



Happy Hollow Farm News

March 11, 2011



Happy Hollow Farm
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— check out the web page for farm photos, recipes, and more news —

Welcome to the 2011 Season!

Thank you for joining the Happy Hollow Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) 2011 season. I am so pleased that 13 members from 2010 rejoined and so far 21 new folks are onboard for this year (deadline for sign up is April 1). The season is planned for 25 weeks starting May 11 and ending October 29.

With the first warm days of late February, I planted onions, leeks, kale, and fennel in the greenhouse followed by lettuce, parsley, dill, and cilantro. I look forward to boxing up my fresh produce for you starting May 11! *Farmer Liz*



Here I am planting numerous flats in the greenhouse.

CSA Member Potluck

Saturday • April 16 • 1:00 p.m.

Come to the country and see where your organic produce is grown on Saturday, April 16. This first membership gathering is to tour the farm, share a great meal, learn about the CSA, and sign up for work shifts. CSA members are interesting and engaged folks, our gatherings are fun, and the food is yummy.

Please bring enough food in your dish to feed about 10 people and RSVP to Sarah Catlin-Dupuy at sarahcatlin-dupuy@socket.net or 573-289-8356 with the number of folks attending from your family or share.

You'll be signing up for work shifts at the potluck, so bring your calendars (see available dates in table). Work shifts include: 1) one **distribution work shift**, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and 2) **farm work shifts**, 8:00 a.m. to noon (4 hours for a single share, 8 for a partial, and 12 for a full). We'll discuss this in detail at the potluck. Attending the potluck is the best way to get your preferred dates! See you on April 16!

- 1) West on 170 from Columbia to exit 111, take Hwy 179 south
- 2) At 2nd stop sign, take Hwy P left to Lupus
- 3) Go 3.5 miles, turn right onto Lupus Road
- 4) Go 1.5 miles, turn right onto Happy Hollow Road
- 5) Go 1 mile to farm on right

Web directions at www.happyhollowfarm-mo.com/contact-links

Work shifts are either Wednesday or Saturday from June to October

Distribution and Farm Work Shift Dates

Month	Wednesday Dates	Saturday Dates
June	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	4, 11, 18, 25
July	6, 13, 20, 27	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
August	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	6, 13, 20, 27
September	7, 14, 21, 28	3, 10, 17, 24
October	5, 12, 19	1, 8, 15, 22

From Farmer Liz: Highlights from the 2010 CSA Season

Growing Conditions

Experienced farmers told me that I had the worst growing conditions in my first year so subsequent years would seem easy in comparison! Spring planting was delayed for three weeks because the ground was so wet so the first harvest was not until June. The CSA members were exceptionally tolerant of this unexpected scenario and ended up enjoying produce into November as compensation. The same problem occurred in the greenhouse where I was unable to move transplants into the garden because of the saturated ground. When some plants like the broccoli and spinach did finally get situated in the ground, they drowned!

Though Happy Hollow Farm had a rough beginning, it still produced many vegetables that did succeed and, happily, I had a bumper tomato crop while most of the neighbors lost theirs due to the wet conditions. I attribute my tomato success to the strong plants started in the greenhouse and the mulching strategy I use in some areas on the farm.

High Tunnel

The beautiful high tunnel built in October by volunteers, which allowed me to produce greens during the winter for 16 CSA members, was crushed by the 20 inch snowfall in January! I learned the hard way to build a high tunnel as though Missouri has weather comparable to Wisconsin.

The high tunnel was made possible in part by the Natural Resources Conservation Program (NRCS) organic farm cost-share programs currently on the chopping block in Congress (see sidebar).

High tunnel reconstruction begins on Saturday, March 19, if you'd care to volunteer. Contact me if interested: 660-849-2340 or lizgraznak@happyhollowfarm-mo.com

Apprentices Needed

Are you or someone you know interested in learning the ins-and-outs of organic farming? Farmer Liz is always on the look out for hard working, willing-to-learn interns/apprentices. More details are available at the bottom of the page on the web: www.happyhollowfarm-mo.com/membership/



Volunteers constructed the high tunnel in October, 2010, and the snow crushed it in January, 2011.

Budget Cuts Proposed in Organic Production Programs

The budget battles are underway in Washington, D.C., and lawmakers in the House of Representatives have targeted organic and sustainable agriculture programs, including organic research, for cuts while sparing other agriculture programs. President Obama has also released his budget proposal for 2012, which does not cut organic-specific programs but takes a big chunk out of conservation program funding.

Congress wants to eliminate NRCS EQIP funding for organic farms. This is the program that provided cost-share funding for many projects at Happy Hollow Farm including beneficial insect habitat restoration, high tunnel construction, cover cropping to reduce soil erosion over the winter months, and insect pest monitoring.

As the funding debates intensify, you can stay informed and learn about ways to support funding for organic programs by contacting the Organic Farmers Action Network.

See: ofrf.org/policy/110301_budgetcuts.html

*“If you eat,
you’re involved in
agriculture”
— Wendell Berry*