

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hopecsa.org>  
**Date:** Wed May 5, 2004 8:05:13 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** garden time

Greetings from Hawkins Family Farm!

'Tis the season for gardening! Despite relentless winds, we managed to get a few seeds and plants in the ground over the last couple of weeks. Pea sprouts are a couple of inches tall, some lettuce seedlings are poking through the soil, and some broccoli and kohlrabi seedlings are taking root in a straw-mulched bed. Now that May is here, the rush is on to get the rest of the garden planted. And, of course, the weeds are thriving in the fertile soil here!

On Wed and Thu of this week (and over the next few weeks), I will be preparing seedbeds and trying to get both seeds and seedlings planted. If you have a little extra time and want to help, drop by the farm. (Note: Unfortunately, Kathy and I will not be here on the next few weekends -- this weekend daughter Sarah is in a stage play in Minnesota, the following weekend I serve as chaplain at the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly, and the weekend after that son Zach graduates from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Needless to say, I wish the timing was better considering all the Spring work that needs to get done on the farm, but, well, we'll find a way!) Having said that, if you want to come out on the weekend and pull weeds amongst the peas (Beds 11, 19, 27, 35, 43, 45) or sink the remaining row-marking bricks into the beds, go for it!

Thanks for your partnership!

--Jeff

J.L. Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Wed May 26, 2004 7:30:32 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** chickens and more

Dear shareholders,

If you ordered CHICKENS from Batch 1, you can pick up at the farm any time after 4pm today (Wednesday) through noon Saturday. We try to stay around the farm during this time, although we may be temporarily away at times. To avoid the frustration of making a trip to the farm only to find no one to help you get your chickens, please let us know when you will be coming - either by phone or e-mail. The birds will be chilled in ice water, whole. Giblets available. Remember to bring plastic bags and a cooler with ice. (Extra chickens are available if you want more, or if you know of someone who would like to purchase fresh chicken at \$2.10/lb)

Also, the lettuce is ready NOW and needs to be harvested! Bring scissors to trim off the lettuce leaves; feel free to fill a plastic produce bag full (produce bags are available in the white cinder-block milk house).

Happy eating! --Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Thu May 27, 2004 9:23:06 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Subject:** Saturday

Hello, shareholders,

First, make sure you come and get lettuce from beds 9 & 17. We've had it several times and it is delicious! I'm hoping radishes and peas may be ready later next week.

Second, today I picked up hundreds of plants: tomatoes, peppers, basil, flowers... If you happen to have free time on Saturday from 9am-noon, come out to the farm to help put these plants in the ground so they can grow toward a bountiful harvest! If we can get a crew of a dozen or more, the work will go quickly. Let me know if you can help.

Oh, and make sure you come and get chicken if you ordered it from batch one. Also, I have extra if you know of others who would like to buy some.

THANKS!

--Jeff, Kathy, Zach and Sarah  
Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Fri Jan 2, 1970 8:39:36 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** buckets of stuff  
Hello, everyone,

We've had 3.5 inches of rain over the last few days. Thankfully, the soil is draining well and one can almost hear the plants giggling with glee as they drink in fresh water toward lush growth. All this means that there is an abundance of lettuce and radishes. I recommend you bring a bucket or two and take all you want of each crop.

The lettuce and other greens are in beds 9 and 17.

The radishes are planted among the carrots in beds 22, 33, 38, and 44. Three important instructions for harvesting radishes: first, for a good-sized radish ready for harvest, look for the crown of the radish fruit to show at the soil level. You'll see red, purple, and white radishes. Second, BE CAREFUL not to pull or step on the delicate carrot plants that are in the same row. The reason we plant radishes with carrots is because it automatically thins the carrots when we harvest the radishes. This leads to instruction number three: please take a lot of radishes so that by the end of next week they are all gone (to give the carrots the space they need to grow well.) Yes, take home a bucket of radishes!

Finally, I am grateful to those who helped plant tomatoes, peppers, and broccoli on Saturday. We have a few more beds to complete, and will be planting during the next three days. While we may be planting at all times during the day, I'll officially set these times to be ready for helpers:

1pm-7pm Thursday  
1pm-7pm Friday  
9am-noon Saturday

If you have time to give, let me know. We need to get everything in the ground as soon as possible.

Enjoy Creation!

