

**From:** Hawkins Family Farm <info@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Tue May 13, 2003 7:24:27 AM America/Indianapolis

**To:** Shareholders

**Subject:** planting today

Hi everyone,

We got home from Minnesota late last night, so communication is not so timely...

I plan to begin planting today (Tues) after lunch, so if you are free to come and help, then by all means come and help!

Planting may continue on Wed, although currently our schedule is up in the air since Kathy is scheduled for knee surgery sometime on Wed and we have not yet received word of the time of day this is to take place.

As Dick Hardel says, God makes life interesting!

Peace,

Jeff

**From:** Hawkins Family Farm <info@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Tue May 13, 2003 10:13:55 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** Shareholders

**Subject:** CSA update

Hi everyone,

Today's 24 mph winds deterred us a bit, but we still managed to plant a bed of sugar snap peas and a bed of green beans. On Wed Kathy is having knee surgery which takes me away from the farm for most of the day, so we'll try to resume planting on Thursday & Friday & Saturday, hopeful for good weather. Planting will continue into next week, especially since the order for field grown plants (tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, etc) ought to arrive soon. We hope to finish planting for summer harvest the week after that. (By the way, I had to order more plants than needed, since it was much cheaper to order more than less, so if you would like to take home a few plants, let me know.) On another note, more day-old chickens arrived on the farm today as well. It is getting lively around here!

Again, thanks to many of you who have expressed willingness to help plant. Please let me know if you are available Thu-Fri-Sat to help plant. There is a lot to do and many hands not only make light work, but will allow us to get the work done on time!

Peace,

Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Tue Jun 17, 2003 9:38:29 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** this week's share info

Hi everyone!

The gardens continue to grow. Spinach, Waldmann's green leaf lettuce, All Star Gourment Lettuce Mix of 9 specialty lettuces, and arugula are still available. In addition, various colors of radishes are now ready for harvest. We put some chickens in the freezer if you should happen to need more for \$2.10/lb.

Even though you signed up for a particular day each week to come to the farm, feel free to come at another time if it better fits your schedule. We are prepared each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4pm-8pm for whoever shows up! Drive into the barn lot, check the chalk board, and head for the gardens!

5 cattle went to Vinings Slaughter Haus last night. If you indicated that you wanted your beef now instead of in November, Vinings will call you to arrange for you to pick up your order there sometime during the week of June 23. Ask them for directions if you do not know their location. Your order will be processed as follows unless you call Vinings (260-672-2600) and request otherwise:

trim close

roasts 2-3 pounds each

Cube half the round steaks

Round steaks \_" thick

T-bones and Delmonico steaks 1"

Sirloin steaks 1" thick

Hamburger in 1 pound packages

Liver-thinly sliced

Thanks again. Happy eating from J L Hawkins Family Farm!

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Fri Jun 27, 2003 8:07:35 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** CSA update

Things are growing at Hawkins Family Farm!

**New this week:**

Bed 42 – Romaine lettuce – the leaves are lovely, in prime condition, but likely won't last long. Take 1-2 produce bags.

**Check first:** the hot weather may cause lettuces to become bitter, so taste before cutting.

Bed 1 – Spinach? – the spinach is likely done for the season. We'll plant more for Fall!

Bed 18 – All Star Gourmet lettuce mix – take as much as you would like from the south end of the bed, which will soon be plowed under. Soon we'll harvest the north end as baby lettuce.

Bed 25 – Waldmann green lettuce – take as much as you'd like, which will soon be plowed under.

Bed 33 – Arugula – take as much as you'd like as long as it tastes good.

**Eggs -** \$2/dozen in milk house refrigerator. Help yourself.

**Help?**

1. Beds 5 & 29 – the radishes must be completely removed to allow for carrot growth. Take 10 bags! Or, take a bag but pull an extra bag that you can leave here for someone else. The important thing is to get the radishes out of the ground.

2. Weeding – we can use help weeding the gardens. If you would like to spend an hour on the farm with a hoe in hand—it can be a peaceful time!—we could use the help. Let us know.

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.

