

February 18, 2004

Volume 2, Issue 1

food for thought

The newsletter of J.L. Hawkins Family Farm/ 260-982-4961

Anticipation

Yesterday I met with an area organic grower who will be starting plants for us this year. It is fun to consider experimenting with many varieties of tomatoes, peppers, onions, cabbage, basil, and flowers, as well as some basic varieties of broccoli and kohlrabi. In addition, we are planning to direct seed various kinds of carrots, radishes, cucumbers, potatoes, peas, green beans, snap peas, squash, mixed lettuce and other greens, soup beans, and pumpkins. We may even have a few melons and some popcorn! I am just about finished planning the gardens and soon I will be ordering seeds. Spring isn't far off! All this has me so excited about fresh vegetables that today I went out into the garage, dug some of last

summer's carrots out of the bin where they are covered in soil, peeled and ate them! They weren't too bad—a fitting foretaste of the abundance of fresh vegetables promised in the summer of 2004.

In addition to the vegetables—enough for about 50 shares or so—I've ordered over 200 turkeys, 1800 chickens, and have made arrangements for processing. These birds will consumer about 50,000 pounds o feed! I'm trying to acquire about 20 more steers. Kathy has said that she wants to get laying hens, so we may have some eggs as well. Things are moving along!

Question and Answer

We've been asked how strict a shareholder must keep to the chosen day of the week and the designated time period. The truth is that we are not terribly strict about this, recognizing that all sorts of factors come into play as each shareholder determines when it is works best to come to the farm. The reason we set 4pm-8pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays is to give us some structure so that we can have things ready for you when you come. If you'd like to come at other times, feel free.

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When you come to the farm...

You'll be stopping first in the small "garage" located next to the gasoline pump. We will be turning this space into a "shareholder hut." Inside will be the chalkboard telling about the crops ready for harvest, a countertop work space, drawers to hold plastic bags and other useful items, a refrigerator (kindly donated by the Strohallsens—thanks!) and some basic garden tools.

One shareholder wisely suggested that we also have a chalkboard that describes jobs that need to be done and the need for items we can use. For example: We use clean **gallon milk jugs** to make ice and will be glad to receive any you might send our way. In addition we are always in need of **five gallon buckets with handles**. Thanks.

HOPE CSA

As you likely know, the centerpiece of our efforts on the farm is the ministry to clergy that we are developing, called HOPE CSA (Hands-on Pastoral Education using Clergy Supporting Agriculture). Our goal is to have 3 groups or ten pastors each meet monthly (also on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—so you may get to know some of them!) Last year's "pilot group" found the ministry to be very rewarding, and we hope for the same during the coming year. Check out www.hopecsa.org for more information.

MORE INFORMATION

- ✓ ORDER FORMS are available online at our web site
- ✓ If you desire, you can choose to have payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account, or use a credit card, by making use of "PayPal" from our website
- ✓ We still have about 50 frozen whole chickens available @ \$2.10/lb
- ✓ We also have plenty of steakburger, frozen in 1 lb packages @ \$3.25/lb (or 2lb packages of patties @ \$3.50/lb. Daughter Sarah reminds me that our beef comes from "Glad Cows."