--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Fri Jun 4, 2004 8:23:23 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Subject:** many hands

Hello, everyone,

Zach and I have all the newspapers-and-pallets in place (our wonderful system for raising tomatoes), so all that's left is to put tomatoes (and peppers) in the ground. Since many hands make light work, we'd be delighted if you could join us any time between 9am-noon tomorrow (Saturday) to help get the job done. Thanks!

--Jeff and crew

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Fri Jun 11, 2004 4:24:58 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** update for June 11

Hello, everyone,

Things are growing on the farm! We got 2.5 inches of rain in the last day or so at a time when we were starting to need rain. (The cattle didn't care for the thunder and lightning, however, and I had 3 fences to repair this morning. They did not "get out" however, for which I am grateful. Lightning also took out our fax and one of our phones.

We delivered cattle to the butcher yesterday. Some of you will be picking up meat next week, (and some the week after, due to the very stubborn calf that we spent 4 hours trying to load into our cattle trailer, causing us to miss the butcher deadline.)

The next batch of fresh chickens is a couple of weeks away. We will have our first batch of turkeys available at that time, too. The birds are doing well.

We have only a few beds of seeds left to sow, including watermelon and cucumbers. All but a few of the transplants (some cutting flowers) are planted. Potatoes are starting to blossom.

VEGETABLES READY FOR HARVEST:

Beds 9 & 17 - the lettuce is still good - take all you want

Beds 22, 33, 38, and 44 - the radishes need to be harvested; take the good ones and pull some of the "too big" ones and throw them in the grass. This will give the carrots room to grow.

GARDEN PEAS Bed 11 - "Spring" garden peas - these are very sweet. We'll harvest them in two stages. First stage: search the outside and south end for some of the early pods that are plumping up nicely. You can harvest these. Second stage: later, when all of the blossoms have turned to pods and most of them are ripe, we will use the "pull and pick" method. Starting from either end, pull up the entire plant by its roots and pick off the ripe pea pods. Take about a produce bag full this week (if you can find that many); probably more next week.

SUGAR SNAP PEAS Bed 19 is mostly weeds, but you may find some snap peas there. You'll have better luck in Bed 35. Let's also use the same two stage method for harvesting these peas. Search and pick this week. Pull and pick next week. Take about a produce bag full this week; probably more next week.

Thanks!

--Jeff

at Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com

**Date:** Mon Jun 14, 2004 9:35:39 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** with sighs too deep for words

Monday morning

Hello, everyone,

What a week on the farm...

We spent much of the evening Wednesday and most of the day Thursday loading calves to take to the butcher. One calf jumped over two gates. Another took four hours to load, causing us to miss the deadline for butchering because the state inspector went home for the day. The butcher is overbooked and cannot get us in until the end of the month. Not to worry, however! We found another butcher who will do the work on Wednesday. (The calf is still on the trailer, being lovingly fed and watered. We do not want to risk another attempt at loading!)

Over the weekend we had storms that dumped five inches of rain. The lightning spooked the cattle so that I had three fences to fix, but, thankfully, they stayed within the confines of Hawkins family farm. Lightning took out our fax, two phones, and our DSL modem (we are trying to use an old dial-up to send this e-mail). We spent Sunday afternoon plucking hypothermic chickens from 6 inches of water that had ponded on most of the pasture. Amazingly resilient, we lost only 8 out of 550 birds. The turkeys are fine. The gardens are 90% under water. What was a freak rainstorm last year (8.6 inches of rain around the 4th of July, causing us to lose 75% of our garden crops) is starting to seem like a pattern. We are tempted to second guess the placement of the gardens, although the garden area has not been known over the years to collect water. Our land renter (who has the soybean crop north of the lane), who used to farm the ground where the gardens are, told me this morning that he doesn't ever remember water gathering there such as it is now. Not to worry, however! Don and Matt Meyer, friends from Meyer GMC (with Sue Meyer on the HOPE CSA board) took the initiative to bring over a huge irrigation pump and water is now being pumped from the gardens to salvage the crops.

Needless to say, we feel a bit battered by circumstances, but are even more humbled by the amazing grace of well-meaning people. God is good.

You may want to wait a day or so before trying to harvest the peas due to the mud...or you may want to come on out and have an adventure!

Grace upon grace,

Jeff and family

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Date:** Tue Jun 15, 2004 8:03:43 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Subject:** PEAS! NOW!!

Tuesday morning

Hello, again:

What a difference a day makes!

Yesterday we pumped and nature drained, and today only a little water is left standing. We lost some beans and other crops, though not enough to harm the harvest (I planted doubled what I thought would be needed). We will need to replant tomatoes.