**Next week:** it looks like the sugar snap peas may be ready...yum!

**Future plans:**

1. CHANGE IN CHICKEN PICK UP DATES - circumstances have forced us to limit the chicken pick up days to WEDNESDAYS ONLY. If you signed up to pick up your chickens on a Monday or Friday, please note this change. If this change presents a problem, please be in touch with us so we can work something out. Thanks for your patience!

2. The Hawkins family will be out of town the week of July 14. CSA pick up will continue as usual, but we may ask some of our shareholders to help us by setting things up, etc.

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Jul 7, 2003 12:42:45 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** this week's CSA

Hi everyone,

Well, the week begins with mixed news. The good news is that we received the rain we've needed; the bad news is that in the last few days we've received over 5.5" --with more on the way. The gardens are very, very wet and muddy, which means that it would be best to delay picking (sorry Monday shareholders!). More good news: more produce is available, as follows.

Bed 9 - broccoli (each shareholder take one head, choosing the larger, more mature heads please; also be careful of the onions that are planted between each broccoli plant)

Beds 10 & 17 - lots of sugar snap peas! Take between a half and a full produce bag!

Bed 18 - second sowing of mixed lettuce is ready - take a produce bag

Bed 20 - some green beans may be ready for picking this week!

Bed 38 far south - there are a few banana pepper plants with ripe fruit.

Take one if you dare (hot!)

Bed 42 - Romaine is still good. Take a produce bag full.

The rain has also affected the chickens: we spent the morning trying to herd chickens out of standing water to higher ground (and chickens herd about as well as cats). We only lost a few, however, and count ourselves fortunate. (We will be glad when batch # 2 is safely off our farm and in your freezer!)

Happy eating!

J.L. Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Wed Jul 9, 2003 6:41:32 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** soggy CSA update

Hi everyone,

Today is chicken pick-up day for many of you. Thankfully we were able to keep most of this batch alive despite the rain and the fact that about half the farm is not under water. We'll see you later today!

The news is not so good when it comes to the batch that will be ready for processing at the end of July--we lost about 80 of these birds, and spent all day Monday trying to save the rest, plucking them out of deep, dirty water in order to locate them on higher ground. Now we hope that the high ground is high enough!

We have had about 7.5 inches of rain since last Friday here on the farm. Most of the gardens and much of the pasture is under water, making it impossible to harvest vegetables this week. We hope that the water will begin to recede soon so that the plants can continue to live and you can get the good stuff that is waiting there! Thanks for your patience. In the meantime, enjoy chicken and beef! (We have extra burger available for \$3.25/lb!)

Peace,

J.L. Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Thu Jul 10, 2003 9:16:05 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** CSA update

Ah, life on Hawkins Family Farm has been full during this past week!

We recorded over 8 inches of rain since last Friday. What I had hoped to be a week of bountiful harvest quickly changed into a week of damage control. Many of you traveled to the farm for chicken pick-up (or out of curiosity) and saw the flooded gardens and soggy chickens--and to offer your kind support, for which we are grateful. We are also grateful that the rains have (for the most part) ceased and the water is rapidly receding. I was able to walk (and sometimes wade) the gardens today to make a preliminary assessment. The news is, as you might guess, mixed.

1. I decided to cut broccoli this evening. I put it in the milk house refrigerator for shareholders to pick up--so please come and get a head or two for your household. Most of it looks pretty good, although I was afraid to let it go another day because it was maturing rapidly.

2. It may still be soggy and so you may want to wear boots, but there are some good sugar snap peas in beds 10 & 17 (as well as some not-so-good ones that are soggy and shriveled). In addition, the sugar snap peas are coming on in

bed 27 (along with a lot of weeds). So help yourself to half a produce bag.

3. There are some green beans ready in bed 20 (although some of the bean plants drowned in the low area of the bed). Help yourself to about a quart.

4. Green beans in Bed 4 were not flooded, look quite good, and will likely be ready next week (or the following week at the latest)--so it looks like we'll get a good number of beans per share.

5. The standing water damaged some plants beyond repair. Thankfully I planted enough for 50-60 shares, double the 22 we have. Therefore, we will continue to harvest vegetables, although the final result may be different than I had originally anticipated. For example, the potatoes that were under water have already rotted, but not all the potatoes were under water, so there will still be a potato harvest--but a smaller one. The lettuces were coming to an end with the summer heat; the water hastened the process.

