

June 4, 2003

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# food for thought

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

## Anticipating the Harvest

A good number of helpers have put seeds and plants in the ground here at J.L. Hawkins Family Farm (and planting continues for the next month or so!) toward the promise of abundant harvest. After a much-needed .6" rain on May 30 and a half-inch a few days later, all sorts of seedlings are showing themselves: potato, radish, cucumber, corn, peas, beans, lettuces, spinach, sunflowers, and more. Pepper, tomato, basil, onion, and broccoli are continuing to grow. Flower seeds have been sown. Even the weeds are showing up!

But growth is much slower than had been hoped due to the cool weather. For a while I thought that the "baby" lettuces would be ready when you arrive for the first week of pick-up, along with chicken,

but now I doubt it. Let's aim for lettuce during the week of June 16. There is plenty of chicken available, however, so if you would like to buy extra, or if you know people who would like to buy chickens, please let me know and I will have it ready.

Finally, I'd like to give you the gift of a dozen all-natural, farm-raised eggs when you come for your first CSA pick-up. I worked out an arrangement with family-farming-friends, Todd and Carla Winegardner, to have these eggs available. If you'd like to continue to purchase these eggs at \$2 per dozen when you come for your regular pick-up, let me know and I'll have them here waiting for you. (Also I'll try to have a few extra dozen in the milkhouse refrigerator on a first-come first-

## Farmer's Market Chicken

We are planning to have *chicken* available at the North Manchester Farmer's Market on Saturdays, June 14 and 21, 8am-12 noon. As a promotion we are charging only **\$5** for the first bird. (Cost for additional birds at the Farmer's Market will be \$2.35/lb which is \$.25/lb higher than the cost for pre-order and on-farm pick-up). Brochures will be available for ordering for future pick-up. Yes, shareholders can come and get an extra chicken for \$5!

## Good Press

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### We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.  
hawkinsfamilyfarm  
.com](http://www.hawkinsfamilyfarm.com)

Lately we've been receiving a lot of good press, from Nancy Nall's complimentary May 2 column in the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* to Sheila Rhoades's wonderful description in the May 16 *Wabash Plain Dealer* to the ten-minute June 4 radio interview by Melissa Montana on WLAB's midday "Conversations." Good food must be good news!

## Update on HOPE CSA

A dozen pastors continue to meet monthly as a pilot group, spending half the day doing light farm work and the other half the day in prayer and study. We've now met three times and feedback is very positive. There is also high interest from other clergy who continue to call and e-mail asking for further information. Next year we hope to host four clergy groups on the farm.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- ✓ During the first pick-up week (June 9-11 & 13 4pm-8pm) when you come for chicken pick-up, we'll do our best to try to explain the pick-up procedure for future weeks. The key will be a large chalkboard with up-to-the-minute information and instructions—so check the board first!
- ✓ Fresh chicken will be available for pick-up on the farm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: June 9, 11, & 13; July 7, 9, & 11; July 28, 30 & August 1; September 15, 17 & 19 and at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays June 14, 21; July 12, 19; August 2, 9; and September 20.
- ✓ Beef pick-up is during the weeks of June 25 and November 5 (you make arrangements with the processor to pick it up there.)
- ✓ Thanksgiving turkey pick-up date is Friday, November 21.
- ✓ Soup bean pick-up and sign-up for 2004 is Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004.