Time and water have caused the peas to grow explosively. Even though I planted varieties that were supposed to mature at different times in order to extend the harvest, they are all coming on at once, both garden peas and snap peas. So PLEASE COME SOON AND TAKE ALL YOU WANT!

Follow these instructions:

1. Use the "pull and pick" method; that is, pull up the plant by its roots and pick off the pea pods. Just leave the spent plant in the garden bed.

2. Look for plump pods (or garden peas) but be aware that extremely plump pods that are starting to discolor will likely have bitter peas inside. Avoid them.

3. A couple of the pea beds are very weedy, but there are still pea plants with good peas amongst the weeds.

4. Garden peas in beds 11, 27, 43

Snap peas in beds 19, 35, 45

AGAIN, PLEASE COME VERY SOON AS THEY ARE MATURING RAPIDLY AND TAKE ALL YOU

WANT. THERE ARE LOTS AND LOTS AND LOTS OF PEAS!

Grace upon grace, indeed,

Jeff and family

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Thu Jun 24, 2004 9:21:48 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** finally...an update

Hello, everyone,

Sorry for the lack of communication - our DSL modem, fried by lightning, was replaced today! Ah, the blessing and curse of modern technology...

If you ordered chickens from Batch 2 or turkeys from Batch 1A, they can be picked up on the farm any time from now to noon Saturday. It may be helpful to phone ahead so that we can be sure to be present when you arrive.

There may be a few peas left in the gardens, a challenge to find amongst the weeds, but the pea season is nearly over. We will plant more for fall. We will also plant fall greens, including more spinach per many requests!

Green beans are starting to come on in bed 5. Ready to pick by Saturday?

The first bed of broccoli will be ready in a few days.

Next week we'll try to get some new potatoes for each of you - both from the Yukon Gold and Dark Red Norland beds. (We need to reserve the speciality potatoes for later.) We will show you how to carefully remove a potato or two from each plant without disturbing the others that will continue to grow. We had some with fresh grilled lemon-butter chicken for supper tonight, and they were delicious!

Happy eating!

--Jeff

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Date:** Mon Jun 28, 2004 7:49:53 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** "Jeffrey L. Hawkins" <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Cc:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** Update for June 27

Greetings, shareholders,

E-mail is still iffy at our place...I am hoping this one gets through!

Things are growing on the farm!

This week you'll find green beans in bed 5 (take a produce bag full), broccoli in abed 10 (take a head), and new potatoes in beds 16, 24, 32, 40, and 48. Some beds are Yukon Gold, the others are Dark Red Norland.

Please follow this method for harvesting new potatoes:

1. Dig gently with your hands around the potato stalk; feel for potatoes near the surface. Grasp the potato and pull it out. Take one or two potatoes per plant.
2. Hill the dirt back around the stalk.
3. Spread straw mulch thickly in the area you took potatoes so that others will know where harvest has taken place. Also, the straw mulch is important to protect the potatoes left behind and to smother weeds in the bed.
4. If you see a potato bug, squash it!
6. Take a dozen or so potatoes and enjoy!

A couple of other items:

1. In mid July we may get a couple of pigs. If you would like to purchase a half, let me know.
2. On Friday, July 2 the Hawkins Family leaves for our annual trip to the Black Hills, where Kathy and I teach at a family camp, returning the following weekend. We'll leave the garden in good shape with instructions for your use. If you have questions, or want to help weed, Debbie has agreed to be "Garden Master" for the week.
3. Sad news: the big fat hen named Nugget died recently, amazing us all by living for over a year in the dog house in the company of our dogs. She gave us a great story to tell.

Peace and plenty,

Jeff and family

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com

**Date:** Thu Jul 1, 2004 8:14:36 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com

**Subject:** Re: Update for July 2

Early greetings, shareholders,

Once again, I hope this finds you, as our main computer is not in the "shop" and I am trying to send this to you by using an old e-mail...

This week you'll find green beans in bed 5 (take a produce bag full), broccoli in abed 10 (take a head), and new potatoes in beds 16, 24, 32, 40, and 48. Some beds are Yukon Gold, the others are Dark Red Norland. Please follow this method for harvesting new potatoes:

1. Dig gently with your hands around the potato stalk; feel for potatoes near the surface. Grasp the potato and pull it out. Take one or two potatoes per plant.
2. Hill the dirt back around the stalk.
3. Spread straw mulch thickly in the area you took potatoes so that others will know where harvest has taken place. Also, the straw mulch is important to protect the potatoes left behind and to smother weeds in the bed.
4. If you see a potato bug, squash it!
6. Take a dozen or so potatoes and enjoy!

