bring you more information on this breaking story.



Angelic Organics Learning Center helps urban and rural people build local food systems. We are the nonprofit educational partner to Angelic Organics farm. To learn more, contact us at 815.389.8455 or learn@learnconnect.org, or visit www.learnconnect.org.