



Dear CSA Shareholders:

I hear that summer is coming but you sure can't tell from the way the place looks the last week or so. I don't think we'll hit 60 F today and it looks like January out there. We have been working hard at transplanting tomatoes, peppers and so on. I guess the cool weather is a mixed blessing since I haven't worried much about hardening plants off before they go out. The rain has kept me from putting melons out but I can't wait much longer before they get root-bound. I am also planting lots of lettuce and other greens in case summer never happens. I planted Olympia spinach the other day which is the latest date I've ever planted this cooler weather variety. Of course that means planting summer spinach, too.

We still need a little more hot weather to ripen enough strawberries for you—the kids get the few early ones. I do have a lot more strawberries than ever before, and in a few varieties which should spread them over a few weeks.

I had to switch gears a little this week with the arrival of 150 baby chicks. There are two different kinds: White Leghorn and Black Australorps and all will be kept as laying hens. This is a new hatchery for me so we'll see how good a job they did sexing them. I might have some whole chickens for sale in a few months since Caitlin will probably kill me if she is woken by roosters this summer. I hope to be able to sell a lot more egg shares come fall time. I know the saying goes "don't count your chickens til your eggs hatch" but I think it should be "don't count 'em til they start laying". It takes about \$7 to raise a single chick to maturity, which means our sweet (chicken killing) farm dog Sheba cost me more in chicken feed than dog food the last year. I hope a new electric fencing system I got last winter will help with this problem.

I also wanted to let all of you know that I am still accepting new CSA customers for this year. The way the weather was this spring had me reluctant to oversell shares. Of course now I see that I am going to have tons of stuff and need to get it moved. Any referrals would be greatly appreciated and please feel free to pass on my contact info or the website address.

Thanks,

Drew

Produce this week:

Rhubarb	Not sure about the variety-this is an old patch that does great every year.
Salad Greens	This is a mix of several loose leaf and romaine lettuces from Territorial Seed Co. Very mild and sweet.
Radish	"Easter Egg Blend"
Green onion	Var. "Egyptian Walking" So named because the seeds sprout when still attached to stalk, which falls over and new onions "walk away". Try planting baby onions in loose soil or sawdust for green onions at home.
Snap Pea	Var. "Oregon Sugar Pod" Sorry not enough for $\frac{3}{4}$ shares this week.
Swiss Chard	Var "Bright Lights" Serve like spinach, raw or cooked. We like it steamed with salad dressing.

Recipe and Nutrition Notes:

Rhubarb has a good dose of vitamin C, calcium and potassium. Traditionally it is used in pies but if you dice it, add a little water, add a little sugar and cook it down to a mush, you will get a great sauce for chicken or pork. Add some berries to it and you have an even better meat sauce. You can also use the mashed rhubarb in lemon/lime daiquiries! Yum. Now all we need is a little sun!