6. For some confounded reason, there are weeds that absolutely loved the past week's weather (in the carrot bed, among other places)--standing tall and green among the water-weary vegetable plants. In our absence during the coming week, these weeds will take over. So...if you have opportunity to come to the farm and spend a few minutes weeding or hoeing, it would be greatly appreciated.

We will be away from the farm from Saturday July 12 through late Sunday July 20. For the past number of years we have taught at a Lutheran Camp in South Dakota's Black Hills and agreed a year ago to do the same in 2003. Shareholder Mike Leckrone will be setting up and taking down on Monday-Wednesday-Friday in our absence. Plastic bags, etc. will be in the milk house if weather doesn't permit them to be on the picnic table as usual. Make yourselves at home!

Thanks again for your patience!

--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Jul 21, 2003 12:04:13 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** CSA update

Dear shareholders,

We returned to the farm last night just before sunset. We had hoped to find a measure of garden plant recovery (and expected to find an abundance of weeds as well). As you likely know, our hopes were dashed. The nearly 9 inches of rain and subsequent flooding of the gardens have taken a huge toll--perhaps 75% destruction. Because of this, THERE IS NOTHING TO HARVEST THIS WEEK.

I am currently working through the strategy for each garden bed, and will share our plans with you as they develop. As of today, it looks like we will be able to harvest pumpkins, squash, carrots, onions, corn, maybe a few potatoes, cucumbers, some melons, and some flowers. Tomatoes, soup beans, and most potatoes are dead. (It is especially sad because we were within a week of harvesting grape tomatoes, new potatoes, and an abundance of green beans.)

Our plan is to re-plant some items, such as tomatoes and green beans, and to hope against an early frost. We will also plant some items for fall, such as lettuces, spinach, broccoli, and sugar snap peas.

We also wish to work out with you some kind of adjustment. Even though CSAs are set up so that shareholders and growers share risk, it seems only right for us to do what we can to provide some compensation. As is often the case in nature's economy, when one area is bad another is good. All the rain is good for the pastures, which is good for the chickens, beef, and turkeys. Perhaps we can work out an arrangement whereby you receive a combination of cash refund, extra chicken, turkey, beef, and/or steakburger.

We will communicate with you further as plans are set. Thanks for your continued support and kind words--our emotions cover a wide range these days as we strive to cope with adversity trusting in the grace of God.

Peace and plenty,  
Jeff, Kathy and Zach

Next week: CHICKEN pick up on WEDNESDAY, July 30, 4pm-8pm. Also, I am trying to negotiate with a friend who grows SWEET CORN to have a dozen ears available for you on that day as well.

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

**Date:** Mon Aug 4, 2003 2:45:48 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** Shareholders

Hello, shareholders!

What a great week we had last week, distributing and eating chicken, sweet corn, and cucumbers! (We put a fresh chicken on the grill, added "roasting ears" and had a feast!) In addition, we got a lot of work done getting the gardens ready for a fall harvest. We planted two different varieties of green beans--Provider, which is the same bean we planted in the Spring, and Grenoble, described by the seed-seller as "tasty, 5.5 inch round beans that are dark green, straight, and shiny. High quality for discerning people." (and, believe it or not, some of the bean and pea seeds are sprouting already!), more sugar snap peas, lettuce, and broccoli. These crops are likely to be ready for harvest mid-September (the lettuce by early Sept). We also tilled up the other beds destroyed by the floods and sowed a "green manure" mix--just in time for .3 inch of rain to gently water it!

This week's harvest is basically cucumbers (there are plenty, I think, so grab half a dozen, if you'd like). There are two varieties: Olympia cucumbers in beds 6 & 14; a very few plants of Aria cucumber in bed 22. Olympia is supposed to be a good slicing cucumber and Aria is supposed to be seedless, according to the catalog. There are a few Cosmos flowers blooming also. Cut a few for your dinner table!