A couple of other items:

1. In mid July we may get a couple of pigs. If you would like to purchase a half, let me know.
2. On Friday, July 2 the Hawkins Family leaves for our annual trip to the Black Hills, where Kathy and I teach at a family camp, returning the following weekend. We'll leave the garden in good shape with instructions for your use. If you have questions, or want to help weed, Debbie has agreed to be "Garden Master" for the week.
3. Sad news: the big fat hen named Nugget died recently, amazing us all by living for over a year in the dog house in the company of our dogs. She gave us a great story to tell.

Peace and plenty,  
Jeff and family

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Date:** Thu Jul 1, 2004 8:26:38 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Cc:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** oops - sorry

OK, I just learned that when using Webmail, hitting the space bar causes the message to be sent...which is why you just received 3 identical messages from me, each containing mostly information from a former e-mail. Again, my apologies.

The garden information for the upcoming 4th of July week is very similar to the information from this past week. You'll find LOTS of green beans in bed 5 (take plenty)... and broccoli in bed 10 (try not to step on the onions planted in the same bed). Some shareholders have cut red lettuce that has re-grown, reporting no bitterness. New potatoes are in beds 16, 24, 32, 40, and 48. New potatoes can be harvested until all the potato beds are covered with straw. Please continue to follow this method for harvesting new potatoes:

1. Dig gently with your hands around the potato stalk; feel for potatoes near the surface. Grasp the potato and pull it out. Take one or two potatoes per plant.
2. Hill the dirt back around the stalk.
3. Spread straw mulch thickly in the area you took potatoes so that others will know where harvest has taken place. Also, the straw mulch is important to protect the potatoes left behind and to smother weeds in the bed.
4. If you see a potato bug, squash it!
5. Take a dozen or so potatoes and enjoy!

If you have questions, or want to help weed, Debbie has agreed to be "Garden Master" for the week.

A final note: as you have observed, we have dozens of kittens on the farm. They like the shade under your car, so you may want to be extra careful when you drive away, giving extra time for them to run to safety.

Peace and plenty,  
Jeff and family

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Date:** Mon Jul 12, 2004 8:55:28 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com  
**Cc:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** Re: Update for June 27

Hello, everyone!

It is great to be back on the farm after a week in the Black Hills. We had opportunity to teach about 70 adults each morning, using the Lord's Prayer as our basis. We climbed Harney Peak, the highest point between the Rocky Mountains and the Pyrenees in France. We took a few naps. Now we are ready to be home and enjoy our pretty little Indiana farm!

Our computer is still in the shop, so we are limping along in the e-mail department. I hope this mail gets through OK.

Things are growing! Cukes, watermelon, tomatoes, peppers, squash, popcorn, pumpkins--all promise to provide an abundant harvest as the summer progresses.

This week's harvest includes:

BED 1 - harvest about 20 basil leaves per share

BEDS 3 & 5 & 29 - green beans continue in bed 5 and are ready in beds 3 & 29. Take as many as you want.

BEDS 10 & 14 & 26- there are still a few heads of broccoli in this bed - many are starting to flower which means they are too far gone.

BED 12 - some of the hot peppers are ready. Help yourself to one per share. (More will be coming later)

BED 17 - the lettuce has grown back and looks good, but it likely bitter. Try it and see.

BEDS 24,32, 40, 48 The potatoes appear to have been weakened by the floodwaters so that they became susceptible to virus. This means that the tops are dying off prematurely and the potatoes will quit growing. So, lets dig new potatoes and enjoyu them now. Take a 5 gal bucket full if you would like from these beds. (I am reserving beds 8 & 16 for a while to see if they come out of it, so do not dig there.)

Soon we will be planting for fall: spinach, lettuce, broccoli, green beans, snap peas and garden peas.

As always, if you want to help with weeding, there is plenty to do!

Happy eating!

--Jeff and family

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Tue Jul 20, 2004 8:12:06 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** update week of July 19

Hi everyone,

We are currently in an "in-between" time - there are still a few green beans in beds 3 & 29, but you have to work to find them. There are still some new potatoes that can be dug in beds 16 and 48. There are some side shoots of broccoli in beds 10 & 14. And some banana peppers in bed 12. The cucumber plants are growing toward a promising harvest. Tomatoes and bell peppers are starting to fruit. Zucchini is flowering. We hope to plant for fall this week: green beans, snap peas, spinach, lettuce.

