



BLOOMING GLEN FARM

May 15
Newsletter
Issue #1

BloomingNow!

Features Fresh from the Farm

Community
Supported
Agriculture

From the field...

Welcome to Blooming Glen Farm CSA. We are excited for the upcoming season, and hope you all are as well. It has been a busy year for us so far. We met the Rosenberger's in December and moved on to the land in January. Greenhouse construction commenced almost immediately—with Tom, and our ace unpaid employee, my dad (who thought he was retired!...) finding out quickly about the solid Bucks County clay soil as they pounded in the ground posts for the greenhouse bows to sit in. We've made lots of progress since then. Weathered a very windy March, and an unusually warm and dry April. May has also started out windy and hot—our cool weather crops, things like peas and spinach, aren't so happy with the summer-like weather., though the recent rain has been a big help. The good news on the wind front—since we are transitioning land that was farmed conventionally to organic use, we qualified for grant money through the NRCS (Nat'l Resource Conservation Service)—they'll pay 75% for a wind break, and also a concrete pad that we can start making our

own compost on. We have lots of veggies growing in the ground – 10 different varieties of potatoes, lots of different onions, scallions and leeks, turnips, beets, carrots, broccoli, kale, cabbage, collards, swiss chard, eggplants and more! Looking forward to seeing you around the farm—



Tricia and Tom

News and Notes:

- Pick-up begins Tuesday May 23, and Friday May 26.
- Pick-up is from 2-8 pm.
- Please remember to sign in at pick-ups by putting a check next to your name on the list.
- Bring your own bags
- Join us every Second Saturday of the month for a potluck at the farm at 6pm. Bring your own plate, utensils, beverage and a dish to share.

Pick-ups start a week early

We will be moving our first pick-up day up a week earlier to Tuesday, May 23 and Friday May 26, from 2-8 pm.

Thanks to the unseasonably warm spring, some of our crops are growing faster than expected. If you don't remember what day you registered for, please call us. We will be harvesting for the specific number of shares on the mornings of the pick-ups, so it's important that you come on the right day.

Volunteer work days

We will have weekly scheduled work activities on these days during these times, unless it is raining: **Saturday mornings from 8-12, and Wednesday evenings from 4-8.** Come anytime between those hours for a little hands on farm activities. Please don't call ahead, just come on by. Bring a water bottle,

wear your work clothes and gardening gloves if you have them, a sunhat or sunscreen, and a smile! Feel free to bring a picnic lunch for Saturday afternoons. We also have a sign in box to keep track of your 4 hr. work commitment—just find the card with your name and record your hours. Thanks! And

remember, four hours a household over the course of the season is the minimum requirement, if you are so inspired, you are welcome to do more! Sometimes we will also send out the occasional plea for help via email for certain larger tasks, so keep an ear out.

Your Family at the Farm

Plants are living things, so remember to respect their space. Please walk in the aisles, not in the raised beds.

We are fortunate to have a beehive on the farm, tended by Martin, one of our CSA members. It is located at the far back of the farm by the woods. Take a stroll and check them out, or keep going through the pedestrian gate in the deer fence. The Rosenberger's Red Angus Cows can be seen grazing in the next field over. Please remember to close any gates that you open so we can keep the deer out, and away from our



yummy crops.

Thanks to all the kids who built bluebird houses with the help of Mr. Dale at our Open House. We now have seven along the fence. About an hour after we hung them up, two tenants moved in!

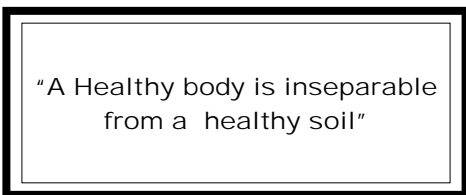
Some other farm visitors of special interest: a fox, herons, red tailed hawks, and a goose couple. And let's not forget the wonderful world of insects—lots of beautiful butterflies can be seen flitting about, as well as countless other creatures.

The Children's Garden is a work in progress. If you would like to contribute any perennial plants or other features, organize a children's garden-centered activity, craft, or lesson, let us know. When exploring the garden, please stay on the straw paths, there are seeds germinating that you might not be able to see.

History of Community Supported Agriculture

The idea of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) was developed first in Japan in 1965. It was initiated by a group of women concerned with the use of pesticides, the increase in processed and imported foods, and the corresponding decrease in the local farm population.

The "Teikei" movement was born. The literal translation of teikei is partnership or cooperation. The philosophical translation is food with



the farmer's face on it, or "face-to-face" agriculture. Teikei came from the belief that a close relationship between the farmer and consumer was the only true way to ensure the integrity of production and to build

healthy rural and urban communities.

This philosophy of organic agriculture also originated in the belief that a healthy body is inseparable from a healthy soil. We are what we eat.

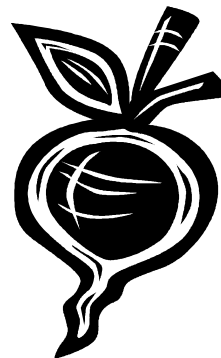
The first CSA's appeared in the U.S. in 1986 in New England. Twenty years later, in 2006, it is estimated there are over 1500 CSA's in the U.S. alone.

What are those white sheets all over the fields?!

When you visit the farm you will notice the numerous white cloths draped over our crops in the field. This is an agricultural fabric, or floating row cover, known as "remay". It serves a number of different purposes. You will see it most often in the spring and fall, as it provides a light barrier against frost (so we'll use it on more tender crops like newly transplanted lettuce,

tomatoes and eggplants). And it helps warm up the soil, and speed up the growth of the plants.

It also cuts down on certain insect pests while allowing for water, light and air penetration. For example, the family of crops known as brassicas (for example cabbage, pac choi, mustard



greens, mizuna) are susceptible to flea beetles and cabbage moths, so we use remay during most of their growth to help keep these bugs away.

So if you see us out in the fields tucking the plants in under their big white sheets now you know why.