Next week there may be some baby carrots available, if you are willing to spend a little extra time "thinning" the carrots to get them. (This means removing the larger carrots from a cluster of carrot plants growing close together in order to give the remaining plants room to grow.) Bed 5 is a Nelson ( a Nantes variety (shorter, blunt roots) and Bed 29 is SugarSnax (an Imperator variety, t9" tapered root). We may also have a small amount of our own sweet corn available next week. We'll see what the next week brings. As a gardening friend said to me, "Next week in the garden is a lifetime away."

Happy eating!

--Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Sun Aug 10, 2003 9:17:33 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** CSA update

Hello, everyone,

A year ago I was elected to serve as a voting member to the biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which begins in Milwaukee tomorrow and lasts a week. In my absence, Zach, Sarah and Kathy will be getting things ready for shareholders.

Once again this week will have fresh sweet corn--a dozen ears per share, in addition to the cucumbers that continue to grow nicely. As mentioned earlier, if you want to take the time to thin the carrots you can collect a bunch of baby carrots as well. And there are a couple of Grape Tomato plants that survived the flood--so grab a few grape tomatoes, too. There's still some basil and some flowers to cut also. And our friends re-stocked the milk house refrigerator with eggs.

This past week we acquired a couple of new farm friends to greet you when you come: in the back of the barn are two month-old pigs! Their job is to root amongst the winter calf bedding for corn, and in the process to turn and aerate it so it will mellow into fine compost. Yes, everyone on the farm works!

Enjoy!

--Jeff and family

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Aug 18, 2003 8:39:23 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** this week

Greetings from Hawkins Family Farm!

I returned from Milwaukee last evening and took a walk through the gardens. It looks like there may be some CUCUMBERS left to harvest, and that some of our own SWEET CORN is ready (there is also sweet corn in the milk house refrigerator from last week that you are encouraged to take--it needs to be used). And there are ONIONS that could be harvested as well. In addition, some of the FLOWERS are lovely for cutting. (One shareholder came out early Sunday morning and cut cosmos for the altar in honor of their wedding anniversary--how special!)

As Kathy and I talked this morning, we lamented the fact that during these August weeks we are "waiting" for the harvest yet to come rather than being overwhelmed by tomatoes, beans, and other crops. We remain hopeful, of course, that in a couple of weeks the lettuces will again be ready, followed by some peas and beans and squash and pumpkins.

In addition to the regular feeding and care of 22 cattle, 300 chickens, 110 turkeys, and 2 pigs; the ongoing tasks of fixing fence and other maintenance, the work this week involves weeding the newly growing crops, spraying a soapy solution on the beans to address the bugs that are enjoying a feast of leaves, some hand-watering while praying for rain (a task that, after the floods, remains a bit worrisome to contemplate), mowing, possibly moving turkeys from brooder to field, and getting ready for HOPE CSA (pastors) participants next week. As people who enjoy the blessing of honorable work, we count it God's gift that we are never at a loss for something to do!

Blessings and peace,  
Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Aug 25, 2003 11:52:34 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** week of Aug 25

Hello, everyone!

The joys and challenges of the farm continue!

Last week's storm brought much-needed 1.7 inches of rain. The gardens are generally thriving. Unfortunately, the same storm also brought high winds. At 1am Fri I was outdoors pulling downed branches off of electric fence (to keep the cattle properly contained) and moving bewildered turkeys out of the rain into their shelter. We lost a couple of large limbs from the maple tree which fell into the pumpkin patch. And we lost an old, scraggly mulberry tree. Only lost 1 turkey and a couple of pumpkins, however. We are grateful!

Finally the assortment of available produce is growing a bit. Plan this week on:

BED 1 - always feel free to clip some BASIL and CHIVES.

BED 9 - it's a bit early, but you are free to take an ONION or two. Look for those with brown, dried-out tops.

BEDS 8?, 16, 24, 32, [40, 48] - CORN CORN CORN!!! It is ready NOW so come and get 2 dozen ears. Let's try to harvest beds 8-32 now, then move on to 40 & 48. (We plan on having roasting ears this evening!)

BEDS 5 & 29 - feel free to pull up a half dozen CARROTS each time you come. Look for the largest tops. You may also see the head of the carrot crowning. If possible, pull those that are close to other carrots to make more room for those that are left.