All this suggests a good time for sweet corn! We will have a dozen ears on the farm mid-morning Friday for each shareholder to pick up! Good stuff!

Peace and plenty,

Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Sat Jul 24, 2004 6:58:38 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Subject:** sweet corn and more

Saturday morning...

\*\*Sweet corn is located in bushel baskets in the milk house. Come and get your dozen ears while it is fresh!

Bed 1 - still plenty of basil for you to take

Bed 3 - a few beans may be left to take

Bed 12 - some peppers continue to grow for you to take

Bed 13 - "Baby Bop" beans (smaller green beans) are ready to be picked

Beds 10 & 14 - keep harvesting broccoli, both heads and side shoots

Bed 16 - still some new potatoes to be dug

Bed 20 - a few grape tomatoes are ripening - first-come, first served (many more are on the way)

Beds 28 & 44 - you can start looking for peppers - a few are starting to show up

Bed 39 - Zucchini are ready for harvest!

Some snap peas and greens (esp spinach) were planted yesterday for fall harvest. More will be planted next week.

Enjoy!

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Wed Jul 28, 2004 9:03:54 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Subject:** sweet cornThu

We have plans to provide fresh sweet corn at the farm on Thursday morning for shareholders. Come and get a dozen ears, located in bushel baskets in the milk house. Enjoy!

--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Aug 2, 2004 11:51:26 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** update Aug 2

Hello, everyone,

Things are still growing at the Hawkins Family Farm!

Bed 1 - still plenty of **basil** for you to take. Ask Kathy about the basil, butter, and garlic pasta we had for supper recently!

Beds 4, 20 & 36 - keep checking the **tomatoes** as some are starting to ripen.

When you see ripe ones, grab a couple of large ones or a pint or so of grape tomatoes. (There are only a few ripening now, but lots of blossoms which promise many tomatoes to come.)

Beds 3 & 5 & 13 & 21 & 29 - the **beans** are basically done and I will mow them off soon. (If you hurry, you may find a very few new beans coming on, but most are mushy) More beans have been planted and will be ready in Sept.

Beds 7 & 23 are planted to cucumbers which are starting to show blossoms, which means that we will likely have some cukes ready next week.

Bed 12, 28, & 44 have some **peppers** to be harvested. If you can find a couple, grab them!

Beds 10 & 14 - **broccoli** heads need to be harvested NOW - many heads are going to flower and seed. A new half-bed of broccoli has been planted in bed 30 and will be ready in a few weeks

Bed 16 still has some Yukon gold **potatoes** that can be dug, if you can find the dried up potato vines amongst the weeds!

Beds 22, 33, 38, & 46 have **carrots** that we can begin to take. How about 8-10 carrots per share this week?

Bed 37 - wax beans are starting to produce blossoms, which means that beans are not far away. Maybe next week?

Bed 39 - continues to produce **zucchini**. Take a couple when they are young and small. The north half of the bed is zucchini; the south half is summer squash. Take note of the zucchini plant that is immediately next to the summer squash. I think it cross-pollinated with the summer squash because it is producing **YELLOW** zucchini!

Happy eating!

--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Tue Aug 3, 2004 2:55:18 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** sweet corn Thu

We will have fresh sweet corn available again this week on Thursday morning, (in the milk house, as usual), expecting each shareholder to take a dozen or so ears! Enjoy!

**From:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com

**Date:** Mon Aug 9, 2004 12:24:04 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com

**Cc:** shareholders

**Subject:** Update for Aug 9

Hello, everyone,

The gardens continue to produce, and with the possibility of rain today, more growth is likely!

Bed 1 - still plenty of basil

Beds 4, 20, 36 - keep checking for tomatoes, which are starting to ripen

Beds 7 & 23 - look for cucumbers - there are some starting and many more will follow. You need to look carefully; today I was looking at bed 7, thinking that I would find nothing but blossoms, and I found a HUGE cucumber.

Bed 11 - baby arugula in the south end. Baby mixed lettuce may be ready next week!

Beds 12, 28, 44 - keep looking for peppers. Plenty of banana peppers are available.

Bed 14 - keep harvesting broccoli side shoots

Bed 21 - if you search, you may find a few good beans still on the bushes

Bed Beds 22,33,38,46 - take about a dozen carrots per share per week

Bed 37 - wax beans next week?

Bed 41 - the sunflowers are ready to flower!

