

May 18, 2004

Volume 2, Issue 4

food for thought

The occasional newsletter of J.L. Hawkins Family Farm

Lettuce...and weeds!

If you have opportunity this week, come out to the farm and get some lettuce and other greens from beds 9 & 17. The rains have brought dramatic growth of the crop. Unfortunately, the rains have also brought dramatic growth of weeds. Between showers, you'll find me with hoe in hand. Oh, and in case you may have forgotten, you are welcome to join me in the weeding task!

In addition to weeding, we continue to seed and transplant. Potatoes are coming up nicely. Some of the early peas are blossoming. Radishes are appearing, and a few carrots, too. Green bean plants are showing. And, purely by grace, some "volunteer" sunflowers are growing nicely.

In the livestock department, there are now three batches of

chickens on the farm. The first batch will be butchered next week; the second batch is about 3 weeks old, and the third batch are one day old (I just put them in the brooder today). I have plenty of chicken for sale, so please let your friends and neighbors know! Think chicken-on-the-grill for Memorial Day and turkey-on-the-grill for Independence Day!

The turkeys are 7 weeks old and growing nicely. The cattle are fattening out well on fresh clover and grass. And the old fat hen is still wandering the barn lot, growing well on pilfered dog food.

And there are about 3 batches of new kitties on the farm.

Spring is a lively season!

Question and Answer

What do I need to know as I pick up my fresh chicken? The first batch of chickens will be processed next week and will be available for pick up from Wednesday after 4pm thru Saturday noon. While we try to stay on the farm during this time, it is best to call ahead to make sure we are home and not temporarily away. Chickens are chilled in ice water and are whole. Bring plastic bags, ice, and a cooler for transport. Since we have limited room for keeping the birds, you need to pick up according to the schedule.

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Shareholder Shed...and other things

It will likely be June before we clean out the old garage (near the gas pump) and transform it into a Shareholder Shed (your first stop each week to learn what vegetables are available and to get plastic bags, garden tools, etc.) In the meantime, we'll likely post a notice on the milk house door with pertinent information for the week. Thanks for your patience.

HELP NEEDED:

1. We still need five-gallon buckets. If you happen to have or run across any, especially white ones, and can bring them to the farm, we will be grateful!
2. Weeding the gardens
3. Transplanting seedlings
4. Loading chickens into crates - TUESDAY evening, May 25.

From poet John Updike
"Hoeing"

I sometimes fear the younger generation will be deprived
of the pleasures of hoeing;
there is no knowing
how many souls have been formed by this simple exercise.

The dry earth like a great scab breaks, revealing
moist-dark loam--
the pea-root's home,
a fertile wound perpetually healing,

How neatly the green weeds go under!
The blade chops the earth new.
Ignorant the wise boy who
has never performed this simple, stupid, and useful wonder.

MORE INFORMATION

- ✓ Shares are still available for sale.
- ✓ ORDER FORMS for shares and products 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 15 frozen whole chickens available @ \$2.00/lb
- ✓ We also have plenty of steakburger, frozen in 1 lb packages @ \$3.25/lb (or 2lb packages of patties @ \$3.50/lb.