BEDS 6, 14, 22 - Cucumbers are mostly too mature, but you may find an occasional good one, if you search.

BED 20 MIXED LETTUCE and BED 22 ROMAINE have baby leaves that can be harvested. About half a produce bag? (Also at the south end of Bed 20 you'll find some ARUGULA, which, unfortunately, has also been found by the aphids. Help yourself before they do!)

BED 32 - has a few small SPAGHETTI SQUASH that survived the flood.

BED 43 - on the south end has a few GRAPE TOMATO PLANTS that are loaded with tomatoes. Take a pint!

Happy eating!

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Sat Aug 30, 2003 11:59:11 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** Labor Day weekend and week of 9/1

LABOR DAY WEEKEND and the WEEK of SEPT 1

Wow, the gardens are growing! Warm soil, about .9" of rain, cool nights...a lovely combination for broccoli plants, lettuce, snaps peas, green beans, and people who look forward to the harvest.

Feel free to come out over the Labor Day weekend, as well as next week, to harvest the produce. When it is ready, it is ready—so don't hesitate to come and get it.

**BED 1** - always feel free to clip some **BASIL** and **CHIVES**.

**BED 2** – take note of how well on Thursday our hard-working clergy weeded and mulched the trees with bedding from the chicken brooder!

**BED 9** - take an **ONION** each time you come. Look for those with brown, dried-out tops.

**BEDS 16, 24, 32, 40, 48** – there may still be some **SWEET CORN**

**BEDS 5 & 29** - feel free to dig a dozen **CARROTS** each time you come. (There is a potato fork in Bed 5 to make the task easier) Look for the largest tops. You may also see the head of the carrot crowning. It appears that the carrots in Bed 5 (Nantes variety) are much better than those in Bed 29 (Imperator variety). Bed 29 was flooded more severely than Bed 5.

**BEDS 6, 14, 22** - Cucumbers are mostly too mature, but you may find an occasional good one, if you search. Those of you who are taking the mature yellow ones—are they any good to eat?

**BED 20 MIXED LETTUCE and BED 28 ROMAINE** – take plenty!!! It has grown dramatically in the last week. (Also at the south end of Bed 20 you'll find some **ARUGULA**, which, unfortunately, has also been found by the aphids. Help yourself before they do!)

**BED 43** - on the south end there may still be few **GRAPE TOMATOES**.

**PEACH TREE** – in the yard south of the house has white-fleshed peaches that are ripe. I find that the best ones are those that have recently fallen on the ground. Feel free to grab a half dozen or so fresh peaches.

**CONCORD GRAPES** – also in the yard south of the house will be ready soon. These grapes have seeds but they are juicy and tasty. We hope to be able to share a bunch or two with you.

Happy eating!

\*(This note will be posted on the milk house door)

**From:** Hawkins Family Farm <info@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Sep 8, 2003 9:15:11 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Subject:** week of Sept 8

I took a leisurely walk in the gardens last evening, and I am delighted to see growth and the promise of harvest! Within one to two weeks, we ought to be enjoying a mess o of sugar snap peas and bushels of green beans, and, shortly thereafter, fresh broccoli. Thanks be to God!

**BED 1** - always feel free to clip some **BASIL** and **CHIVES**.

**BEDS 0, 40, 48** – there may still be some **SWEET CORN** (a few stubby ears in bed 40, a few longer ears in bed 48...and just-now-ripening ears in Bed 0, which is the west one-third of the pumpkin patch).

**BEDS 5 & 29** - feel free to dig a dozen or more **CARROTS** each time you come. We can now harvest these aggressively. (There is a potato fork in Bed 5 to make the task easier). It appears that the carrots in Bed 5 (Nantes variety) are much better than those in Bed 29 (Imperator variety). Bed 29 was flooded more severely than Bed 5.

**BED 20 MIXED LETTUCE, BED 27 WALDMANN LETTUCE, AND BED 28 ROMAINE** – take plenty!!! The lettuces are growing at a rapid rate. (Also at the south end of Bed 20 you'll find some **ARUGULA**, which, unfortunately, has also been found by the aphids. Help yourself before they do!)