Bed 39 - summer squash in south end; zucchini is north end

Bed 51 - a few heads of curly cabbage may be ready (most were flooded out)

If you find a suitable head, take it.

ALSO:

--we plan to have sweet corn available again Thursday morning

--Thursday morning through Saturday noon is chicken pick up

Happy eating!

--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Wed Aug 25, 2004 8:29:58 AM America/Indianapolis

**To:** Shareholders

**Subject:** update for week of Aug 23

Update for the week of August 23:

Sorry for the delay in sending this update. We finally got our computer back from the repair shop yesterday and it appears to be working well!

Kathy says make sure you cut yourself a bouquet of flowers, including the newly-opened sunflowers.

Bed 1 - still plenty of basil, some mint, some dill.

Beds 4, 20, 36 - TOMATOES

Beds 7 Lots of CUCUMBERS! (varieties: north-Marketmore; south-Olympian) & 23 (varieties: north-Homemade pickles; south-Amira)

BED 9 - garden peas are growing well and will likely be ready in a few weeks.

Bed 11 - GREENS. Arugula in the south end. Some spinach just north of the arugula (with a row of arugula mistakenly planted in it). For some reason spinach did not germinate well, so it is spotty. The same is true of the spinach planted in the north end of Bed 18. Also green leaf lettuce, Bibb lettuce, Romaine lettuce, mixed lettuce. Help yourself to plenty!

Beds 12, 28, 44 - Plenty of banana PEPPERS are available. An occasional green bell pepper.

Beds 15 & 42 - Winter squash vines are starting to bear fruit. Some may be ready next week. [Varieties: Bed 15 - south-butternut; middle-Blue Ballet; north-Spaghetti]

Bed 18 - North end: a few RADISHES may be ready soon, also some swiss chard and a little bit of spinach

Bed 19 - Green beans are growing for fall harvest.

Bed 21 - if you search, you may find a few good beans still on the bushes

Bed Beds 22,33,38,46 - take about a dozen CARROTS or so per share per week

Bed 26 - Sugar snap peas are growing for fall harvest.

Bed 27 - green beans are growing for fall harvest.

Bed 34 - a few heads of CABBAGE are available for harvest; help yourself to one if you'd like.

Bed 37 - Lots and lots of WAX BEANS

Bed 39 - YELLOW CROOKNECK AND WHITE SCALLOP summer squash in south end; ZUCCHINI in north end

Bed 50 - popcorn continues to grow for fall harvest

Bed 51 - a few heads of curly CABBAGE may be ready (most were flooded out)

If you find a suitable head, take it.

FLOWERS: Lots of flowers are blooming, so pick yourself a bouquet!

Happy eating!

--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Thu Sep 2, 2004 8:30:42 AM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** spinach, lettuce

Hi everyone,

Kathy was out in the garden this morning and came in with this declaration: Tell everyone that there is LOTS of lettuce (bed 11)! Also, even though we attempted to plant a goodly amount of spinach and it germinated poorly, there is some to be harvested (north end of bed 18, along with radishes and chard; south end of bed 11, just north of the arugula which is the southernmost crop in bed 11.) So--as you make your way to the grocery store in preparation for Labor Day eating, swing by the farm for some greens!

--Jeff and Kathy

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Thu Sep 9, 2004 12:18:21 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** food and fresh air!

Hello, everyone,

Come replenish your larder and refresh your soul as you harvest produce at Hawkins Family Farm! Oh, what a gorgeous fall-like day today!

Also, this is a reminder that next MONDAY 4pm-7pm and next TUESDAY (all day) are CHICKEN pick-up days. (NOTE: A change from the Wed through Sat pattern) Check below for my records on who has chickens ordered.

Here's the update on the garden:

MILKHOUSE-we have picked some tomatoes (including grape tomatoes) and cucumbers which you will find in porcelain dishes near the milk house. Help yourself.

Bed 1 - help yourself to basil, chives, mint, dill.

Beds 2, 12, 13, and 44 - cut FLOWERS

Beds 4, 20, 36 - lots of TOMATOES - vines are dying, so get tomatoes now.

Take plenty.

Beds 7 & 23 CUCUMBERS - many are overripe; get plenty now before they are all too ripe.

BED 9 - SUGAR SNAP PEAS are starting to come on. Get them now and next week!