**BED 43** - on the south end there may still be few **GRAPE TOMATOES**.

**PEACHES** – I have been picking up windfall peaches and placing them in bushel baskets at the blackboard. Help yourself. These peaches have white flesh and are very tasty (though they may be bruised from falling. Take the time to eat one before you bag them up so you know what you are getting!)

**CONCORD GRAPES** – also in the yard south of the house. Some of the bunches are ripening nicely. These grapes have seeds but they are juicy and tasty. Take a few bunches.

Happy eating!

\*(This note will be posted on the milk house door)

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Sep 22, 2003 1:03:02 PM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** CSA update

Monday, 9/22

Greetings on a soggy day! We had about 2.1 inches of rain here on the farm. The harvest this week includes a decoration for your home. Herb and Beth Anderson prepared some of our BITTERSWEET for our shareholders (thanks, Herb and Beth!) so you can take a bunch home with you. You'll find it hanging in the milk house. In addition:

BED 0 - pumpkins

BED 1 - basil and chives

BED 5 - carrots

BEDS 20, 27, 28 - mixed lettuces

BEDS 17, 26 - If you have opportunity to wander in these beds, you may find a handful of sugar snap peas. Unfortunately, they did not do well.

BEDS 10 AND 25 (save bed 15 for next week) - GREEN BEANS! It looks to be a bumper crop that is just beginning.

Soon but not yet: beds 17-18-broccoli

Grapes

Eggs - we will get one more batch of eggs before we turn the refrigerator off for the winter.

Steakburger still available in frozen 1 lb packages

Turkey orders still being taken - it looks like the early date will be Oct 29 for pick up.

You'll notice that the calves enjoyed cleaning up the west end of the garden during the past week! (On the farm everyone and everything has a job!)

Blessings,  
the Hawkins family

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

**Date:** Wed Oct 1, 2003 8:21:45 AM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** come and get it

Hello, dear shareholders!

Last night Kathy and I enjoyed vegetable beef soup, one of the best batches we've ever made. It must have had something to do with the Hawkins Family Farm steakburger, fresh carrots and fresh green beans!

Frost is on the way, which means that the gardening season is coming to a close--or at least almost. This means:

BED 0 - Wander through and get a PUMPKIN. (The reason I left some on the vine is so that they would keep a little longer; but once the vines are dead, it doesn't matter!)

BED 5 - take all the CARROTS you want. There are a lot (although they will keep just fine despite frost).

BEDS 10, 15, 26 - Take all the GREEN BEANS you want--there are plenty!

BED 21- Keep taking FLOWERS until they are no more.

BEDS 17-18 - keep your fingers crossed that the BROCCOLI will survive long enough to produce heads. It is a cold-hardy plant and I am covering a portion of the row.

Soon I will turn the cattle into the garden and allow them to clean up. I'll remove the pallets. Then I will lightly work the ground and sow a cover crop of field peas, oats, and hairy vetch. "Putting the garden to bed" is a sweet activity, I think, filled with gratitude for the food produced, with relief that the work load is lightened, and with promise toward next season. Sounds like the opportunity for a full perspective on life, huh?

Peace and blessings,  
Jeff

**From:** Hawkins Family Farm <info@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>

**Date:** Mon Oct 6, 2003 12:36:57 PM America/Indianapolis

**To:** shareholders

**Subject:** CSA update

Last evening I went out and picked a few green beans, just to see if any survived the freeze. Some beans are soft, but others--those that were protected by the bean leaves, I suppose, still had some snap to them. I brought them into the house and cooked them. Skeptical (as usual), Kathy said, "Let me try one." Her response was: "Go pick some more for tomorrow!" I guess this means that there are still some beans that are OK! Check especially BED 26. But hurry.

We are still hoping that the broccoli heads will form and offer us some good Fall eating...time will tell. This week promises to be a good growing week!

I picked all the pumpkins from the patch and they are available in the barn lot.

Carrots are still plentiful--help yourself.

I will be letting the cattle into the gardens this week in order to clean up, hoping to fence them out of the carrots and broccoli but allowing them to eat everything else. Then I will lightly disk and sow a cover crop. I think this is the week to try to get this done.

Remember that you can get turkeys either Oct 29 or Nov 21 (make sure I know the date you wish to pick up)

Peace and Blessings,

J.L. Hawkins Family Farm

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Mon Oct 20, 2003 8:12:34 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Cc:** Kathy Hawkins-MES <Kathy\_Hawkins@mcs.k12.in.us>  
**Subject:** not done yet!

Hello, everyone,

Lovely Fall days beckon us to spend some time outdoors...so plan to come to the farm this week to cut a head of broccoli and dig some carrots. About a third of the broccoli plants have heads forming, and about a third of those are getting big enough to harvest. So, come and take a head now and, if all goes well, more later as the tardy plants progress. The carrots are especially sweet after the freeze and there are still plenty to harvest. The recent rain makes them easy to dig.

Most of the gardens are worked up and sown to a green manure mix. Most of the large equipment is cleaned, oiled, and put away. Winter will be here before we know it! The monthly meeting of HOPE CSA, the ministry to clergy, will be Thursday. The pastors will likely be continuing the process of preparing for winter, putting away chicken pens, stacking pallets behind the barn, helping move the turkeys to fresh ground. The conversation will be around a Wendell Berry article called "The Pleasures of Eating" which makes the claim that eating is a moral act, that is, that the privilege of eating involves the responsibility to eat responsibly (which is what you shareholders are doing!)

Turkeys are growing nicely, eating over 100lbs of feed per day. Extra turkeys are still available for purchase, so let others know: \$2.50/lb pick up Oct 29; \$2.75/lb for pickup Nov 21.

I am currently out of steakburger but will replenish the supply in about a week or so.

Thanks again for sharing the journey.

Blessings,

The Hawkins Family

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Thu Oct 30, 2003 8:46:23 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** shareholders  
**Subject:** broccoli and carrots

Yesterday was a "harvest of livestock" day--in the morning I drove to Rochester to pick up 850 lbs of turkey...in the afternoon I drove to Columbia City to pick up 850 lbs of steakburger! Having hauled each pound 3 or 4 times over the last two days, I feel as if I've carried enough meat for a while! Oh, but it feels good to have freezers full, and a fresh turkey cooking in the roaster as I write this.

The weather prediction for the next couple of days is for some warmth...so why not come out to the farm and cut a couple of heads of broccoli and dig a sack full of carrots? The broccoli is gorgeous!

The growing season is winding down, of course. Some of you will be picking up beef from Vinings next week (if you need to call them, the number is 260-672-2600). Some will be getting fresh turkey on Nov 21--their dressed weight is likely to be 18-22 lbs. If you know of people who want chicken, we still have about 50 or so in the freezer for \$2.10/lb. As I mentioned, we have steakburger in 1lb pkgs for #3.25/lb and in packages of 8 patties (2lb) for \$3.50/lb. I also still have some turkeys available, about 10 in the freezer from this batch and about 20 fresh ones on Nov 21. Shareholders can purchase additional turkeys for half price.

Looking ahead: I hope to get information out about next year's shareholding sometime in Nov or early Dec. It is likely that much will be the same, although we have learned by mistakes this year and hope to correct them for next year. If you have suggestions please communicate them to us. Also, we hope to jump from one to three clergy groups next year.

As our friend Dick Hardel says, "God makes life exciting!"  
Peace,  
Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Thu Oct 30, 2003 10:46:22 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** arugula

ARTICLE IN THE FORT WAYNE JOURNAL GAZETTE OCT 29, 2003

Retro chic: Introduced in the '80s, arugula remains on nation's plates Arugula, that dark, peppery leafy green that seemed so terribly chic 15 years ago, really has settled in to become an adored staple. Unlike radicchio, the other trendy green of the 1980s, arugula never went out of style.

The full article will be available on the Web for a limited time:

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/living/7131842.htm>

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**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Thu Nov 6, 2003 8:02:14 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** broccoli in milkhouse

Last evening I cut the heads of broccoli before they coming freeze and put them in bushel baskets in the milk house. Come and help yourself!  
--Jeff

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Tue Nov 18, 2003 10:40:58 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Turkey custmrs  
**Subject:** turkey time!