Bed 11 - GREENS. Arugula in the south end. Some spinach just north of the arugula (with a row of arugula mistakenly planted in it). For some reason spinach did not germinate well, so it is spotty. The same is true of the spinach planted in the north end of Bed 18. Also green leaf lettuce, Bibb lettuce, Romaine lettuce, mixed lettuce. Help yourself to plenty!

Bed 12 - Plenty of banana PEPPERS are available.

Beds 15 & 42 - Winter squash vines are starting to bear fruit. Some may be ready for harvest now. [Varieties: Bed 15 - south-butternut; middle-Blue Ballet;

north-Spaghetti]; Bed 42 - south end-green winter squash; north end - orange winter squash--look like a bright pumpkin!)

Bed 18 - North end: a few RADISHES are ready, also some swiss chard and a little bit of spinach

Beds 19, 27, 35 - Green beans are flowering and tiny beans are appearing. It won't be long!

Bed 21 - if you search, you may find a few good Jade green beans still on the bushes

Bed Beds 22,33,38,46 - take a dozen or two CARROTS or so per share per week (In Bed 38 the carrots are hard to find for all the weeds, but are wonderful. Variety is called "karina")

Bed 26 - GARDEN PEAS are starting to be ready for harvest. Take some!

Bed 30 - the BROCCOLI was "almost ready"...and then, all of a sudden, "too far gone". Go figure. You may be able to find some good broccoli, especially side shoots that will come if we break off the flowering heads. (Yes, go ahead and break off some flowering broccoli heads - good for managing aggression!)

Bed 34 - a few heads of CABBAGE are available for harvest; help yourself to one if you'd like. Also, you may find a few red ONIONS to take.

Bed 37 - Some WAX BEANS are still OK; many are starting to develop "rust".

Bed 47 - help yourself to some GOURDS.

Bed 49 - there are 12 pumpkins that can be harvested. (More pumpkins will be available later from the former turkey site, if all goes well)

Bed 50 - popcorn continues to grow for fall harvest

Bed 51 - a few heads of curly CABBAGE may be ready (most were flooded out) If you find a suitable head, take it. Also, there are some candy ONIONS if you search.

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Sun Sep 19, 2004 4:44:24 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** update for Sept 20

Hello, everyone,

Here's the update on the garden for the week of Sept 20:

Beds 19, 27, 35 - COME AND GET GREEN BEANS - READY NOW!!!

Beds 18,25,30 WATERMELON. I'm sorry that we need to be very careful to LIMIT the watermelon this year, as the Seed Savers Exchange from which I got the seed were able to send us only 25 seeds of each kind. Here's the plan so that all 30 shareholders have a chance to get some: please take no more than one of the "larger" or two of the "smaller" fruits total per share (since there are three varieties, you'll have to choose which one larger or two smaller fruits you take. Please do not take from all three as there will not be enough to go around. And, may I ask this favor: please save the seeds and bring them back to the farm, so we can plant more next year.

As I mentioned, there are three different kinds of watermelon:

Bed 18 is "moon and stars" which feature a bluish skin with yellow spots and a sweet pink flesh. Harvest when skin is deep blue

Bed 25 is "mountain sweet yellow" which looks like a regular watermelon on the outside (striped green) but has yellow flesh on the inside. Harvest when the green skin starts to show some yellowing.

Bed 30 is "golden midget" the skin of which which turns entirely yellow when ripe, but has salmon-pink flesh.

Beds 2, 12, 13, and 44 - cut FLOWERS

Beds 4, 20, 36 - lots of TOMATOES - vines are dying, many tomatoes are becoming too ripe; but there are still tomatoes to pick.

Beds 7 & 23 CUCUMBERS - most are overripe, but you may find an occasional cucumber that is green and good.;

BED 9 - SUGAR SNAP PEAS are still available.

Bed 11 - GREENS. Lettuce continues to grow.

Bed 12 - Plenty of banana PEPPERS are available.

Beds 15 & 42 - Winter squash [Varieties: Bed 15 - south-butternut; north-Spaghetti]; Bed 42 - south end-green winter squash; north end - orange winter squash--look like a bright pumpkin!) Look for those squash on which the stems have turned from green to dried-out brown or gray.

Bed Beds 22,33,38,46 - take a dozen or two CARROTS or so per share per week (In Bed 38 the carrots are hard to find for all the weeds, but are wonderful. Variety is called "karina")

Bed 26 - GARDEN PEAS

Bed 34 - a few heads of CABBAGE are available for harvest; help yourself to one if you'd like. Also, you may find a few red ONIONS to take.

Bed 47 - help yourself to some GOURDS.