Greetings, turkey lovers! It is soon turkey time! As indicated earlier, the birds will be processed in just a few days, on Friday morning (Nov 21). I wanted to update you on turkey pick-up and provide clear instructions for handling the birds, hence this note. PICK-UP times have been extended to include: Friday, 4pm-7pm; Saturday, 9am-1pm. It would be helpful to know whether you plan to come Friday or Saturday. (HOPE CSA clergy can pick up their turkeys on Monday since you will be coming for our monthly session on that day, saving you a trip to the farm.) Your turkey will be in ice water, well-chilled. When you arrive, I will weigh it and put it in a plastic bag for transport. It would be good for you to bring a cooler and ice. (By the way, I have sold out and have no extras available.)

**STORING FRESH TURKEY UNTIL THANKSGIVING:** if you plan to serve fresh turkey on Thanksgiving, it is imperative that you store it *in a cooler packed in ice* and NOT IN A REFRIGERATOR. Unless you have a refrigerator with wire shelves set at 33-34 degrees, your refrigerator will not adequately circulate cold air, especially if you have glass shelves on which the turkey would sit. This risks spoilage. Aging the turkey in a cooler on ice actually serves to tenderize the meat, similar to aging beef. Depending on the r-value of your cooler and where you keep it, you will likely need to replenish the ice. Of course, if you do not plan to serve fresh turkey on Thanksgiving, you can freeze it for later use.

Thanks and Happy Eating from Hawkins Family Farm!

**From:** Jeffrey Hawkins <jeff@hawkinsfamilyfarm.com>  
**Date:** Fri Jan 23, 2004 8:32:13 AM America/Indianapolis  
**To:** Shareholders  
**Subject:** recipe

Hello, everyone,

Soon we will be planning the gardens for 2004, anticipating an abundance of safe, tasty, beautiful vegetables (the winter imagination is always vivid!) In the midst of this cold, bleak January we send this e-mail to encourage your Springtime imagination as well, and to invite you to sign up soon for a 2004 share. (You can download an order form from the website, [www.hawkinsfamilyfarm.com](http://www.hawkinsfamilyfarm.com))

We've tried to make it easier to sign up, streamlining the order form and making payments by PayPal available on our website. PayPal allows for automatic electronic payments from your bank account as well as by credit card. PayPal is a great service that we have used for a couple of years to pay for stuff won on eBay (ah, eBay, another story...)

We are also laying livestock plans for the coming year. Kathy has told me that she wants to tend some laying hens this year, so we may have our own eggs available. Jane G. stopped me yesterday to praise Hawkins Family Farm beef and, to emphasize the point, to share a recent culinary experience using round steak. Here's her recipe.

*Rich and hearty, this dish is full of fresh chili flavor. While the chiles lend a zesty bite, it's really fairly mild.*

Chili Colorado with Pinto Beans

3 lb. boneless beef round or chuck steak

2 T. vegetable oil

1 c. chopped onions

4 garlic cloves, minced

2-3 T. chili powder

1 t. ground cumin

1 t. coriander

1 (29 oz.) can tomato puree

4 Anaheim chiles, veins and seeds removed, chopped

4 jalapeno chiles, veins and seeds removed, chopped

1 t. salt

1/2 t. sugar

2 (16-oz.) cans pinto beans, drained, rinsed

1/2 c. (2 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese

1. Trim beef of all fat and gristle, cut into 1 inch cubes. In Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot. Add beef cubes in batches, cook 4 minutes or until well browned, stirring frequently.

2. Add onions and garlic; cook 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in chili powder, cumin and coriander; cook an additional minute. Add tomato puree, Anaheim chiles, jalapeno chiles, salt and sugar; mix well. Bring to a boil. reduce heat to medium low to low; cover and simmer 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until beef is tender; stirring occasionally.

3. Stir in beans. Cook until thoroughly heated. Serve chili topped with cheese.

8 (1 cup) servings.

Thanks again for your interest in good food and your support of Hawkins Family Farm.

God's peace and plenty, Jeff