Bed 49 - there are a couple of pumpkins that remain.

Bed 51 - a few heads of curly CABBAGE may be ready (most were flooded out) If you find a suitable head, take it. Also, there are some candy ONIONS if you search.

Finally, feel free to take any of the overripe vegetables or the broccoli plants and throw them to the PIGS (who are in the lot behind the red stock trailer). They LOVE it!

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Thu Oct 7, 2004 1:12:32 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** pumpkins and more

Hello, everyone,

As you likely know, the recent frosts pretty well brought an end to the garden season, turning beans rubbery, tomatoes soft, and lettuce brown. As Isaiah says, "The grass withers, the flower fades..."

You can still harvest a few things, however.

CARROTS can still be dug (beds 22,33,38,46)

SUNFLOWER SEEDS can be taken - just snip the stalk and take the whole head.

GOURDS are in a tub near the milkhouse - help yourself to a few.

PUMPKINS are also near the milkhouse. We planted 111 hills of pumpkins, thinking we would have oodles to harvest; we ended up with about one pumpkin per share. Go figure. (Clergy shareholders: we will save a pumpkin for you when you come Oct 15 or 17).

#### SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1. The final chicken pick-up for the season is Fri Oct 22 (4pm-7pm)-Sat Oct 23 (9am-1pm). A few of you ordered turkeys that will be available then, too.
2. I have a few fresh turkeys available for order @ \$2.74/lb. If you know of anyone who would like to order these, let me know. I sold out last year and anticipate selling out this year as well. Turkey pick-up dates are: Oct 22-23; Tues Nov 16 (must be frozen for Thanksgiving use); Sat Nov 20 (fresh for Thanksgiving)
3. Kathy and I are thinking of having a shareholder family bonfire, perhaps even a pot-luck/chicken BBQ, this fall (we'd grill fresh chicken on Sat Oct 23) in order to say thanks for a great season and to hear your ideas for how we can improve (we have lots of improving to do!) We are not sure yet if we can actually get it together enough to do it, but...well, would you have any interest in attending an event like this?
4. If you saved watermelon seeds, thanks! Please label them so we know which variety you saved.

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Sat Oct 16, 2004 8:05:02 AM America/Indianapolis

**To:** Shareholders

**Subject:** Sat Oct 23 bonfire at the farm

Hi everyone,

Intense negotiations have resulted in a workable plan for a shareholder family bonfire at the Hawkins Family Farm next Saturday, Oct 23. We nixed the Chicken BBQ idea as being lovely in theory but overwhelming in practice...ah, the voice of reason prevails!

Here's the plan: we'd like to invite shareholder families to come about 5:30pm. We'll start the fire, provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, s'mores, and hot cider. If you would like to bring a food item to go with this menu, then please do so. You also need to bring a LAWN CHAIR. We'll enjoy each other's company, say thanks for your support, and briefly ask for your ideas for next year: what kinds of vegetables would you prefer? flowers? what improvements might we consider? etc.

We'd like to get an idea of how many to plan for, so RSVP as soon as you are able to do so. Hope you can join us!

Peace and plenty,

Jeff and Kathy

**From:** Jeffrey L. Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Sat Oct 16, 2004 1:03:32 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** pumpkins, carrots, chicken, beef, turkey

Hello, everyone,

If you didn't get your pumpkin and some gourds, they are still available. You'll find them in front of the milkhouse.

Also, carrots can still be dug from the garden.

My records indicate the following. Please check to make sure we have the same expectations! If you are attending the "bonfire" and want to take your poultry home with you following the event (especially if you come from a distance and want to make only one trip to the farm), let me know and we can work it out.

**TWO CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. I will have some turkeys butchered on Mon Nov 15 (the processor favors this as he is overfull for processing birds on Fri Nov 19 - the more we can do early, the better.) 2. If you are a FRIDAY HOPE CSA participant and want to get a bird when you come to the farm for the session in November, this Monday butchering option may be best for you unless you want to come back on Saturday morning. Depending on freezer space, I may be able to freeze a bird butchered on Monday so that you can take it home with you when you come to the farm on Friday. If you are a MONDAY HOPE CSA participant, I still haven't figured out exactly how to get back to the farm the birds processed that day for you to take home with you, but I am working on it! Let me know if you'd like a bird from this Monday batch and I'll try to work it out.

(Note: The birds butchered on Monday will not keep as a fresh bird for Thanksgiving and must be frozen...)

THANKS!

--Jeff